

AKHAND BHARAT SANDESH

Title Code - UPENG04488

NATIONAL ENGLISH DAILY

MORNING EDITION PRAYAGRAJ

Thursday 25 January, 2024

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

Won't partner 'discourteous' Congress in Bengal, says Mamata



KOLKATA: Opposition bloc INDIA was dealt a jolt Wednesday when Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee cut Congress out of TMC's Lok Sabha poll plan for the state, saying the party would go it alone on its turf while keeping the door ajar for "post-poll adjustments" at the "all-India level". She said TMC would "do whatever is needed to defeat BJP". Referring to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Mamata said drawing up a route that passes through Bengal without keeping its INDIA ally Trinamool in the loop

was "discourteous" of the grand old party. Mamata said Congress had been rejecting her proposals "from the very beginning" and hadn't held any discussion with TMC in two weeks. "Whatever is being said (about seat-sharing) are blatant lies. I request everyone, including a section of the media, not to propagate that." Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh later accused Congress of double standards. "They say in Delhi that TMC is a critical INDIA partner. In Kolkata, its leaders ridicule us. This cannot

go on. The reality is that Congress did not win a single assembly seat in Bengal in the 2021 polls." A TMC MP said the party had adhered to "alliance dharma and been courteous despite Bengal Congress chief Adhir Chowdhury's pathetic and nasty comments against TMC". Didi: INDIA bloc doesn't belong to any one party. The alliance (INDIA) does not belong to any one party. I said earlier that let them (Congress) contest 300 seats alone. The regional parties will fight the other seats, and they (Congress) should not interfere," the Bengal

" Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh later accused Congress of double standards. "They say in Delhi that TMC is a critical INDIA partner".

CM said. "If Congress interferes in the other seats, we will decide what to do." On Tuesday, Mamata suggested to TMC functionaries that the party could spare no more than two Bengal seats for Congress. "The party leadership could have considered a third, based on Congress's reciprocity in Meghalaya or Assam. They would lose 40 seats in Bengal even if their vote share was multiplied by five," the TMC MP said. "Congress's strength lies in seven to eight states; no one will interfere there. We asked Congress at the Delhi meeting to make up its mind by Dec 31. We can't wait any longer," MP said.

PM Modi will receive French President Emmanuel Macron

NEW DELHI: French President Emmanuel Macron will on Thursday begin his two-day state visit to India from Jaipur, where he will hold a meeting with PM Narendra Modi to deliberate about bolstering bilateral cooperation in areas ranging from defence, space and civil nuclear to the Indo-Pacific, before arriving in Delhi for the Republic Day parade where he will be the chief guest. Modi will receive Macron in Jaipur and the two leaders will also participate in a road show. They will visit tourist attractions like Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal



and Jantar Mantar. The 1.5km road show will begin at Jantar Mantar and end at Sanganeri Gate where the two leaders are expected to have a brief chat over tea. The fact that this will be the sixth time that a French leader will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations, more

than the leaders of any other country, underlines the significance India attaches to the strategic partnership with France that remains unmarred by any sticking point. Macron will be accompanied by a high-level delegation that will include foreign minister Stephane Sejourne and armed forces minister

Sebastien Lecornu. The leaders are expected to discuss international issues like the conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine. Some progress is also expected in ongoing negotiations for mega defence deals like procurement of Rafale Marine aircraft and Scorpene submarines by India. Apart from the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project, the countries are also working on establishing a partnership for low and medium power modular reactors or small modular reactors and advanced modular reactors.

Punjab's AAP CM rules out tie-up with Congress for Lok Sabha polls

CHANDIGARH: Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann categorically dismissed Wednesday the possibility of a seat-sharing alliance with Congress within the INDIA bloc for the upcoming Lok Sabha (LS) elections,

while asserting that AAP would secure victory in all 13 parliamentary constituencies in the state. "Desh mein Punjab banega hero, Lok Sabha chunav mein AAP ke paksh mein 13-0 (Punjab will emerge a

hero in Lok Sabha elections, with 13-0 seats in favour of AAP)," he said, underscoring his confidence in his party's success. Addressing discussions that were held with AAP chief Arvind

Kejriwal and party's Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak in New Delhi last week, Mann said: "We discussed the names of around 40 potential candidates for all the 13 seats.

High court quotes Manusmriti, nixes wife's maintenance

RANCHI: Indian culture makes it "obligatory" for a wife to serve the elderly members of her husband's family and not make any "unreasonable demand to live separately", Jharkhand high court said while disallowing maintenance ordered by a family court to a woman accused of trying to distance her estranged spouse from his kin. Justice Subhash Chand's 25-page order cites observations by Supreme Court and quotes ancient texts, including Manusmriti, to outline the ideal married relationship and the rights and duties of a couple. Unlike in the West, where a married son lives separately from his parents, family equations work differently in the Indian context, the order says.

Judge: Woman expected to be with in-laws after marriage

A woman in normal circumstances is expected to be with the family of the husband after marriage. She becomes integral to and part of the family... Normally, without any justifiable strong reason, she would never insist that her husband should get separated from the family and live only with her."

Quoting from Teresa Chacko's book Introduction to Family Life Education, the judge's order goes on to say "there are many cultural and social expectations about appropriate behaviour for males and females". "The wife has to take charge of the social life of the couple. She should develop an interest in her husband's work. She should be able to understand his world of activities. Moreover, she should be able to give intellectual companionship to her husband," it states. Invoking the Constitution, the order says every citizen has to value and preserve the rich heritage of "our composite culture". The order quotes the Manusmriti as saying "if the women of a family are miserable, that family is soon destroyed" and "always thrives where the women are content".

SC: How can government not back amendment enacted by Parliament?

NEW DELHI: A heated debate ensued between CJJ D Y Chandrachud and solicitor general Tushar Mehta after the law officer told a seven-judge Supreme Court bench Wednesday that government did not support the amendment to Aligarh Muslim University Act carried out by Parliament in 1981. It neutralised SC's 1967 verdict quashing the university's character as a minority educational institution.



Though the CJJ-led bench is tasked with determining the correctness of the 1967

Azeez Basha judgment and has not yet made up its mind about going into the validity of the 1981 amendment,

Justice Chandrachud's question about government's stand on it sparked an intense debate.

The amendment to AMU Act, 1920, which was struck down by Allahabad HC as unconstitutional because it breached the Azeez Basha ruling, included words that redefined the university as one established by Muslims and that it succeeded Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College.

Mamata's decision not to partner Congress death knell for INDIA bloc, says BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP on Wednesday said TMC chief Mamata Banerjee's decision to contest the Lok Sabha polls alone is a sign of her desperation and "death knell" for the 'INDIA' bloc of opposition parties.



"Unable to hold her political ground, Mamata Banerjee wants to fight all

seats, in the hope that she can still be relevant, after the polls," said Amit Malviya, BJP's IT department

head and party's co-in-charge for West Bengal. In a major setback to the opposition INDIA

bloc, Banerjee had earlier in the day announced that her party, one of the key constituents of the opposition alliance, had decided to go alone in West Bengal. "Much against her desire to emerge as the face of the opposition alliance, no one ever proposed her name.

Canada probe to look into India's role in influencing elections

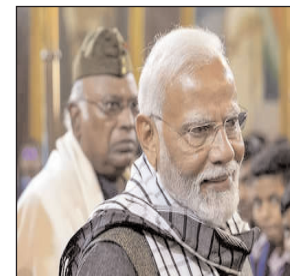
Canada's Foreign Interference Commission, which was set up to probe China's involvement in influencing the 2019 and 2021 Canadian federal elections, wants to investigate alleged Indian interference too. The commissioner of the inquiry that was initiated in September last year has now asked the Canadian government

to provide documents related to the alleged interference by India. The development comes at a time India-Canada ties have under severe strain because of allegations that India masterminded the killing of Sikh separatist Hardeep Nijjar in the Vancouver area last year. The diplomatic row ignited by

Canada's claims, which were not backed by any evidence as the Indian government has maintained, saw India expelling 41 Canadian diplomats, saying they were interfering in India's internal affairs. Canada created the Foreign Interference Commission to respond to concerns about foreign interference in the 2019.

PM Modi to virtually interact with 1 crore 1st-time voters today

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi will connect with more than one crore first-time voters on National Voters' Day on Thursday through virtual interaction at 5000 camps to be set up across the country. Announcing the initiative, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) President Tejasvi Surya said there is excitement among the country's youth for a third term for Modi as he dis-



missed the opposition bloc as a non-starter like an imaginary alliance between a snake and a mongoose, referring to the problems among its constituents in West Bengal and Punjab.

Surya highlighted the pivotal role played by young voters in Modi's election as the PM in 2014 and his subsequent re-election in 2019. He pointed out this would be the first such occasion when a PM engages with young voters on such a massive scale, expressing confidence that this exercise will boost their participation in elections and strengthen the country's democratic foundation.

AI fined Rs 1.1 crore for safety violations on 'critical routes'

KUFRI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation on Wednesday imposed a penalty of Rs 1.1 crore on Air India for safety violations on some "long range terrain critical routes", reports Saurabh Sinha. The action was taken in connection with deployment of a Boeing 777 with less than required amount of emergency-use oxygen for a nonstop flight to be operated between India and US a year ago, which was reported to the regulator by an AI pilot who was sacked. The airline, however, said it "disagrees" with the DGCA order. This is the 7th fine DGCA.

Both sides can get ASI report on Gyanvapi: District judge



VARANASI: A copy each of ASI's survey report on the disputed Gyanvapi mosque complex should be given to both the Hindu plaintiffs and Muslim respondents in the Shringar Gauri case, Varanasi district judge Ajaya Krishna Vishveshwaraya ruled on Wednesday. This coincided with ASI submitting its report to the fast-track court of Varanasi civil judge (senior division) Prashant Singh. The Hindu side, whose petition led to a scientific survey being ordered, and Gyanvapi's custodian Anjumant Intizamia Masajid (AIM) are required to make appli-

cations to access the report. "Without providing a copy of the survey report to the parties, it will not be possible for them to file objections against it... In the interest of justice, it is necessary that the copy of the survey report be provided to the parties to the suit," said judge Vishveshwaraya, who had ordered the ASI survey in July last year. The plaintiffs in the case, which involves the right to daily worship of the Hindu deity in the Gyanvapi complex, had requested that the report be sent to the email ID of their counsel.

