

## DELTA- THE POLICY CONCLAVE SHRI RAM COLLEGE OF COMMERCE







## ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C58 **XPoSat** mission



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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) kicked off the new year with the launch of the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) on January 1. The PSLV, in its 60th mission, lifted off at 9.10 a.m. from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, and 22 minutes later launched the XPoSat into an eastward low inclination orbit. "On January 1, 2024 yet another successful mission of the PSLV has been accomplished. The PSLV-C58 has placed the primary satellite at the XPoSat in the desired orbit of 650 km with six-degree inclination,"



Truck drivers
across States
protest Centre's
new law on hitand-run cases





Drivers of commercial vehicles, including trucks and tankers, stopped work across several States on January 1 to protest against the provision in the new penal law on hitand-run law road accident cases. The Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, which will replace the Indian Penal Code, has a provision that attracts punishment of up to 10 years for drivers who cause a serious road accident by negligent driving and run away without informing the police or any official from the administration.

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Bombs kill at least 103 at Iran commemorations for slain general Soleimani

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At least 103 people were killed in Iran on January 3 as two bombs in quick succession struck a crowd commemorating slain general Qasem Soleimani on the anniversary of his killing, state media reported. The blasts stuck near the Saheb al-Zaman Mosque in Kerman, Soleimani's southern hometown where he is buried, as supporters gathered to mark the fourth anniversary of his death in a US drone strike just outside Baghdad airport.

YSR Telangana
party leader
Sharmila joins
Congress



Founder of YSR Telangana Party Y.S. Sharmila, the daughter of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy and sister of A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, joined the Congress here on January 4. Ms. Sharmila joined the Congress in the presence of Congress President Malikarjun Kharge, former president Rahul Gandhi and the other senior leaders. She also announced the merger of her YSR Telangana Congress with the Congress, and said she would fulfil any responsibility given to her.

MHA orders CBI
probe into supply of
substandard
medicines in Delhi
govt hospitals

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The Union home ministry has ordered a CBI probe into the supply of 'not of standard quality' medicines in Delhi government hospitals, following a recommendation by the Delhi lieutenant governor. The probe will investigate the entire supply chain of medicines, including the role of suppliers and manufacturers The drugs that were found to be of "substandard quality" included critical lifesaving antibiotics used for the treatment of lung and urinary tract infections such as Cephalexin, according to officials.

66 **UN REPORT REVISES FORECAST FOR** 2024 GDP **GROWTH DOWN** TO 6.2%



A United Nations report revises India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.2% from its earlier estimate of 6.7%. The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report states that the growth might be slightly lower than the 6.3% estimated for 2023 but the economy have shown robust domestic demand and strong growth in the manufacturing and services sectors. India remains the fastest large economy in the world. The GDP of larger South Asian region is expected to grow at 5.2% driven by robust expansion of India.

KARNATAKA
CABINET CLEARS
LAW FOR 60%
KANNADA IN
SIGNAGES



The Karnataka cabinet has given its consent to a law to ensure that all signages across the state have 60% Kannada text. The Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Act, 2024 will be introduced in the form of an ordinance to enable it in force immediately, said the Kannada and cultural minister. Under the amended law there will be strict penalties prescribed for defaulters and not just notices. The move follows recent protests by Kannada organizations against the use of English signages by shops and commercial establishments on December 27 which also lead to vandalization of English signboard.

**MALDIVES SUSPENDS 3** MINISTER AFTER **BACKLASH OVER** THEIR REMARKS **AGAINST PRIME MINISTER MODI** 

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After photographs of prime minister Modi's visit to Lakshadweep gained popularity on social media and the internet and many of them promoted the chain of Indian islands over the Maldives as a tourist destination, several ministers in the Maldives government made insulting remarks about the prime minister and the people of India. These statements were soon criticised on the internet by the Indian population and other notable personalities. In response the Maldives government soon suspended three ministers (Mariyam Shiuna, Malsha Shareef and Mahzoom Majid) with immediate effect with the fear of losing Indian tourist business as Indians accounts one of the largest share in Maldives tourism industry and released statements, stating that these views do not represents the views of the government.

