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Jaipur, Sunday | April 14, 2024





# **MODI IS BIGGEST SUPPORTER OF RESERVATION: AMIT SHAH**

BJP will neither end reservations nor allow anyone to do it, stresses Union HM

#### Ravi Katara Alwar

The BJP will neither end reservations nor allow anyone to do it, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday and accused the Congress of spreading a misconception that the ruling party wants to abolish quota for th Dalits, tribals and backwards. "PM Modi himself is the biggest supporter of reservation," Shah said at an election rally in Alwar district's Harsoli. He alleged that the Congress was "anti-OBC" and had put in cold storage key reports on issue of reservation.

"Listen to me carefully. Be it reservation for Dalits, tribals or backward classes, the BJP supports it. We will neither end the reservation nor allow anyone to do it," he said at the rally in support of Alwar LS candidate Bhupender Yadav.

Shah's assertion came in the backdrop of the Congress' election manifesto promise of bringing a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah waves during public rally ahead of Lok Sabha poll, in support of Bhupender Yadav, at Alwar on Saturday. Also present here are Suresh Singh Rawat, Parvesh Verma, Baba Balaknath, Sanjay Sharma and other BJP leaders.

**SONIA JI'S ENTIRE** FOCUS IS ON MAKING **RAHUL THE PM AND** NOT ON YOUR SONS **AND DAUGHTERS.** THIS RAHUL BABA IS **A VEHICLE THAT WAS** LAUNCHED 20 TIMES **BUT THE LAUNCHING** FAILED EVERY TIME. AMIT SHAH UNION HOME MINISTER

#### SHAH SKIPS NOIDA RALLY DUE TO BAD WEATHER, JOINS VIRTUALLY OVER PHONE FROM ALWAR



**Despite inclement** weather in Noida, Shah did not disappoint gathering. His public meeting was scheduled to be held in Noida on Saturday evening, however, due to the bad weather, the UHM could not reach. In this situation, Shah addressed Noida public meeting over phone from Alwar. First India News showed exclusive photos while he addressed virtual meeting



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NaMo OP! PM bets big on e-sports, encourages creators to build games for the world

First India Bureau New Delhi

The gaming industry does ne said regulate wouldn't

Naman Mathur asked PM Narendra Modi if there was any need for regulations for gaming sector,



# **17 Indians onboard** ship seized by Iran

First India Bureau New Delhi

There are 17 Indians

among the 25-member

crew of cargo ship 'MSC

onboard. We are in touch with the Iranian authorities through diplomatic channels, both in Tehran and in Delhi, to ensure security, welfare and early release of Indian na tionals," sources said. Iran's Revolutionary Guards seized the Israelilinked cargo ship, days after Tehran said it could close the crucial shipping route & warned it would retaliate for Israeli strike on its Syria consulate.

**INITIATIVE FOR TIMELY JUSTICE!** 





#### 2 people killed in fresh violence in Manipur

Imphal: Two people were killed in a shootout between two armed groups in Imphal East district of Manipur on Saturday. The victims have not been identified yet. The clash occurred near Kangpokpi district border, as the confirmed by police official.

#### CBI books Megha Engg, 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest bonds buyer

New Delhi: The CBI has registered a case against Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL) and 11 others for alleged corruption in connection with execution of ₹351 crore project — NMDC integrated steel plant in Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh.

#### SC to hear Kejri's plea against arrest tomorrow

New Delhi: The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday Delhi CM and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal's plea against a high court order that has upheld his arrest in a money-laundering case stemming from the alleged excise policy scam.

not require any regulation, PM Narendra Modi said on Saturday while asserting that it must remain free and only then it will boom. In a freewheeling interaction with top Indian online gamers on a host of issues about future as well as the challenges before e-gaming industry, the PM posed questions to gamers while trying his hands at some

be the right word because it is govt's nature to intervene. Modi said, "Now, envision a game aimed at addressing global climate issues where gamer must explore various methods and solutions to identify the most sustainable approach. How do we navigate through it and choose the best approach for success? "Take swachhata as of games. When a gamer an example," he said. **P10** 

Regulation won't help for the esports industry which can create multiple career options for our youth. It must grow under an organised, legal structure. The time is to understand the world of gaming, and mould it to our country's needs. NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister Narendra Modi indulging at VR (Virtual Reality) & triving his hands at gaming during meet with India's top gamers. **BJP TO RELEASE POLL MANIFESTO TODAY** 

The BJP will release Sankalp Patra - for

the Lok Sabha polls on Sunday, with its planks of welfare and development besides a roadmap for 'Viksit Bharat' expected to figure prominently in its election agenda. PM Modi and other leaders will attend the unveiling of manifesto at party headquarters which coincides with the birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar.

Aries', which was seized by Iran's Revolutionary Guards in Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, according to sources. "We are aware that a cargo ship 'MSC Aries' has been taken control of by Iran. We have learnt that there are 17 Indian nationals



Iranian forces have seized container ship MSC ARIES in Strait of Hormuz. India in touch with Iran to secure release of 17 Indians

#### Sydney: 6 killed in mass stabbing; attacker shot dead

#### First India Bureau

Sydney An attacker who fatally knifed 6 people in a Sydney mall was shot dead by police in beachside suburb of Bondi on Saturday, police said. The assailant was shot by a police officer after he attacked shoppers in busy Westfield Bondi Junction shopping centre, a police statement said. 5 of 6 victims killed were women, while 8 people, including a nine-month-old baby, were taken to the hospital with stab wounds, CP Karen Webb told.

# **CM SHARMA ADDRESSES PUBLIC RALLIES IN NOHAR & BHADRA** BJP will win all 25 seats with huge margin: CM

Kapil Sharma Hanumangarh

n public meeting organized on Saturday in Nohar Dhan Mandi in support of Churu Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Jhajharia, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma lashed out at Congress. The Chief Minister enumerated achievements of the BJP government and sought support for the party while claiming to form the government at the Center with an overwhelming majority. CM



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma being garlanded during public meeting ahead of Lok Sabha election, in Bhadra on Saturday.

culprits of the paper leak. Sharma said that we had promised in the assembly "SIT was formed as soon elections that we will as the government was take action against the formed. 85 trained police

**On birth anniversary** of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chief **Minister Bhajan Lal** Sharma will take part in event at Ambedkar Circle at 10 am

officers who were copying were arrested. There are still people who had a role in the entire episode and no matter how big a person is, we are not going to spare any culprit. Dreams of hardworking youth are shattered due to paper leak. Many youth harassed by paper leak

have committed suicide,'

he said. CM also said that even though Abhishek Matoria lost the election by a small margin but our MLA is Matoria only. "Whatever he will say, we will do each and every task. We will develop Nohar area on priority,' he said. CM said 15 kilometers of our canals in the Punjab region are unpaved and we have started work of making them concrete. Notably, CM also held a public rally in Bhadra in favour of BJP candidate Devendra Jhajharia from Churu.

#### **PRIYANKA ON 2-DAY VISIT TO RAJASTHAN STARTING TODAY**

AICC General Secretary and star campaigner Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will embark on a twoday tour of Rajasthan amidst the intense campaigning for LS election. Today, she will address a massive public meeting in support of Vaibhav Gehlot

in Bhinmal at 12 noon and tomorrow she will conduct a roadshow in Alwar at 11 am.









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# RAJASTHAN

# **()** FIRST INDIA 03

ACS health: Implement graded response system to prevent heat related diseases

# 'Make action plan to protect all from heat-related woes'

#### Vikas Sharma Jaipur

Additional Chief Secretary of the Medical and Health Department, Shubhra Singh, held a state level meeting through video conferencing on Saturday at Swasthya Bhawan and instructed officials to implement a graded response system (yellow, orange and red alerts) to prevent heat related diseases. She said that awareness activities should be conducted against heat waves and heat related diseases.

Singh said that a protocol should be there to provide immediate treatment and health services to the common people in case of heatstroke and related diseases. "Ambulance, first-aid kits should be prepared, dedicated wards should be in hospitals, and adequate availability of medicines. Necessary training should be provided to doctors and paramedical staff to respond in such cases," she said.

The ACS said that proper arrangements for shade and water should be made for the patients coming to the hospitals.



Shubhra Singh, held a state level meeting through video conferencing at Swasthya Bhawan in Jaipur on Saturday

Orange alert in 23 dists, lightning claims life of a farmer in Phalodi; two cattle die in Nagaur

First India Bureau Jaipur

Western disturbance in the state has brought respite to several areas in the state. The meteorological department has issued an orange alert in 23 districts. These are Jaipur, Jaipur City, Dausa, Alwar, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Ajmer, Churu, Sikar, Nagaur, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Srigangana-Hanumangarh,

gar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Bundi, Baran, Kota and Jhalawar.



Dark clouds hover over the city as an impact of western SANTOSH SHARMA disturbance in Jaipur on Saturday.

In a tragic incident in to the hospital but doc-Phalodi, a farmer died tors declared him dead. after lightning struck him In Nagaur, two cattle when he was working in died due to lightning his field. He was rushed while they were grazing.

## Mastermind of Irani gang looting gold worth crores while posing as cops held

#### Satyanarayan Sharma Jaipur

cles, 5 mobile phones, The masterminds befake jewellery, fake pohind the gang that lootlice IDs, Aadhar cards ed women by impersonwith different addresses ating fake police officfrom possession of the suspects. Now efforts ers have been arrested by Jawahar Nagar poare on to locate abscondlice station. This gang ing gang members. has looted gold worth crores of rupees so far. Members of this gang have committed robberies in 10 states. The police are questioning members of the Iranian gang involved in gold theft. To apprehend this gang, the police scrutinized footage from hundreds of CCTV cameras installed throughout the city. To evade cops,

apprehend both.

Jaipur resident doctors' strike enters 6th day First India Bureau

Jaipur The resident doctors' strike in all the government hospitals affiliated to SMS Medical College, Jaipur entered the sixth day on Saturday. Doctors demonstrated outside the college and said that the strike will continue until

their demands are heard. Dr Rajesh Kumawat, President of Jaipur Association of Resident Doctors (JARD), said that the medical dept suspended three resident doctors without investigation, but no action has been taken against the real culprits. "The resident doctors have warned of a

strike but the medical department has not held

# Illegal firearms seized, 750 criminals held in Bharatpur

In this operation, 13 instances of illegal firearms have been reported Ravi Katara

#### Bharatpur

In districts of Bharatpur and Deeg, the cops have detained 750 criminals in less than 36 hours. This operation involved 1200 police officers. According to IG Rahul Prakash, a calm and fair Lok Sabha election was ensured by starting an

operation on April 11. To apprehend the offenders, 36 hours of raids have been carried out. During the operation, raids have been talks with them," he said. conducted at 1,000 loca-



The criminals caught during the operation. During the operation, raids have been conducted at 1,000 locations.

tions. Personnel from RAC and paramilitary groups were also participating in the operation. It is full of criminals of every description. In this operation, 13 instances of illegal firearms have been reported. However,

Domestic flights di-

just thirteen illicit firearms have been found. There are 34 incidences of illegal alcohol reported. On one, the NDPS has taken action. This is an ongoing action that will not stop in the future.

# 7 Delhi-bound flights diverted to Jaipur

#### **First India Bureau** Jaipur

Four international and three domestic flights going to Delhi airport were diverted to Jaipur airport at the last moment by Air Traffic Control (ATC) on Saturday after sudden rain and thunderstorm in many states of the country, including Rajasthan

and Delhi. These include Air India international flight AI - 309 going from Mel-



bourne to Delhi, Air In-Washington to Delhi. dia flight AI - 228 going from Dhaka to Delhi, Air verted to Jaipur include India flight AI - 216 from Air India flight AI-523 Kathmandu to Delhi, Air from Hyderabad to Del-India flight AI-104 from hi, IndiGo flight 6E-

2081 from Dimapur to Delhi and IndiGo flight 6E-5397 from Deoghar to Delhi.