AIIMS, IIT-Delhi develop low-cost voice box for throat cancer patients



NEW DELHI: In what could prove to be a boon for patients who have lost their ability to speak due to throat cancer, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has developed a cost-effective prosthesis to restore their voice. According to doctors, many throat cancer patients are unable to speak after the removal of their larynx due to advanced stages of laryngeal disease. Larynx, or voice box, contains vocal cords and helps a person speak, breathe and swallow. A study conducted on 20 patients over three years has yielded positive outcomes, said

● **Thakar, head and professor of otolaryngology and head/neck surgery, said the aim of developing the device was to ensure patients who lost their voice due to cancer in the larynx**

AIIMS doctors. Until now, patients have been implanted with commercially available voice prosthesis costing between Rs 20,000 and Rs 40,000. However, the AIIMS-IIT prosthesis is free of cost for AIIMS patients. Following successful trial completion and approvals, it may be made available for

other patients and could cost a few hundred rupees. Dr Alok Thakar, head and professor of otolaryngology and head/neck surgery, said the aim of developing the device was to ensure patients who lost their voice due to cancer in the larynx can speak again without shelling out thousands of rupees on an artificial voice box. "During the tracheoesophageal puncture (TEP) procedure, we create a small hole in the wall between the trachea and esophagus, the tube that moves food from mouth to the stomach. A small one-way valve, called tracheoesophageal pro-

FPIs pull out 13k crore from stocks in January

● **Also, since the valuations in India are high, FPIs used the excuse of less-than-expected results**

NEW DELHI: Foreign investors have adopted a cautious approach this month, offloading domestic equities worth Rs 13,000 crore in the first three weeks owing to high valuations of Indian stocks and surging US bond yields. In contrast, foreign investors are bullish on the debt market and injected Rs 15,647 crore



in the debt market during the period under review, data with the depositories showed. According to the data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) made a net withdrawal of Rs 13,047 crore in Indian equities this month (till Jan 19). They pulled out over Rs 24,000 crore from equities during Jan 17-19. Before this, FPIs made a net investment of Rs 66,134 crore in Dec.

"The US bond yield started rising with the 10-year yield rising from the recent level of 3.9% to 4.2% triggering capital outflows," V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, adding, "Also, since the valuations in India are high, FPIs used the excuse of less-than-expected results from HDFC Bank to press massive sales too."

Truck driver who mowed down woman arrested

New Delhi: Two days after a 39-year-old physically challenged woman died after she was mowed down by a speeding truck while crossing the road, police nabbed the accused in Geeta colony on Saturday. The accused was identi-

fied as Firoz (36) a native of Uttar Pradesh. He had initially fled the scene, and the vehicle, utilised for transporting concrete and building materials, didn't have a visible registration number on either side. Police said an extensive probe, which included analysing

footage from CCTV cameras in a 10km radius, led the cops to solving the case. According to Surendra Choudhary, DCP (Shahdara), they had received a PCR call on Jan 18 about the incident near Shamshan Ghat, Geeta Colony.

After Abu Dhabi And Africa's Zanzibar, UK Now Invites IITs

● **"Government official recently expressed the country's interest in collaborating with India's premier institutes"**



Delhi: After Abu Dhabi and African country Zanzibar, the UK might become the next destination to have the offshore campus of the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT). A top British government official recently expressed the country's interest in collaborating with India's premier institutes. Similarly, many universities from the UK are also looking forward to set-

ting up their branch campuses in India and are working out on formulating a final regulatory framework from the University Grants Commission (UGC). The official said that the UK was in a process of clearing the regulatory framework so that universities from their country are able to set up their campuses in India. Steve Smith, the International Education

Champion of the UK government, noted that discussions were ongoing between the governments and authorities of the two countries for setting up campuses of IITs in the UK. Two of India's top IITs have already entered into agreements with foreign countries for setting up their offshore campuses abroad. While IIT Madras is setting up its campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar, IIT Delhi is setting up an offshore campus in Abu Dhabi. The increase in India's industrial reputation and startup growth ecosystem has attracted the attention of many global universities. Many of our IIT graduates have gone on to top jobs and are leading the global markets.

US Issues Record 90,000 Visas To Indian Students

Delhi: The United States has issued a record number of visas to students from India in the months of June, July and August. The US Mission in India announced on X (formerly Twitter) that more than 90,000 visas were issued to the aspirants from India who filed applications to pursue their higher education from the US. In the post on X, the US Mission also said that almost one in four student visas worldwide was issued in India. Greeting the Indian students, the US Mission



said, "Congratulations and best wishes to all the students who have chosen the United States to make their higher education goals a reality." The numbers were released as the US

Mission was closing its applications for the session. A recent report highlighted an increase in the number of Indian students who are heading abroad for their higher education. The

rise is a result of eased application formalities, financial aid and scholarships offered by foreign universities to attract students from India. Earlier, France had also expressed its desire and goal to welcome around 30,000 students from India. The country is making efforts to increase the intake of Indian students by 2030. The aim will be achieved by fostering academic excellence, boosting cultural ties and enhancing long lasting friendship between the two countries.

All You Need To Know About Education In Dubai

Delhi: United Arab Emirates is one of the growing economies in the world. The city is expanding in various sectors which is consequently leading to increased job opportunities for students who graduate from there. Few reasons that are making Dubai a preferred destination to study abroad for Indian students. The sectors such as oil and gas, tourism, trade, finance, logistics, manufacturing, and renewable energy are growing at a high pace in Dubai. The recent boost in the economy has resulted in increased job opportunities. Students who wish to pursue their higher education from Dubai will also benefit from improved and increased jobs in these sectors. The country therefore has emerged as a major higher-education destination in recent years. The easy application process and



other flexible government policies further simplify international student recruitment in the United Arab Emirates. The government policy such as the new long-term 'golden visa' for outstanding students rewards top-performing international students. The students who benefit from this policy are given a 10-year residency permit which helps them to begin with their careers soon after graduating in the country. A major attraction of the students or working professionals in Dubai is the Tax free income that they earn. The employees in the United Arab Emirates

enjoy tax free salaries which acts as one of the key selling points for study in Dubai. Pursue affordable degree from UK, US universities. Most of the international universities have set up their branches in Dubai. A student can pursue a degree from any recognised university of the US, UK or more by enrolling in its branch located in Dubai. These degrees will be cheaper as compared to studying the same in the respective Countries. Dubai has a smooth visa process wherein the institutions will help in the application process, thus making it much easier. No language problem. Over 80% of the population in the country including the locals in Dubai speak in English. This makes it convenient for foreign students to communicate and interact with the local population.

CBSE switch underway, but Jagan plans US system for Andhra govt schools

● **School bags, books, uniforms, shoes-socks, belts etc are provided free once a year under the Jagananna Vidya Kanuka scheme**

Delhi: Nearly two and half years after a road map was announced to introduce CBSE curriculum, the Jaganmohan Reddy government signed an agreement with International Baccalaureate (IB) to introduce the American education system in government schools. In February 2021, Jagan announced a road map to introduce CBSE curriculum in all the government schools, beginning with Classes 1 to 7 from 2021-22. But, only 1,096 high schools out of about 45,000 government schools had switched to CBSE till last year, with the rest continuing to follow the AP State Council of Education



Research and Training (SCERT) curriculum. The IB syllabus, in vogue in the American schools, will be introduced in the government schools at the foundation level initially and expanded to the higher classes gradually," Jagan said, after the agreement was signed. "IB, which specialises in modern, innovative examination patterns, will vastly improve our students' worldly knowledge and help them grab good opportunities in global universities." The same day, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval for the MoU with IB. "The tangible outcome of this transformation is students who graduate from Class 10th, 12th will receive a joint certificate of AP board and IB," the document says. While a top

Ahead of the next year's state election, Jagan's present idea comes on the back of initiatives like Jagananna Ammavodi, which provides Rs 13,000 annually to poor mothers for sending their children to schools

education official says the plan is to introduce IB for Class 1 from 2024-25. There are 62,530 schools, including private ones, which are recognised by the Andhra Pradesh government and follow the SCERT curriculum. They have to switch to IB once the state adopts the pattern. The over 320 schools — including private, Navodaya, Kendriya Vidyalayas that offer CBSE and ICSE courses — can continue to operate under these central boards. Ahead of the next year's state election, Jagan's present idea comes on the back of initiatives like Jagananna Ammavodi, which provides Rs 13,000 annually to poor mothers for sending their children to schools.

National School of Drama To Set Up New Campus In Tripura

Delhi: The Tripura government has allocated a plot of 2.36 acre to the National School of Drama (NSD) to set up a campus in the state. The campus will be set up at Ranirbazar in West Tripura district, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed regarding it. "Following NSD's request, the state government has provided a plot of 2.36 acre. A MoU was signed between the two sides on Tuesday," Subir Roy, NSD Agartala centre's programme coordinator. Now, we will do mutation of the land, before starting the work for setting up a full-fledged NSD Centre in Tripura. Presently, the NSD Centre is functioning from Nazrul Kalashetra," he said. At present, the Agartala centre is offering a one-year course in 'Theatre in Education', which will be extended to two years, he added.

Ayodhya Ram Temple opening to make UP richer by Rs 4 lakh crore: SBI research

LUCKNOW: The massive influx of visitors to Ayodhya after consecration ceremony is likely to give an enormous boost to Uttar Pradesh's economy, as per several national and international estimates. A recent paper by SBI Research has claimed that owing to the Ram temple and other tourism-centric initiatives, UP could see tax collections of as much as Rs 5,000 crore in 2024-25. The report adds that Ayodhya will be the most important factor and with the anticipated growth in tourism, UP could become richer by about Rs 4 lakh crore this year. Foreign stock market research firm Jefferies has said Ayodhya will surpass Vatican City and Mecca in terms of the number of visitors. The report says that Ayodhya is expected to attract around 5 crore devotees annually, making it a major tourism destination not only within UP but also in India. With this, Ayodhya will also see a growth in its annual revenue.

Tirupati Balaji in Andhra Pradesh attracts 2.5 crore devotees every year and generates an annual revenue of Rs 1,200 crore, whereas Vaishno Devi receives 80 lakh visitors annually and gets an annual revenue of Rs 500 crore. The Taj Mahal in Agra attracts 70 lakh visitors annually generating a revenue of Rs 100 crore while Agra Fort sees 30 lakh visitors contributing to an annual revenue of Rs 27.5 crore. Internationally, considering the two major religious sites, Mecca attracts 2 crore people annually, contributing to Saudi Arabia's revenue of \$12 billion whereas the Vatican City, with 90 lakh visitors annually, generates a revenue of USD 315 million. Quoting another estimate, a government official said over one lakh devotees are expected to visit Ayodhya every day, which could soon go up to 3 lakh a day.



If each devotee spends approximately Rs 2,500 during their visit, the local economy of Ayodhya alone would add up to Rs 25,000 crore, he said. "Devotees travelling to Ayodhya are likely to visit other religious sites such as Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi and Banke Bihari Temple in Mathura. This would also positively impact the local economies of Varanasi and Mathura. In this way, UP's economy could receive an additional dose of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore each year, eventually contributing to India's economic development," the official said. A tourism department official said religious tourism creates new opportunities for employment in sectors such as transportation, hotels and production of local goods.

the number of youth electors in the state, demonstrating the commitment of young electors towards the electoral process," he said. Still, 78% of youth voters are yet to register and they can do so now as the registration drive will continue. The drive will continue till ten days prior to the last day of nomination, Deshpande said. The 18-19 years age cohort currently makes up only 1.12% of the total electors. It was only 0.38% during the October draft roll. "The state's final electoral tally stands at 9.12 crore after the special summary revision exercise, which also saw an increase in gender ratio of electors from 917 to 922, demonstrating significant progress in efforts towards electoral inclusion of women," he said. The draft roll published in October had registered 9.08 crore

22% youths in 18-19 age group register as voters in Maharashtra

PUNE: Altogether 10.18 lakh electors or 22% of an estimated population of 45.79 lakh in the age cohort of 18-19 years in Maharashtra have registered as voters, showed the final electoral roll published.