66 **TAMIL NADU ATTRACTS PROPOSLAS** WORTH RS. 6.6 LAKH CR IN **GLOBAL INVESTORS MEET** 





Tamil Nadu received proposals worth an unprecedented Rs.6,64,180 crore in a two-day Tamil Nadu Global Investor Meet 2024 which was held on 7 and 8 January 2024 in Chennai. These potential investments could directly lead to 14.54 lakh jobs and indirectly to another 12.34 lakh jobs across various sectors. The industries department bagged a significant portion of the total potential investments, getting proposals worth Rs. 3.79 lakh crore that could lead to over 8 Lakh jobs. The energy sector got proposals worth Rs. 1.35 lakh crore, expected to generate 14,609 jobs.

## 66 FRANCE GETS ITS YOUNGEST, FIRST OPENLY **GAY PM**



French president Emmanual Macron appointed 34-year-old Education minister Gabriel Attal as his new prime minister ahead of European Parliament elections. The move will not will not lead to any major political shift, but signals a desire for Macron to try to move beyond last's year unpopular pension and immigration reforms and improve his centrist party's chances in the June EU ballot. Gabriel Attal who became very popular in the covid pandemic will replace Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne. Gabrial Attal made a name for himself as a knowledgeable, experienced minister at radio show and in parliament.

**DEFENCE MINISTER** RAJNATH SINGH **CONCLUDES UK VISIT** AFTER A WARM MEETING WITH PM **RISHI SUNAK** 





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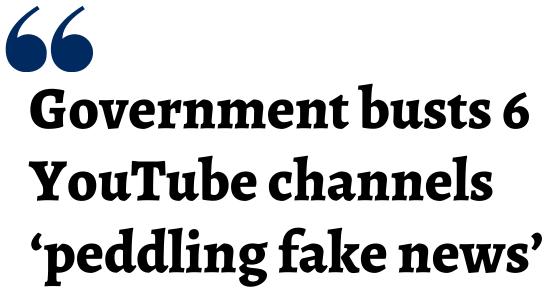


Defence Minister Rajnath Singh concluded his visit to the U.K. on January 11 after a "warm meeting" with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and interacting with members of the Indian diaspora at a community reception.

Mr. Singh called on Prime Minister Sunak at 10 Downing Street in London on January 10 evening for discussions on a wide range of issues across bilateral defence and economic ties. He also gifted a Ram Darbar statue to Mr. Sunak, Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister, during the meeting also attended by U.K. National Security Adviser (NSA) Sir Tim Barrow.

India and the U.K. are currently holding the 14th round of FTA negotiations with the aim of significantly enhancing the annual GBP 36-billion bilateral partnership.

Mr. Sunak is said to have also underlined his keenness, and that of his government, to strengthen the defence and security pillar of the bilateral relationship, including through government backing for stronger business and technology partnerships with Indian counterpart entities.





The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on January 12 busted six YouTube channels which were "working in a coordinated manner and spreading false information in India". The six YouTube channels — Samvaad TV, Nation TV, Sarokar Bharat, Nation 24, Swarnim Bharat and Samvaad Samachar — were found to be "operating as part of a coordinated disinformation network, had nearly 20 lakh subscribers and their videos have been watched over 51 crore times". The PIB Fact Check Unit of the Ministry released six separate Twitter threads having over "100 fact-checks to counter the fake news spread by these channels". This is the second such action from the unit where entire channels have been busted.



Kharge emerges as consensus chair for I.N.D.I.A Bloc





Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge emerged as the consensus choice to be the chairperson of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) at a virtual meeting of Opposition leaders on Saturday. Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar's name was suggested as the convener of the group by everyone present but Mr. Kumar neither immediately accepted nor rejected the proposal. A final call will be taken after consulting those leaders who skipped Saturday's meeting, including Trinamool Congress (TMC) president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray, and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav.



Israel marks painful milestone with "100 Days of Hell" rally









As the sun started to break through the clouds, following a cold and wet morning in Tel Aviv, the mood at Hostages Square remained somber and solemn on Sunday.

