



Acche din for ERCP: Raj, MP CMs agree to share water

Vinod Singh Chouhan
New Delhi

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) dispute has been settled, with Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav signing an MOU in the presence of Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. The agreement, reached on Sunday, also paves way for the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal River Link Project, connecting Chambal, Parvati, and Kalisindh rivers to provide water to

26 districts in Rajasthan and MP.

CM Sharma said, "This resolves water distribution issues and ensures irrigation across 2.80 lakh hectares in 13 Rajasthan districts, benefiting industrial and forest areas." The project addresses longstanding drinking water challenges. Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, and other Rajasthan districts will find relief. It also aids Eastern Rajasthan and realises the late former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's dream of interlinking rivers. **P3**



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being greeted by Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma during a courtesy meet in New Delhi on Sunday.



Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat being thanked by Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav after signing of MoU over ERCP in New Delhi.

SHEKHAWAT, PM MODI'S TRUE WATER WARRIOR!

The successful resolution of the ambitious ERCP issue underscores the diligent efforts of Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, who was entrusted by PM Modi to ensure that issue reaches its logical conclusion. Shekhawat delivered as expected while underlining benefits of double-engine government. Now he has to work on another task given by PM and it is to work on exercising its rights to stop excess water flowing to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.



Every promise made by Central Govt to public is being fulfilled on time & with good intentions. Today, under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, an MoU was signed on ERCP in the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the presence of CM of Rajasthan Bhajan Lal Sharma and CM of MP Dr. Mohan Yadav. With signing of two MoUs, a new phase of coordination among the states will begin. This is Modi ji's guarantee.

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER



On my behalf and on behalf of all the people of Bihar, I express my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his congratulations and good wishes and thank him wholeheartedly for his cooperation.

Nitish Kumar, Bihar CM

NITISH RESIGNS AS CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR ON SUNDAY MORNING, ONLY TO BE MADE THE CM ONCE AGAIN WITH NDA'S SUPPORT

NITISH GETS 9TH TIME LUCKY!

First India Bureau
Patna

Speculations about political upheaval in Bihar proved correct once again as JDU chief Nitish Kumar walked on expected lines. On Sunday morning, as had been speculated for the past few days, Nitish submitted his resignation to Governor Rajendra Arlekar, and made an exit from Mahagathbandhan, of JDU, Congress, and RJD. By Sunday evening, Nitish had taken oath as Bihar's CM for record ninth time.

Along with Nitish, BJP leaders Vijay Kumar Sinha and Samrat Choudhary also took oaths as ministers in new govt.

Known to be a master in flip-flop, Nitish, after resigning, said, "Things were not working well" for him in 'Mahagathbandhan' and INDIA Bloc. He returns to NDA fold after 18 months.



JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar signs documents after taking oath as Bihar CM in presence of state Governor Rajendra Arlekar during swearing-in at Raj Bhavan in Patna on Sunday.

8 MINISTERS TAKE OATH ALONG WITH CM NITISH KUMAR

DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTERS

- 01 Samrat Chaudhary (BJP)
- 02 Vijay Sinha (BJP)

MINISTERS

- 03 Dr Prem Kumar (BJP)
- 04 Vijendra Prasad (JDU)
- 05 Shravan Kumar (JDU)
- 06 Vijay Chaudhary (JDU)
- 07 Santosh Suman (HAM)
- 08 Sumit Singh (Ind)



CM Nitish Kumar & BJP National President JP Nadda at Raj Bhawan, Bihar.

NITISH AND HIS JOURNEY TO CM'S CHAIR

2000 In March 3, Nitish became CM for the first time but had to resign from the post on 10 March, 2000 due to lack of majority.

2005 He became CM for second time with BJP's support and remained so till 2010.

2010 After Assembly polls Nitish became CM for 3rd time but due to poor performance of his party in 2014 Lok Sabha elections, he resigned from the post, made Jitan Ram Manjhi CM.

2015 In February 22 he assumed CM post for 4th time, briefly, till Nov 2015 as it served as a transitional phase after Manjhi's resignation.

2015 After Grand Alliance emerged victorious in 2015 Assembly polls, Nitish became CM for a record fifth time.

2017 In July, he quit the Mahagathbandhan once again and joined NDA to take oath as CM for the sixth time.

2020 NDA alliance won the Assembly elections but JDU's seats decreased significantly even then Nitish became CM for 7th time.

2022 Nitish quits NDA, joins RJD-led Mahagathbandhan, also having Congress as a partner, taking oath as CM for the eighth time.

2024 In 28 January, Nitish quit Mahagathbandhan, resigned for the eighth time in the morning only to take oath as CM for the ninth time with NDA support.

The NDA government formed in Bihar will leave no stone unturned for the development of the state and to fulfill the aspirations of its people. I congratulate Nitish Kumar ji as Chief Minister and Samrat Choudhary ji and Vijay Sinha ji on taking oath as Deputy Chief Ministers.

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

There are many people like 'Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram' in the country. Earlier he and I were fighting together. When I talked to Lalu ji and Tejashwi ji, they also said that Nitish is going... Today, it has become true.

Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge

The people of Bihar have given the mandate in the last assembly polls to our natural alliance with Nitish Kumar. Bihar has gained whenever we have been in power together, be it in terms of law and order or economic development.

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda

Delhi: Rajputs mark Tan Singh's birth anniversary



Anurag Thakur addressing Tan Singh birth centenary event. Also present were GS Shekhawat, Diya Kumari, Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabsar, Mahavir Singh Sarwadi and others in New Delhi.

Vinod Singh Chouhan
New Delhi

Rajputs from all over the country gathered in Delhi at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium for the 100th birth anniversary celebration of Tan Singh, founder of Kshatriya Yuvak Sangh, on Sunday.

This was the biggest ever conference of Rajputs in Delhi. Rajputs from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tel-

angana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. Patron of the Sangh Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabsar addressed the conference, which was organised by Shri Pratap Foundation convener Mahavir Singh Sarwadi, Sangh chief Laxman Singh. Union Ministers Anurag Thakur, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dy CM Diya Kumari, Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, Rolsahabsar and others addressed. **P2**

75TH-ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF SUPREME COURT

PM Modi: Laws framed today will further strengthen India of tomorrow

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the government was modernising laws keeping in view present context and asserted that these will further strengthen tomorrow's India. Addressing the 75th anniversary celebrations of Supreme Court, as chief guest, he said with enactment of three new criminal justice laws, India's legal, policing and investigative systems entered a new era. "An empowered judicial system is a part of 'Viksit Bharat' and Jan Vishwas Bill is a step in this direction to will reduce burden on judicial system. **P6**



PM Narendra Modi during Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court, at SC auditorium, New Delhi on Sunday. CJI DY Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Union MoS (I/C) for Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal are also seen.

NEED TO BEGIN DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS: CJI

Judiciary's ability to remain relevant as an institution requires it to recognise challenges and begin "difficult conversations", CJI DY Chandrachud said as he flagged issues like "adjournment culture" and long vacations, pendency of cases, archaic procedures.

PM's MAAN KI BAAT ON AYODHYA, WOMEN...

In first Mann Ki Baat of 2024, PM Modi asserted that rule of Lord Ram was a source of inspiration for the Constitution makers, noting his, Sita's and Lakshman's pictures adorned the pages of the Constitution. He also lauded presence of women power in R-Day parade.

PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA, 2.25 CR KIDS REGISTER

A day ahead of his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' interaction with students, PM Modi said it has become a good medium to discuss issues related to education and examinations. In his 'Mann ki Baat', PM said over 2.25 crore students have registered for programme.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar & LS Speaker Om Birla.

Panel to review anti defection law: Birla

PTI
Mumbai

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said on Sunday that a committee headed by Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar would be formed to review the country's anti-defection law. He made the announcement after the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference here. Birla said Narwekar will head the committee that will be formed to review anti-defection law.

Asked about security arrangements during the next session of Parliament, Birla said appropriate steps are being taken to ensure full-proof security there.

Meanwhile, during the event, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said debates, which are the cornerstone of democracy, have been reduced to quarrels and the presiding officers of legislative bodies should invoke their authority to ensure decorum.

Tan Singh centenary celebration

Tan Singh ji took everyone along: GS Shekhawat

Work of Sangh is to devp Kshatriya values in youth, says Rolsahabsar

Vinod Singh Chouhan
New Delhi

Tan Singh's daughter Jagriti also addressed the people during the 100th birth anniversary celebration of Tan Singh, founder of Kshatriya Yuvak Sangh, on Sunday at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in in Delhi. She said that as a mother, a woman shapes the personality of her child. "I request you to send the girls of your family to the branches and camps of the Sangh so that they are successful in fulfilling important responsibilities," she said.

Addressing the programme, Rolsahabsar said that the work of the Sangh is to create Kshatriya-oriented values in the young generation. Sarwadi said that Rajput society is being attacked from all sides today. "The community is not getting proper representation in all fields, including politics and administration and the Yuvak Sangh is striving to address these issues. On the occasion, Shekhawat said that Tan Singh was not just a person, but an idea. "He is immortal. He took everyone along. The result is that even after 100 years, we have gathered today to pay tribute



Diya Kumari addressing the gathering at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on Sunday. Anurag Thakur, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabsar along with others are also seen during the 100th birth anniversary celebration of Tan Singh.



Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabsar addressing the event in New Delhi on Sunday.



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat addressing the celebration on Sunday.



Raj Cabinet Min Rajyavardhan S Rathore during the event in New Delhi on Sunday.

to him. There is something special in the DNA of the Kshatriya community and it has made remarkable contributions in making changes," he said.

Rajasthan BJP state president CP Joshi, Union Jal Shakti Min Gajendra S Shekhawat, Minister Rajyavardhan S Rathore, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari,

former Gujarat minister Bhupendra Singh, Faridabad Mutt chief Narayan Giri Maharaj, Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, former minister Rajendra Singh Rathore, Shri Rajput Sab-

ha Jaipur Prez Ram Singh Chandlai, MLA Babu Singh and large number of Rajputs from Dubai, including VP Singh Badnore, Devendra Singh Butati were present.

IN BRIEF

2 held for forcing 75-yr-old for religious conversion
Phalodi: 2 people have been detained for allegedly forcing a 75-year-old man in Malar village of Phalodi to change his religion. According to complaint, the old man was invited by 2 to their home, where they dressed him in clothes of their religion, clicked his photo and posted on social media. Bagtaram, son of the victim, reported his ordeal to police on Jan 22. **Rajesh Thanvi**

Slight respite from cold; Alwar at 5.2°C
Jaipur: There is some respite from cold conditions in State where Alwar was recorded coldest area with a minimum temperature of 5.2 degree Celsius on Sunday. A MeT dept spox said that weather remained dry in the state. Jaipur recorded a low of 12.5°C on Sunday. Sangaria in Hanumangarh recorded 6.2° Celsius followed by 6.6 degrees Celsius in Sirohi.

'Nakul' dies in Amargarh; 'Rana' climbs watch tower



(L) Leopard Nakul's dead body in Amargarh leopard reserve in Jaipur.



(R) Leopard Rana overseeing Barfi from watch tower at Nahargarh.

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur
A news from Amargarh Leopard Reserve shocked wildlife lovers on Sunday after dead body of about 4-year-old male leopard Nakul was found. Range officer Janeshwar Choudhary, who reached the spot, took stock of situation and inquired about entire incident from the forest employee. Janeshwar Chaudhary said that there were injury marks

on leopard's head & there were also wounds on the right side of the stomach. Meanwhile, Delhi's wildlife photographer Mukul Sangwan captured an interesting scene at Jhalana Leopard Safari in Jaipur on Saturday. A male leopard, Rana, sat on the watch tower to look at the female leopard, Barfi, who was drinking water. Sangwan recalled how a squirrel suddenly sprang up and Barfi tried to hunt it.

Forest min attends environment cycle rally in Alwar

First India Bureau
Alwar

A cycle rally was organized on Sunday to create awareness among general public about environmental protection and connection with nature. Forest and Environment Min Sanjay Sharma flagged off the cycle rally organized by the Pollution Control Board at Ashok Circle in Alwar city. During this, hundreds including Regional Officer of RSPCB Deependra Jharwal and Pandit Jale Singh took part.



Minister Sanjay Sharma in Alwar.

Law to protect doctors may be formed soon, says Dr Chandra

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Expressing concern over the increasing incidents of violence against doctors, First India News' CMD and Editor-in-Chief Dr Jagdeesh Chandra said that it has become a common thing for doctors to face violence when they leave their homes, making their safe return challenging. However, he assured that First India News will consistently stand with doctors in such times.

While speaking at the opening ceremony of the Doctor Premier League (Season 16), Dr Chandra assured that First India News will consistently stand with doctors in such times. Dr Chandra

Crackdown on Cyber Crime: 28 FIRs, 240 miscreants held in Raj



Satyanarayan Sharma and Laxmikant Sharma
Jaipur/Dausa

In the police's two-day campaign against cyber thugs, 28 FIRs were registered and 240 criminals were arrested from Mewat and Jamtada region, the hub of cybercrime. The police seized 152 mobiles, 104 ATM cards, 89 SIM cards, 10 chequebooks, 40 passbooks, 01 motorcycle, 06 laptops, 01 car and Rs 4.85 lakh cash. The raid action conducted at the state level was taken on the instructions of DGP UR Sahoo. The action was taken in compliance with points discussed in DP-IG Conference and Cyber Hackathon 1.0.

Similarly arrests in Dungarpur have been made in fake escort service case, while people involved in fake call centres were exposed in Ajmer and Jodhpur. During raids



Nabbed accused of fake call centre in police custody on Sunday.

CYBER RACKET BUSTED IN MUHANA 14 GIRLS, SIX BOYS HELD; ANOTHER FIVE NABBED IN SODALA

Jaipur: Success was achieved under guidance of DCP South Yogesh Goyal, and Muhana police station incharge Gautam Dotasra took decisive action by raiding an illegal call center that was conducting cyber fraud. 14 girls and six youths have been arrested. The phone center was run from a house in village of Muhana. 48 computers, 10 laptops, a considerable number of mobile phones were retrieved. Cyber fraud was perpetrated against both domestic and international citizens. Meanwhile, in Sodala, police conducted a raid on an unlawful call center, and 5 people were arrested. Cash and equipment worth Rs 50,000 were seized.

SEIZURES ACROSS RAJ IN 2 DAY SPECIAL DRIVE

- Police detained 240 cyber offenders.
- Confiscated items include 152 mobile phones, 104 ATM cards, 89 mobile
- Additionally, a substantial amount of computers and other devices were seized.

in Alwar, 5 FIRs were registered against cyber fraudsters. 29 people having links with cyber frauds from UP were raided in

Deeg, 9 FIRs were registered & 49 mobile phones, 35 SIM cards, 31 ATMs, 1 Hyundai car and Rs 4.85 lakh in cash were seized.

J&K STUDENT HELD FOR OBJECTIONABLE POST

Chittorgarh: The police here lodged an FIR against a Mewar University student from Jammu & Kashmir and arrested him after he allegedly made an objectionable post on social media under IPC sec 153A. According to Gangrar police station SHO, BPharm student Sohrah Qayoom, 21, had posted some objectionable comments as a story.

TWO HELD FOR TEARING RAM MANDIR POSTERS

Beawar: Two people have been detained in a case related to tearing posters of Ram Mandir Pran Pratistha outside a madrasa in Beawar, Ajmer. A large number of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal workers were present. They protested after the video of the poster being torn surfaced online on social media. **Mukesh Sharma**

COUNCILLOR AMONG 4 HELD FOR ATTACK

Pratapgarh: Following a violent clash among relatives of BJP leaders in Pratapgarh, four individuals, including a councillor, were held by police. 2 youths sustained critical injuries, one being former Chairman's nephew & other related to present Chairman. Kotwali SHO Bhagwan Meghwal headed intervention. **Sanjay Jain**

Cong to get battle ready in Nagaur on February 4

Younus Gesawat
Nagaur

In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Congress is determined to take away seats from BJP in the state. Regarding this, PCC Chief and State Election Committee Chairman Govind Singh Dotasra, in-charge SS Randhawa, and LoP Tikaram Jolly will hold an important visit to Nagaur on February 4, for which a meeting was held under chairmanship of Makrana MLA and District President Zakir Hussain. Organization in-charge Gajendra Singh Sankhla,



Meeting of Congress leaders regarding LS Poll in Nagaur. Dr Sahdev Choudhary also seen.

former sub-district head Dr Sahdev Chaudhary, block president Heera Lal Bhati, state secy Aidan Ram Bhati, office-bearers & workers were present in meeting. Congress has started preparations for its comeback through upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

RAJE ON JHALAWAR TOUR

Milk to be purchased at ₹41.20/kg: Raje

Arif Mansoori
Jhalrapatan

Former CM Vasundhara Raje said that Saras Dairy in the city will not be allowed to be closed. She said that the dairy management should work by setting a target of taking annual turnover of this dairy to Rs 1,000 crore. In a program organized at dairy complex on Sunday on "Milk Day" under aegis of Jhalawar District Milk Producers Union Limited, Raje said that in the last 30 years, farmers have



Former CM Vasundhara Raje and her son Dushyant Singh being felicitated by BJP workers & supporters in Jhalawar on Sunday.

been getting water from small anicut and medium irrigation projects in the district. Efforts are being made to provide water to the fields of more and more farmers through

sprinkler irrigation. She advised the cattle farmers to increase milk production by improving the breed of animals. And instead of taking subsidies, farmers should

grow fodder themselves and increase milk production. Keeping in mind the demands of milk producers, the former CM announced to increase in the price of purchase of milk from dairies from Rs 39.40 to Rs 41.20 from February 1.

In the program, MLA Govind Ranipuria, Dist Chief Prem Bai, senior BJP leader Nirmal Kumar Saklecha, Shyam-sundar Sharma, Dist Organization Incharge Chhagan Mahur, Municipality President Varsha Manish Chandwad, and others were also present.