This is a significant increase considering that only 3.48 lakh youths in this age group had registered as voters when the draft roll was published in October last year, election officials said. An addition of 6.7 lakh voters in this age group following intensive drives by the election commission helped increase the tally, the officials said. In the draft roll, only 7% of youths had registered as voters. "The youth voter population has been traditionally low in almost all elections. Even when we look at 2014 and 2019 elections, the registration for this group has been traditionally on the lower side. There is definitely a good improvement this time following the summary revision drive," state chief electoral officer Shrikant Deshpande told. "The final electoral roll published on Tuesday shows steady improvement in



voters in the state. The number of electors in the 20-29 years age group has increased from the draft electoral roll's 1.55 crore (17.8%) to 1.63 crore (17.91%) in the final electoral roll. Around 8.33 lakh voters were added to this age group, election officials added. The percentage of electors in this age group has increased due to voter registration camps conducted by various social organizations and colleges. The state will have both parliamentary and assembly polls this year and for this, the special summary revision programme and door-to-door survey campaign were conducted to update the electoral rolls. "There has been a significant response in online applications for new electors in the state and that has helped increase the final tally of electors," Deshpande added.

the number of youth electors in the state, demonstrating the commitment of young electors towards the electoral process," he said. Still, 78% of youth voters are yet to register and they can do so now as the registration drive will continue. The drive will continue till ten days prior to the last day of nomination, Deshpande said. The 18-19 years age cohort currently makes up only 1.12% of the total electors. It was only 0.38% during the October draft roll. "The state's final electoral tally stands at 9.12 crore after the special summary revision exercise, which also saw an increase in gender ratio of electors from 917 to 922, demonstrating significant progress in efforts towards electoral inclusion of women," he said. The draft roll published in October had registered 9.08 crore

CAPSULES

Ayodhya Ram temple consecration: Delhi cops pat UP Police for seamless security

LUCKNOW: Delhi Police on Tuesday lauded UP Police for 'professional crowd management' during Ram Lalla's consecration ceremony. The event was attended by over 7,000 VVIPs and celebrities from India and over 100 dignitaries from 54 countries. "We appreciate Uttar Pradesh Police for providing seamless security and smooth traffic arrangements for the dignitaries and devotees who came for the historic moment of consecration of Shri Ram Lalla's life at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya and for organising the successful event," read the translated caption of the Hindi post shared by Delhi Police on its handle on 'X' on Jan 22. The post also had photograph of PM Narendra Modi offering a lotus flower to Ram Lalla during the consecration ceremony. UP CM Yogi Adityanath was also seen in the photograph. Responding to Delhi Police's appreciation, UP Police posted, "Thanks for the appreciation" on 'X'. Director general, law and order, Prashant Kumar, attributed the grand security success to advanced planning, studying different models of security temples with heavy footfalls across the country along with guidance from the state government and directions of CM Yogi Adityanath.



Soaring air traffic at Mumbai airport leaves three-year pandemic blues behind

Mumbai

The last two months of 2023 saw Mumbai airport breaking its previous records in passenger and air traffic numbers. After three years of Covid ups and downs in air travel demand, 2023 witnessed a return to normal. Demand climbed steadily in the second half of 2023 to touch new heights during the festive season which commenced in October.

The last two months of 2023 saw Mumbai airport breaking its previous records in passenger



and air traffic numbers. The airport experienced a significant 13% growth in air traffic from December 2022 to December 2023, indicating a substantial increase in the number of flights and passengers during this

period. Year-end records at Mumbai airport November and December 2023 saw new records being set for Mumbai airport. Airport saw its highest single-day passenger traffic with 167,132 on November 25.

December set a new monthly record for passenger movement at airport, reaching 4.9 million. The airport experienced its highest daily air traffic with 1,032 flights on November 11. Top destination for Mumbaikars Mumbai airport's top domestic destinations include Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai, showcasing its pivotal role in connecting major cities within India. Internationally, Dubai, London, and Abu Dhabi emerge as key destinations for Mumbaikars.

NCP MLA reaches ED office to record statement, aunt-MP Supriya with him

MUMBAI: NCP MLA Rohit Pawar reached the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office to record his statement in a money laundering case connected to the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam.

Rohit's aunt and MP, Supriya Sule, dropped him at the ED office gate, while NCP founder Sharad Pawar decided to wait for them at his party office, which is around 100 meters from the ED office. A large number of NCP



supporters gathered near the ED office, expressing their support for Rohit Pawar. On Tuesday morning, Rohit said on X, "...everyone is firmly with me. Tomorrow (Wednesday) MP Supriyatai and respect-

ed Pawar Saheb himself are also coming. So what if he has aged? The elderly give opportunities to the youth and, on occasion, stand as a shield... For me, this is overwhelming." Earlier, Rohit's uncle and deputy chief minis-

ter, Ajit Pawar, took a veiled jibe at Sharad Pawar while separating from him, stating, "There are a few who, even after crossing 80 years of age and now 84, are not ready to retire." Rohit also said to his followers that there is a lot of pressure from the government on all institutions. He added, "Under such pressure, if the ED takes any wrong action against me, no one should be afraid. Instead, they should stand united with Sharad Pawar."

Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja's 'To Kill a Tiger' nominated for Best Documentary

New Delhi
Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja's 'To Kill a Tiger' nominated for Best Documentary Feature at Oscar 2024

Delhi-born Nisha Pahuja's film 'To Kill a Tiger' has been nominated in the best feature documentary category for the Oscars 2024. She said that she learned about the honour along with the rest of the world while watching the live announcement, reported.

"I was in shock. I couldn't believe it. I was over the moon. Yeah, I just couldn't believe it," Pahuja told. "This film has work to do in the world," said Nisha about her documentary about an Indian farmer's legal battle for his daughter after a brutal sexual assault. Indian-born Canadian filmmaker Pahuja's



previous films include the Emmy nominated 'The World Before Her', the feature documentary 'Bollywood Bound' and the three-part series 'Diamond Road'. 'To Kill a Tiger' is all about Ranjit, a farmer in Jharkhand, India, who takes on the fight of his life when he demands justice for his 13-year-old daughter, Kiran, after she survived a sexual assault by three men in 2017. According to report, out of a father's love for his daughter and his uphill battle for justice for her has come

the Oscar nomination for Pahuja, who was born in New Delhi and raised in Toronto. But aside from her career milestone, the 'To Kill a Tiger' director is more focused on the global platform her film has secured to drive impact for greater gender justice for survivors of rape and other sexual violence in India and the rest of the world. "This whole journey and the determination to do this has been because this film needs a big platform because it's important.

Delhi eyes Rs 50,000 road tax reduction for new vehicles in exchange for scrapping old cars: Details

New Delhi

The Delhi government is considering a new incentive for new car buyers to scrap old vehicles, awaiting approval from the transport and finance departments. The policy aims to tackle air pollution by offering discounts of up to Rs 50,000 on road tax based on the age and type of the scrapped vehicle.

Delhi eyes Rs 50,000 road tax reduction for new vehicles in exchange for scrapping old cars: Details
Delhi eyes Rs 50,000 road tax reduction for new vehicles in exchange for scrapping old cars: Details

Delhi, struggling with its air quality woes, aims to tackle vehicular emissions through this policy. Older vehicles, often lacking stringent emission control technology, contribute hazardous particulate matter to air pollution. By incentivizing their removal from the roads, the government hopes to accelerate the adoption of cleaner, newer vehicles.

What is the proposed scheme: The details are still under discussion, but if the policy comes into effect, customers will be able to relish significant concessions of up to Rs 50,000 in road tax based on the scrapped vehicle's age and type. Personal car owners scrapping

vehicles over 15 years old could see a maximum reduction of Rs 50,000, while commercial vehicle owners might receive a lower concession. According to the rules, cars that run on petrol and are 15 years old, and diesel cars that are 10 years old, are not allowed to be used in the national capital region. Transport department teams had started seizing these impounded vehicles if they were found to be parked in public spaces or driving on public roads. However, after the Delhi High Court's intervention, it was stopped.

Air India Delhi-Newark non-stop diverts to Iceland due to medical emergency

KUFRI: Air India's Delhi-New York (Newark or EWR) non-stop of Jan 23 had to be diverted to Iceland's Keflavik due to a medical emergency on board. A lady passenger who had taken ill was dropped at Keflavik for medical care and the aircraft then took off for its destination. The Boeing 777-200 long range (LR) (VT-ALR) had taken off as AI 105 from Delhi on Jan 23 at 2.49 am with about 330 people on board. Flight tracking sites show it landed in Keflavik at 8.04 am (GMT) and took off from there at 3.59 pm (GMT) for Newark where it landed at 4.36 pm (EST).

Editorial

January 22 is the true discovery of India as Bharat reconnects with its sanatan past

As I sit down to write this piece with just hours to go for the Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya Dham, my residential complex, much like many across the length and breadth of this nation, is in a celebratory mood. I have been listening to loudspeakers playing 'Ram aayenge, aayenge, Ram aayenge... meri jhopadi main Ram aayenge' and other Ram bhajans since morning. Plans have been made for Sundarkand path, Ramcharitmanas recitation and other festivities throughout the day among residents to mark the return of Prabhu Shri Ram after 500 years of exile. Friends and acquaintances in different social media groups whom I have never found to be fond of overt expression of faith in public life are excitedly exchanging songs, images and other content on Ram Lalla. Not just Ram bhakts but Hindus from every walk of life, even those who consider themselves nominally Hindu can't seem to wait for the sun to rise on Monday. Their disposition is reflected in the mood of the nation, among the multitudes of humanity headed for Ayodhya, in the impromptu bhajans that were heard onboard Ayodhya-bound flights as strangers greeted each other. Not to speak of the holy city that has been gearing up to greet their Ram Lalla with a welcome fit for the emperor of emperors. It's almost time. A five-century wait has come to an end. When we are in the moment, witnessing something incredible such as an event that comes once in a century or rarer still, the significance tends to slip us by. Not this time. Hindus are instinctively conscious of the enormity of the occasion. The weight of history, the culmination of an atavistic revival, and a sense that we are the legatees of an ancient, indigenous civilisation that has survived numerous violent conquests, colonization, genocide, destruction and architectural overwriting of countless places of worship, articles and symbols of faith, and that it is now upon us to build a uniquely pagan yet modern civilisational state, is not lost on any of the Hindus who have accumulated enough karma to be a witness to the events on Monday. Seen from this prism, the glorious Ram Mandir at Ayodhya isn't just a temple, but a symbol of reclamation that speaks of resilience, of the rebound of a wounded civilization, of a people that was dispossessed but never gave up hope, faith in the divine or sanatan dharma. The 'bhavya' Ram Mandir at Prabhu Shri Ram's birthplace in Ayodhya is also the tale of endurance, survival, restoration of Hindu pride and the decentralization of history. It is a necessary pushback against the damaging narrative that mitigation of historical grievances is 'majoritarian supremacy'. The desecration, flattening and conversion of places after places of worship and sites sacred to Hinduism such as the birthplace of Prabhu Shri Ram or Sri Krishna cannot remain normalised at the cost of Hindus swallowing their sense of injury, pride, and identity. The intention behind the architectural overwriting of Ram Janmabhoomi and the erection of mosques over sites most sacred to Hinduism is eternal subjugation. It is an imperial statement. Asking Hindus to normalise that subjugation is to force them to accept inter-generational subordination and humiliation. It is the cruellest of narratives propagated by the political elite of Independent India, backed by scholars, academicians and deracinated secularists that Hindus must be subjected to eternal cultural subjugation even after transfer of political power. This was no self-rule.