Meanwhile, there was commotion at the airport when the pilots left after their duty time was completed. The incident is of flight diverted from Delhi to Jaipur and the case pertains to Air India's flight AI-104. The flight was heading from Washington to Delhi and was diverted to Jaipur at 4:50 pm.



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**Preps for Ambedkar Jayanti** 

Worker cleaning the statue of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar on the eve of his birth anniversary at Ambedkar Circle in Jaipur on Saturday.

**D** NAIM KHAN

Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph stated that the mastermind of the international Iranian gang, Sajid alias Sikander, and his wife Jehri Kanij have been arrested. After analyzing over 700 CCTV footages, the police team reached rented flat in Jagatpura where the mastermind resided but by then mastermind had already fled with his gang's mastermind used to keep his wife with wife. After two weeks him. Cops chased them of continuous pursuit, for several kilometers to cops tracked him down and arrested the duo.

During interrogation,

cops recovered 3 vehi-

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## **TOURISM RENAISSANCE** Exciting developments await Raj

*tourism post-code of conduct* 

#### Nirmal Tiwari

#### Jaipur

will ourism reach new heights after the code of conduct as the thrill of adventure tourism will be visible in Rajasthan also. Heli tourism, hot air balloons, skydiving, paragliding, and other activities will be regulated and along with this, work will be done on the Pratap Circuit for the development of religious places and



the story of bravery. The now the further process process was started bewill start only after the fore the code of conduct code of conduct. for Lok Sabha elections, A firm did show inter-

Heli Tourism, however, this firm was not present for the presentation on March 20. Meanwhile, interest has been shown by 5 firms for hot air balloon, skydiving and other adventure activities and a preliminary project report has been prepared for Rameshwar Ghat, Bigod Sangam, Pushkar Ghat. Moreover, a PDCOR consultant proposal has been received for Maharana

Pratap Tourist Circuit.







# **GROUND REPORT** BIKANER LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCY WHICH 'RAM' WILL GO TO DELHI, **ARJUN RAM OR GOVIND RAM?**

ARJUN RIDING ON MODI WAVE, BJP AHEAD IN CAMPAIGN, STRONG HOLD IN CITIES

**PERSTINDIA** 



BJP candidate Arjun Ram Meghwal seeks votes in his constituency.

#### Laxman Raghav

#### Bikaner



country in the past also because veteran Jat leader Balram Jakhar won the election from here and film actor Dharmendra from BJP also reached Delhi after winning the election from this seat.

This time also this seat is in the headlines as the country's Law Minister Arjun Meghwal is contesting elections from here. The BJP had also publicised it in such a way that for the first time after Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, the party has given the responsibility of Law

#### THE PROBLEM OF IRRIGATION WATER AND **RAILWAY CROSSINGS IS A BIG ISSUE**

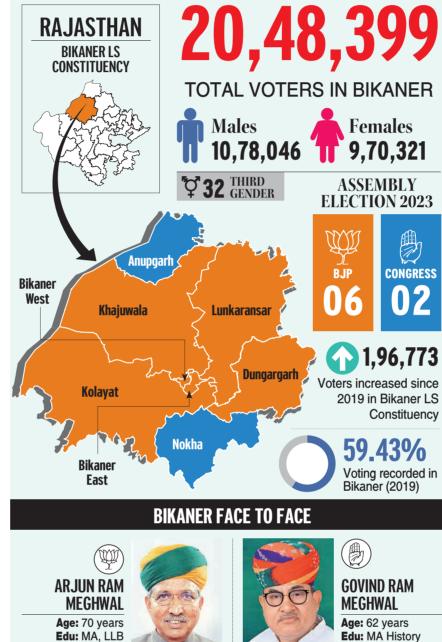
For BJP, the support of Modi magic and Ram temple seems to be more than the issues. Water famous for irrigation has always been a big issue in Bikaner the parliamentary constituency. Even today, Rajasthan is not getting its full share of the irrigation water from Punjab. The problem of railway crossings which has been going on for a long time still remains the same.

#### **REPORT CARD OF MP ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL**

Although Arjun Ram Meghwal, who has scored a hat-trick of victories, makes claims about development, the ground reality is that despite the BJP government being in power at the Center twice, no big project could be brought in Bikaner. Arjun Meghwal says that this time Bikaner will become a developed city. There will be efforts to complete some big tasks. He adds that a lot of development work has been done in Bharat Mala, four lane roads, railways, and claims that when the infra will be strong, then Bikaner will definitely benefit. Whereas Congress candidate Govind Meghwal alleges that nothing has happened in the name of development.

The number of minortory five times each, while candidates of CPM ity voters here is also and Bharativa Lok Dal quite significant. Many BJP stalwarts, inhave also won the eleccluding Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Defence Minister Rajnath five consecutive Singh, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and party state president CP Joshi have campaigned here in support of their candi-The maximum number date. The rally of Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also proposed for this seat. After rallies of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, PCC Chief Govind Dotasara, and state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, the Congress also showed its strength by organising Rahul Gandhi's meeting in Anupgarh.

**GOVIND HAS HOPES FROM TRADITIONAL** VOTE BANK OF CONG, FOCUS ON VILLAGES





04

#### **CONG OR BAP: BANSWARA, DUNGARPUR** WORKERS CONFUSED OVER SEEKING VOTES

Lok Sabha polls in Banswara and Dungarpur have become interesting. On one hand, Congress candidate Arvind Damor is seeking votes in the name of Rahul Gandhi while Congress MLA Arjun Bamania and Ramila Khadiya are seeking votes for BAP party instead of Congress. This has left several Congress workers confused whether to ask votes for Congress or BAP. Meanwhile, Damor through a post on social media talked about the fight for self-respect of Congress. However, no one from Dungarpur Congress came in support of BAP.

#### **ONCE A FRIEND TO CONGRESS, RLD'S SUBHASH** GARG SEEKS VOTES FOR BJP THIS LS POLL



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2024

INDIAN

**GENERAL ELECTIONS** 

Bharatpur MLA and former minister Subhash Garg, who won the assembly elections with the support of Cong, will now campaign for BJP. He sought votes for BJP in

Bikaner. Congress had left this seat for RLD then. Garg, from RLD, was also a minister in the Ashok Gehlot led government. But RLD has joined hands with BJP in Lok Sabha elections. As a minister, Garg had spoken against PM Modi in many speeches. 🗯 Naresh Sharma

# **Jayant Chaudhary** appeals to vote for **Devendra Jhajharia**

**First India Bureau** Churu

Jayant Singh Chaudhary, Rashtriya Lok Dal Party national president and grandson of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, expressed his support for of Lok Sabha candidate Devendra Jhaiharia at the

farmers' meet at Bhanin

Former leader of op-

position Rajendra Rathor,

Manjinder Singh Sirsa,

Bijnor MP Maluk Nagar,

former assembly candi-

date BJP leader Rakesh

Jangid, former MLA

Chandrashekhar Baid,

Dilip Poonia, farmer

leader Naresh Saharan,

Mahavir Poonia, Ratan

(Taranagar) in Churu.



Ministery to a Dalit MP.

Congress has fielded former state cabinet minister Govind Meghwal against Arjun Meghwal, who is aiming to register his fourth consecutive victory on this seat. Arjun Meghwal is using every arrow in his quiver, whether it is settling grievances or grassroots election management to secure a win.

At the same time, Congress is also trying to appear united. The main contest on this seat is believed to be between the and Congress. BJP In the 17 Lok Sabha elections held so far, BJP and Congress have tasted vic-

tions once each, but the record of becoming MP for times as an independent candidate still stands in the name of Maharaja Karni Singh of erstwhile royal family of Bikaner.

of Dalit voters in this seat is estimated to be around five and a half lakh. After that, about three lakh are Jats, one and a half to two lakh are Rajput voters, about two and a quarter lakh Brahmin voters, one lakh Bishnoi, about one lakh Vaishya-Jain and about 2.5 lakh voters of all other backward castes are on this seat.

Vehicle: None

ssets: ₹2,28,07,657



Has scored a hat-trick of victories, has been a minister in important ministries in the Modi government.

**Closeness to Prime Minister** Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah

Sweet words and serious behaviour



**Despite having BJP government at** the Center twice, Bikaner did not get any big project

> Could not solve the problem of railway crossings

**Complaints of local party leaders** partv

#### ssets: ₹3,57,00,000 Vehicle: Fortuner **STRENGTHS**

#### Long experience of local politics

Was MLA twice, parliamentary secretary and cabinet minister in Gehlot government.

Penetration among voters of Dalit community



#### Has lost the 2023 Assembly elections

Aggressive nature, many of his old audio videos are also viral which can also cause harm

Local level factionalism within the

dra win.

ing, Rathore appealed to the people to vote for BJP on April 19 for an allround development in the region. Sirsa appealed to re-

elect the Modi government that built Ram Temple in Ayodhya and scrapped Article 370. "Let Jhajharia win with a huge majority," he said. Jangid also appealed to the farmers to help BJP win. The Kisan Sammelan was presided over by former head Jaisingh

more than 45 lakh voters

has been recorded. He

said that there are more

than 17 lakh voters in the

age group of 18 to 19

Addressing the gather-Meghwal.

#### Students form 'Vote' shaped State preps for increased Show of strength by BJP on Ram Navami: Party human chain for awareness candidates will participate in Shobha Yatras First India Bureau

#### Jaipur

To ensure 100% voting and active participation of voters in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, students formed a "VOTE" shaped human chain and took out a rally which started from the Government Higher Secondary school Durgapur and reached Khawas Ji Ka Bagh via Sindhi Colony under the direction of Suman Panwar, Additional District Collector and Assistant Returning Officer, Lok Sabha constit-



uency 07, Assembly constituency Malviya Nagar.

During this event, the Voter Awareness Team explained the importance of their vote to all the voters and made them take oath to vote and also to make the people around them aware.

#### Pankaj Soni

Jaipur

Ram Ram Navami, which will be celebrated for the first time after Ramlala Pran Pratishtha, will be very special not only religiously but also politically. This time, processions will be organized on Ram Navami in cities and towns of the entire state, that too with musical instruments i.e. DJ. Now BJP will also try to make the common people realize through Ram Navami programs that the power in the state

BJP will make the public realise that Govt has changed in the state. After a gap of almost two years Ram Navami processions will be held

has changed.

After the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Congress and other parties are accusing the BJP of taking advantage of the wave of Ram devotion that has arisen across the country, but despite all this, the party has instructed all its candidates and workers in Rajasthan to participate in the local

with musical instruments Ram Navami procession. In such a situation, it is believed that this time the

Ram Navami processions will be very grand in terms of religion and politics. This round of religious events will continue till

Hanuman Janmotsav i.e. 24th April. Preparations for this are being done by Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The previous Gehlot gov-

ernment had banned playing loud DJs in Kavad Yatras and processions after the disturbance during Ram Navami procession in Karauli in 2022.

Besides, a ban was imposed on taking out Ram Navami procession at many places including Karauli. Instructions were also given by the administration that the police will have to be informed about what kind of bhajans will be played in processions and Kavad Yatra. BJP had raised this issue vigorously in assembly polls.

# voter turnout, new voters

#### **First India Bureau**

Jaipur

Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta, through a special phone-in pro-

gramme broadcast live on All India Radio on Saturday, expressed confidence that the aware people of the state will create a

new record of voting in the Lok Sabha elections. He said that the voters will participate despite the heat. Gupta said that this time an increase of



considering the heat and voters should participate. He said that the election department has made arrangements to track the number of voters at polling stations.