Illegal mining face action in Alwar and Deeg distts

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

Two teams of Mines Dept took major action at Hasanpura Mafi near Tijara and Sujat Ka Khola in the hilly area near Deeg and recovered more than 4 lakh 93,170 tonnes of masonry stone. The department imposed a penalty of more than Rs 21 crore 13 lakh on accused. Mines Secy Anandi said after getting information, it was decided to send a team from another place to conduct the investigation and Jaipur SME Pratap Meena was in-



Team of Mines dept during the action in Alwar on Sunday.

structed to form a team & reach Alwar. Then Meena and his team were sent secretly to Hasanpura. Similarly, during the action illegal mining in Khola of Sujat in Pahari Deeg, ME Ram Niwas Mangal and his team registered seven cases.

RAJASTHAN

f FIRST INDIA | 03
To Curb Water-Woes

13 Dists of State will benifit, 7 dams will be made in MP

CM Sharma, MP CM Yadav discuss ERCP, sign MoUs to initiate work



Bhajan Lal Sharma, Mohan Yadav & GS Shekhawat during signing of MoUs in New Delhi on Sunday.

Aishwary Pradhan, Yogesh Sharma and Deepika Singhal
New Delhi/Jaipur

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav met CM Bhajan Lal Sharma at his residence on Sunday and in a joint press conference talked about taking forward the work on East

Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP). They said both the states were ready to resolve the dispute over water sharing. The two CMs signed the MoU in front of Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi.

Yadav said, "I am happy that the issue will

Shekhawat said it is a golden scheme for 26 districts of both states & a huge success for Government of India

be resolved. The Congress government dumped the river linking



Bhajan Lal Sharma and Mohan Yadav addressing the media.



BJP workers burst fire-crackers outside the party office in Jaipur to celebrate the green light to long awaited ERCP.

programme. Bhind, Morena and Gwalior will benefit from this. Tourism and educational institutions will get a boost in both the states."

Sharma said, "People will get relief and there will be enough water for irrigation of 2.80 lakh hectares in 13 districts of Rajasthan.

Drinking water problems will also be solved. Seven dams will be built under this scheme."

Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said that the ERCP MoU is on the lines of Ken Betwa. He said, "Work under the leadership of the PM Modi gets completed soon."

"Mann Ki Baat"

CM listens with common people, calls it 'inspiring'

Aishwary Pradhan
Jaipur

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the countrymen in the 109th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on Sunday, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma listened to his address at his residence along with the general public.

He said that the programme inspires and brings positivity in people. Sharma said that the Prime Minister Modi has given the important messages of cleanliness and organ donation.

"Together, we should also run cleanliness campaigns at religious places in the state under his guidance and awareness should be spread regarding organ donation," Sharma said.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said that the PM will hold 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' with students on January 29, 2024 and has called upon the students of the state to join this discussion.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma watching PM Modi's 'Man Ki Baat' along with general public at CMR in Jaipur on Saturday.

Courtesy Meeting



Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma visits Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on a courtesy meeting in New Delhi on Sunday.

Sindhi community key to economic growth, says speaker Devnani



Raj Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani at the Vishwa Sindhi Seva Sangam in Bangalore on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Bangalore/Jaipur

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani has said that the Sindhi community will have to take active participation in realizing the goal of a developed India.

As per him, the Sindhi community is leading in trade and industry, while the tax participation of the community is 24%. Devnani reached Bangalore from Mumbai on Sunday morning and addressed the Vishwa Sindhi Seva Sangam there. He said that the Sindhi

Devnani said that representatives of the Sindhi community from 81 countries have come to participate in this Sangam

language is an ancient and melodious language. There is a need to discuss the development of the Sindhi language in this confluence.

Devnani said that the Sindhi community will have to make efforts to bring the country's economy forward in the world.

Raj to adopt Maharashtra model of power

PTI
Jaipur

Rajasthan will adopt Maharashtra model to supply electricity to farmers during the day by promoting solar energy production and improving the power distribution system, an official statement on Sunday said.

Minister of State for Energy (Independent Charge) Hiralal Nagar had met Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai earlier in this regard. Principal



Minister of state for Energy, Heeralal Nagar speaking with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde in Mumbai on Saturday.

Secretary Energy, Government of Maharashtra, Abha Shukla, was also

present during meeting. A team of officials from the Energy depart-

ment will soon visit Maharashtra and study the policy changes made in this direction by the government there and successful results achieved through them and will also discuss about implementing them here as per the geographical conditions of Rajasthan," the statement said.

CM Sharma and Nagar recently met Union New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh, who suggested him to adopt Maharashtra government's model.

Raj gets respite from cold weather; Min temp 5.2° C

First India Bureau
Jaipur

There is some respite from cold conditions in Rajasthan where Alwar was recorded the coldest area in the state with a minimum temperature of 5.2 degree Celsius on Sunday.

A MeT department spokesperson said that weather remained dry in the state. Jaipur recorded a low of 12.5 degrees on Sunday.

Sangaria in Hanu-mangarh recorded 6.2 degrees Celsius followed by 6.6 degrees Celsius in Sirohi, 7.4 degrees Celsius in Bhilwara, 7.8 degrees Celsius each in Chittorgarh and Jalore.

Sriganganagar recorded a low of 8 degrees Celsius, Anta 8.1 degrees Celsius, it was 8.2 degrees Celsius in Dabok, 8.3 degrees Celsius in Karauli and 8.4 degrees Celsius in Vanasthali.

Kailash Choudhary indicates petrol-diesel price reduction

First India Bureau
Balotra

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Kailash Chaudhary has hinted at reducing the prices of petrol and diesel in the state while addressing the felicitation and welcome ceremony organized by Small Industries Board and CETP of Balotra on Sunday.

The minister said that the most expensive petrol and diesel in the country is being sold in Rajasthan

because of high taxes. "They are not getting the benefit of higher taxes and the people are suffering losses. Big vehicles and transporters get fuel from neighbouring states of Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana due to which petrol pumps in the border areas of the state are closed.

I have talked to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma regarding this matter. We will get this gift in the coming days," Kailash Chaudhary said.

Mass 'Surya Namaskar' on Feb 15

First India Bureau
Jaipur

'Surya Saptami' on February 15 will be observed in Rajasthan with a mass 'Surya Namaskar' programme in all government schools across Rajasthan.

Following order of School Education Minister Madan Dilawar, Director of Secondary Education Department Ashish Modi issued an order directing all chief district education officers to conduct 'Surya Namaskar' in



FILE

morning prayers.

He said that dept aims to make a world record on February 15 by conducting mass 'Surya Na-

maskar' by students, parents and teachers in all the schools. The practice of 'Surya Namaskar' has begun in schools.

FEB 14 TO BE MOTHER-FATHER WORSHIP DAY?

The BJP govt in Rajasthan is planning to celebrate Valentine's Day as Mother-Father Worship Day in the schools across the state. There is discussion regarding this at higher level and it may be marked in the calendar of the Education Dept. During the tenure of the previous BJP govt in April 2018, the education department had issued a circular in schools for this. The govt changed in December 2018 and Govind Singh Dotasra stayed the order.

PROFESSIONAL PREMIER TENNIS LEAGUE

Grand conclusion to a mega event!

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The closing and prize distribution ceremony of the Professional Premier Tennis League was held at Jaipur Club on Sunday. Anand Kumar Singh (IAS) was the chief guest, alongside special guests Naveen Mahajan (IAS), Surabhi Mishra (coach and international player), and Sandeep Mann (Arjun Award winner) were present. The tennis league lasted for four days, the winning



(L) Anand Kumar addressing the gathering. (R) Anand Kumar & Surbhi Misra with Gaurav Choudhary, Prakul Dixit, Sunil Kataria, Amit Garg & others at prize distribution ceremony in Jaipur on Sunday.



team was (Court Commander) and the runner-up team was (Majestic Line). The sponsors of this

competition were renowned companies like Fortis Hospital, Dunlop, Kingfisher, and KMT.

Convenor Engineer Virendra Chaudhary welcomed and expressed gratitude to all the guests and players.

Dilawar threatens, bulldozer razing for corrupt officials

First India Bureau
Kota

Rajasthan Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar on Sunday issued a stern warning to "corrupt" government servants, saying illegal properties of "accused staffers" would be razed by bulldozers. Dilawar said government servants accused of amassing illegal properties would be suspended and dismissed. "Illegal properties of those guilty of such crimes would also be demolished by bulldozer," he said.

Country's first Aastha special train leaves for Ayodhya from Jodhpur

First India Bureau
Jodhpur

India's first Aastha special train from Jodhpur to Ayodhya left Bhagat Ki Kothi railway station on Saturday. It will reach Ayodhya on Monday with 1446 passengers. All the devotees were welcomed with tilak and saffron scarf.