This was colonialism by other means. Therefore, 22 January, 2024, is the true discovery of India. It is not a new 'idea of India', however, that Bharat is incorporating.



Beyond Ayodhya Ram Mandir: 5 things Bharat must change as a Hindu rashtra

Hindu spiritual assertiveness is a strange and beautiful thing. It does not convert one by the sword. It does not scream from loudspeakers, "Raliv, chaliv, ya galiv (convert, leave, or die)." It does not fire on defenceless devotees or set them on fire in a train. It does not let water from its feet smear someone else's objects of worship. It simply overwhelms the world with songs, dance, chants, mantras, smiles, colours, and an explosion of celebration. The pran pratishtha ceremony on Shri Ram in his birthplace Ayodhya,

496 years after a commander of the marauding Islamic invader Babar ordered the destruction of the temple and building of the Babri masjid on its remains, brings history a full circle. It has never been so awake or unapologetic about its dharma perhaps in the last thousand years of relentless invasions and colonialism. Many argue that a Hindu rashtra is already in motion in Bharat that is India. Bharat is Hindu is spirit. And that is not a bad thing. People of other religions can still coexist with all basic rights, cultural diversity, and dignity. There are

more than 125 Christian-majority nations, of which about 20 are declared Christian states like the UK or Denmark. Many more, while declaring secularism as state policy, run by Christian ideals. The American President, for instance, takes the oath or affirmation of office by raising his right hand, with the left hand on the Bible, saying the words: "So help me God." More than 50 Muslim-majority nations run on Islamic ideals, often Sharia laws. Two Muslim rashtras were, in fact, torn out of India. Jews have a home in Israel. Buddhism is the state reli-

gion of Myanmar, Cambodia, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. There is no exceptionalism in more than a billion Hindus asking for a Hindu rashtra in the land where the ancient faith was born and still breathes. Trying to shame Hindus or Indic religions for wanting a Hindu rashtra is hypocrisy. But to attain the ideals of a Hindu rashtra and not have it merely as tokenism, a few things need to change. Most of these changes need to be constitutional in order to back up the cultural revival and consolidation which we are witnessing.

From cultural to spiritual nationalism: PM Modi's Ayodhya speech marks paradigm shift

"Ram is not fire, Ram is energy. Ram is not a dispute, Ram is the solution. Ram is not only ours, Ram is for everyone. Ram is not just the present, Ram is eternal." This statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his speech after the consecration of Ram Lalla at Ayodhya on January 22 marks the beginning of India's journey towards spiritual nationalism. In the 1980s and 90s, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Hindu nationalists talked primarily about 'cultural nationalism' being their goal. The concept of cultural nationalism was identified with the concept of 'Hindutva' propounded by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. LK Advani, a BJP stalwart, and a leading figure of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was the most vociferous proponent of cultural nationalism. And it became a buzzword in the public discourse primarily because of him. The quest to build a Ram Temple at Ayodhya was also equated with the ideological framework of cultural nationalism. However, Modi's speech at Ayodhya on January 22 has taken this concept to the next level of 'spiritual nationalism' as the prime minister laid it out, "this is not just a divine temple. It is a temple of India's vision, philosophy, and direction. It is a temple of nation-



al consciousness in the form of Ram. Ram is the faith of India, the foundation of India. Ram is the thought of India, the law of India. Ram is the consciousness of India, the contemplation of India. Ram is the prestige of India, the might of India. Ram is the flow, Ram is the influence. Ram is the norm, and Ram is the policy. Ram is the permanence, and Ram is the continuity. Ram is vast, Ram is expansive. Ram is all-encompassing, Ram is the universe, the soul of the universe. And therefore, when Ram is established, its impact lasts not just for years or centuries. Its impact is for thousands of years." Most significantly, Modi demonstrated how to practice spiritual nationalism not merely by his words but by his actions too, as he said, "Yesterday, with the blessings of Lord Shri Ram, I was at Arichal Munai, the starting point of Ram Setu in Dhanushkodi.

The moment when Lord Ram set out to cross the sea was a moment that changed the course of time.

It was my humble attempt to feel the essence of that emotional moment. There, I offered floral homage. There, a belief awakened within me that just as the course of time had changed then, similarly, the course of time will change again now and will move in an auspicious direction."

"During my 11-day fast and ritual, I attempted to touch the places where Lord Ram's feet had trodden. Whether it be the Panchavati Dham in Nashik, the sacred Tripuray Temple in Kerala, Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh, Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, Shri Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameshwaram, or Dhanushkodi. I am fortunate that with this same sacred sentiment, I had the opportunity to journey from the

sea to Saryu. I have had the privilege of listening to the Ramayana in various languages across the corners of the country, and especially over the last 11 days," PM Modi further said. Modi's Ayodhya speech is a watershed movement in the BJP's ideological journey also as it seems to be moving closer to Sri Aurobindo's concept of spiritual nationalism which is much beyond the earlier framework of cultural nationalism and has the potential to be the fulcrum of Bharat's global positioning. In fact, the move towards spiritual nationalism has been in offing for quite some time. In ancient Hindu scriptures, it has been mentioned that there are seven cities/towns which are the fountainhead of spirituality in India.

Mathura, Dwaravati chaiva saptaita mokshadayika'

The Modi government has worked hard to revive most of these spiritual centres. Ayodhya is a major milestone and the most high-profile among them.

With the consecration of Ram Lalla and the way it was celebrated in the whole country on the appeal of the prime minister, it is clear that Bharat's journey towards spiritual nationalism, which started under the leadership of PM Modi after 2014, has taken a decisive direction on

January 22 at Ayodhya. The very fact that thought leaders from all walks of society gathered for the consecration is a testament to the fact that the society at large is in consonance with Modi as far as 'spiritual nationalism' is concerned.

This will have a global impact too as Bharat matters in the world now and Modi gave an indication of Bharat's emerging global view within the larger framework of spiritual nationalism as he explained how Shri Ram embodies the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. Modi said, "Today, as the whole world is connected with the life-infusing ceremony of the Ram temple, we are witnessing the omnipresence of Ram. The celebration in India is echoed in many countries. Today's celebration in Ayodhya has also become a festival of those global traditions of the Ramayana.

This establishment of Ram Lalla is also an embodiment of the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". "Today in Ayodhya, not just the idol of Shri Ram has been infused with life. It is also the life-infusion of unbreakable faith in Indian culture as represented by Shri Ram. It is the life-infusion of human values and supreme ideals. The entire world needs these values and ideals today.

PM Modi is right Ram belongs to everyone, look at Indonesia

In the heart of ancient India, where the river of time flows through the epochs of Bahudha, a cultural tapestry woven over five millennia stands resilient, embracing the principle of universal acceptance. This cultural ode, rooted in the ethos of Swami Vivekananda's profound words, finds its expression in the sacred land of Ayodhya, where the saga of Lord Ram unfolds as a beacon of civilisational and cultural pride. In the sanctum of Indian secularism, the term transcends political theories imported from the West. It is an intrinsic part of the Bahudha culture, a culture not defined by religious boundaries, but by the very essence of the Spirit that permeates every soul. Swami Vivekananda's assertion echoes through the ages, proclaiming the oneness

of all beings and the unity of the soul with the divine.

Amidst the ongoing narrative in Ayodhya, where the stones bear witness to history and devotion, it is not merely an event tied to one religion. It is a testament to the overwhelming acceptance of Lord Ram as more than a religious figure—a symbol of ideals worth emulating. In the throbbing heart of democracy, can any government dissociate itself from promoting its own culture and civilization? The embodiment of Dharma, Lord Ram, is not confined to religious dogma but resonates as an ideal son, warrior, king, and husband—a beacon of righteousness. The Ram Katha, intricately woven into the fabric of Indian culture, forms the sacred thread binding the

nation together.

The essence of Lord Ram was aptly described by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech after the iconic consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla at the Ayodhya Ram Mandir on 22 January. "Ram is not fire; Ram is energy. Ram is not a dispute; Ram is a solution. Ram is not just ours; Ram belongs to everyone. Ram is not just present; Ram is eternal," Prime Minister Modi said. "Ram is the faith of Bharat; Ram is the foundation of Bharat. Ram is the thought of Bharat; Ram is the constitution of Bharat. Ram is the consciousness of Bharat; Ram is the contemplation of Bharat. Ram is the pride of Bharat; Ram is the glory of Bharat. Ram is a continuous flow; Ram is an influence.

January 22 is the true discovery of India as Bharat reconnects with its sanatan past

As I sit down to write this piece with just hours to go for the Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya Dham, my residential complex, much like many across the length and breadth of this nation, is in a celebratory mood. I have been listening to loudspeakers playing 'Ram aayenge, aayenge, Ram aayenge... meri jhopadi main Ram aayenge' and other Ram bhajans since morning. Plans have been made for Sundarkand path, Ramcharitmanas recitation and other festivities throughout the day among residents to mark the return of Prabhu Shri Ram after 500 years of exile. Friends and acquaintances in different social media groups whom I have never found to be fond of overt expression of faith in public life are excitedly exchanging songs, images and other content on Ram Lalla. Not just Ram bhakts but Hindus from every walk of life, even those who consider themselves nominally Hindu can't seem to wait for the sun to rise on Monday. Their disposition is reflected in the mood of the nation, among the multitudes of humanity headed for Ayodhya, in the impromptu bhajans that were heard onboard Ayodhya-bound flights as strangers greeted each other. Not to speak of the holy city that has been gearing up to greet their Ram Lalla with a welcome fit for the emperor of emperors. It's almost time. A five-century wait has come to an end. When we are in the moment, witnessing something incredible such as an event that comes once in a century or rarer still, the significance tends to slip us by. Not this time. Hindus are instinctively conscious of the enormity of the occasion.