Singh Rathore were also present in the meeting. Chaudhary described the Narendra Modi led government at the Centre as the best and farmer friendly and appealed to the people to help Deven-

**FIRST INDIA** 05



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PERSPECT VE

# **()** FIRST INDIA 06

# **RR REIGN SUPREME** WITH BALANCED BRILLIANCE IN THE IPL 2024



#### Siddhaarth Mahan

The writer is a specialist on Sports and Cinema who works as an actor in the Hindi film industry







#### hree weeks into the Indian Premier

League (IPL) season, the competition remains intense with no clear dominance from any team except for the impressive performance by the Ra-



This season of the IPL holds extra relevance since the T20 World Cup is set to start just a week after the end of the IPL. Hence, all the Indian team potentials are on the selectors' radar. None more so than Sanju Samson, who is leading the RR side brilliantly. He looks in good batting touch but what's got the experts praising him has been his leadership. Sanju's decision to send Riyan Parag up the order has changed the fortunes of the young batter who has notched up 3 fifties in 5 games already

Trent Boult has been in great rhythm which has helped them get early wickets. In his first 5 matches she has picked up 5 wickets but importantly his economy has been below 8 runs per over. The other pacer, South African, Nandre Burger has picked up 6 wickets.

Moreover, the RR spinners have choked the opposition run flow after the powerplay is over. Yuzvendra Chahal is the topwicket taker along with Jasprit Bumrah having taken 10 wickets before the Punjab match. His economy has been just over 7, but along with Ravi Ashwin, he has made sure that the opposition is not able to set the totals. The rest of the teams have been inconsistent in the tournament so far and have to take a leaf out of RR book. While it has been a high scoring IPL so far, the team that have done well have the best bowlers in their squad. The inconsistency of other teams underscores the importance of RR's balanced approach, with a potent mix of batting and bowling prowess. As the IPL progresses, RR appears poised to not only secure a playoff spot convincingly but also contend for the championship. If Sanju Samson is able to replicate Shane Warne's feat, it would enhance his prospects for national team selection and beyond.

## **IN-DEPTH**

#### **PMLA NOOSE AROUND CONG CONSTRICTING IT FINANCIALLY**

he news of Associated Journals Limited-Yong Indian assets worth Rs 750 crore got drowned in the din of Lok Sabha election campaign. The attachment of AJL-YI assets by the Enforcement Directorate has been upheld by the adjudicating authority of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which further constricts the Congress financially. The movable assets and equity shares attached by the ED are believed to proceedings of crime. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are the only shareholders of Young Indian, which took over the AJL, publisher of National Herald, properties worth 750 crore allegedly for a mere Rs 50 lakh. This acquisition for a "pittance" drew the attention of the ED. The attached AJL properties in Delhi, Lucknow and Mumbai are valued at Rs 661 crore.

The PMLA case has been described by the Congress as political vendetta but that does not let them off the hook. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have been questioned by the ED.

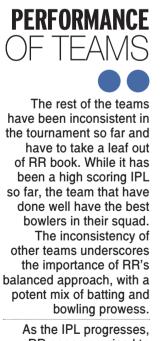
# **IRAN & ISRAEL WAR TO BE CATASTROPHIC**



ran and Israel are teetering on the edge of conflict following the recent escalation sparked by the April 1 attack on Iran's embassy in Damascus. The attack, which resulted in the death of seven Iranian military advisers, including Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a senior commander, has ignited fury in Tehran. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has vehemently condemned the assault, which was a clear violation of international norms, calling it an attack on Iranian soil. Israel has denied any role in the attack.

The situation has become increasingly precarious as both sides exchange threats and warnings. President Joe Biden has





RR appears poised to not only secure a playoff spot convincingly but also contend for the championship. If Sanju Samson is able to replicate Shane Warne's feat, it would enhance his prospects for national team selection and beyond.

teen years ago, led by Shane Warne.

jasthan Royals (RR). Cur-

rently leading the points

table with 4 wins out of 5

matches, RR's campaign under the leadership of

Sanju Samson shows

promise reminiscent of

their victorious season six-

At the time of writing this, RR is playing against Punjab Kings (PK). After winning the toss they inserted Punjab to bat and gave away only 38 and picked up the wicket of the opener, Atharva Taide. For PK, Shikhar Dhawan the usual skipper is sitting out due to a niggle and Sam Curran is leading in his absence.

This season of the IPL holds extra relevance since the T20 World Cup is set to start just a week after the end of the IPL. Hence, all the Indian team potentials are on the selectors' radar. None more so than Sanju Samson, who is leading the RR side brilliantly. He looks in good batting touch but what's got the experts praising him has been his leadership. Sanju's decision to send Riyan Parag up the order has changed the fortunes of the young batter who has notched up 3 fifties in 5 games already.

The youngster from Assam began his IPL resurgence scoring a 29-ball 43 against Lucknow Super-Giants in the opening match. Unlike in previous seasons, Parag didn't try to thrash the bowlers from the outset but played himself in and then attacked after being well set. He put together a match-turning 93-run stand off 59 balls with Sanju Samson, the skipper of Rajasthan Royals.

The string of impressive knocks and the maturity that Parag has displayed this IPL season marks a huge turnaround in his entire career. The one common aspect between his domestic and IPL success is that he is batting at No 4 – the position he batted for his Ranji team, Assam in all three formats. Taking a cue, Rajasthan Royals promoted him up the order from the No 6 or 7 where he played in earlier seasons. In each of the three games so far, the Royals were pegged back by early breakthroughs but in his new role at No 4, Parag has thrived and effectively turned the tide with impressive knocks

His performances have put him in the second position on the top run scorers list behind only Kohli. His captain though isn't far behind on the list, taking up the number 4 spot with 3 fifties himself. Both of them have been the lynch pins of the RR batting at a time when Yashasvi Jaiswal has not played to his potential this tournament.

But interestingly, while the RR batsmen have done well, it is their bowlers that have put the team at the top of the points table with 4 wins out of 5. Their solitary loss came against Gujarat Titans, which went till the last ball. RR pacer

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

retailation against Israel, affirming the United States' unwavering commitment to defending its ally. Meanwhile, Tel Aviv has issued stern warnings to Iran, cautioning of dire consequences should tensions escalate further.

Amidst escalating rhetoric, the specter of a full-scale war looms large, prompting global apprehension. The potential ramifications of such a conflict extend far beyond the borders of Iran and Israel, reso**Amidst escalating** rhetoric, the specter of a full-scale war looms large, prompting global apprehension. The potential ramifications of such a conflict extend far beyond the borders of Iran and Israel, resonating with the ongoing geopolitical turbulence, notably the Russia-Ukraine conflict

nating with the ongoing geopolitical turbulence, notably the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Given the stakes involved, it is imperative for both Iran and Israel to exercise restraint and prioritize diplomatic solutions. A descent into full-scale hostilities would not only spell disaster for the region but also exacerbate the already fragile state of global affairs. Dialogue and de-escalation must prevail to avert a catastrophic outcome. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has had talks with foreign ministers of China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey urging them to use their good offices to advise Iran against going to war.



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## **()** FIRST INDIA 07



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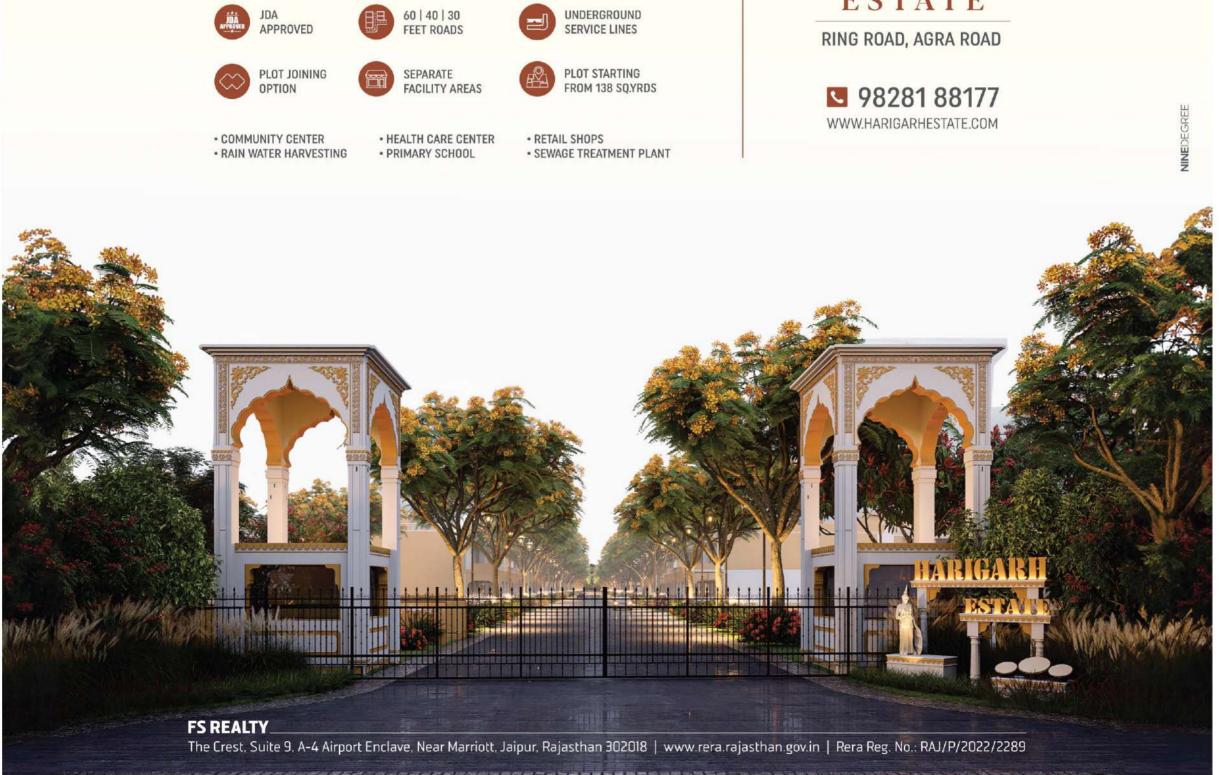
TWICE THE SIZE OF THE OLD WALLED CITY, SPREAD OVER 13 SQ KMS.