Several thousand people were present at a rally called "100 Days of Hell" – marking the number of days since Hamas attacked Israeli communities, killing about 1,200 people, as well as the period of time the hostages still held in Gaza have remained captive.

The rally began Saturday evening — when organizers said attendee numbers were as high as 120,000 — and is due to last 24 hours.

In the early hours of Sunday, the sound of a techno track could be heard in the square. It was the last tune played at the Nova music festival on October 7 before the attack began, and it was the same DJ who played the tune again, Yarin Binyaminov.

Speakers have addressed the crowd throughout the event, and messages from Israel and overseas have been played on large screens, including from US Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer and French President Emmanuel Macron.



AI WILL
IMPACT 40% OF
THE JOBS
GLOBALLY,
SAYS IMF
CHIEF





Artificial intelligence poses risks to job security around the world but also offers a "tremendous opportunity" to boost flagging productivity levels and fuel global growth, the IMF chief told AFP.

AI will affect 60% of jobs in advanced economies, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, said in an interview in Washington, shortly before departing for the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

With AI expected to have less effect in developing countries, around "40% of jobs globally are likely to be impacted," she said, citing a new IMF report.

However, the IMF report published Sunday evening notes that only half of the jobs impacted by AI will be negatively affected; the rest may actually benefit from enhanced productivity gains due to AI.

The IMF report predicted that, while labour markets in emerging markets and developing economies will see a smaller initial impact from AI, they are also less likely to benefit from the enhanced productivity that will arise through its integration in the workplace.