The weight of history, the culmination of an atavistic revival, and a sense that we are the legatees of an ancient, indigenous civilisation that has survived numerous violent conquests, colonization, genocide, destruction and architectural overwriting of countless places of worship, articles and symbols of faith,

and that it is now upon us to build a uniquely pagan yet modern civilisational state, is not lost on any of the Hindus who have accumulated enough karma to be a witness to the events on Monday. Seen from this prism, the glorious Ram Mandir at Ayodhya isn't just a temple, but a symbol of reclamation that speaks of resilience, of the rebound of a wounded civilization, of a people that was dispossessed but never gave up hope, faith in the divine or sanatan dharma. The 'bhavya' Ram Mandir at Prabhu Shri Ram's birthplace in Ayodhya is also the tale of endurance, survival, restoration of Hindu pride and the decentralization of history. It is a necessary pushback against the damaging narrative that mitigation of historical grievances is 'majoritarian supremacy'. The desecration, flattening and conversion of places after places of worship and sites sacred to Hinduism such as the birthplace of Prabhu Shri Ram or Sri Krishna cannot remain normalised at the cost of Hindus swallowing their sense of injury, pride, and identity. The intention behind the architectural overwriting of Ram Janmabhoomi and the erection of mosques over sites most sacred to Hinduism is eternal subjugation. It is an imperial statement. Asking Hindus to normalise that subjugation is to force them to accept inter-generational subordination and humiliation. It is the cruellest of narratives propagated by the political elite of Independent India, backed by scholars, academicians and deracinated secularists that Hindus must be subjected to eternal cultural subjugation even after transfer of political power. This was no self-rule. This was colonialism by other means. Therefore, 22 January, 2024, is the true discovery of India. It is not a new 'idea of India', however, that Bharat is incorporating. We are not stepping out from old to the new. We are reconnecting with our sanatan past.

Croma celebrates Republic Day with Great deals on TV, Refrigerators, AC, Washing machines, Mobile Phones, Laptops, and much more!

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



an additional 10% discount on select bank offers. Croma's selection of top-brand electronics is sure to have something for everyone. There is a 10% flat discount on Croma-branded products. Upgrade your washing machine to a Croma branded 7.5 Kg Front Load Washing Machine starting at INR 1510 per month* and a Croma 50inch Google TV EMI starting at INR 1,694 per month*.

Croma delights tech enthusiasts with attractive offers in its mobile and technology range. For all Apple lovers, the iPhone 15 starts at INR 999. Exchange any old electronics and get benefits up to INR 5,000. Enjoy

an excellent option for wearable technology users. The sale features the Redmi 13C 5G smartphones, beginning at an affordable INR 12499. For laptop buyers, Croma has introduced an exceptional deal, providing free accessories worth INR 9990 with each laptop purchase. In the home appliances category, Croma has lined up an impressive selection for this sale.

LG Ultra HD Smart LED TVs are available starting from as low as INR 999/- per month, and Samsung's 10 kg 5 Star Fully Automatic Top Load Washing Machines are priced at INR 25990.

For those looking to upgrade their kitchen, Samsung's Frost Free 236L refrigerators start at INR 24490, with a 12-month EMI plan available. Daikin's Inverter Hot and Cold ACs, perfect for maintaining year-round comfort, begin at just INR 1899/- per month.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has undertaken more than 50 decades of transformative work in the last 10 years: Amit Shah

Chandigarh: With the use of technology in the new laws, justice will now be available, affordable, and accessible in the new India Central Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah, addressed the inauguration ceremony of the 5th International and 44th All India Criminal Science Conference at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) on Tuesday, stating, "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has undertaken more than 50 decades of transformative work in the last 10 years. Justice will now be available, affordable, and accessible with the use of technology as prescribed in new laws in the new India." Under the leadership of visionary Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, proposed



new laws in India, amending the laws previously made by the British. The earlier laws aimed to secure British rule and punish Indians, whereas the new laws have been framed with the fundamental principle of justice. It's significant to note that the term 'punishment' was associated with the previous laws, whereas the new laws emphasize 'justice.' Shah believes that the mandatory visit of a forensic science officer to the crime scene for crimes punishable by seven years or more will simplify investigations

and ease the work of judges. With technology's assistance, the criminal justice system's challenges will be overcome, making India's legal system the most modern in the world within 5 years. Amit Shah, a strategist in Indian politics known for eliminating the mindset of servitude, has established a system where more than 9,000 forensic science officers will be trained every year in the next 5 years. It is also assured that with the use of technology in the new laws, justice will be available, affordable, and accessible.



BLS E-Services Limited Initial Public Issue to open on January 30, 2024

GURUGRAM : BLS E- Services Limited ("BLS" or the "Company"), shall open its Bid / Offer in relation to its initial public Issue of Equity Shares on Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

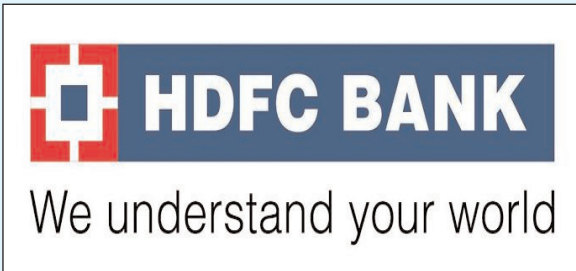
The total Issue size of Equity Shares of face value ₹ 10 each comprises of fresh issue of up to 2,30,30,000 Equity Shares (excluding Pre-IPO placement undertaken of 11,00,000 equity shares). The Anchor Investor Bidding Date shall be Monday, January 29, 2024. The Bid/Offer will open on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 for subscription and close on Thursday, February 1, 2024. The Price Band of the Issue has been fixed at ₹ 129 to ₹ 135 per Equity Share. Bids can be made for a minimum of 108 Equity Shares and in multiples of 108 Equity Shares thereafter. The Issue includes a reservation up to 23,03,000 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ 23.03 Lakhs, for subscription by BLS International shareholders (The "BLS International Shareholders Reservation Portion"). The company in consultation with the BRLM, has offered a discount of 7 per Equity Share BLS International shareholders reservation portion (The "Shareholder Discount"). The Company proposes to utilise net proceeds from fresh issue of Equity Shares to strengthening its technology infrastructure to develop new capabilities and consolidating its existing platforms; funding initiatives for organic growth by setting up of BLS Stores.



HDFC Bank Starts 2024 with Comprehensive Cyber Fraud Awareness Workshops in North India

AMBALA/HISAR: HDFC Bank as a part of its ongoing digital banking awareness drive, conducted a series of secure banking workshops in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Bank started 2024 by organizing over 900 such workshops sensitizing over 28,000 citizens on safe digital banking practices. These workshops were aimed at educating school cum college students, customers, law enforcement agencies, senior citizens, self-help



groups, and employees. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital banking practices so that they don't fall prey to Cyber Frauds. The workshop covered an array of pertinent topics, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of digital security: 1. IFAW's Background:

Attendees were introduced to the mission/role of International Fraud Awareness Week in advocating digital awareness. 2. Cyber Fraud Awareness: Detailed discussions were held explaining common cyber threats like Vishing, Phishing, Smishing, remote

device access, SIM swap, and UPI frauds. Real-life examples were used to deepen understanding.

3. Secure Net-banking and Shopping Tips: The sessions highlighted best practices for secure online transactions, spotlighting the significance of Vigil Aunty and offering invaluable tips for safe online shopping.

4. Preventive Measures: Attendees were guided not to divulge sensitive information such as OTPs, CVVs, Debit/Credit card PINs, and UPI pins.

Arya Samaj -7 organized 200 Kundiya Yagya

Chandigarh: Arya Samaj Sector 7B, Chandigarh organized 200 Kundiya Yagya under the guidance of A r y a r a t n a , Padmashree Dr. Poonam Suri - President of Arya Pradeshik Pratinidhi Sabha and D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi. Principals, teachers of various schools, officials and members of various Arya Samajs participated in this event. In the programme,



200 Kundiya Yagya was performed with Vedic mantras in the

size of 200 whose beauty was worth seeing. President of Arya Samaj chief Ravinder Talwar said that Maharishi Dayanand has made an important contribution in the upliftment of Indian Vedic culture.

He was not only the founder of Arya Samaj but also a social reformer. Maharishi Dayanand was in favour of nationalism.

He strongly opposed the ostentation and evil practices preva-

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

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

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



Skies, offering world-class entertainment, groundbreaking technology and exemplary service are all guaranteed. Innovative and experiential, SKY 2.0 offers an interactive experience by employing modern technology in the venue. Bendable screens, Grand Lighting Design, and System wrap the walls of the Sphere-Shaped Venue. Enigmatic and designed to perfection, the architectural marvel of SKY 2.0 emerges from a seamless fusion of visionary nightlife experts and international architects, resulting in a masterpiece that captivates the senses. Sky

2.0 Club has hosted hundreds of Star-Studded Events while The King of Indian Film Industry "Shah Rukh Khan", The Indigenous Rap Star "Badshah": The International Rap Sensation "Little Baby"; The American Rap King "50 Cent"; The Moroccan Star "French Montana" and many more. SKY 2.0 recorded about USD 22.10 Million of gross revenues during 2023, with about 38.80 % Net Profit Margin and about 36 % Growth in revenues registered while comparing with the Preceding Year.

India Science Festival highlights the need for co-operation from society and the industry to advance Science and Technology in India

GURUGRAM : The India Science Festival 2024 (ISF 2024) which concluded recently at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune on January 20 and 21, 2024 has marked another milestone in the celebration of scientific discovery and innovation. Organized by the Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India) in partnership with Bajaj Auto, the festival provided a platform for scientists, researchers, students, and the public to engage in various scientific activities, discussions, and demonstrations. ISF 2024 was inaugurated by Varun



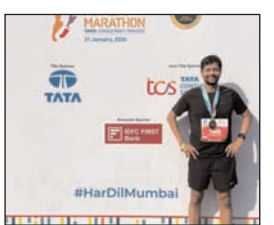
Aggarwal (Cofounder – FAST India, Founder – Aspiring Minds and The Change Engine), Prof. K Vijay Raghavan (Chief Scientific Advisor to ISF, former Principal Scientific Advisor to Govt), Atul Kirloskar (Chairman, Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited), Gauri Kirloskar (Managing Director, Kirloskar Oil Engines

Limited), Ajay Mehta (Director, Deepak Nitrite Limited) and Prof Sunil Bhagwat (Director, IISER Pune). The festival this year, under the theme "Towards Infinity | Mind, Machines, and the Endless Frontier," brought together over 60 speakers from prestigious organizations like MIT, Harvard, IISc, IIT,

AIIMS, IISER, and Ashoka University. These experts shared their insights on a range of pertinent topics, including Climate Change Solutions, AI & Robotics, and Space Research. The Keynote speaker for this year was Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder of Infosys.