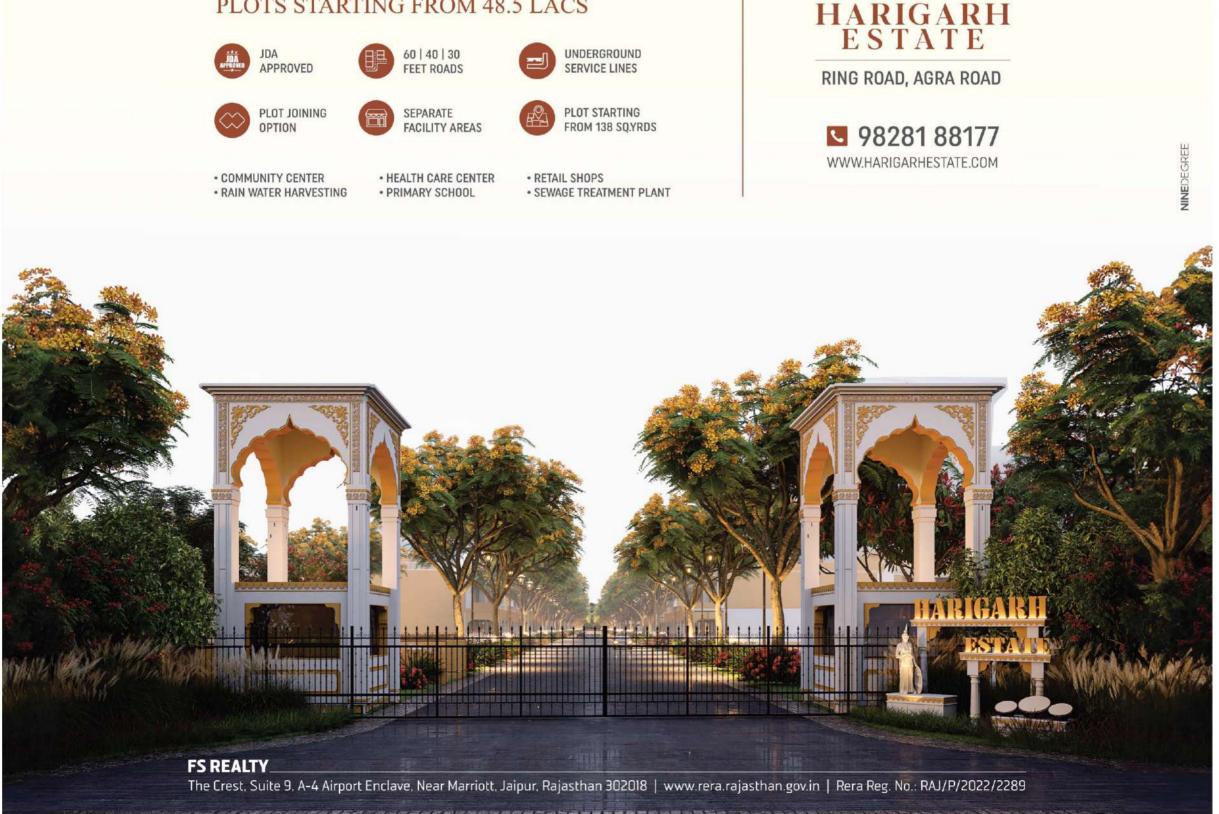


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## 



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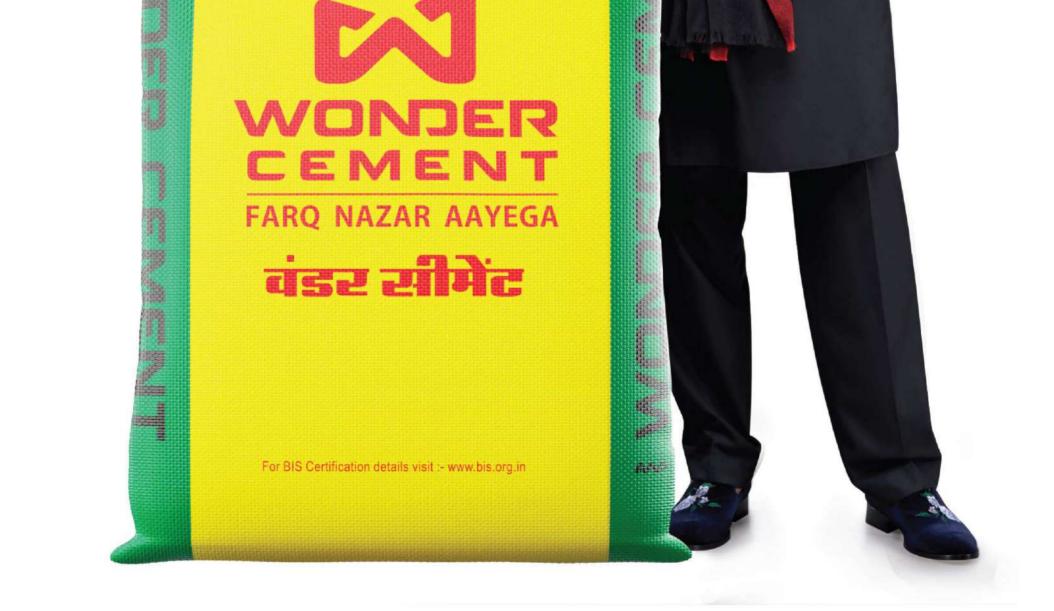




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# 

# SESSIONS JUDGE GANPAT SINGH BHANDARI'S SWIFT REPLY TO CJI'S INITIATIVE FOR TIMELY JUSTICE! **INSTANT JUSTICE A GRAND JUDI**

**Retired Judge** Ganpat Singh Bhandari has an unparalleled record of not reserving a single judgment in last 2 decades Moni Sharma Jaipur

effort to streamline the legal process. This com-In a significant push to mendable address judicial delays, aims to ensure timely Chief Justice of India, justice for all, alleviate backlog, and maintain DY Chandrachud, has initiated a proactive the core principle of campaign. His recent swift legal recourse. Following CJI Chancorrespondence with High Court Chiefs, drachud's

proactive seeking information on stance, First India cases pending verdicts reached out to retired for over three months, sessions judge of Ra-

underscores a dedicated

endeavor

jasthan, Judge Ganpat Singh Bhandari. Remarkably, Judge

Bhandari has an unparalleled record of not reserving a single judgment in the last two decades. "I delivered judgments promptly, often before noon, without any delay for the next

day, for a continuous period of 20 years," shared Judge Bhandari. He further elaborated on his practice of concluding final arguments and

promptly issuing judgments on cases ranging from serious offenses like murder and rape to civil matters such as divorce and rent disputes, all within the same day.

The media has hailed Judge Bhandari's swift judicial work, with some reports even suggesting that his remarkable efficiency could qualify him cial delays for the Guinness World effectively.

Records. This recognition serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to expeditious justice delivery, further highlighting the pressing need for systemic reforms to address judi-

Judge Ganpat Singh Bhandari (Retd.)

# **MODI'S MANTRA** PM encourages game creators to build games for the world In banter with gamers, PM Modi's veiled attack against Rahul Gandhi

**First India Bureau** New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi playfully employed the term "noob," a popular phrase within the gaming community denoting a lack of skill or knowledge, during a recent conversation, which subtly seemed to target Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

In a released video capturing his casual exchange with prominent online gamers at his residence, PM Modi expressed delight in the interaction with the youth from the gaming world. The participants in this engaging discussion included Tirth Mehta, Animesh Agarwal, Anshu Bisht, Naman Mathur, Mithilesh Patankar, Ganesh Gangadhar, and Payal Dhare.

Amidst the conversation, the gamers introduced the Prime Minister

"Arvind Kejriwal being tortured' in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with some of the top Indian gamers on a host of issues relating to the gaming industry, in New Delhi. **FILE** 

PM WISHES PEOPLE ON 5th DAY OF CHAITRA NAVRATRI

the countrymen on the fifth day of the ongoing

of Chaitra Navratri, Panchmi, Goddess Skandmata is wor-

shipped by the devotees. "On this day of Navratri, devotees

of the goddess worship Goddess Skandamata, the fifth form

countrymen," he stated in a post on social media platform X.

of Goddess Durga. I pray to the Goddess, the provider of

consciousness, to always bestow her blessings on all my

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished

Chaitra Navratri festival on Saturday. On the fifth day

to gaming jargon, including the term "noob," prompting PM Modi to burst into laughter. He humorously speculated about the implications of using such terms in the context of elections, suggesting that people might infer specific references.

UPI

#### **THANKS TO PM MODI FOR GIFTING US A LIFETIME MEMORY: GAMERS** New Delhi: Top gaming

who met PM Narendra Modi and discussed the rise of gaming industry, aspirations of youth and many more, on Saturday, said: "Thanks to PM Modi for gifting us a lifetime memory." Popular gamers like Animesh Agarwal, Naman Mathur, Payal Dhare, Anshu Bisht, Ganesh Gangadhar, Mithilesh Patankar and Tirth Mehta met Modi. During the discussion, the gamers also shared their individual journeys, struggles and

wins. The PM played Beat Saber, Razi, and Stumble Guys games with the gamers.

# **DMK insulted Sanatan Dharma, says Amit Shah**

#### ΡΤΙ Nagercoil (Tamil Nadu)

Senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Saturday accused the DMK of 'hurting' the sentiments of the people by insulting 'Sanatan Dharma' and called upon the people to reject the Dravidian party in the April 19 Lok Sabha polls.

He said the DMK passed unsavoury remarks on the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"The DMK party has hurt the sentiments of people by making insulting remarks on Sanatan Dharma. But on the other hand, the BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi respected everyone and believed in unity," Shah said in Kanyakumari Lok Sabha constituency.

name of Lord Ram, before targetting the ruling Hundreds of party cad-

res, invigorated by his cadres from his special-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah holds the roadshow ahead of Lok Sabha Polls in Kanyakumari, on Saturday. O ANI

#### AMIT SHAH HOLDS ROADSHOW IN KANYAKUMARI

Kanyakumari: Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a mega roadshow in Tamil Nadu's Kanniyakumari on Saturday in support of BJP candidate from

Kanvakumari Lok Sabha seat and former Union Minister Pon Radhakrishnan. The roadshow saw a sea of people and party workers walking along with Amit Shah's openroofed vehicle. Shah was seen greeting people standing on both sides of road to get a glimpse of BJP leader. He also showered rose petals on people.

visit, joined the BJP veteran in the roadshow from Mettukadai Junction, Thuckalay, to the Old Bus Stand in Kanyakumari. He greeted the

ly-designed vehicle and flashed the party's Lotus symbol throughout the stretch, as party members chanted "Modi again", "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Ponnar again."

Cong luring people through false Anurag Thakur attacks RJD over How long will you keep blaming promises in HP: Kangana Ranaut its manifesto for Lok Sabha polls us?: Priyanka Gandhi asks BJP

personalities,

Shah invoked the dispensation.



ANI New Delhi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh hit out at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday, alleging that Delhi CMArvind Kejriwal is being "tortured" inside the Tihar jail at the behest of the central government.

BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut attacked the Congress on Saturday and said that the ruling party in the state was "looting" the people and luring them through "false"

promises.

ANI

Mandi

Actor and BJP's candidate Addressing a gathering in Mandi district,

Ranaut said, "Other than looting, what else is the Congress doing here? Today I want to ask them if they would give Rs 1,500 to all the sisters and mothers here. What happened to that money?



Kangana Ranaut at an election campaign, in Kullu. 💿 PTI

They said they would give 5 lakh job opportunities. Where are those jobs? Why do they make fake promises and lure people? Till when will such politics go on?"

ANI Pandhurna

Union Minister and BJP leader Anurag Thakur on Saturday took a jibe at the Rashtriva Janata Dal (RJD) on its election manifesto 'Parivartan Patra' release for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections saying "this is alliance of 'tukde tukde' gang, inka ghoshna patra

bhi tukdo mein aa raha hain.' RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav launched the

'Parivartan Patra' manifesto on Saturday for



Anurag Thakur. **O** FILE

Lok Sabha elections. Speaking on RJD's 'Parivartan patra' in Madhya Pradesh's Pandhurna district on Saturday, Thakur told reporters, "When I.N.D.I.A. alliance does a rally, a woman who is not even a

politician comes and announces six guarantees only because she is the wife of corrupt Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee brought her own election manifesto. Now, Lalu Yadav, and Tejashwi Yadav have





Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being welcomed at the campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in Haridwar on Saturday. O ANI

ANI Nainital

Gandhi

would keep blaming the Congress, which has been out of power for the last decade. She was ad-Vadra dressing a public rally at Ramnagar in Uttarakhand's Nainital.

party that how long it

#### **FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS**

Criminalisation of politics is very bad: Yogi

nocent traders, Hindus

#### Agencies

Bijnor

ttar Pradesh CM Adity-Yogi anath on Saturday said that the criminalisation of politics and the protection of mafialike elements are major obstacles to development.

Addressing a public meeting in favour of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Moradabad Lok Sabha constituency Kunwar Sarvesh Singh, the UP CM recounted the tragic 1980 Moradabad riot,



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar S Dhami and UP CM Yogi Adityanath during a public meeting in Haldwani, on Saturday. o PTI

where numerous lives were lost.

He said that details of this incident remained suppressed until 2017 and Sikhs were killed as

#### **UP CM YOGI EXTENDS BAISAKHI GREETINGS**

Lucknow: UP CM Yogi Adityanath on Saturday extended Baisakhi greetings and said the festival is a source of inspiration and marks the foundation of 'Khalsa Panth'. Guru Gobind Singh 10th Sikh Guru, established Khalsa Panth in 1699 as a force to protect the country and religion, he said.

when his investigation a result of the violence, exposed the individuals and no one was held acbehind the violence. "Incountable," he said.

Yogi said that there was an anti-Sikh riot in

Saharanpur in 2016, but the rioters are now hiding and begging for their lives. "BJP has given a model of development and good governance. Today there is no curfew, no riot in UP, everything is fine here. Curfew has been replaced by Kanwar Yatra," he said.

Urging voters of Moradabad to give PM Modi a third term, he pointed out that neither development nor welfare for the poor were priorities for Congress, Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP).