Police and RPF personnel have been deployed in every coach for their safety. There are two women constables. Railway DRM Pankaj Kumar Singh said that the country's first Aastha

BOHRA CONGRATULATES AYODHYA POILGRIMS

Ram devotees left from Jaipur to go to Ayodhya on Sunday. The devotees left for Ayodhya from Jaipur through Aastha special train. During this, Jaipur

City MP Ramcharan Bohra greeted the visitors going to the Ram temple. MP Bohra said that it is a matter of great joy for all of us that our years of wait are over and Lord Shri Ram Lala is now seated in Ayodhya. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for running Aastha special train between Jaipur and Ayodhya. He wished all the visitors, who were going from Jaipur to Ayodhya, a happy journey.



train left from Jodhpur. The train with 24 coaches will reach the holy city of Ayodhya via

Merta Road, Degana, Khatu Shyam Ji. There are a total of 20 stations on its way.

IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL SUPPORT TO MANAGE CHILDREN'S STRESS DURING EXAMINATION



who have experienced issues with tests previously.

- **Absence of readiness:** Students who are not sufficiently equipped/prepared for an examination may experience tension and stressed out. This can be due to a lack of understanding of the material, a lack of study time, or other factors.
- **Time restraints:** Tests frequently have tight time imperatives, which can be unpleasant for understudies who are not used to working under tension.

In fact, students experience academic stress because of their expectations of success, the expectations of their parents and teachers. It is evident that parents' expectations from their children put pressure to accomplish well in examinations. However, it is suggested that certain amount of examination stress can be considered to be operative and effective leading to attentiveness and cautious behaviour before the exams in children. But, keeping high expectations from children during examinations can be a basis for exam stress/pressure and poor performance.

It is generally recognized that parents play an important role in the cognitive, behavioural, emotional and social development of their children. In their role, parents provide children with socialization to cultural and societal norms and values, with the aim of preparing them to meet the needs of the communities as well as prepare them for future.

Parents also have an important role in guiding and managing positive or negative influence of academic aspirations on children. Parents can help their children in handling the exam pressure by recognizing some physical, social, behavioural and psychological signs of exam stress.

RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF EXAM STRESS IN CHILDREN

It's likely that young people won't feel comfortable to discuss exam pressure and stress, but parents can look for any signs of stress in their children and talk to them about it. Educational or academic pressure can sometimes be difficult to detect, especially in more mature children who may not feel the pressure or lack the ability to express their feelings. Here are some of the most common symptoms of stress that can be seen in children through physical (e.g., headache, grinding teeth, high blood pressure, indigestion, fatigue, insomnia), psychological (e.g., anxiety, irritability, defensiveness, anger, mood swings, depression helplessness, hopelessness) and behavioural symptoms (e.g. overeating of loss of appetite, procrastination, withdrawal/isolation, poor personal hygiene).

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

ROLE OF PARENTS

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EASING THE EXAM STRESS

If the child is struggling with exam stress, one of the most important things one can do as a parent is to be as understanding and supportive as possible. Make sure to communicate and remind them that they have more important things in their life and these exams are just one part of the bigger picture. Let them know that you will always be there for them and, while you will naturally want them to perform well, you won't blame them if they don't.

- Be aware of child's behaviours and emotions before and during exams.
- Build mutual trust with child.
- Communicate that parents have unconditional positive regards to their children.
- Encourage them to tell you if they feel overwhelmed.
- Inspire healthy and diverse relationships.
- Cheer physical activity, good nutrition, and rest.
- Remind your child of his or her ability to get through tough times, particularly with the love and support of family and friends.
- Assist your kid with choosing suitable co-curricular exercises.
- If your child is going to face a challenging paper or has already faced one, don't forget to boost his or her self-assurance.
- Be a decent audience and assist your kid with positive considerations.
- Maintain a pleasant and stable home environment.



Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh

The writer is Minister of State for External Affairs and Education

In today's rapidly changing world, where students must compete in every aspect of their academic life, academic stress can be worrying for parents and students. Examination stress leads to the unpleasant psychological situations that occur due to the educational expectations from parents, teachers, peers and family members along with the pressure due to academic achievement and existing examination system. Exam stress can increase anxiety due to the pressure of exams that affects the student before, during and after the exam. This is an important issue that students deal with throughout their academic lives. Exam stress can have a significant impact on students' mental health leading to anxiety, depression, and other emotional problems due to some anticipated frustration associated with academic failure or even an awareness of possibility of such failure.

There are various causes of stress in a student's life such as too many assignments, compe-



tion with other students, failure, bad relationships, constant pressure to study, examination, future plans, etc. Specially, in exam time, there are few factors that can contribute to exam stress in students. They are as follows:

- **Strain to perform well:** Some children due to understudies

or family pressure might feel strain or tension while taking the pressure to perform well in examinations.

- **Fear to be failed:** There are a lot of students who worry about failing an exam, which can make them feel stressed and anxious. This dread can be particularly intense for understudies who battle with a specific subject or



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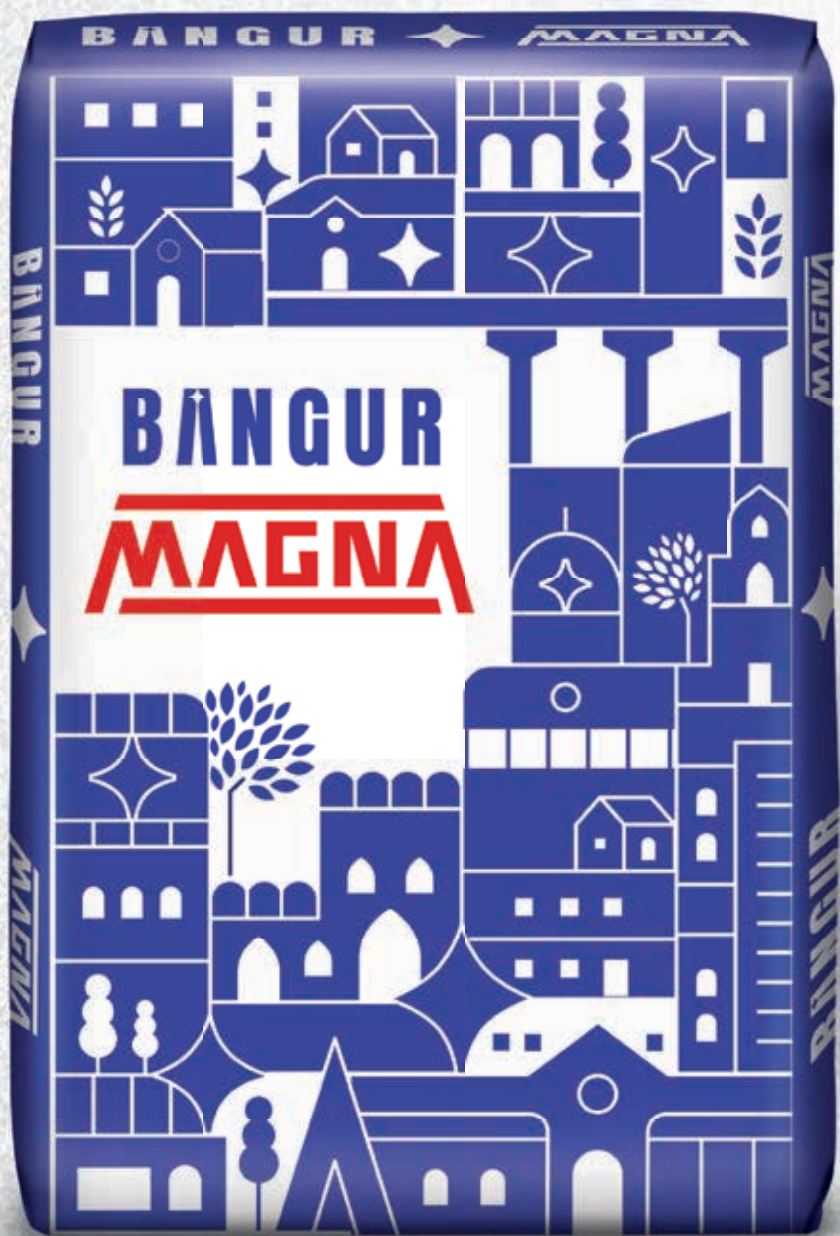
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IN BRIEF

India-US relations witness radical changes: TS Sandhu

Washington: Revolutionary changes are taking place in India-US relationship, the outgoing Indian Ambassador, TS Sandhu has said, stressing that bilateral ties have only covered the tip of the iceberg and are going to go far and wide. "I wanted to tell you that revolutionary changes are taking place in India, also in US-India relations, thus, it is important that your children and your families are aware of India, stay connected with India," said TS Sandhu.



India to assist in rescue of captured Sri Lankan fishermen

Colombo: India has pledged to assist in the rescue of six Sri Lankan fishermen captured by Somali pirates, Sri Lanka Navy spokesman Gayan Wickremasuriya said. The multi-day fishing trawler Lorenzo Putha-4 set sail from Dikowita fishing harbour in Sri Lanka on January 16. UN's central maritime command was alerted by Sri Lanka.

India logs 182 new COVID-19 cases; One death reported

New Delhi: India saw a single day rise of 182 new cases of COVID-19, while the number of active cases of the infection has declined to 1,525, the health ministry said on Sunday. One death has been reported from Kerala in a span of 24 hours, according to the Ministry's data updated at 8 am. The number of daily cases had dropped to double-digits till December 5, but cases began to increase after emergence of a new variant and cold weather conditions.