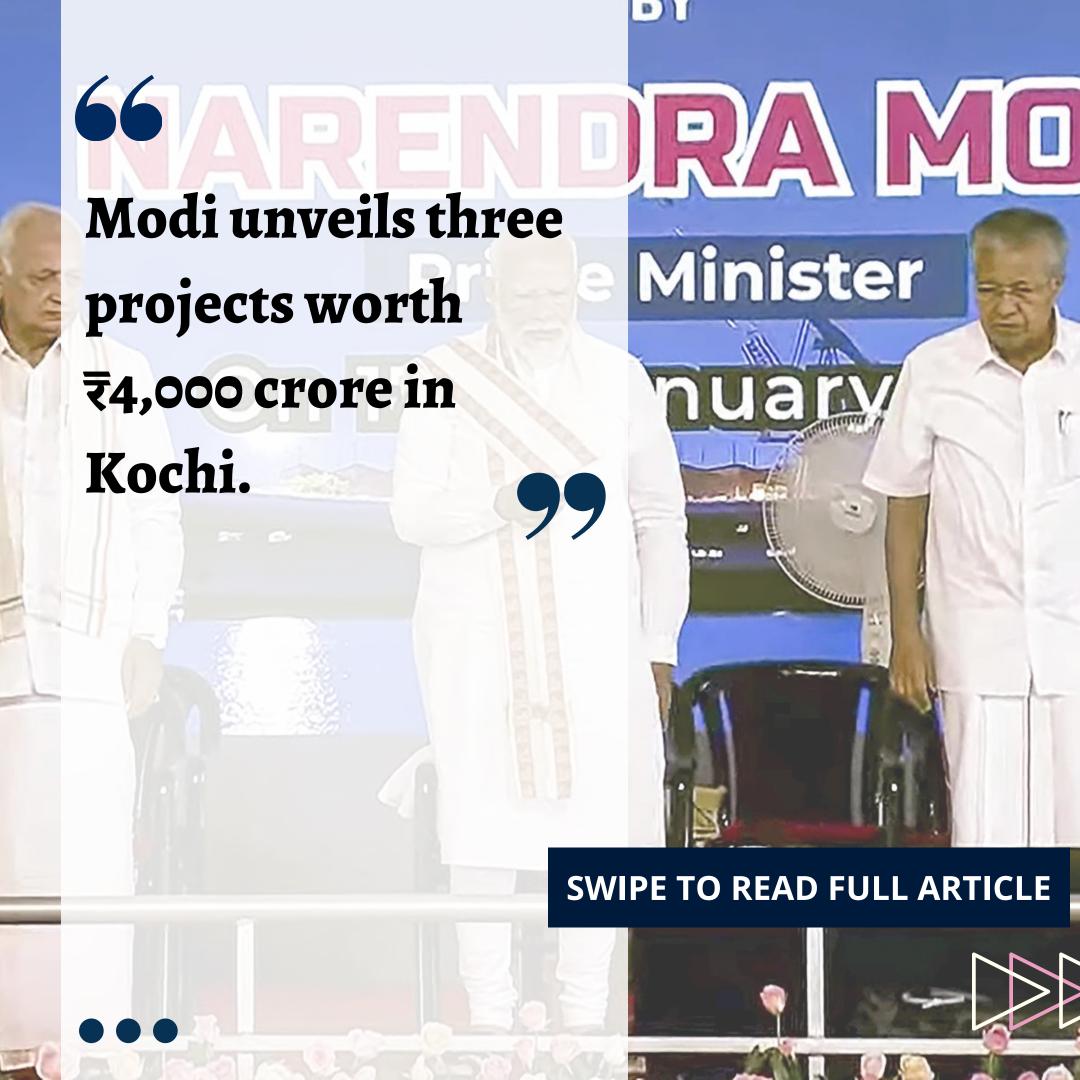


The 100-day mark for the Gaza war saw an increasingly dire humanitarian situation, with the death toll surpassing 24,000. As the Israeli military hit Gaza City with more airstrikes and ground operations continued in the enclave's south, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said Monday that 132 bodies of those killed in the bombardment had arrived at hospitals over the past 24 hours. The ministry said the death toll 100 days in stands at 24,100, with over 60,000 others injured.

Iran says it has attacked militant bases in Pakistan

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Iran launched attacks in Pakistan on Tuesday, targeting what it described as bases for the militant group Jaish al-Adl, state media reported. Those reports were then suddenly removed. The state-run IRNA news agency and state television had said that missiles and drones were used in the attack, which was not immediately acknowledged by Pakistan. Jaish al-Adl is a Sunni militant group which largely operates across the border in Pakistan. The reports of strikes came at a time of heightened tensions in the region and fears of a wider spillover of the ongoing war in Gaza.



BIL

Three infrastructure projects totalling ₹4,000 crore in Kochi — a new dry dock and an international ship repair facility (ISRF) of Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and an LPG import terminal of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen — are in line with the vision to transform India's ports, shipping, and inland waterways by boosting capacity building and selfsufficiency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday after inaugurating them.

9 killed as Pakistan launches retaliatory air strikes in Iran.

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**SWIPE TO READ FULL ARTICLE** 

Pakistan's Air Force launched retaliatory air strikes early on Thursday in Iran against alleged militant hideouts, killing at least nine people and further raising tensions between the neighbours. Thursday's attack followed one by Iran inside Pakistan on Tuesday. Both appeared to target Baloch militant groups with similar separatist goals on either side of the Iran-Pakistan border. The countries accuse each other of providing safe haven to the groups in their respective territories. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry described its attack on Thursday as "a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes".

Oil markets brace for shipping disruption in southern Red Sea

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The oil market appears to be bracing for a weeks-long disruption to shipping in the southern Red Sea, where Houthi militants have for months been attacking merchant vessels in response to Israel's war in Gaza. Tankers to move fuel cargoes are instead being hired to sail to Asia instead of Europe, sparking a surge in earnings. At the same time, several Iraqi crude shipments have been booked on tankers that will take a thousands-of-miles detour around Africa.

66 Nifty@22K: How should investors safeguard portfolios in 2024



After rallying over 20% in the year 2023, Nifty50 continued its momentum in 2024 as it quickly surpassed Mount 22,000 to hit a fresh record high of 22,124 on January 16, 2024.

However, weak domestic and global cues led to some profit-taking in the run-up to the Budget 2024 which increased volatility. However, experts believe that 'dips' can be used as a buying opportunity if someone has a long-term investment horizon.

As the financial markets venture into 2024, investors are faced with the dual prospects of market opportunities and heightened volatility.