Kris Gopalakrishnan was felicitated as the Industry Science Leader 2024 by Raghunath Anant Mashelkar and Prof K Vijay Raghavan in recognition of his dedication to promoting scientific research and its translation in India, evidenced by his advocacy, generous funding, and instrumental role in founding key scientific institutions.

Haryana's Raja Nagendra wins Tata Mumbai Marathon



Mumbai: The 42 km Tata Marathon race in Mumbai was won by Raja Nagendra Singh, an energetic young officer from Bhiwani. He took four hours, 21 minutes, 37 seconds to complete this race. Raja Nagendra Singh has already demonstrated his concentration and stamina in state level events. He has also won the title of 'Ironman' thrice. He aims to achieve many more achievements like Mumbai Marathon. In the field of education too, he played the role of a role model with his talent and obtained the education of BE, MBA, LL.M. He got a job on the basis of his talent and today he is a Superintending Engineer in Haryana Public Works Department.

Defence ministry inks Rs 1,070-crore deal for 14 Fast Patrol Vessels



The defence ministry signs Rs 1,070-crore deal with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The FPVs, equipped with advanced features and AI capability, will enhance fisheries protection, surveillance, search and rescue operations, marine pollution response, and anti-piracy operations.

Defence ministry inks Rs 1,070-crore deal for 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The multi-role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by MDL under Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category and will be delivered within 5

enabling greater flexibility and operational edge to the ICG to face new age multidimensional challenges, said a statement by the defence ministry.

with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) for acquisition of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The multi-role FPVs will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by MDL under Buy (Indian-IDDM) Category and will be delivered within 5

years. Along with several high-tech advanced features and equipment, the FPVs will be equipped with multipurpose drones, wirelessly controlled remote water rescue craft lifebuoy and AI capability etc.

"enabling greater flexibility and operational edge to the ICG to face new age multidimensional challenges, said a statement by the defence ministry. These modern FPVs will play a critical role in enhancing fisheries protection and monitoring, control and surveillance, anti-smuggling operations, search and rescue operations.

Gyanvapi case: ASI survey report to be made public; both sides to receive hard copy

NEW DELHI: A court in Varanasi on Wednesday directed that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)'s scientific survey report on the Gyanvapi Mosque complex be made public and hard copies be shared with both the Hindu and Muslim parties. The concerned parties will need to submit an affidavit to access the report. This significant development follows the submission of the ASI's report in a sealed cover to the Varanasi district court on December 18. The court's decision to allow access to the report aims to ensure trans-

parency and fairness in the ongoing legal proceedings.

Both the Hindu and Muslim sides will now have the opportunity to study the findings and conclusions presented by the ASI. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side, said, "Today, the court heard both sides and a consensus was reached that the hard copy of the ASI's report will be provided to both sides... The ASI objected to providing the report via email. So, both sides agreed to get the hard copy of the report." A structure -- claimed to

be a "Shivling" by the Hindu side and a "fountain" by the Muslim side -- was found in the mosque premises on May 16, 2022, during a court-mandated survey of the mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple. The 'Wazu' area of the Gyanvapi mosque is the centre of the Gyanvapi mosque - Kashi Vishwanath temple dispute between Hindus and Muslim parties in the case since the Hindu parties claim that 'Shivling' has been found in that spot, however, the Muslim side disputed the same.

Coaching centres may face action for exorbitant fees

Delhi: Coaching centres can be made to pay up to Rs 1 lakh or have their registration cancelled for charging exorbitant fees that causes undue stress, leading to student suicides, or for other malpractices. New guidelines issued by the education ministry bar centres from

hiring any tutor who has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude.

Also, each branch of a coaching institute will now be treated as a separate entity. An institute will not be registered unless it has a counselling system as per the require-

ment of these guidelines. "Information about the names of psychologists, counsellors and the time they render services may be given to all students and parents. Trained counsellors could be appointed," the guidelines said.

US court convicts Indian-American ex-Pfizer employee for insider trading

NEW DELHI: An Indian-American former Pfizer employee has been convicted of insider trading by a federal court in New York. Amit Dagar, a New Jersey resident, has been convicted of garnering "illicit" profits by trading results of Covid-19 medicine trials that the pharma giant undertook. Dagar worked for Pfizer as an employee responsible for assisting in managing data analysis in specific clinical drug trials. Dagar's conviction comes after a two-week trial under one count of securities fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit securities fraud last week. According to court documents, in November 2021, Dagar

● "Reports suggest that Dagar on November 4, 2021, learned Pfizer's Paxlovid trial had yielded positive results"

indulged in an insider trading scheme to "reap illicit profits from options trading based on inside information about the results of clinical trials of Paxlovid, a medicine used to treat Covid-19". Reports suggest that Dagar on November 4, 2021, learned Pfizer's Paxlovid trial had yielded positive results and purchased short-dated, out-of-the-money

Pfizer call options that expired days and weeks later.

Dagar made the move despite the results report being a confidential document as it remained to be made public. Federal prosecutors argued before the court that Dagar not only violated the rules himself but also tipped his close friend to buy similar call options. The day after Dagar's move, Pfizer publicly released the results of its Paxlovid study before the market opening and its stock price shot up substantially. The same day Pfizer closed at more than 10 per cent higher than the previous day's closing price. Federal prosecutors alleged that in the following weeks.

Delhi: Subzi Mandi railway station starts its journey towards sleek

NEW DELHI: Subzi Mandi Railway Station, an important junction in the city for people travelling to Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, will undergo a significant redevelopment and modernisation. A Northern Railway official said on Tuesday the station building would be renovated, a separate porch would be constructed and provisions for a cafeteria and the One-Station-One-Product stall made in the station building. Subzi Mandi railway station A separate entry



and exit would be created in the circulating area for a smooth flow of traffic with more trains expected to halt at the station after the redevelopment. Also planned are additional platform shelters, LED lighting, decorative

poles in the circulating areas, modern signage and GPS-based platform clocks. The waiting hall, toilets and the parking will be renovated too. The construction of a 12-metre foot bridge has started with the steel girders being fabri-

cated. The redevelopment will fall under central government's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Sukhvinder Singh, Delhi divisional railway manager, said consultancy and work contracts had been awarded. "The concept and circulating plan and master plan are being finalised," he said. The approximate cost of the redevelopment project is Rs 27 crore. Prem Shankar Jha, executive adviser to the divisional railway manager, added, "The layout has been done at the site.

Balagopal appeals to UDF to join protest in Delhi

Thiruvananthapuram: Finance minister K N Balagopal once again appealed to the Congress-led opposition to set aside their political differences with the LDF government and join the protest planned against the Central government policies in New Delhi on Feb 8. The opposition decision to keep away from the protest was not in analogous with the stand the Congress party has adopted nationally, he said.

Balagopal rejected the opposition leader's allegation that the state government fixed the protest march date even before the opposition formally informed the CM about its decision to stay away from the Delhi march. He said the CM had already informed opposition leader V D Satheesan



and deputy leader P K Kunhalikutty that the march should be organized before the Parliament session concludes on Feb 9. "There is no scope to extend the march beyond Feb 8," he said. He said the Central government policies would affect all states. In this context, the Congress should take a responsible position. The opposition leaders said they did not fully subscribe to the LDF views. "There was

nothing wrong in it. We don't expect the UDF to share the political position of the LDF. But the reasons they cite to keep off from a joint protest were flimsy. Instead of putting up a strong resistance against the Centre, the opposition is planning to stage a protest against the state government. Pro-UDF employees' associations and pro-BJP unions are leading that protest. It's unfortunate," he said.

Bharat Ratna nomination: PM Modi sends wishes to Karpoori Thakur's son; Rahul Gandhi welcomes move

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke to the son of Karpoori Thakur, a two-time chief minister of Bihar, and congratulated him on Thakur's nomination for Bharat Ratna, TV reports stated. Thakur, a key figure in OBC politics in the state, has been posthumously nominated for India's highest civilian award on the occasion of his birth centenary. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also written a tribute article on the late leader, emphasising his relentless pursuit of social justice and simplicity. In his editorial the Prime Minister said

"Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur's relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in the lives of crores of people. He belonged to one of the most backward sections of society, the Nai Samaj. Overcoming numerous obstacles, he achieved a lot and worked for societal betterment." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, meanwhile, has welcomed the decision to honour Thakur with Bharat Ratna, while also slamming the BJP-led government for alleged "indifference towards caste census", which he said is an "attempt to weaken the movement for social justice". He also

accused the government of "symbolic politics". "I pay respectful tribute to Jannayak Karpoori Thakur ji, an incomparable warrior of social justice, on his birth centenary. He is certainly a precious gem of India and the decision to award him Bharat Ratna posthumously is welcome. The BJP government's concealment of the results of the Social and Economic Caste Census conducted in 2011 and their indifference towards a nationwide census is an attempt to weaken the movement for social justice." Participatory Justice', one of the five justices of the Bharat Jodo

Nyaya Yatra, is the focus of justice and social equality, which can begin only after the caste census. In true sense, this step will also be a true tribute to Jannayak Karpoori Thakur ji and his struggles for the rights of the backward and the deprived. The country now needs 'real justice' not 'symbolic politics'," Gandhi's post on X read. The Prime Minister, however, in his tribute, also highlighted that the former Bihar chief minister's simplicity and integrity saying "Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakurji's life revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice.

Centre issues guidelines for regulation of coaching centres

Delhi: Addressing the need for a legal framework and managing the unregulated growth of private coaching centres, Centre has prepared model guidelines for states to implement to regulate coaching centres in India. The proposed Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centre 2024 released by the Centre suggest that students younger than 16-year-olds should not be enrolled in coaching centres. The guidelines also suggest that coaching centres should not make misleading promises or guarantee ranks to parents and students. Tutors with qualifications less than graduation should not be allowed to teach in coaching institutes either, the guidelines propose. "The number of unregulated private coaching centres in the country continues to grow in the absence of any laid down policy or regulation.

CAPSULES

It found a significant gap across gender in accessibility to digital devices

Delhi: Over 90% of rural children in the 14-18 years' age group have a smartphone in their home (as compared to 73% in 2017) and are on social media, according to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 released. The survey conducted by Pratham Foundation in 28 rural districts across 26 states also set out to explore post-Covid digital awareness scenario among the rural children of this group and found that only 9% of them had a computer at home and 85% of them know how to use it. It found a significant gap across gender in accessibility to digital devices. Of those who can use smartphones or have access to them, males (43.7%) are twice as likely than females (19.8%). The survey explored two components: access of children to digital devices and their online habits and an assessment of their digital skills performing a set of tasks in front of the survey team using an available smartphone. On communication and online safety, the survey found that nearly half of all surveyed males have an email ID, compared to 30% among females. The survey found that as high as 90.5% of the children in the age group reported having used social media in the reference week, with a slightly higher proportion of males (93.4%) than females (87.8%). "Of all children who used social media, only about half are familiar with the online safety settings that were included in the survey," the report said. In 2017 when such a survey was last conducted, use of internet and computers was much lower with 28% having used the internet and 26% had used computers, while 59% had never used a computer. Nearly two-thirds of the children.