HC: Husband bound to maintain wife despite no income

Lucknow: Allahabad HC said even if a husband has no income, he is bound to provide maintenance to his wife as he can earn about Rs 300-400 a day as an unskilled labourer. A Bench of Justice Renu Agrawal of Lucknow Bench of HC while dismissing a revision PIL of man against a family court order asking him to pay Rs 2k monthly as maintenance to his estranged wife.

Govt devoted to create better justice ecosystem: Meghwal

Top courts of over 40 countries refer to the verdicts of Supreme Court while delivering their judgments, he adds

PTI
New Delhi

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday said the government is committed to creating a better justice ecosystem in the country with the cooperation of the judiciary.

Addressing an event to mark the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court here, Meghwal also said that the government was working on mission mode to improve the digital infrastructure of the judiciary and noted that the Supreme Court has become a global leader in virtual hearings.

The Minister said that top courts of over 40 countries refer to verdicts of the Supreme Court of India while delivering their judgments.

He said nearly three crore cases were heard virtually in the country while the top court alone heard over cases lakh cases through video conference.

Meghwal hoped that the Supreme Court would continue to be the temple of justice (*Nyay Ka Mandir*) and a protector of the Constitution.



PM Narendra Modi during the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Supreme Court, at SC auditorium in New Delhi. DY Chandrachud, Justice Sanjiv Khanna & Arjun Ram Meghwal are also seen.

PM MODI LAUNCHES DIGI SCR, HOPES THAT OTHER COURTS WOULD FOLLOW SUIT

The Prime Minister also launched several initiatives of the apex court such as the Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), Digital Courts 2.0, and a new website for the Supreme Court. He expressed satisfaction that the translation of Supreme Court judgments into regional languages had started and expressed hope that other courts in the country would follow suit. Talking about the

importance of technology, he said, "Today, how technology can be helpful in the ease of justice can be seen from this programme itself. My address right now is being translated and listened to by people with the aid of AI (Artificial Intelligence). There can be a few hiccups at the start, but we can only imagine what great things technology can do. Similarly, our courts can use technology to make the lives of our citizens easier."

Through the whole of government approach, with the cooperation of the judiciary, we are committed to creating a better justice ecosystem. I also hope that the SC would continue to be the temple of justice and a protector of the Constitution.

ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL,
UNION MINISTER

Space Platform POEM-3

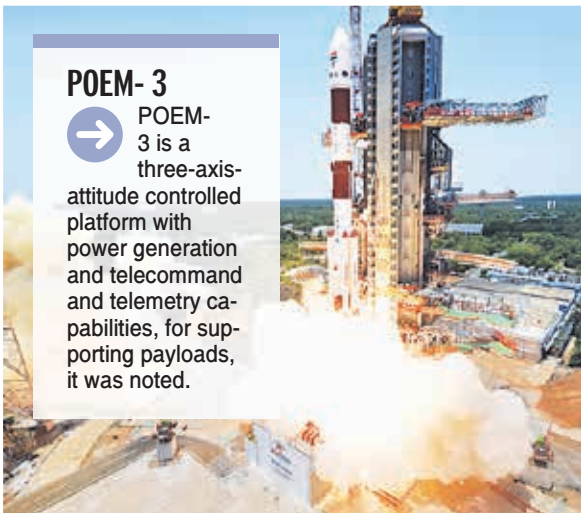
All Payload objectives fully met: ISRO

PTI
Bengaluru

ISRO said on Saturday its space platform, POEM-3, has successfully achieved all its payload objectives. POEM-3 (the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3) uses the spent PS4 stage of the PSLV-C58 rocket that launched XPoSat on January 1 this year.

ISRO said POEM-3 flew with nine payloads from Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Physical Research Laboratory, academia, and space start-ups.

By the 25th day in orbit, POEM-3, which the space agency described as a unique and inexpensive platform, completed



400 orbits.

Over this period, each payload was put into operation, as planned and performance was demonstrated. POEM-3 will continue orbiting for approximately 73 more

days before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

"With the likely re-entry of POEM-3 in the next 75 days, the PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission will be leaving zero debris in space", ISRO said.

'Don't let BJP win polls in name of religion'

PTI
Dehradun

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during a public meeting at the Bannu School ground, slammed PM Modi for trying to become the 11th "avatar" of Lord Vishnu. The Congress chief launched the party's LS campaign in Uttarakhand from the rally. Asking the people to oust the BJP from power, Kharge said they should not let it win the general elections in the name of religion.

Taking a dig at Modi for his visibility on TV, Kharge said every time one switches it on, Modi is seen holding forth. "He is trying to become the 11th avatar of Lord Vishnu," Cong leader said.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge addresses the workers conference, in Dehradun on Sunday.

SP: INDIA MEMBERS MUST FOLLOW AKHILESH MODEL

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has presented an alliance model to counter BJP in LS polls & others should follow, SP spokesperson Ameer Jamei said, after JD(U) president Nitish Kumar resigned as Bihar CM. A second round of talks with Congress is on. Everyone should follow this to remove BJP (from power)," he said.

REACHED SEAT-SHARING WITH INDIA BLOC PARTNERS

Congress Prez Mallikarjun Kharge said his party has held talks with all alliance partners of INDIA bloc on seat-sharing for upcoming LS polls, & reached an understanding with some of them, while the dialogue with others is at the final stages. "Dates are fixed for my visits. Rahul Gandhi will also visit a few places."

'CONG MANIFESTO'S 1ST DRAFT BY FEB 15'

Cong MP Shashi Tharoor said that the first draft of party's manifesto for upcoming LS polls would be released by Feb 15 and the final one would come out before the poll dates are announced. "We have our internal procedures. The first draft should be ready by Feb 15 but thereafter it has to be agreed upon by CWC."

"Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives to keep the country united. Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru spent years in jail to achieve freedom. What has the BJP done."

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE,
CONGRESS PRESIDENT

BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

A RELIEF RALLY LIKELY FOR EQUITY MARKETS POST BUDGET



Vimal Kothari

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

Situation like fog on the roads due to severe cold in North India in the month of January is also visible in the Indian stock market at present. Last week, the stock market took a dive and the future situation became murky again. Now it is believed that the interim budget of the Modi government to be presented in the Parliament on February 1 will clear the situation about the market and the stock market will start looking ahead before the Lok Sabha elections.

Due to the rise in crude oil prices, continuous selling by foreign institutional investors, two days

of holidays in the last week, monthly cutting of the futures market and relatively weak performance of various companies, the stock market could not return to its upbeat journey and 'mandadiyas' dominated in the market, due to which the markets closed with weakness for the second consecutive week.

Now it is expected that in the interim budget coming before the elections, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will increase the profit limit on long-term investments, encouraging investors and suggesting measures for their protection, besides giving a boost to the economy. She will make announcements, which will give a new dose of momentum to this market and the journey of improvement will start once again.



There is still a lot of time left for the LS polls,

but the atmosphere created in the country due to the consecration of Ram Temple on January 22 and the political turmoil currently taking place in Bihar, the joint opposition alliance is certain to collapse. On the basis of this, it can be said that the pres-

ent BJP government at the Centre does not see any major threat.

The only thing that matters is how many MPs of BJP and its allies reach the Lok Sabha and what is the reaction of the stock market after the results.

Indian stock markets have been falling for the second consecutive week. According to the data, last week there was a decline of 722.98 points i.e. about 1%; BSE index closed at 70700.67 points, while the NSE index also declined by 219.20 points i.e. about 1% and the NSE Nifty index closed at 21352.60 points.

The special thing is that

while there has been a decline of about one percent in basic index, there has been a slight improvement in the midcap and smallcap indices, which indicates that the index may be weak in market, but not in the shares.

The latest fall in the market can be attributed to Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), who sold Rs 12194.38 cr last week, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) responded to this selling by buying Rs 9701.96 cr.

Talking about the bullion market, there was a slight improvement in the prices of gold and silver this week and gold rose

by Rs 100 per ten grams to Rs 64,100 and silver rose by Rs 300 per kg to Rs 73,300 per kg. Due to the demand in view of marriages, traders are currently assessing the general ups and downs in the bullion business.

The traders say that there are more chances of a rise in the market. The government wants to see the market grow, but the impact of Interim Budget announcements will be more technical.

(This is the personal opinion of the author. The author, his family members and acquaintances may have investments in the companies mentioned in the article.)

IN BRIEF

Nine UNRWA staff members fired over allegations: UN chief

New York: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the termination of nine out of the 12 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) staff members implicated in the October 7 Hamas attack in Israel. One staff member was reported dead, and the identities of two others are still under clarification. Guterres emphasised the severity of the allegations and assured swift action.

Kulkarni shines as India topples USA in U-19 ODI World Cup

Bloemfontein: The defending champions, India continued to march unbeaten in the ongoing ICC U-19 World Cup following their monumental 201-run victory over the USA on Sunday. It was another clinical all-rounder performance from the young Indian team in the group stage. Arshin Kulkarni's 108 combined with Musheer Khan's 73 handed India a firm grip on the game.