66 Government panel to look into 5G deployment at airports 99





Senior officials aware of the move told ET that a wider panel has been formed "to work on the 5G matter" as no consensus was reached around timelines for replacing obsolete aircraft radio altimetersa key device that provides vital altitude information to flight crews and on-board aircraft systems during landings in low visibility conditions.



Gold prices were steady on Wednesday as investors awaited U.S. economic data that could offer more clues on the Federal Reserve's depth and scale of interest rate cuts.

- \* Spot gold edged 0.1% lower to \$2,027.39 per ounce by 0156 GMT.
- \* U.S. gold futures, however, rose 0.1% to \$2,028.40.
- \* The dollar index hovered near a six-week high, making bullion less appealing for other currency holders.
- \* Yields on benchmark U.S. 10-year Treasury notes held above 4%.
- \* Investors will be watching out for data that could shape the U.S. Fed's interest rate trajectory

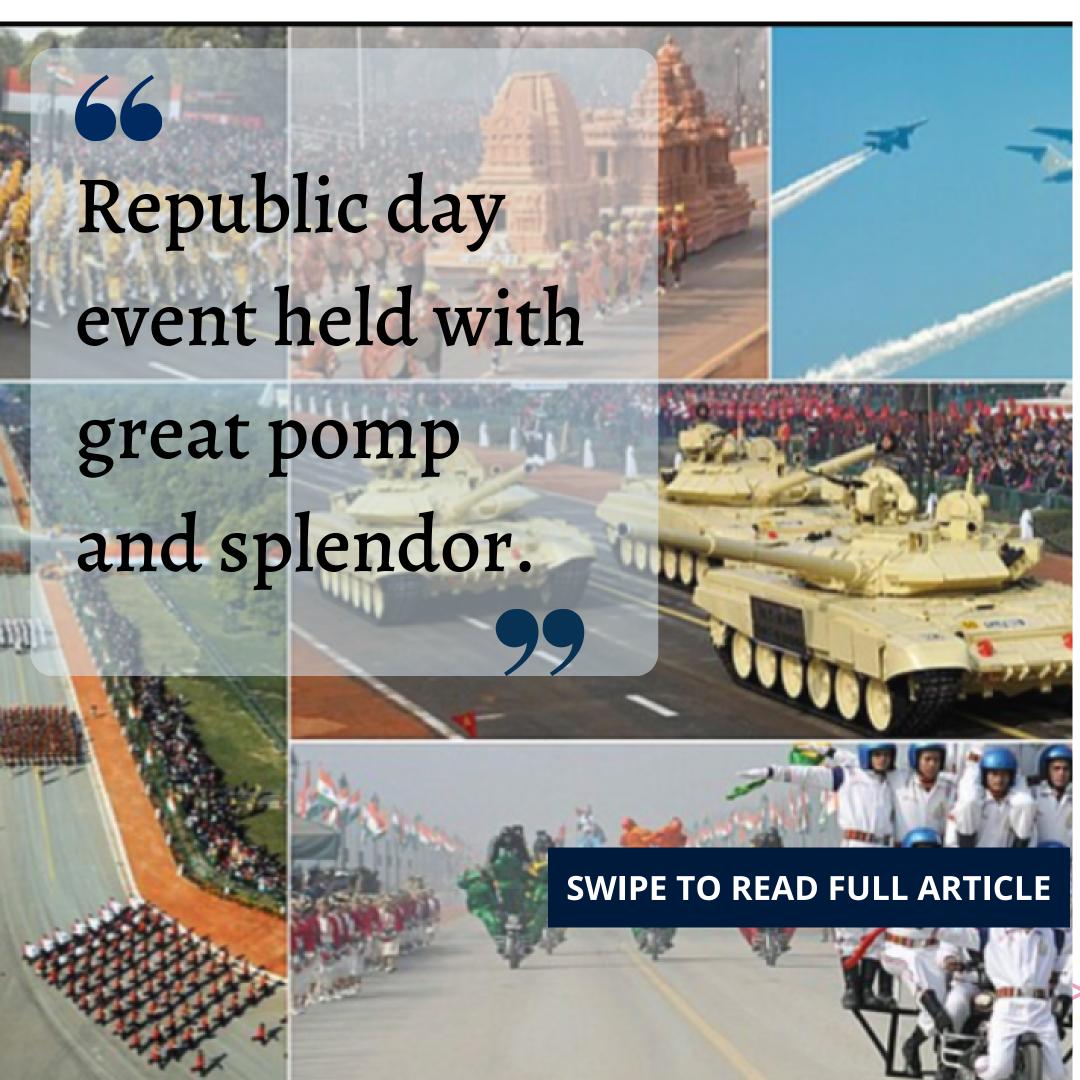
66 Inspired by Ram Rajya, Delhi govt provides good health, education, free water supply: Arvind Kejriwal 77