#### Mumbai

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray on Saturday claimed that had Prime Minister Narendra Modi not been there, the Ayodhya Ram temple would not have been built despite the Supreme Court's ruling.

Talking to media, Thackeray, who has declared unconditional support to PM Modi for the Lok Sabha polls, said MNS will prepare a list of leaders the 'Mahayuti' alliance can contact for poll coordination.

Raj Thackeray, how-





MNS chief Raj Thackeray addresses party workers in Mumbai recently. **D** FILE

ever, parried questions on whether he will address rallies for the Mahayuti, Maharashtra's ruling alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena and the NCP.



stituency Baharampur and shouted "go back"

PTI

Baharampur

A group of unidentified

youths "stopped" the

slogan on Saturday. Chowdhury, who is seeking re-election from the constituency, held the Trinamool Congress (TMC) responsible for this.









OVE

प्यारा घर, प्यार से



🕧 FIRST INDIA 11

Pratap Nagar, Jaipur

नवरात्रि की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

और कहा? सबसे बढिया लोकेशन, सबसे अधिक एमेनिटीज







**()** FIRST INDIA 12

#### IN BRIEF YouTuber couple dies

by suicide in Haryana Chandigarh: A live-in couple allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the seventh

floor of a residential

Jhajjar district, police

(25) and Nandini (22)

were YouTubers and

khand's Dehradun, they

said. They had been liv-

ing in the residential

building located in Ba-

hadurgarh for the past

one month, police said.

The couple was taken

to a hospital where they

were declared brought

dead, they said, adding

that it was yet to be as-

the extreme step.

certained why they took

Indian Army's 40 yrs in Siachen Glacier

New Delhi: The induc-

tion of heavy-lift heli-

drones, deployment of all-terrain vehicles and laying of an extensive

network of tracks are

among a host of meas-

ures that have enhanced India's combat prowess

in Siachen, the world's

Army officials said on

Andhra CM hurt in stone

pelting in Vijayawada

Vijayawada: Andhra

Pradesh CM and YS-

RCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy was

attacked with stones at

Ajit Singh Nagar in the

city on Saturday night.

Jagan received injury

on his forehead while Vijayawada-West legis-

lator Vellampalli Srini-

vas, who was beside

Jagan, was hurt in his left eye. Doctors treated them and Jagan later

continued his bus yatra

in the city. Someone in

the crowd hurled stones at Jagan while some of his followers were busy

welcoming him with a

huge garland with the help of a crane.

Govt to take action

highest battlefield,

Saturday.

copters and logistic

hailed from Uttara-

said on Saturday. Gravit

building Haryana's

#### THIS IS NEW INDIA EAM asserts that since terrorists don't play by rules, so response against them can't have rules

# Tit for tat policy for terrorists: Jaishankar

Agencies Pune

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar has said that India was committed to respond to any act of terrorism perpetrated from across the borders, and asserted that since terrorists do not play by rules, there cannot be any rules in the country's answer to them.

Attacking the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) dispensation over its response to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, he said that after a lot of deliberation at the government level, noth-

that time as it was felt

not attacking it. Interacting with youth at an event titled 'Why Bharat Matters: Opportunity for youth and participation in global scenario' in Pune, he asked that if a similar attack happens now and one does not react to it, how can the next such attacks be prevented.

Jaishankar also said dealt with.

ing fruitful came out at

that the cost of attacking Pakistan was more than

that the country's foreign policy has undergone a change since 2014 and it is the way terrorism is maintain relationships,

countries with which In-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launches the Marathi translation of his book: Why Bharat Matters, in Pune on Saturday. 🖸 ANI

EAM Jaishankar said In-When asked about dia should question whether it should maindia finds it challenging to tain any relationship with very, very difficult is Pa-

certain countries. "Well, one is just next to us. Let us be honest, the one country that is

kistan, and for that, we should only introspect why. One reason for this is us," he said. He added that had In- tolerate under any cir-

#### EAM ATTACKS PREVIOUS **UPA GOVERNMENT**

cumstances, the country would have had a vastly different policy. "In 2014, Modi ji

Attacking the UPA came. But this problem dispensation over (terrorism) did not start its response to the in 2014. It did not begin 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks with the Mumbai attack. in 2008, the EAM said after It happened in 1947. In a lot of deliberation at the govt level, nothing fruitful 1947, the first people (incame out at that time as it vaders) came to Kashmir, was felt that the cost of atthey attacked Kashmir. It tacking Pakistan was more was an act of terrorism. than not attacking it. He They were burning down was interacting with youth villages and towns. They at an event titled 'Why were killing people. Bharat Matters: Opportunity These people were tribals for youth and participation from Pakistan's Northin global scenario' in Pune. West Frontier Province. dia been clear from the The Pakistan army backed them. We sent the

start that Pakistan was indulging in terrorism, army, and the integration which India should not of Kashmir took place," Jaishankar said.

> Manipur blast: NIA files charge sheet against 2

#### PTI New Delhi

The NIA has filed a charge sheet against two accused, including the key conspirator, in last year's Manipur car bomb blast case in which three people were injured, an official statement on Saturday said. The agency filed the charge sheet before a special NIA court in Manipur's Bishnupur on Friday, it said. The explosion, triggered by a bomb planted in a Mahindra Scorpio, took place on a bridge adjoining Phougakchao Ikhai Awang Leikai and Kwakta area.

During Cong regime, politics in N-E meant "divide & rule": Nadda

# **CJI DY Chandrachud advocates for** ethical AI integration in legal research

#### Agencies New Delhi

In a keynote address at the Indo-Singapore Judicial Conference, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud emphasised the crucial role of technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), in reshaping legal research and the judiciary while stressing the imperative of ethical considerations

in its integration. Chandrachud commenced his address by lauding the conference's revolutionary focus on technology and its poten-

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

tial to catalyse crucial dialogues at the crossroads of technology and the judiciary. He acknowledged the profound impact of judicial dialogues in fostering crosscultural exchange and ment to upholding the

ing access to justice.

deed play a vital role in Singapore recognise the

transformative potential of technology in modernising their respective judicial systems," he said.

**Baisakhi Celebrations!** 



**Terror hideout busted** 

Seized arms & ammunition including 2 tiffin IEDs with detonators, 2 pistols, 400gm explosive powder in Reasi, on Saturday. 💿 PTI

The security forces here team conducted a search busted a terror hideout on operation and recovered Saturday and recovered an Improvised Explosive arms and ammunition. Device (IED) fitted in a Tiffin box and two pistols.

PTI

Jammu

The hideout was busted during a joint operation by J&K police and Rashtriya Rifles in the Lancha

## **GIMS Gr Noida receives RVM from NPCL for** recycling plastic bottles

NPCL's 7th RVM

Noida. This expansion of



Highlighting the deeprooted ties between India and Singapore, Chandrachud commended both nations for their commit-

#### rule of law and promot-"Judicial dialogues in-

fostering cross-cultural exchange and mutual learning among different legal systems. India and Singapore share not only deep social, cultural, and economic ties but also a commitment to upholding the rule of law and promoting access to justice. As two dynamic and rapidly evolving nations, both India and

#### against pulses hoarders

New Delhi: The government on Saturday warned that anyone found indulging in "forward trade" of pulses would be dealt with firmly as per various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. The warning comes ahead of the operationalization of online stock monitoring from April 15, 2024. This was communicated to the industry during interaction with the Department of Consumer Affairs, an official statement from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, said.

Installation in G Noida, Paving the

Way for Sustainable Waste Management **First India Bureau** 

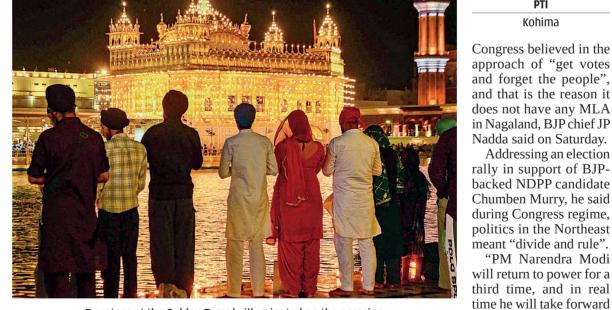
Greater Noida

Noida Power Company Ltd (NPCL) continues to champion environmental sustainability and community engagement through its Corporate Social Responsibility program, "Sankalp". In a significant move, NPCL has unveiled yet another Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) at the Govt Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater

RVM installations aligns with NPCL's commitment towards environmental sustainability and community engagement. The inauguration cer-

emony was attended by Meghna Dosi, HOD -Business Excellence &

Corporate Responsibility, NPCL; Harinder Singh, Head of Commercial, Nikhil Kumar Garg, Dy General Manager - Commercial, Dr (Brig) Rakesh Gupta, Director, GIMS; Dr Karnal (Brig) Mohan, Medical Superintendent, GIMS; Dr. Neetu Bhadauria, Principal - Nursing College, GIMS; and others.



Devotees at the Golden Temple illuminated on the occasion of 'Baisakhi' festival, in Amritsar, on Saturday. 💿 PTI

#### Kohima

ΡΤΙ

area of Mahore sub-divi-

sion in Reasi, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the

The operation was still

going on when the last

reports were received.

Congress believed in the approach of "get votes and forget the people", and that is the reason it does not have any MLA in Nagaland, BJP chief JP Nadda said on Saturday.

the Naga Accord in an ef-

fort to bring complete

for 4 states, including Punjab, HP

**Cong finalises some candidates** 

Addressing an election BJP chief JP Nadda. **FILE** 

> peace and harmony in the state," he said.

The BJP-led government at the Centre will work towards fine-tuning the Naga Peace Accord, taking all on board in line with the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' (with all, development for all), he added.

#### **WEATHER REPORT**

# Rain lashes NCR, more showers likely till April 15

#### ANI

#### New Delhi

sudden spell of lashed rains parts of Delhi-NCR on Saturday, as predicted by the IMD.

Several areas of Delhi including, RK Puram, India Gate, Pandit Pant Marg, and Munirka witnessed light rainfall.

IMD earlier in the day forecast thunderstorms with light to moderate intensity rain with heavy intensity rain over isolated places of Delhi, NCR including Bahadurgarh, systems, including an in-



Vehicles on a road during rain, in New Delhi, on Saturday. 💿 PTI

Noida, Greater Noida, tense western disturbance Gurugram and Manesar. as a cyclonic circulation IMD said due to influlies over Iran with a trough aloft in middle and upper ence of several weather tropospheric westerlies.

People at Kartavya Path after rain, in New Delhi on Saturday, 💿 PT



Kartavya Path after rain, in New Delhi, on Saturday o PTI

#### ΡΤΙ New Delhi

The Congress on Saturday finalised the names of a few Lok Sabha candidates from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi at a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee here.

The CEC meeting for Himachal Pradesh was attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal.

Himachal Chief Min-



Mallikarjun Kharge with Sonia Gandhi and KC Venugopal during the CEC meet for the LS polls, in New Delhi on Saturday. 💿 ANI

ister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, deputy chief minister Mukesh Agnihotri, Pradesh Congress Chief Pratibha Singh, and AICC in-charge Rajeev Shukla, were the others present in the meeting.

The party finalised two candidates from Himachal, one of whom was Vikramaditya Singh, whose name was mooted for Mandi Lok Sabha seat to contest against BJP's Kangana Ranaut.



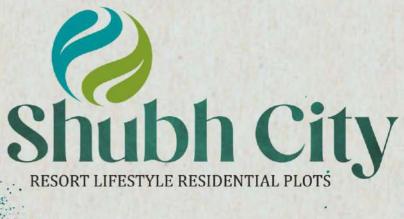






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# Hetmyer leads Rajasthan Royals to last-over win

RR lost 3 wickets in a tricky 148-run chase as it reached 90 in 14 overs against PBKS. Ashutosh Sharma's cameo lifted PBKS to 147 in 20 overs

#### **First India Bureau** Mullanpur

Rajasthan Royals pulled off a thrilling last-over win after PBKS handed a major scare in Mullanpur. RR were in all sorts of trouble chasing 148 before Shimron Hetmyer led the side over the line with a ball to spare on Saturday.