ICC lifts ban imposed on Sri Lanka Cricket

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Sunday lifted the suspension imposed on Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) with immediate effect. ICC released a statement to announce the uplifting of SLC's ban.

Indian physical disability team beat England by 49 runs

Ahmedabad: Indian physical disability cricket team registered a 49-run win over the visiting England team in the first of the five-match T20 bilateral series in Ahmedabad on Sunday. The series is organised by the Differently-Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) in support of BCCI and the cricket board's affiliate unit, Gujarat Cricket Association.

Rhythm, Ujjwal win mixed team pistol gold in Cairo

Cairo: India picked up their first gold of the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun stage in Cairo, Egypt, when Rhythm Sangwan and Ujjwal defeated the Armenian pair in the 10m air pistol mixed team gold medal match at Egypt International Olympic City Shooting range.

On SC, ST, OBC posts

The JNU Students to protest against UGC chief on Monday

No reserved post to be de-reserved: Edu ministry on draft UGC guidelines



PTI New Delhi



REPRESENTATIONAL

VACANCIES MAY BE DE-RESERVED AND FILLED BY THE CANDIDATES OF OTHER COMMUNITIES

New Delhi: In case of promotion, if sufficient numbers of SC and ST candidates fit for promotion against reserved vacancies are not available, such vacancies may be de-reserved and filled by the candidates of other communities. The power to accord approval to de-reservation of the reserved vacancies in such cases will be delegated to UGC and Ministry of Education, if certain conditions are met. "The approval for de-reservation has been seen and concurred in by the liaison officer for SC, ST of the university," the guidelines added.

Reservation in CEI is provided for all posts in direct recruitment in Teacher's cadre as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

No reaction could be had from Kumar on the criticism for the guide-

lines. "A vacancy reserved for SC or ST or OBC cannot be filled by

a candidate other than an SC or ST or OBC candidate, as the case may be.

Gaza: Israeli military continues offensive against Hamas



Palestinians flee Israeli ground offensive in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Saturday.

ANI Tel Aviv

The IDF (Israel Defence Forces) reported on how it is continuing to move forward with its attacks on the Hamas terror group in Gaza. As part of the advance, forces from the IDF's 98th Paratroopers Division are continuing "intense" fighting in the Khan Yunis area in southern Gaza.

At the same time, in the north of the Gaza Strip, the fighters of the 5th Reserve Infantry Brigade located and destroyed a tunnel route used by the terrorists in the area, eliminated terrorists and located weapons.

Iran launches 3 satellites into space amid concerns

Agencies Jerusalem

Iran said on Sunday it successfully launched three satellites into space with a rocket that had multiple failures in the past, the latest for a programme that the West says improves Tehran's ballistic missiles.

The launch comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the

Gaza Strip, sparking fears of a regional conflict. While Iran has not intervened militarily in the conflict, it has faced increased pressure within its theocracy for action after a deadly Islamic State suicide bombing earlier this month and as proxy groups like Yemen's Houthi rebels conduct attacks linked to the war. Meanwhile, Western nations remain worried about Iran's rapidly ex-



Iran achieved a significant milestone on Sunday by successfully launching three satellites into space using a rocket that had encountered multiple failures in the past.

Notice to French journalist for violation of visa rules

Agencies New Delhi

India said the notice issued to a Delhi-based French journalist was because of violation of visa rules and not due to the nature of her journalism.

India conveyed this to the French delegation when the issue came up during the bilateral talks as part of French Presi-

dent Emmanuel Macron's two-day visit here.

French journalist Vanessa Dougnac was issued a notice by New Delhi for alleged violation of visa rules and sought a response from her by February 2.

"This has been brought to our attention by the French side, both prior to the visit and during the visit," an official said.

Women's T20I

SA register historic first win over Australia

Agencies Canberra

Skipper Laura Wolvaardt produced a stylish performance with the bat to help lead South Africa to a landmark six-wicket T20I victory over Australia, here on Sunday.

It was South Africa's first-ever victory over Australia in women's T20I history and is sure



Chloe Tryon (left) and Laura Wolvaardt celebrate South Africa Women's historic win.

"World faces same problems that existed for thousands of years"



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat during the 8th International Conference and Gathering of Elders organised by ICCS, in Dibrugarh on Sunday.

PTI Dibrugarh (Assam)

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said despite the world's material progress, it continues to face the same problems that have existed for thousands of years. He said the solution to all problems lies in the ancient Indian concept of 'dharma' or 'spiritual oneness'.

Bhagwat made these remarks at the inaugural session of the 8th International Conference and Gathering of Elders, organised by the International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), a non-profit organisation dedicated to spiritual masters of ancient traditions and

cultures. Bhagwat pointed out that despite advancements in education and technology, wars still happen and there is a lack of peace both externally and internally.

He highlighted the issues of ego, whether at an individual or community level, and the narrowness of mind. He also criticised those who claim to be above such tendencies but end up creating another group for themselves.

As per Bhagwat, efforts have been made to understand and resolve these problems, resulting in different theories and philosophies that primarily focus on material prosperity and survival of the fittest.

Mona Lisa: Protesters throw soup at da Vinci painting



Agencies Paris

Two protesters on Sunday hurled soup at the bullet-proof glass protecting Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" in Paris, demanding the right to "healthy and sustainable food", an AFP journalist saw.

Two women threw red and orange soup onto the glass protecting the smiling lady to gasps from the crowd in the French capital's Louvre museum, an AFP video journalist reported. "What is more important? Art or the right to healthy and sustainable food," they asked, standing in front of the painting and speaking in turn.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2024

Hsieh Su-Wei, Mertens claim women's doubles title

Agencies Melbourne

Taiwan's Hsieh Su-Wei and Belgium's Elise Mertens won the women's doubles crown at the Australian Open on Sunday with an emphatic 6-1 7-5 victory over Latvian-Ukrainian pairing Jelena Ostapenko and Lyudmyla Kichenok.

The win earned the second seeds their second women's Grand Slam doubles crown after victory at Wimbledon in 2021 and made Hsieh



Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei and Belgium's Elise Mertens celebrate with the trophy after winning women's doubles final match. PTI

the second-oldest woman to ever win a Grand Slam doubles title.

Hsieh called time on her singles career after losing in the first round of qualifying at Melbourne Park this year, but still claimed her second title Down Under after also winning the mixed doubles final on Friday.

Victory sealed Hsieh's 7th major women's doubles crown, to go with the four she has won at Wimbledon and two at Roland Garros, & moved Mertens up to four Grand Slam women's doubles titles.

JANNIK SINNER FIGHTS BACK TO BEAT DANIIL MEDVEDEV, CLINCHES MAIDEN TITLE

Melbourne: Jannik Sinner exhibited his fighting skills to the tilt as the fourth-seed Italian fought back from two-set down to register a sensational five-set victory over World number three Daniil Medvedev in a thrilling final to clinch his maiden Australian Open title on Sunday. Sinner was blown off course in the first two sets but recovered to win 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in three hours and 44 minutes. This is Sinner's first Grand Slam title in his first appearance in a Major final. However, former US Open champion Medvedev, playing in his third final at Melbourne Park, was third time unlucky in his quest for victory.



PTI Ahmedabad

Seamers Aniket Choudhary and Arafat Khan shared the spoils with seven wickets in between them as Rajasthan defeated Manipur by an innings and 42 runs to jump to the top of the Group A table in the Ranji Trophy here on Sunday.

Khan returned with 4/36, while left-arm seamer Choudhary bagged 3/68 to help Rajasthan bundle out Manipur for 198.

Rajasthan's bowlers, led by Choudhary &

BENGAL CRUSH ASSAM BY INNINGS & 162 RUNS

Guwahati: A rampant Bengal crushed Assam by an innings and 162 runs in a Ranji Trophy Group B elite match here at the ACA Stadium on Sunday. A listless Assam were shot out for 103 and 140 within the third day's play in Barsapara with Bengal bowlers ensuring a dominant all-round display, which earned their side seven points including bonus.

Khan, once kept striking at regular intervals and the match lasted just 55 overs on the penultimate day.

2ND FRONT

fi FIRST INDIA

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

As the first month of 2024 draws to a close, take out your NY resolutions and analyse them anew, discard or renew as the case may be.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief


08


Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in conversation with (L-R) Ayush Singh, Ayushi Shekhawat, Shikha Thakur, Aditi Nagar and Poornima Mishra during The JC Show.

MODI HAS DEMOLISHED NORTH-SOUTH DIVIDE AND MAY WIN EVEN 400 SEATS: Dr CHANDRA



Analysing the recent consecration of the Ramlalla idol and its impact on overall Indian culture and political realm, **Dr Jagdeesh Chandra** reveals in detail how after the January 22 development, opposition political parties have become inconsequential for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Dr Chandra also stresses that Modi's visit to Southern Indian temples will result in a tourism boom and that the BJP candidates would not have to do much campaigning this time around, rather will have to just chant '*Ram-naam*' and all their troubles will be over! Excerpts... (Part II)

● **Do you think after PM Narendra Modi's whirlwind visit to various Temples of Southern India, now a boom in spiritual and religious tourism in these Temples will also start?**
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra: Absolutely. This could be cited from the tourism tornado created by PM's visit to Lakshadweep. He has virtually become the 'Brand Ambassador' for the Temples of Southern India. Till today, no CM or PM went to these Temples and now Narendra Modi has visited there. Owing to Modi's popularity, the tourism departments of respective states would want PM's photo in banners etc. because of his value and craze among people. So, I believe that the Temples Modi has visited, will witness a huge boom in people visiting them over next few months and you won't find hotels to stay much like what is happening in Ayodhya.