New Delhi:-"Inspired by 'Ram rajya', our government gives good education and health for all. Lord Ram never discriminated on the lines of caste and religion, but society has been divided on the same lines," Kejriwal said days after the consecration ceremony at Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"Running an administration with inspiration from 'Ram rajya' also includes providing 24/7 power supply. It also means respecting the elderly and we have been doing that by increasing their pension and arranging free pilgrimages for them.

आम आदमी पार्टी



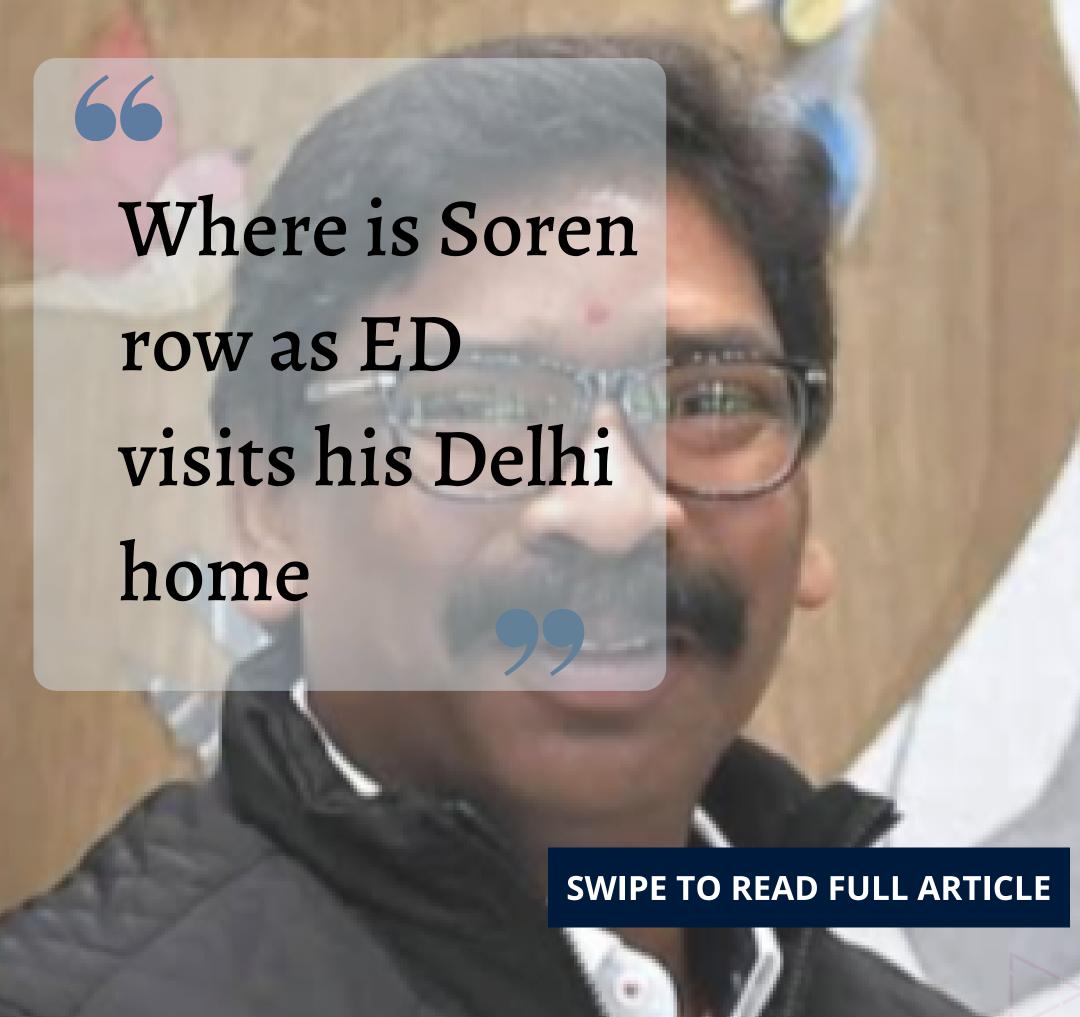
New Delhi geared up for a grand celebration marked by a fusion of tradition, security vigilance, and cultural extravaganza. With over 8,000 security personnel strategically deployed and cutting-edge technology integrated, the national capital is prepared to host the event under the watchful eye of Deputy Commissioner of Police Devesh Kumar Mahla. This year's Republic Day holds special significance, with President Emmanuel Macron of France gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The schedule unfolded a meticulously planned day, blending patriotic ceremonies, a spectacular parade, and a vibrant display of India's cultural mosaic, promised a memorable tribute to the nation's unity, diversity, and progress in 2024.