Finding Sachin and Virat Kohli, at Melbourne's iconic MCG



January in Melbourne is all about The Australian Open. Billboards and hoardings everywhere; the city busier than any other time of the year. Restaurants are running full; getting a reservation at a Farmer's Daughter and Supernormal is as tedious as securing last-minute tickets for the Grand Slam. Directives to reach the Melbourne Park are laid out at every corner of the streets and the locals are braving the heat to find the perfect spot at the Fed Square to watch Coco Gauff face Marta Kostyuk on the

big screen. But even as the tennis season grips Melbourne, the spirit of cricket lives on. The sports bulletin of the prime-time hour was led by Josh Brown's joint second-fastest century in BBL history that took Brisbane Heat into the final, while Glenn Maxwell's hospitalisation following a reported 'incident' in Adelaide and Pat Cummins' red-hot take on the same has really taken Melbourne, the sporting capital of the world, by storm. "Oh, Maxwell. He's in trouble. Such a

shame" are the first words this writer hears as he enters the historic Melbourne Cricket Ground for a tour of the MCG. "Such a gifted player, such a beautiful striker of the ball, and then such things come out in the news. You never know. Maybe that's what makes him what he is, you know? He may just get up, decide to have a couple of pints and go bonkers, like he did against Afghanistan. But yeah, it's weird. If I'm not mistaken, didn't he also pick up a concussion after falling off a golf cart?"

KL Rahul at No.4 in place of Kohli, Bharat over Jurel; Axar or Kuldeep? India's likely XI for 1st Test vs England

Hyderabad
Once Virat Kohli pulled out of the first two Tests against England due to personal reasons, it unofficially confirmed both KL Rahul and Shreyas Iyer's spot in the XI for the series opener in Hyderabad on Thursday. The only question was whether Rahul would keep to allow India to play an extra batter but head coach Rahul Dravid erased all doubts by announcing that Rahul has been relieved from keeping duties. Will it be KS Bharat or uncapped Dhruv Jurel with the gloves, then? Dravid did-

n't directly name a favourite but with what transpired in India's practice sessions, one didn't have to think hard to gauge who was the frontrunner. Bharat is all set to make a comeback to the Test side for the first time since the World Test Championship final against Australia last year. In his five outings, the man from Andhra Pradesh hasn't done anything with the bat - an average of 18 with a highest score of 44 - that pushes his case for selection. But his superior glove work makes all the difference, especially when playing in India,

where standing up to Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel is considered to be tougher than facing them with a bat in hand. **Bharat as keeper**
Rahul had nothing wrong in South Africa. Already an established keeper in ODIs, Rahul hit a sparkling century in the Centurion Test in his maiden attempt as a specialist keeper. He was tidy behind the gloves and was very good with the DRS calls. His only noticeable blip came during the second innings of the Cape Town Test when he dropped Aiden Markram.

Pietersen's 'end of...' tweet on Kohli's withdrawal from two Tests due to personal reasons

New Delhi
Former England captain Kevin Pietersen reacted after India stalwart Virat Kohli decided to withdraw from the first two Tests against his nation due to personal reasons. Kohli will miss the Hyderabad and the Visakhapatnam Tests of

the five-match series. BCCI said Kohli informed captain Rohit Sharma, the team management and the selection committee before taking the leave. The board also said that the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee will name Kohli's replacement

soon. However, that is unlikely to happen before the series opener as all the frontrunners - Rajat Patidar, Rinku Singh and Sarfaraz Khan - would be in action for the four-day match between India A and England Lions almost at the same time.

Siraj : 'Match will end in a day and a half in India if they play Bazball'

Hyderabad
Siraj said it won't be easy to play 'Bazball' in India and if England try to force their brand of cricket, Test matches might end in one and a half days. The shots have been fired from the Indian camp ahead of the first Test against England in Hyderabad. Mohammed Siraj said it won't be easy to play 'Bazball' in Indian conditions and if England try to force their attacking brand of cricket, Test matches might end in one and a half days. "If England play Bazball in



Indian conditions, the match may get over within a day and a half or two. It's not easy to hit every time here as the ball turns sometimes and straightens on other occasions. So, I think it'll be difficult to see Bazball here. But if they play it,

it'll be good for us as the match may get over quickly," Siraj told Jio Cinema ahead of the series opener in Hyderabad. It is an open challenge to the English side that has sort of taken it upon itself to revolutionise the way

Test cricket is played. And they have found success almost everywhere. Under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum, they have bulldozed sides at home. In their first test of Bazball in subcontinent conditions, they walloped Pakistan 3-0 in their own backyard. Stay tuned for all the latest updates on Ram Mandir! But Indian pitches are very different to the placid tracks in Pakistan. Surviving is the need of the hour than going for your shots.

Root might open the bowling, Stokes mulls dropping Anderson as England ready to surprise India

Hyderabad
Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum are no strangers to experiments. They are the ones who "prefer" chasing big totals on Day 4 and Day 5 of a Test match. Why? Because it's challenging. They are the ones, who encourage openers to smack the first ball of a Test match out of the park if it's in their zone. They are the ones who appear the likeliest to end India's 16-series-long winning run at home. But even by the new-age and bold standards that McCullum and Stokes have set in tak-



ing England's Test side to new heights, opening the bowling with Joe Root seems a bit too much. But that might be a reality in the first Test in Hyderabad on Thursday if Stokes gets the "gut feeling". "It would be a complete and utter 'gut' thing, as most of my decisions like that are," said

Stokes ahead of the series opener against India. "You might even see Rooty taking the new ball, depending on what I feel. If (left-hander) Yashasvi Jaiswal opens the batting, you might see Rooty opening the bowling because it's spinning away from the bat." Jaiswal will most certainly open the batting

for India along with captain Rohit. Match-ups in T20Is and even to a certain extent, in ODIs are the in-thing but in Test matches? How many captains would introduce a non-regular off-spinner with the new ball because the opposition side has a left-handed opener? There may be a bit more than that to Stokes' idea. Pitches in India have offered assistance to spinners as early as the first session of the Test match in the last few years. Root has picked up eight wickets at an average of 25 in India.

'Virat's records tell everything': Dravid reacts after 'phenomenal' Kohli opts out of first two Tests vs England

Hyderabad
There is no denying that Rohit Sharma's Team India will miss the services of batting mainstay Virat Kohli in the first two Tests of the five-match series against England. After returning to the shortest format in the Afghanistan series, Kohli opted to pull out of the first two England Tests for personal reasons on Monday. With the opening Test of the five-match series starting from Thursday in Hyderabad, the Rahul Dravid-coached side will soon name Kohli's replacement. Confirming Kohli's departure from the Indian squad, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) urged the fans and media to refrain from speculating about the forced break of the former India skipper in the lead-up to the Test series opener. Speaking



at the traditional press conference ahead of the 1st Test between India and England on Tuesday, head coach Dravid admitted that Kohli's presence was a huge boost to the Indian side. 'He's a phenomenal player': Dravid on Kohli
"Any team will miss a quality player like Virat Kohli, there is no doubt about it. He is a phenomenal player and his records tell everything. He is a huge boost to the side but having said that it gives an opportunity to the other players to step up and put in

some good performances," Dravid said in the pre-match press conference. Former India skipper Kohli smashed 765 runs in 11 games at the ICC World Cup last year. Kohli-starrer Team India made it to the final of the ICC event. After a successful World Cup, Kohli was rested for the entire white-ball series against hosts South Africa. Kohli made his return to international cricket by leading India's batting charge against the Proteas in the two-game Test series.

BCCI picks Kohli's replacement: Patidar pips Pujara, Sarfaraz, Rinku for first two Tests against England

Hyderabad
The BCCI selection committee led by Ajit Agarkar ended all speculations about Virat Kohli's replacement by adding Rajat Patidar to the Indian squad for the first two Tests against England. Kohli will miss the two matches in Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam due to personal reasons. While requesting to respect Kohli's privacy, the BCCI, in an official statement, mentioned naming a replacement soon. The choice was between the experienced Cheteshwar Pujara, youngsters Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan and Rinku Singh. But on Tuesday night, it was confirmed that Patidar won the race. The Madhya Pradesh right-handed batter was spotted in the BCCI annual awards, Naman, with the rest of the Indian team members in Hyderabad. He is unlikely to get his Test cap on Thursday as Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul are set to bat in the middle-order but with India not



having any other specialist batter in the reserves, the selectors decided to call up Patidar. **Patidar unanimous choice**
Patidar was reportedly a unanimous choice of the selection committee and the team management, clearly indicating that they don't want to go back to the Pujara-Rahane route. What this also means is that Sarfaraz, the most prolific red-ball batter in the Indian domestic circuit for the last three seasons, will have to wait for his maiden call-up. Patidar was always the frontrunner after he smashed two

centuries in his last three innings for India A against the England Lions. His 151-run knock in the last four-day game where most of the India A batters, including captain Abhimanyu Easwaran failed in the first innings, is believed to have been the deciding factor. Patidar has been in the reckoning for quite some time now. If it wasn't for an Achilles heel injury that required surgery, keeping him away from the game for nearly eight months, he would have made his debut a lot earlier.

Dravid passes honest verdict on Gill's elevation as No.3 batter

Indian head coach Rahul Dravid shared his views about Shubman Gill's dip in form ahead of the 1st Test against England. With India already without talisman Virat Kohli for the series opener against England, premier batter Shubman Gill has received the backing of head coach Rahul Dravid in the lead-up to the Hyderabad Test on Tuesday. Newly promoted to the No.3 batting position in the longest format, Gill was named the Cricketer of the Year by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) at the apex cricket board awards yesterday. The fastest batter to cross the 2,000-run mark in One Day Internationals (ODIs), Gill smashed 1584 runs from 29 matches at an average of 63.36 for Team India last year.

CAPSULES

Will Bazball work in India? 'Important to show them that you're comfortable in defence'

The much-anticipated India-England Test series is set to kick off on January 25, with the first Test in Hyderabad. This series serves as India's final international action before the players transition to the Indian Premier League (IPL), a crucial preparation phase for the upcoming T20 World Cup in June. Team India enters the series as favourites, benefitting from home conditions and boasting one of the strongest bowling attacks in the longest format of the game. However, as is customary with tours to the subcontinent, much of the pre-series narrative revolves around the pitch conditions in India. Indian pitches, renowned for their assistance to spin bowlers, have been a subject of critique from the English media over the years, often deemed overly favourable to the Indian spin attack. This ongoing debate has sparked a tussle of opinions, with Indian experts emphasizing that the home side is rightfully utilizing its conditions. Indian captain Rohit Sharma had also weighed in on the discussion following India's victory against South Africa in the second Test earlier this month. After the Cape Town Test concluded within two days, Rohit acknowledged the challenge but urged against criticizing Indian pitches for supporting spin when similar conditions for pacers were accepted on the Cape Town surface. Andy Flower, the former Zimbabwe captain who served as head coach for England between 2009-2014, spoke in great detail about the debates surrounding pitch conditions in India.