● **Will BJP contest the 2024 elections on its age-old election issue of Hindutva? Also, will BJP cross the 400-seat mark now that the Ram Mandir has been constructed?**
 The atmosphere is such that winning the 2024 elections is certain. The personality that is Modi has become so grand that 2024 polls and 2029 polls have become small before him. Today, a huge part of the nation is asking Modi, what they can do for him apart from giving him votes. Thus, whether it

is 400 or 415 or anything else, you can't point to it. Also, I believe that as of today, BJP does not have to think about anything about winning. Furthermore, those who would contest the elections, will not have to spend money for campaigning, have any manifesto, or do anything else. What they will have to do is hold prayer meetings for Ram and carry Modi's speeches to the people which is all they would need to sail



through the polls. That being said, there will not be any guarantee to become a part of the Cabinet and in fact, about 70% of faces could be new this time around. Now imagine, if this is the ground situation, then what are 400 seats; it can cross 400 also.

● **What is the controversy about the first phase of Lok Sabha polls taking place on April 16?**
 The information was correct. An Election Officer in Delhi wrote a letter for office circular-

tion that there are indications by the ECI that the elections may be held in Delhi on April 16. This letter somehow got leaked and the media carried it. But what are its implications? If we take this information at face value that elections would be held in Delhi on the said date, then we will have to consider that the polls in Delhi is conducted in the sixth phase, which means that one month before that date, the polling would have commenced i.e. the five phases would have been carried out. This means that elections would be called early this time around and the 'Model Code of Conduct' would come into force in February itself. This can happen easily. However, that being said, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah are not in a hurry and everything is happening at the right pace. But since such information has come out, then, maybe, by February mid or end, a 'Code of Conduct' may come into force and the first phase of polls may fall in the first week of March.

● **Winning seats comfortably in the South has always been a challenge for political parties. Do you think this time around 'Brand Modi' will have any effect in the Southern states?**
 'Brand Modi' is a hit product and has further been accentuated by Ram Mandir and the visits to Southern Temples. I don't agree with the narrative that there



You read Part I on JANUARY 28, 2024

is a difference in the approach of the people of North India and South India. For Narendra Modi, people's faith is the same throughout the nation. We all have seen how he took part in prayers and rituals in Southern Temples and at Ram Temple in Ayodhya. There are 131 odd seats across all Southern states of which, BJP has 29, but I believe that, when the polls would take place, the BJP will win about 50 percent of these seats. So, you can be sure that 'Brand Modi' is a super hit at this moment in time and the depth of his popularity in Southern states, in terms of votes, will be measured through the victories in these seats. My analysis is that Modi can sweep Southern states as well and it won't come as a surprise to me.

● **A huge number of people believe that if Modi gets more than 400 seats, he may bring**

about an amendment in the Constitution and instead of a Parliamentary democracy, Modi can usher in a Presidential form of government. What is your take on it?
 I do not see any wrong in this, if this happens. Even if it is a Presidential system, it will still be a democracy, where everyone would have a right to contest elections. If Rahul Gandhi, Mayawati or Mamata Banerjee want to contest the elections, then they can stand for the Presidential election, and if you think you can, then try and beat Modi. There is no shortfall in the Presidential system. Take, for example, the governance and government in America which is functioning properly since the command is in the hands of a single person. And in the BJP, Modi is the person who is running everything, by and large. What happens in a 'single command' is that the person, who has

complete trust is delegated tasks, works are accomplished quickly under this system, there are fewer formalities, and it is always result-oriented. Hence, people do say that such a thing could happen, but if the government decides to change its mode of governance, then I don't see anything wrong with this decision as it will decrease the time taken to get things moving and will be result-oriented as well.

● **If we analyse the past few days and the celebrations that followed post-January 22, there is a perception of sorts amidst the general public as if Lord Ram has returned. How did this come to pass?**
 This is Narendra Modi's charisma. After that, to some extent, this is Yogi Adityanath's persona, because the way he organised the entire event right from 'lighting of diyas' to various other programmes that were held, created an atmosphere. This, coupled with the branding of Narendra Modi and how PMO handled the publicity of this major development, which I would say is the apt handling of such a moment, resulted in a major achievement of this event becoming a brand in itself and an atmosphere was created among the people that Ram was returning to Ayodhya. Moreover, looking at the idol, people are believing that they are seeing 'Ram' in reality. This is proved by the lakhs of visitors that

queued in Ayodhya to have a darshan of Ramlalla the very next day!

● **Who would you give the credit for the grand consecration ceremony held in Ayodhya?**
 If we talk about leadership then it is PM Narendra Modi and Yogi Adityanath. Leadership firstly of Narendra Modi since his monitoring is extremely strong not just in PMO, but in the UP government as well. UP CM Yogi Adityanath should also be credited, the Chief Secretary of UP, DGP, senior police officers, Principal Secretary to CM and other senior officials of the state. So, there is a team and the media has played a major role in all the arrangements. So, the UP government gets full marks for the programme, the PMO team that was co-ordinating, also gets the full marks.

● **Among all the faces involved in Temple construction and Ram idol consecration was the face of Nripendra Mishra. What is your take on him?**
 He is a 'silent performer.' He has been the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the PM wanted that a trusted and an efficient person should be present on the ground, who is competent and could handle the coordination on the ground. So, he was sent to Ayodhya and he performed the task with flying colours. Rs 3,500 crore in donations were raised and although such a huge

amount comes due to 'Brand Modi,' still one has to manage everything. Also, the first phase of the developments has been completed by him in a time-bound manner. The second phase of Temple construction will be completed by December this year and the remaining miscellaneous works will be completed by 2025. Nripendra Mishra carried out his role properly and did not come into the limelight. He worked as a 'silent performer' and everybody appreciated his efforts.

● **The international media, setting aside its earlier stands, gave immense coverage to Ram Temple and Narendra Modi. How do you see this change?**
 You can not ignore reality for a long time. Your bias can not overrule the ground realities. Hence, everyone appreciated, since it is a major development of global proportions. American broadcasters NBC and ABC carried news on Ram Temple, Russia Today and Gulf Times carried the news about it and so did many other media outlets of repute. Some did mention the mosque being demolished, but that happens when you write a story certain elements do add up to things. But by and large, they appreciated this development and PM Narendra Modi too.

During the show **#ModiAuraOfHoliness** trended top All-India on X

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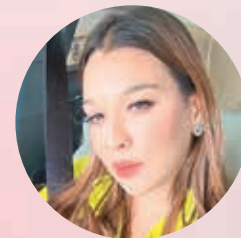


'JIJU' EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Jonas Brothers made their debut on Indian soil, setting the Lollapalooza India event in Mumbai ablaze. The trio's performance had fans in a frenzy, hailed Nick Jonas as their 'jiju' **P11**

Triumph of Passion

In the dynamic world of fashion and glamour, Payal Daryani stands as a beacon of determination and grace. City First highlights her journey from the quaint streets of Agra to the vibrant alleys of Jaipur hailing a title of second runner up at recently held Miss India Glam pageant!



Tripti Mahawar

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Born in Agra and nurtured in Jaipur, Payal's love affair with modeling began in the cocoon of her childhood dreams. Despite initial familial apprehensions, her indomitable spirit propelled her forward. "I always like modeling since my childhood," she reminisces, emphasizing her unwavering dedication to her craft. Transitioning from the corridors of academia to the glitzy runways, Payal's evolution embodies the essence of self-reliance. Initially met with skepticism from her family, she found solace in her brother's unwavering support, a pillar of strength through her trials and triumphs.

Her foray into the world of teaching echoed the trials of her early career, yet her spirit remained unyielding. "India Glam bestowed upon me the opportunity I craved," she reflects, recounting her transformation from a novice to a luminary in the industry.

For Payal, a healthy lifestyle transcends physical wellness; it epitomizes a belief in oneself and a conscious effort to alleviate stress. This mantra resonates in her pursuit of excellence, fueling her journey towards self-actualization.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of mentors, Payal attributes her successes to the unwavering support of Pawan Tank, the founder & director of Miss India Glam Organisation.

His guidance catapulted her to the prestigious title of second runner-up, marking a milestone in her illustrious career. Looking ahead, Payal envisions a future brimming with self-reliance and boundless opportunities. "I see myself growing and becoming more self-dependent," she affirms, a testament to her unwavering resolve to conquer new horizons.



BACHCHAN'S Goofy Charm

In the realm of Indian cinema, Amitabh Bachchan stands as an unparalleled legend, and his recent antics on social media had fans reminiscing about the iconic 'Khaike Pan Banaraswala' era. The megastar, known for his wit and charm, took to Instagram on January 28, sharing a comical snapshot of himself, and inviting fans to suggest words for the post.