The Indian Navy said on Saturday that its guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam had responded to a dis tress call by a merchant vessel struck by a missile in the Gulf of Aden, dispatching firefighting assistance to help contain a blaze that raged as a result of what was the latest in a series of attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels targeting vessels in the region. The incident, which underscores the worsening security situation in one of the world's busiest shipping routes, involved MV Marlin Luanda that has 22 Indian nationals and one Bangladeshi citizen as its crew, according to a statement by the Indian Navy. Commodities trading firm Trafigura, which contracted the vessel, said in a statement that Carrol later on Saturday that the fire lashed out had been extinguished and the crew was safe.



Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar's chief minister for the ninth time on Sunday after severing ties with the Alliance and joining hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a dramatic development that caps weeks of fevered speculation and tilts the scales against the Opposition in one of India's largest states. Kumar began the day with a meeting of all 45 legislators of his party, then drove to Raj Bhavan to tender his resignation and announce the end of the 17-month-old coalition gov-ernment run by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Janata Dal (United), Congress and Left parties.



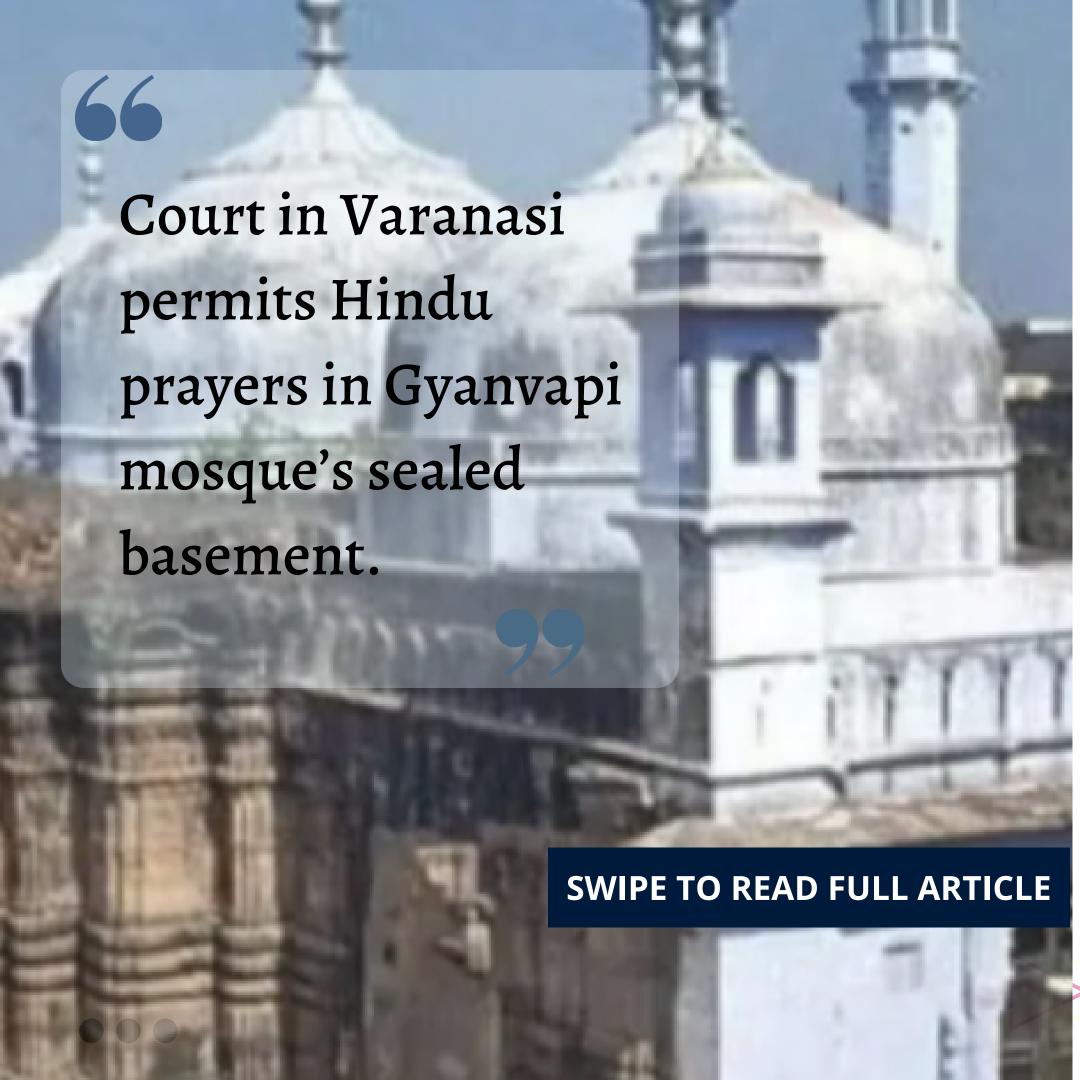
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Imran sentenced
to 10 years in
prison ahead of
Pak. polls

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**SWIPE TO READ FULL ARTICLE** 