Asked to bat first, Punjab Kings, who played without their injured skipper Shikhar Dhawan, didn't get any momentum in their innings with lower-order batter Ashutosh Sharma (31), Jitesh Sharma (29) and Liam Livingstone (21) managing to take the team close to the 150-mark.

RR huffed and puffed their way to the victory



Rajasthan Royals bowler Keshay Maharaj with teammates celebrates the wicket of Jonny Bairstow during the IPL match.

target of 148 with a ball to spare, thanks to Shimron Hetmyer's 10-ball 27 after Yashasvi Jaiswal (39), Tanush Kotian (24), Riyan Parag (23) frittered away starts. The Royals had an ex-

cellent chance to register their fifth win on the trot and consolidate their totem pole position, but Rashid Khan's daring assault helped Gujarat Titans snatch a last-ball victory on Wednesday.



Punjab Kings owner actor Preity Zinta during the IPL match between PBKS and Rajasthan Royals, on Saturday.

#### ASHUTOSH SHARMA FIRES QUICK CAMEO

New Delhi: Ashutosh Sharma was the top scorer for Punjab Kings against Rajasthan Royals in Match 27 of the IPL 2024 season on Saturday. He came in when PBKS were 103/6 after 16.1 overs. Ashutosh slammed a 31-run knock from 16 balls and his exploits helped Punjab get to 147/8 in 20 overs. He has proved to be a solid customer for the Kings. Ashutosh made his IPL debut this season in Punjab's match against Gujarat Titans. He smashed 31 from 17 balls in a 43-run stand alongside Shashank Singh to help his side chase down 200. Impact player Ashutosh came in and hit the ball cleanly to take his side close to the 150-run mark. He was dismissed from the final ball.



Rajasthan Royals batters Tanush Kotian and Yashasvi Jaiswal run between the wickets during the IPL match between Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals in Mullanpur, on Saturday.

# Iran could attack Israel in 24 hours, US rushes warships

#### Agencies New Delhi

Israel is bracing for a direct attack by Iran as warnings grow of retaliation for the killing last week of a senior officer in Iran's embassy in Damascus. US & other intelligence assessments have said the retaliation could come as soon as Sunday. The attack could trigger an all-out regional war.

US President Joe Biden has also warned Israel that he expects a strike from Iran ened fears that Tehran may



Israel is bracing for a direct attack by Iran.

soon, but has warned the clerical state not to attack. Asked what his message was to Iran on striking Is-

launch an attack on Israel in retaliation to a strike on the Iranian consulate in Syria.

the Strait of Hormuz.

# Now, Canada warns citizens

PTI Gaza

Canada has warned citizens to avoid all travel to Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, upgrading its risk assessment of the region due to the increased threat of attacks on Israeli territory.

Foreign Minister Corps Navy seized an Israel-Melanie Joly on social linked container ship near media site X said Canadians already in the area should consider leaving by commercial means. "With a heightened travel to the region.



risk of attacks on Israeli territory, the regional security situation remains highly volatile & could escalate without notice," Joly posted. The federal government had previously advised Canadians to avoid non-essential

#### Foreign Secy Kwatra meets US officials, against travel to Israel & Gaza reviews progress of global strategic ties and technology.

#### PTI Washington

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has met several US senior officials, including Deputy Secretary of Defence Kathleen Hicks, to undertake a detailed review of the progress on further consolidating the bilateral strategic ties and discussed their shared efforts to promote stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Kwatra is in the US



cussed priorities for strengthening the US-India defence partnership, including the implementation of the roadmap for the US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation, Pentagon spokesperson

Hicks and Kwatra dis-

Eric Pahon said. The two officials underscored the historic momentum in the Major Defence Partnership in support of a free and open

this week for a series of



meetings with senior officials of the US government and interaction with industry leaders to advance bilateral coopera-Indo-Pacific, according tion in areas like defence to an official statement.

**ISRAEL: IRAN WILL BEAR CONSEQUENCES** Tel Aviv: Israel **Defence Forces** spokesperson Daniel

Hagari has asserted that Iran will "bear the consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further. Hagari's statement comes after Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard

rael, he said, "Don't."

There have been height-

# EAM speaks to UK Foreign Secy over West Asia issue Agencies

**AT UK ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL** 

#### Agencies

New Delhi

**External Affairs Minister** S Jaishankar on Saturday discussed with his British counterpart David Cameron the "emerging" situation in West Asia arising out of escalating tensions between Israel and Iran.

The telephonic conversation between the duo came on a day Iranian military seized a cargo ship with Israeli links near the Strait of Hormuz. The ship has 17 Indian crew

members. "Spoke to UK Foreign Secretary Lord @ David\_Cameron today.

Discussed the emerging situation in West Asia as also our bilateral ties," Jaishankar said on 'X'. There have been

heightened fears that Tehran may launch an attack on Israel. Amid the escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, Israeli military spokesman Dan-

iel Hagari said, "Iran will bear the consequences for choosing to escalate the situation any further."

#### Agencies Karachi

At least 11 people, nine of them from Punjab province, were shot dead by militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan in two separate incidents, authorities said on Saturday, as the region witnessed a surge in terror attacks in recent days.

Nine of the deceased were travelling in a bus on the National Highway from Quetta to Taftan when they were stopped by unknown militants,



Doctors and other staff examine body of a person, who was killed by gunmen, at a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan on Saturday

who pulled them out of nine men were later found the bus and killed them later, an official said. "The bodies of these

## with bullet wounds in the nearby mountainous are-

as near a bridge," he said.

#### **PAKISTAN HAS HIGHEST** LIVING COST IN ASIA"S

Lahore: Pakistan has the highest living cost in all of Asia with a

25 per cent inflation rate and its economy may grow at the fourth lowest pace of 1.9 per cent in the region, according to a new Asian Development Bank (ADB) report. As per reports, the Asian Development Outlook also painted a gloomy picture for the next fiscal year as well, projecting 15% inflation rate for the next fiscal year -- again the highest among 46 countries and a 2.8% growth rate -- the fifth lowest for FY 2024-25.

"We'll murder you": Indianorigin woman charged for terror threats in US



Patel's threats were made during two separate speeches.

#### Agencies New Delhi

An Indian-origin woman has been arrested in the United States and charged with making terroristic threats against the Mayor of California's Bakersfield, a report said. At a meeting, the woman, identified as Riddhi Patel, directed threats towards

#### ₹ 2.1 CR REWARD ON MAN WHO KILLED WIFE





New York: The US Federal Bureau of Investigation has announced a reward of up to ₹2.1 crore for any information that could lead to the arrest of Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel. He is a fugitive on the FBI's ten most wanted list. "The FBI offers a reward of up to \$250,000 for info leading to the arrest of Ten Most Wanted Fugitive Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel, wanted for allegedly killing his wife while they were working at a doughnut

shop in Hanover, Maryland," their official notice read.

officials, slamming them for not backing a ceasefire resolution for the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Patel's threats were made during two separate speeches she delivered to the city council that evening. In her subsequent address, she criticised the installation of additional security measures at the government building, such as metal detectors, characterising them as attempts to "criminalise" protesters. "We'll murder you,"

# Indian-American actor's 'Minimum' to open in London

#### PTI

London

ndian-origin American-Belgian actor Rumana Molla's directorial debut starring Naseeruddin Shah will open this year's UK Asian Film Festival (UKAFF) with a world premiere here on May 2.

'Minimum', described as a poignant immigrant tale, is set in Belgium within the context of an Indian family and also stars Molla in a key role



"The UK Asian Film Festival this year celebrates feminism, diversity and empowering emerging British Asian talents," said UKAFF Founder and Director Dr Pushpinder Chowdhry.

Das, Saba Azad and Geetanjali Kulkarni. It kicks off an array of along with actors Namit films and tributes to well-

known Indian artists, across London, Leicessuch as Shabana Azmi, as ter, Oxford and Glasgow part of the annual festival until May 12. which will be running "Our 'Creative Minds

of Tomorrow' initiative at the BFI Southbank offers exclusive, behindthe-scenes insights and skills workshops led by industry experts, empowering aspiring filmmakers to craft diverse narratives," she said. "Through unique cin-

ematic experiences, we aim to shape their identities, boost self-confidence and encourage learning from diverse perspectives," she said.

This year's "Climate of Change" theme for the festival, now in its 26th year, has been chosen to

reflect a sense that the air is shifting to move on from the lived experiences of the recent past. "Our programme will take communities on a journey away from the familiar, challenging comfort zones to embrace the transformative. In this critical juncture of political and economic uncertainty, our festival emerges as a vital platform, amplifying voices, igniting conversations and fostering empathy," said

**UKAFF** Creative Director Samir Bhamra. she ended her speech.







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**1** FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

Greetings on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. Let us remember Babasaheb Ambedkar and work for the ideal of dignity for all. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



**VK Singh in Jaipur** Army's morale has not fallen due to Agniveer scheme: Singh

# **Gen VK Singh lists achievements** of Modi government in last 10 yrs

**Vinod Singh Chouhan** Jaipur

## **By Tridib Raman**

Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL

The author is a journalist and political commentator and views expressed are his personal

#### ELON MUSK JOINS HANDS WITH MUKESH AMBANI

here is a lot of noise that Elon Musk, owner of Tesla and X companies, is coming to India this month to meet PM Narendra Modi. Sources have also revealed that this time, renowned industrialist Mukesh Ambani has an important role in bringing Musk to India. There is also talk that there could be a 'JV' between Tesla and Reliance to make 'EV' vehicles in India. However, Musk has been expressing his desire to sell Tesla vehicles in India since 2015. In this series, Tesla also registered its subsidiary Indian company in Bengaluru in 2017, but the matter did not work out because at that time the rules and regulations regarding 'local sourcing' were very strict. After this, Musk met PM Modi in June 2023, when Modi was on his US tour. The effect of this meeting was that in March this year, the Central Government reduced the import duty

#### WINNING FARIDKOT WON'T BE EASY FOR HANS

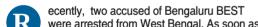
unjabi folk singer Hansraj Hans is considered adept in choosing raga and political raga. This time when his ticket from BJP from North East Delhi got cut, he adopted a slightly rebellious posture and started getting close to AAP leaders. Given this, the top leadership of the BJP made a hasty decision to field him from the



Faridkot seat of Punjab. Hans has already been in many political parties. He was with Shiromani Akali Dal, then came to Congress and from Congress to BJP and this time he had his eyes on AAP. But the Faridkot ground is not going to

be easy for Hans because there he is facing competition from a well-known Sufi singer Mohammad Sadiq, who is also the sitting Congress MP from there. To make this fight interesting, a third popular singer Karamjit has entered the fray as an independent.

#### POLITICS ON THE ISSUE OF TERRORISTS



on EV vehicles. After this, the statement of Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari also came out where Gadkari said, "If Musk wants to bring Tesla to India, then he will have to set up a manufacturing unit here." Sources say that Tesla is now looking at states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Telangana for a place to set up its manufacturing unit and it is believed that the company has found a local partner in this regard in the form of Reliance.



**DID MANISH TIWARI CHANGE SEAT FOR 'FRIEND' BITTU?** 



R Bittu, former Congress MP from Ludhiana, and Manish Tewari, the sitting Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib, have a deep bond. However, circumstances changed and this time Bittu left Congress and joined the BJP. There are indications that the BJP may field Bittu from Anandr Sahib, from where he won his first election in 2009. If sources are to be believed, Bittu called Manish and said, 'You are like my friend and elder brother, so I am hesitant in contesting elections against you from Anandpur Sahib. Is it possible that you can change the seat and go to Ludhiana or Chandigarh? On this, Manish said, 'It depends on the high command from where it wants me to contest elections.

still I will talk to Sonia ji

once.' According to the

information, the screen-

ing committee led by

Kharge has this time

proposed the name of

Manish Tewari for the

Chandigarh Lok Sabha

seat. Tiwari's name was

announced by Congress

from the Chandigarh LS

seat in its list released on

Saturday night.

Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Civil Aviation, General V.K. Singh addressed a press conference at Hotel Clark Amber in Jaipur on Saturday and enumerated the achievements of PM Narendra Modi's 10-year tenure. During this, he told about the radical changes that have taken place in the fields of road transport, aviation, infrastructure, self-reliance, solar energy, green energy, electrification of railways, hydro energy, and women empowerment.

Singh said that while the length of national highways in India was 90 thousand kilo meters in 2014, after the formation of the Modi government, the length of national highways increased to 1 lakh 60 thousand kilometers. "Till 2014, there used to be 74 airports in the country, whereas, under the leadership of

Amit Shah to hold roadshow in Walled City of Jpr tomorrow

> Pankaj Soni Jaipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will hold a roadshow in support of BJP candidate Manju Sharma in the Jaipur Walled City on Monday. As per schedule, Shah will start his roadshow from ate Hanuman Temple at 5 Shah's



Union Minister VK Singh addressing the media at the BJP State headquarters in Jaipur on Saturday. Pramod Vashishtha & Shravan Singh Bagri are also seen here. **NAIM KHAN** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, their number increased to 148. Not only this, the work of many airports is under construction, after which the number of airports across the country will increase to 200. Historic work has been done in the field of infrastructure in India during the last decade.

nomic condition has improved. India's growth rate is increasing at the rate of 6.8 percent. All this has been possible only under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

along with green enersaid that coal production gy" he said. in India has been at a record level in the last 5

Diya holds a roadshow in Hindaun for Indu Devi



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Through the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, work has been done to provide 33 percent reservation to half the country's population. In 2015 there were only 415 start-ups in the country, today India has reached the third position in the world in the number of start-ups with 1 crore turnover," he said. Singh also stressed

that China has not occupied our land anywhere. "When I retired in 2012, the situation is similar even today. The allegations regarding occupation of Indian land on the China border are false and completely baseless," he said. Additionally he said that Army's morale has not fallen due to the Agniveer scheme. The first batch has started and good results are coming. On the matter of not contesting elections, Singh said that it came to his mind that he does not want to contest elections now.

# Wishing Sunil Arora a Happy 68<sup>th</sup> Birthday

unil Arora, the S former Chief Election Commissioner, celebrated his 68th birthday on Saturday. Presently, Arora represents India at International IDEA -International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

and is a retired 1980

batch IAS officer of

the Rajasthan cadre.



en's power has got spe-Due to this, India's eco- years. "At the same time, cial recognition under the

this news came, BJP Digital Cell chief Amit Malviya's post on 'X' appeared that 'West Bengal has become a 'safe-haven' for terrorists.' As soon as Malviya's post came out, a response came from the official 'X' handle of West Bengal Police saying, 'How can you call it a safe- haven because we have helped the NIA in finding and arresting them.' The matter did not stop here. Not to be left behind, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, who was holding a rally in Cooch Behar at that time said that 'Bengal is not a safehaven for terrorists, the accused of the blast are from Karnataka and they had spent only two hours in West Bengal when the Medinipur police gave this information to the NIA and they immediately arrested them'.

#### ...AND FINALLY

AP supremo Arvind Kejriwal is in custody, and the party's voice is on the streets. Since many of AAP's leaders are on the radar of CBI and ED, the core team of AAP suggests that 'Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal should contest the elections in Delhi.' Especially amid apprehensions that the President's rule could be imposed here at any time. Sources associated with AAP reveal that 'Sunita Kejriwal may contest from New Delhi against BJP candidate Bansuri Swaraj.' It is said that this suggestion of the party cadre is also being found suitable by the current AAP candidate Somnath Bharti. He is said to be ready to leave his seat.





from Tripolia Bazaar via Johri Bazaar and Badi Chaupar. During this period, prominent leaders including Jaipur candidate Manju Sharma will remain with Shah. This will be Amit Shah's first program among the public after the announcement of Lok Sabha elections. Jaipur MP Ramcharan Bohra said that preparations for roadshow have been completed.

Diya Kumari, Arun Chaturvedi, Indu Devi, and others during the road show in Hindaun on Saturday.

#### **Manish Bansal** Hindaun City (Karauli)

Dy CM Diya Kumari and former BJP state president Arun Chaturvedi held a road show in Hindaun on Saturday and sought votes in support of the BJP can-

didate Indu Devi Jatav. Diya Kumari and Arun Chaturvedi reached Hindaun at around 11:00 am on Saturday where BJP workers welcomed them. After this, a roadshow was conducted with

Arun Chaturvedi and others also attended roadshow in Hindaun: 35 people joined BJP on this occasion

the BJP candidate in an open jeep via Station Road, Nai Mandi, Bayana Mode, Chaupar Circle till Demp Road.

BJP leaders appealed to mari will visit Sirohi tocommon people to vote in day for which she will support of Modi. Flowers leave from Jaipur on Sunwere also showered by day morning.

With extensive expe-JCB at some places. Durrience as a secretary ing this, the Dy CM and former Minister were also welcomed by BJP workers at various places. During this, 35 workers and officials including city and rural block president of Congress joined BJP. Notably, Diya Kumari also addressed a public meeting in Kunda in Amber on Saturday. Diya Ku-

During this, he said that

Indira Awas Yojana used

to run during the Congress

era, but no one saw the

houses built under that

trains like Vande Bharat

are being operated in In-

dia. Today, the electrifi-

cation of railways is in-

creasing very rapidly.

India is doing research

on par with Japan in the

field of hydro energy

Singh said that wom-





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# Guarantees given by Modi are fulfilled: Birla

## Shekhawat appeals for farmers votes

#### **Rajeev Gaur**

#### Bhaniyana (Jaisalmer)

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat reached Bhaniyana on Saturday and sought votes by holding a public meeting. Driving a tractor in Bhaniana town, he appealed to the farmers to vote in his favor.

During this, Pokaran MLA Mahat Pratap Puri Maharaj waved BJP flag & hundreds of workers also



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Pratap Puri receiving 'flower-shower' via JCB during the campaigning in Jaisalmer on Saturday.

registered their presence. seen loudly raising slo-During this, Hanuman gans of 'Beniwal Zindabad' Beniwal supporters were in Shekhawat's rally.

#### **Bhanwar S Charan**

Kota

candidate Om Birla en-В gaged in public relations in Bundi area on Saturday. During this, he said that the guarantee given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the country is fulfilled in every situation. "The opposition used to ask when will Ram temple be built, when will Article 370 be removed. PM Modi also built Ram temple and removed Article 370. Modi's guarantee is a guaran-



On the occasion of Baisakhi. Om Birla paid obeisance at Gurudwara Sri Agamgarh Sahib in his parliamentary seat Kota-Bundi on Saturday.

tee that every guarantee will be fulfilled," he said. Birla toured Seenta, Mehrana, Tirath, Gamach,

scheme. "But today the houses being built under Modi's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are visible in every village. During the Congress rule, slogans of eradicating poverty were raised, but the Modi govt has taken the development schemes to the common man by giving money di-Bhawanipura, Dehit, Virectly into the accounts. nayaka, Delunda, Bajad, Prime Minister Narendra Suwansa, Ladpur, Badun-Modi has worked hard in da and Thikriyan Kalan. the last 10 years to take the

country on the path of development and change its picture. Self-reliant India campaign is proving to be a milestone in changing image of India," he said. Former MLA Ashok Dogra said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, providing electricity to villages, Tap Water Scheme, Swachh Bharat Mission, digital transfer of subsidies, Jan-Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Mudra Yojana and schemes like UDAN are changing the face of India.









Anita Hada

anita.hada@ firstindianews.com



to get a glimpse of heaven (yet), City First brings

you exclusive coverage of Srinagar's Indira Gandhi

Memorial Tulip Garden or 'Gulle Lala' as it is called.

ne Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar, the largest tulip garden in Asia which is spread over an area of about 30 hectares threw open its doors on March 23 this year and in just two weeks more than two hundred thousand visitors have reached from across the globe to soak up the beautiful sight.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, who is especially enamoured with the valley and the beauty of flowers reached Srinagar, as usual, to immerse his senses in the overpowering, picturesque and stunning panorama of the Tulip Garden at Srinagar. "With peace returning to the val-

of PM Narendra Modi 370, Srinagar is booming Narendra Modi, HM with tourists and an at- Amit Shah and LG Manoj with its share of traffic

Suhana Tomar and Manisha Rajpurohit ley under the leadership mosphere of joy and to- Sinha," said Dr Chandra. getherness permeates the In fact, Srinagar is now and after lifting of Article city, We owe this to PM 'happily' home to the tra-

ams and crowds at hotspots! So much so that, the SSP Traffic Srinagar, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah recently issued an advisory for one-way traffic as there are chances of congestion with the Eid weekend as local populace and tourists will be thronging the Tulip Garden and the other gardens in its vicinity.

With the economy on an upswing, there is hope man of Kashmir and the Tulip Garden, known as 'Siraj Bagh' in Urdu and 'Gulle Lala' in the local language, with its beauty and resilience is a symbol that he is proud of PM Narendra Modi for giving Kashmir back to its people, for returning Kashmir to the people of India, and proud of Srinagar and

in the eyes of the common of Kashmir which is blooming again. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra said vails of the modern cities also the Tulip Garden.