With a goofy expression, Bachchan playfully queried, "... can someone please suggest words for this POST..!!!!?" Fans, quick to respond, flooded the comments section with references U+0074o his classic song. One enthusiast exclaimed, "Khaikhe Paan Banaras Wale Aa Gaye," while another chimed in, "Khaiy ke paan Banaras wala khol de band akal ka tala," adding a touch of laughter.

The humorous post added a touch of nostalgia, transporting fans to the golden era of 'Don'



Amitabh Bachchan

and its unforgettable melodies. Bachchan's ability to effortlessly connect with the audience, both on and off-screen, remains a testament to his enduring appeal.

Amid playful Instagram banter, news broke that Amitabh Bachchan has made a substantial real estate purchase in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. Acquiring land in The Sarayu, a luxurious 7-star mixed-use area, the details of the purchase remain undis-

closed, adding an element of mystery to the megastar's latest venture.

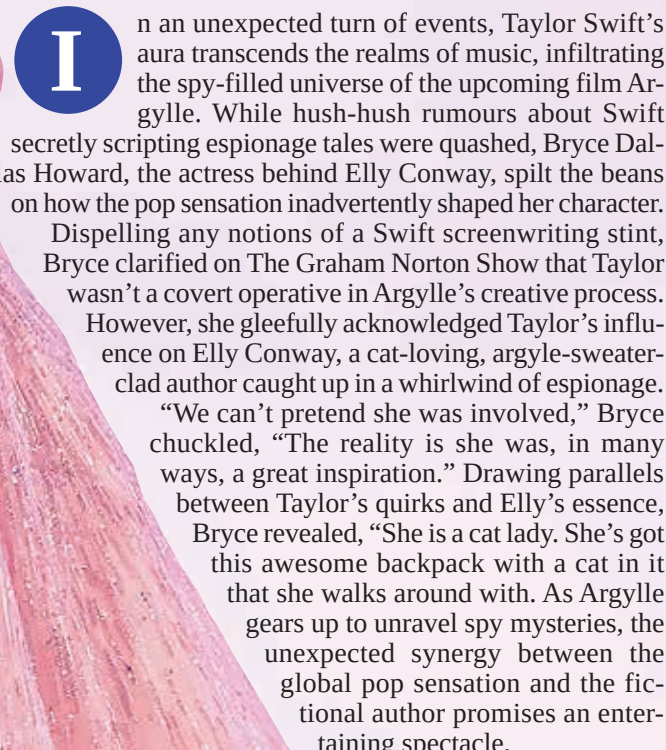
Bachchan enthusiasts eagerly await his next project, the bilingual sci-fi action film 'Kalki 2898 AD,' featuring Prabhas, Kamal Haasan, Deepika Padukone, and Disha Patani. As he continues to defy the conventional boundaries of age and

stardom, Amitabh Bachchan's multifaceted journey keeps fans hooked on his every move, both in reel and real life.



Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift's INFLUENCE UNVEILED



In an unexpected turn of events, Taylor Swift's aura transcends the realms of music, infiltrating the spy-filled universe of the upcoming film *Argylle*. While hush-hush rumours about Swift secretly scripting espionage tales were quashed, Bryce Dallas Howard, the actress behind Elly Conway, spilt the beans on how the pop sensation inadvertently shaped her character.

Dispelling any notions of a Swift screenwriting stint, Bryce clarified on *The Graham Norton Show* that Taylor wasn't a covert operative in *Argylle*'s creative process. However, she gleefully acknowledged Taylor's influence on Elly Conway, a cat-loving, argyle-sweater-clad author caught up in a whirlwind of espionage.

"We can't pretend she was involved," Bryce chuckled, "The reality is she was, in many ways, a great inspiration." Drawing parallels between Taylor's quirks and Elly's essence, Bryce revealed, "She is a cat lady. She's got this awesome backpack with a cat in it that she walks around with. As *Argylle* gears up to unravel spy mysteries, the unexpected synergy between the global pop sensation and the fictional author promises an entertaining spectacle.

In a cheeky tease, fans are prompted to “Learn more about Chip, who is undoubtedly Argyle’s most adorable star!”—hinting at more surprises beyond the Swift-inspired quirkiness.

From 'Made In Heaven' to Hollywood's 'Monkey Man'



From the gritty lanes of Anurag Kashyap's "Raman Raghav 2.0" to stealing hearts as Tara Khanna in the romantic drama "Made In Heaven," Sobhita Dhulipala has been on a meteoric rise. Now, as she gears up for her Hollywood debut in "Monkey Man," set to release globally on April 5, the actress unveils her aspirations for action-packed roles and a penchant for period cinema.

In a recent chat, Sobhita expressed her eagerness to venture into the adrenaline-pumping world

of action films, sharing, "At the moment, I'm in an inspired state of mind, I'm working on my skill set, I'd love to do an action film. I'd love to do period cinema. I have a special love for them. Maybe that's why I obsessively train in MMA and classical dance every day."

Reflecting on her journey and the lessons learned from her breakthrough series "Made In Heaven," Sobhita emphasized the importance of embracing the present and not fixating on the pursuit of perfection. "Whatever happens, happens for a reason. I think it's important to respect our journey so far and not be obsessed with the idea of bet-

ter," she shared.

As the trailer for "Monkey Man" dropped, Sobhita couldn't contain her excitement, calling it "an absolute joy" to share her Hollywood debut with co-star Dev Patel. Anticipating the film's release, she teased upcoming projects with coy "announcements soon. I am keeping my fingers crossed."

Sobhita Dhulipala, with her infectious enthusiasm and dedication to evolving as an artist, continues to captivate audiences with her diverse talent. As she steps onto the global stage, fans eagerly await the unfolding chapters of her cinematic journey.

Pullman EyesThunderbolts



Lewis Pullman

Marvel Studios is orchestrating a casting coup as Lewis Pullman, the dynamic American actor, emerges as the frontrunner to replace Steven Yeun in the eagerly awaited *Thunderbolts*. The MCU's dream team had Yeun attached since February 2023, but the project faced delays due to last year's writers' and actors' strikes, shifting the release to July 25, 2025. Known for his versatile roles, Pullman, son of actor Bill Pullman, is poised to don the mantle of the antihero Sentry. The casting choice follows Yeun's unexpected departure on January 2, 2024, leaving fans speculating about who would step into the superhero's shoes.

of excitement to the ensemble, joining the MCU's roster of power-packed performers.

In addition to his acting prowess, Pullman is a drummer in the band Atta Boy, showcasing his multifaceted talent. His journey from short films to major Hollywood projects, including *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Lessons in Chemistry*, has established him as a rising star. As Pullman prepares to join the Marvel universe, fans eagerly anticipate the chemistry and dynamics he'll bring to the Thunderbolts lineup. With Florence Pugh reprising her role as Black Widow and a star-studded cast, *Thunderbolts* is shaping up to be a cinematic spectacle that fans won't want to miss.

'Jiju' Extravaganza

In a dazzling musical spectacle, the Jonas Brothers—Nick, Joe, and Kevin—made their electrifying debut on Indian soil, setting the Lollapalooza India event in Mumbai ablaze. The trio's performance had fans in a frenzy, especially as they lovingly hailed Nick Jonas as their 'jiju' (brother-in-law), turning the concert into a joyous celebration.

Videos capturing the spirited crowd showering Nick with 'jiju' chants have gone viral, showcasing the infectious enthusiasm that echoed throughout the night. In response to the heartwarming gesture, Nick, visibly moved, expressed, "Jiju! I love you!"

all so much," sealing the bond between the global pop sensa-

tion and his Indian admirers.

Priyanka Chopra, the proud wife, shared the memorable moment on her Instagram stories, posting a video of the cheering fans. Expressing her gratitude, she wrote, "My heart emoji with thank you Mumbai," accompanied by red heart and tearful face emojis. The global diva also tagged the official handles of Nick, Joe, Kevin, and the Jonas Brothers, extending the love and appreciation.

In one viral video, the massive crowd's affectionate "jiju" chants left Nick Jonas blushing. Responding with a tap on his heart and a blown kiss, Nick reciprocated the love by saying, "I love you all so much, thank you." Kevin Jonas, embracing the banter, playfully introduced Nick as "jiju" to the roaring audience.



Priyanka Chopra
& Nick Jonas

A Spontaneous IMPROVISATION



In the cinematic tapestry of history, certain moments shine as beacons of spontaneity and brilliance. Enter Robert De Niro's iconic improvisation in Martin Scorsese's 1976 masterpiece, *Taxi Driver*. The legendary "You talkin' to me?" scene, eternally etched in our memories, wasn't part of the script—it was De Niro's impromptu genius at play. Revealed on *The Late Show* with Stephen Colbert, Scorsese shared the fascinating backstory, highlighting the unscripted exchange that became a symbol of De Niro's unparalleled talent and the enchanting unpredictability that defines exceptional filmmaking. A testament to the magic that happens when unscripted brilliance meets the silver screen.



Robert De Niro