CAPSULES

UP schools to remain closed tomorrow: Find the reason here

The Uttar Pradesh government has declared a statewide closure of all schools, both government and private, from pre-nursery to Class 12th, on January 25, 2024, in observance of Muhammad Hazrat Ali's Birth Anniversary. This decision, part of a broader initiative, follows the recent shutdown of offices and educational institutions on January 22. The altered schedule, extending until January 27, includes adjustments for classes 9 to 12 and online classes. Furthermore, Banks in various locations, such as Chennai, Lucknow, and Kapur, will observe the occasion as a holiday. In response to the upcoming observance of Muhammad Hazrat Ali's Birth Anniversary on January 25, 2024, the Uttar Pradesh government has issued a directive to close all schools in the state. This decision encompasses both government and private educational institutions, affecting students from pre-nursery to Class 12th. A notification from the Education Department communicated the closure to all schools across Uttar Pradesh. The move is part of the government's initiative to mark the birth anniversary of Muhammad Hazrat Ali on Thursday, January 25, 2024. This closure follows the recent shutdown of all offices, schools, and colleges in the state on January 22, 2024. The earlier closure was in conjunction with the Pran Pratishtha of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya. Originally, some districts in Uttar Pradesh had declared a holiday for students up to Class 8 due to rising cold weather wave conditions. These schools were initially scheduled to resume on January 25. However, the closure is now extended until January 27, encompassing Hazrat Ali's Birth Anniversary and Republic Day. To accommodate the altered schedule, school hours for classes 9 to 12 have been adjusted to operate between 10:30 AM and 3:30 PM during this period. The District Magistrate of Lucknow has also issued instructions to implement online classes until January 27. Additionally, measures have been taken to install room heaters in classrooms. Banking on Reverence: Hazrat Ali's Birth Anniversary Marks a Holiday in Chennai, Lucknow, and Kapur Apart from educational institutions, Banks in various locations, including Chennai, Lucknow, and Kapur, will observe the birth anniversary of Muhammad Hazrat Ali as a holiday. This comprehensive approach reflects the commitment to honouring the significance of this special occasion across diverse regions. Significance of Muhammad Hazrat Ali's Birth Anniversary Holiday Muhammad Hazrat Ali holds immense significance in Islamic history and culture. As the cousin and son-in-law of Prophet Muhammad, he played a pivotal role in early Islamic developments, known for his wisdom, bravery, and contributions to Islamic jurisprudence. His birth anniversary is celebrated as a day of reflection on his teachings, emphasizing qualities like justice, compassion, and knowledge. Declaring a holiday on this occasion allows followers to dedicate time to prayer, remembrance, and community activities, fostering a deeper connection with their faith. Recognizing the importance of Hazrat Ali's life and teachings, the holiday provides an opportunity for spiritual reflection and communal observance, reinforcing the values he epitomized within the Muslim community.

'Farmers hope their rights are protected under Ram Rajya'

Pilibhit: The national convener of MSP (minimum support price) Guarantee Kisan Morcha, VM Singh said on Tuesday that with the idol consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, farmers can hope their rights related to MSP are protected and they will flourish under 'Ram Rajya.' "King Janak to find goddess Sita in an earthen pitcher when he ploughed a field following the advice of seers to save his kingdom from drought.

As Goddess Sita was the daughter of 'earth', it was the duty of the prime minister now to resolve all issues of the country's 'sons of soil', the farmers paying his fullest respect to this ancient event," he said in a video widely circulated among farmers. "The invitations to attend the consecration ceremony were sent to eminent players, film stars, artists, political leaders, etc. but no farmer, who has been feeding the country since the era of Lord Ram, was given the privilege.

Uttar Pradesh exports ODOP products worth Rs 2 lakh crore: CM Yogi

Lucknow Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, emphasized the transformative role played by the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme in the context of Uttar Pradesh, and said that while during the previous governments, UP's exports were worth Rs 86,000 crores, today the state exported ODOPs alone worth Rs 2 lakh crores. CM Yogi made the remark while reflecting on the impact of the ODOP Scheme, launched in 2018, during the inauguration of the seventh Uttar Pradesh Day from Awadh Shilpgram. He also highlighted the significance of Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day as a



potent platform for realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. He further mentioned that 96 lakh MSME units are operational in the state, providing employ-

ment to 40 lakh people from Uttar Pradesh who returned to the state during the COVID period. The government is extending a security

insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh to MSME units in the state in case of accidents or disasters, he added. During this, he also distributed Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman 2023-24 and launched the 'ODOP Mart Portal' for e-marketing of ODOP products. Yogi Adityanath pointed out that the world recognized the potential of Uttar Pradesh through the International Trade Show organized in Noida last year, which attracted more than 500 foreign buyers. CM Yogi shared that on the third foundation day of the state, the government implemented a new apprenticeship scheme, resulting in the participation of lakhs of youth.

Second day sees massive devotee turnout at Shri Ram Temple post 'Pran Pratistha' Over 2.5 lakh devotees have darshan of Shri Ram Lalla till 10pm on Wednesday

Ayodhya Ayodhya witnessed a massive gathering of devotees on the second day on Wednesday post the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shri Ram Lalla. Braving severe cold coupled with fog, people stood in long queues around Rampath and the temple premises since morning. Devotees

of all ages fervently kept chanting "Jai Shri Ram" on the streets of Ayodhya. Crowds also gathered along the routes of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Path. In adherence to the Chief Minister's directives, the administration and police were well-prepared to ensure security and convenience for the

devotees. As the temple doors opened, a surge of joy swept through the crowd witnessing the divine presence of Shri Ram Lalla. The consecration of Shri Ram Lalla has significantly boosted the number of visitors, turning Ayodhya into a focal point of pilgrimage. Over 5 lakh people embraced the opportunity for dar-

shan on the first day post the Pran Pratistha ceremony. District Magistrate Nitish Kumar shared that efforts were made to facilitate darshan for over 2.5 lakh devotees till 10pm on the second day. Recognizing the overwhelming response of devotees, the temple administration has extended the time.

Cong sets up PPCC poll panel

Chandigarh: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge approved the constitution of Pradesh Election Committee of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. The 27-member committee headed by Punjab Pradesh Congress committee president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring comprise leader of opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, Ambika Soni and Bharat Bhushan Ashu. The other members include Charanjit Singh Channi, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Manish Tiwari, Mohinder Singh Kay

Pee, Rajinder Kaur Bhathal, Tript Rajinder Singh, Vijay Inder Singla, Rana Gurjit Singh, Raveet Singh Bittu, Kuljeet Singh Nagra, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, Rana Kanwarpal Singh, Pargat Singh, Om Prakash Soni, Razia Sultana, Aruna Chaudhary, Sangat Singh Gilzian, Amit Vij, Dr. Rajkumar Verka, Kishori Lal Sharma, Captain Sandeep Singh Sandhu and Sukhwinder Singh Danny. The ex-officio members include president, Pradesh Youth Congress; president, state NSUI; chief organiser, state Seva Dal; and president, Mahila

Pradesh Congress Committee. We also published the following articles recently Anahat Singh, Abhay reign supreme Anahat Singh emerged victorious in the women's crown of the JSW-Willingdon Little Masters and Senior Squash Open, a 4-star tournament conducted in association with the Professional Squash Association (PSA) and the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI). Anahat's deceptive play and control of the proceedings secured her the win against Erisa Sano Herring.

Don't publish unverified news, Press Council of India tells media organisations

NEW DELHI: The Press Council of India on Wednesday issued an advisory asking print media organizations to refrain from publishing content that maybe false or manipulated or which has the potential to disturb communal harmony. The council referred to the I&B ministry's observations that "certain unverified, provocative and fake messages" related to the Ram temple consecration event in Ayodhya were being circulated, which the government said may disturb communal harmony and public order.

Reinforcing the I&B advisory that media platforms should adhere to the applicable norms and regulations, especially in matters related to public order, factual accuracy of information being published and broadcast, and communal harmony, the PCI advisory said print and TV media should "eschew publication of inaccurate, baseless, graceless, misleading or distorted material". The advisory also said it is the "duty of the newspaper" to ensure that the tone, spirit and language of a write up is

"not objectionable, provocative, against the unity and integrity of the country, spirit of the constitution, seditious and inflammatory in nature or designed to promote communal disharmony". The Press Council also stressed that national interest should be paramount and added that newspapers shall, "as a matter of self-regulation", exercise due restraint and caution in presenting any news, comment or information which is likely to "jeopardise, endanger or harm the paramount interests of the State and society".

Relief for Rahul Gandhi in case over naming minor rape victim

NEW DELHI: The Delhi HC on Wednesday disposed of a PIL seeking prosecution of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for revealing the identity of a minor rape victim on social media, noting that all the requests made in the petition had already been addressed. An FIR was registered earlier in the matter, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights was also examining the issue, and the offending tweet had been removed from X, a bench of acting chief Justice Manmohan and justice Manmeet P S Arora observed.



Advocate Tarannum Cheema, representing Rahul, told the bench that the tweet that revealed the identity of the raped girl had been taken down. Delhi Police submitted a status report informing HC that an FIR was registered in the matter against Rahul in 2021 and the probe

was still going on. Rahul had published a photograph with the parents of the nine-year-old girl who had died under suspicious circumstances on Aug 1, 2021, with her parents alleging that she was raped and murdered, before being cremated in haste by a crematorium priest.

'Bow String Steel Girder Railway Bridge' to be ready in Ayodhya

Ayodhya/Lucknow In a significant stride towards realizing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision for enhanced rail connectivity, Ayodhya is set to witness the swift construction of the Barabanki-Akbarpur rail route's Bow String Steel Girder Railway Bridge. This ambitious project, with an estimated cost of Rs 10 crores, is propelled by the Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation Limited and will seamlessly integrate into the region's infrastructural framework. The preparatory phase has been set into motion by the UP State Bridge Corporation Limited, employing a methodi-

cal Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) approach. Commencing with pre-survey and technical investigations, the entire construction process will unfold under the meticulous supervision of experts from IIT and NIT. Railway Overbridge (ROB) on LC number 108A to elevate Ayodhya's connectivity in line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, a comprehensive action plan has been charted for Ayodhya's holistic development, spotlighting the construction of the Railway Overbridge (ROB). The Bow String Steel Girder

Railway Overbridge is poised to be an architectural marvel, seamlessly blending aesthetics with structural integrity. The project's progression encompasses obtaining essential approvals from local bodies/authorities, initiating work, and optimizing properties for a conducive handover process. As part of the broader action plan, the artistic and structural design of the Bow String Steel Girder Railway Overbridge will be meticulously executed. The project will undergo the EPC module, ensuring a swift completion within a commendable six-month timeframe.