Dal Lake

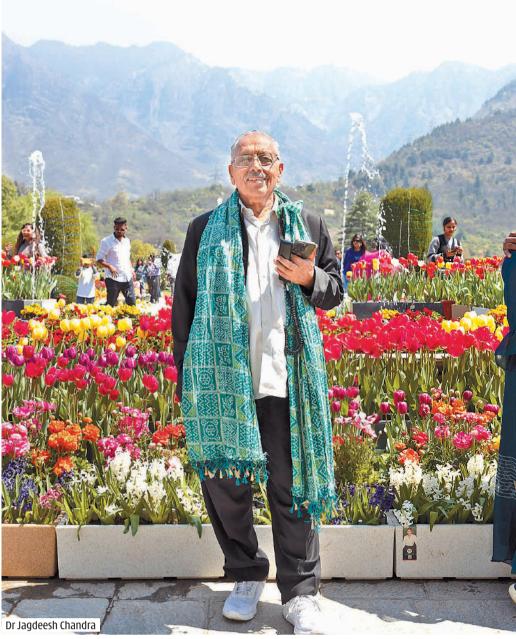


Dr Jagdeesh Chandra

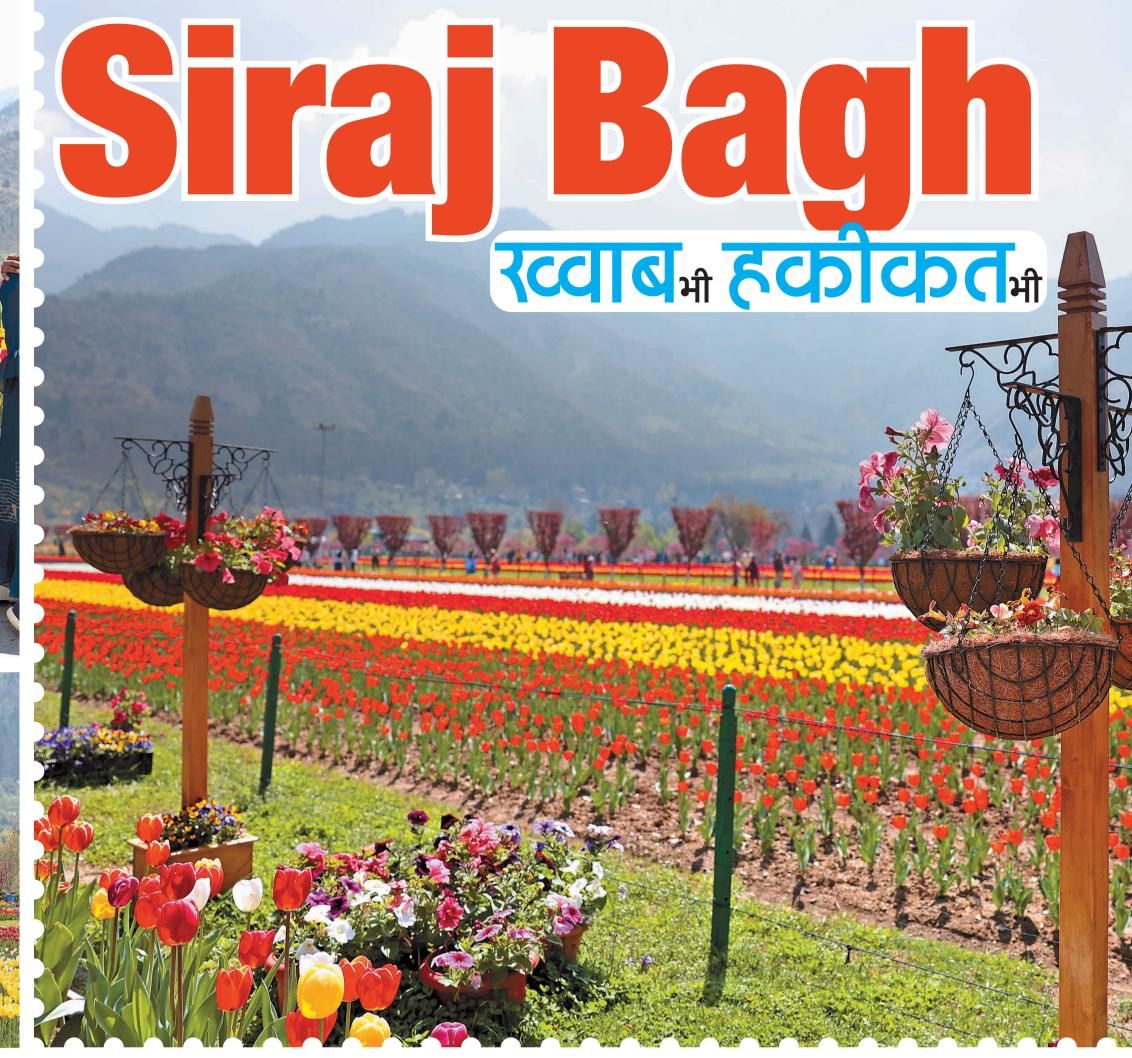




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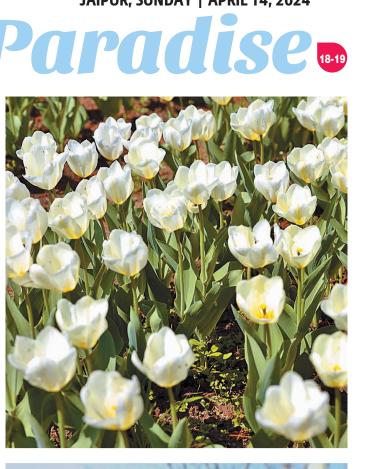






#### JAIPUR, SUNDAY | APRIL 14, 2024

Indir Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, previously Model Floriculture Center, is a tulip garden in Srinagar. It is the largest tulip garden in Asia spread over about 30 hectares. It is situated on the foothills of the Zabarwan Range with an overview of Dal Lake. The garden was opened in 2007 to boost floriculture and tourism in Kashmir Valley. The garden is built on a sloping ground in a terraced fashion consisting of seven terraces. Apart from tulips, many other species of flowers - hyacinths, daffodils and ranunculus have been added as well The tulip festival is an annual celebration that aims to showcase the range of flowers in the garden as a part of tourism efforts by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. It is organized during the onset of the spring season in Kashmir /allev.





















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JAIPUR, SUNDAY | APRIL 14, 2024

**MUKESH KIRADOO** 



# KEVIV **RANGARH** LAI **City First**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

n a collaborative effort between the Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) and the citizens-led **Reviving Ramgarh Lake** campaign, a compelling session on the revival of Ramgarh Lake unfolded at Rambagh Palace on Saturday. The event commenced with the unveiling of the "Revive & Save Ramgarh Lake" poster by FHTR members.

The panellists, including distinguished figures such as the Area Director & General Manager, of Rambagh Palace, Ashok Rathore, Additional Director, of Rajasthan Tourism, RAS Rakesh Sharma, President FHTR & HRAR, Kuldeep Singh Chandela, Head of Revival Ramgarh Lake Movement, Dushyant Singh of Naila, Head, Remote Sensing Divi-



during the session

sions, Birla Institute of Technology, Jaipur, Mahaveer Punia, Indian Politician & First MBA Sarpanch of India, Chhavi Rajawat, Superintendent Engineer DRIP, Jaipur, Ambuj Tyagi, Professor at Aayojan School of Architecture, Jaipur & Bineet Chhajer delved into the pressing issues surrounding the lake's desiccation and potential revival strategies.

Kuldeep Chandela expressed regret over the negligence toward Ramgarh Lake, emphasizing its significance for future generations. Ashok

Rathore highlighted the lake's revival as a symbol of heritage and history, transcending political divides to become a social movement. Chhavi Rajawat stressed

Shailendra Singh, Kuldeep Singh and Bineet Chhajer

the importance of collective citizen action and holistic development. Dushyant Naila identified anicuts as a primary cause of the lake's deterioration, proposing practical solutions and tourism initiatives.

Ambuj Tyagi attributed the lake's decline to shifting land use patterns and climate change. Rakesh Sharma advocated for a comprehensive approach encompassing village, eco, and nature tourism.

of Hospitality and ing Ran

<sup>th</sup> April'

Sunil Pachar emphasized circular water usage practices. Bineet Chhajer urged the restoration of abandoned wells and rainwater conservation.

Mahaveer Punia provided technical insights into the lake's history and current state. The session concluded with a vote of thanks extended by Surendra Singh Shahpura, underscoring the urgency of collective action in preserving this vital natural heritage.





agdeesh Chandra with Rupa Jha and Mukesh Sharma Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Sanjeev Srivastava

# India's Voice Amplified!







**City First** cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

ollective Newsroom, an independent Indian-owned media company, has officially launched with a resolute mission to become the epitome of credible, creative and courageous journalism in India. Founded by CEO Rupa Jha, Collective Newsroom aims to cater to Indian audiences while also delivering impactful stories to a global audience. Operating from India, Collective Newsroom has embarked on its vice boasting the largest audience.

Rupa Jha, alongside fellow directors Mukesh Sharma, Sanjoy Majumder and Sara Hasan, brings a wealth of experience and talent to the company's leadership team. Together, they are committed to leading with facts, promoting public interest, and amplifying diverse voices and perspectives.

On Friday evening, a splendid celebration unfolded at Shahjehan Hall, Taj Palace, New Delhi, marking a significant milestone. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion, journey by collaborating extending heartfelt conwith its first client, the gratulations to Rupa Jha, BBC. The company will Mukesh Sharma, and their and Telugu, alongside Eng-



The gathering saw the presence of distinguished media personalities, including Dr SY Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner of India; Rajeev Shukla, Member of Rajya Sabha and former journalist; Anuradha Prasad, film producer; Hemant Sharma, Whole time Director TV9; Sanjeev Srivastava, Senior Journalist; and Raveesh Kumar, alongside other notable figures.

With a focus on delivering premium-quality content, Collective Newsroom aims to expand its reach across India, catering to audiences in six Indian languages- Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil,





**GREETINGS!** 

RANA President Prem Bhandari and his wife Dr Rekha Bhandari were honoured at a gathering held at Jaipur's City Palace, organised by Advocate Kunal Jaiman and Madhulika Sharma, on Saturday. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra also reached the occasion and extended heartiest congratulations. Various dignitaries including Haryana Information Commissioner Pradeep Singh Shekhawat, BJP leader BL Soni, DG Cyber Ravi Mehrada, Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph, Senior IAS officer Hemant Gera, IAS Dr Jitendra Soni, IAS Inderjit Singh, along with former IPS officers Habib Khan Gauran and PR Meena. RANA New York Director Ashok Pandey graced the event as well.



Governor Kalraj Mishra unveiled the poster for the Ram Navami festival at Mandir Shree Ramchandra Ji Chandpol Bazaar, Jaipur on Saturday. In the ongoing Ramjanmotsav, Lord Ram's name resonates with the glory. Social worker Gokul Das Maheshwari, temple priest Abhishek Tiwari, Dr Bhavna Sharma, Chairman of Neurology at SMS Hospital, and Kaustubh Dadhich were also present.

Jaipur's renowned singer and former judge KP Saxena's latest album, 'Ayodhya Mein Aayi Bahar' resonates with melodious tunes, composed by musician Vikrant Mathur, this hymn is gaining popularity worldwide. Released on Friday by Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami at Chitrakootdham (MP), it's now available on KP Saxena Music's YouTube channel.

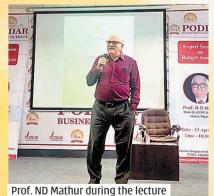


produce programs and con- dedicated team, while also lish content for the BBC tent for BBC News Hindi, offering best wishes for News India YouTube chanthe BBC's language ser- their future endeavours. nel and other platforms.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Jaipur welcomed the grand Gangaur procession with great pomp and pageantry. Every year, Rajasthan eagerly anticipates this magnificent event, where a jewel-clad idol of Parvati is carried in a palanguin from City Palace to Tal Katora for a ceremonial sip of water on Saturday. The procession fea<mark>tures Ghoomar dancer</mark>s, Kacchi Ghodi performers, Chhang artists, and more. Women, draped in Bandhani attire, gather at Tripolia Bazaar to pray for marital bliss. Meanwhile, Namrata Rana and Megha Gupta curated a special viewing, showcasing traditions and celebrating with fervour.



Anand Podar Business School recently hosted a special lecture on business analysis on Saturday. Professor ND Mathur, Dean of Jaipur School of Economics and Humanities at JECRC University, delivered the keynote address, covering topics such as the interim budget, deficits, inflationary gap, expenditure, and receipts. Engaging discussions ensued, with students posing insightful queries on privatization, disinvestment, inequalities, and more. Dr Reema Singh concluded the event with a vote of thanks, ensuring its success.

# **GLOBAL BEAUTY LEADERSHIP**

#### **City First**

#### cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

ogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra have been appointed as the national directors of Miss Planet International, marking a significant milestone in their careers recently. As the Director of Fusion Group and Founder Director of Miss Rajasthan, Yogesh Mishra brings a wealth of experience to his new role. Alongside Nimisha Mishra adds her expertise to this prestigious position. They an- through Miss Celeste India.

nounced that Miss Planet International will be held in Cambodia in October, preceded by the grand event of Miss Celeste India in Jaipur in August. Winners of Miss Celeste India will represent the country in esteemed pageants such as Miss Intercontinental, Miss Globe, and Miss Planet India. Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra are known for providing national and international platforms to the girls of Rajasthan, and their legacy by offering aspiring models an opportunity to shine on a global stage



Yogesh Mishra & Nimisha Mishra





Dr Sanjay Biyani

Minister Gen 👘 🥂

Dr VK Singh (retd) honours Rajendra Singh Shekhawat The Bharatiya Janata Party organised the Prabuddha Jan Sammelan Samvad program at the Biyani Group College on Saturday. General Dr VK Singh (retd), Minister of State for Road Safety and Civil Aviation, graced the event as the chief guest. Rajendra Singh Shekhawat, State Convener of Prabuddha Jan Cell, BJP Rajasthan, were also present. Dr Sanjay Biyani, College Director and BJP leader, advocated for integrating the Ramayana and Bhagwat Geeta into the curriculum to instil moral values in children. General Dr VK Singh (retd) highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decade-long achievements, emphasizing advancements in road transport, aviation, infrastructure, solar and green energy, railway electrification, and women empowerment. SANTOSH SHARMA