A Pakistani court convicted former Prime Minister Imran Khan for revealing official secrets on Tuesday and sentenced him to 10 years in prison - the last years in prison in a series of trials that took place against with 4,444 supporters said to be serving to sideline the jailing of politicians a few days before the parliamentary election. Mr. Khan, who was ousted in a vote of no confidence in 2022, wasn't on the ballot because he was serving a threeyear prison sentence and more than 150 other cases are still pending against him. However, the former cricket star remains a powerful political force due to the antigovernment rhetoric of his base. Pakistan saw violent protests following Mr. Khan's arrest last year, and authorities have suppressed political and party supporters since, making them wary of the organisation of further protests. The February 8 election comes at a sensitive time in Pakistan Pakistan, which is mired in an economic crisis that Mr. Khan's successor, Shehbaz Sharif, had to struggle to cope with it.



On Wednesday, the Varanasi District Court permitted Hindu prayers inside the Gyanvapi mosque complex's enclosed subterranean portion, known as Vyas Ka Tekhana. The court directed the district administration to commence the puja within seven days. The Anjuman Intezamia Committee of Gyanvapi Masjid will dispute the order at the Allahabad High Court, according to their counsel, Merajuddin Siddiqui. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board, advising the committee, deemed the court's ruling "totally unacceptable," drawing comparisons to the 1986 opening of the locks of the Babri Masjid.

66 G20 Summit in Delhi was a "milestone", that prevented attempts to "Ukrainize" the agenda: Russia



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described the G20 Summit in Delhi as "a milestone," affirming, "We succeeded in thwarting the Western endeavor to 'Ukrainize' the summit's agenda."

Lavrov emphasized that the G20 Summit, under India's leadership, sets the course for equity in worldwide governance and global finance.



