



# FIRST INDIA

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School of Medicine, University of London, London  
• Pediatric Gastroenterology - Harvard University (USA)  
• W.H.O. Fellow - Child Health in United States of America  
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# Impact of New Criminal Laws

## Prison Administration and the New Direction of Inmate Rehabilitation



**Paras Mal Jangid**

The writer is Principal, Jail Training Institute, Ajmer



**Shahjada Salim**

The writer is DySP, CDTI, Jaipur



As from July 1, 2024, the govt of India has implemented significant reforms through the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023. These laws have made Indian criminal justice system more efficient, transparent, and fair, focused on accelerating judicial processes, reducing overcrowding in prisons, and emphasizing rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, the new framework seeks to address long-standing issues within the justice system. Currently, India's prison population exceeds 5,00,000, with over 1,300 prisons nationwide. A significant portion of these inmates are undertrial prisoners, often detained for extended periods without trial. The new laws have directly addressed these concerns, bringing substantial changes to both prison management and judicial procedures.

A major aspect of the new laws is their focus on reducing overcrowding caused by undertrial prisoners. The detention duration for first-time offenders has been significantly shortened, helping alleviate pressure on prison resources. In certain cases, first-time offenders who have already spent a considerable portion of their maximum sentence in detention are eligible for bail. This provision helps reduce unnecessary detention while ensuring judicial efficiency. Prison superintendents are now empowered to appeal directly to the court for expedited bail decisions, especially in

As from July 1, 2024, the govt of India has implemented significant reforms through the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023. These laws have made Indian criminal justice system more efficient, transparent, and fair, focused on accelerating judicial processes, reducing overcrowding in prisons, and emphasizing rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders, the new framework seeks to address long-standing issues within the justice system

cases involving first-time offenders. For offenses punishable by life imprisonment or capital punishment, the provisions for release on bail are not applicable, ensuring that justice is upheld in severe cases. These reforms have already begun to show their impact by reducing the number of undertrial prisoners, directly addressing the long-standing issue of overcrowding.

One of the most significant changes brought by the new laws is the introduction of strict timeframes for judicial proceedings. Serious crime investigations must be concluded within 60 days, and courts are required to issue verdicts within 45 days. This accelerated pace has resulted in faster case resolutions, benefiting both undertrial prisoners and the overall judicial process, while reducing prison overcrowding. Additionally, tools like the Sankalan app, developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), have empowered prison staff and law enforcement personnel by providing real-time updates on new legal provi-

tion system. Digital Prison Management tools like the e-Prison Suite, inmate records and rehabilitation progress are now tracked digitally, ensuring transparency and streamlined management.

As the focus shifts toward convicted prisoners, the rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates have become a primary concern. The prison authorities are implementing several programs to prepare inmates for reintegration into society, including: Vocational Training and Education Programs are designed to equip inmates with skills that will make them employable upon release. Mental and Physical Health Services are now provided to inmates with comprehensive healthcare services, including counselling, yoga, and medical care, to promote overall well-being. Regular Monitoring through Digital Tools like National Prisons Information Portal (NPIP) has been introduced to enhance oversight and ensure that inmates' rehabilitation progress is continually monitored.

While the ongoing reforms show great promise, however, Future Challenges and Opportunities remain to address like: The expedited verdict process could place additional pressure on courts, potentially affecting the quality of decisions. Successfully rolling out the ICJS and other digital tools across all prisons remains a critical task. Expanding correctional programs will require additional funding and skilled personnel to meet the growing demands for Rehabilitation.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

### IN-DEPTH

## GHIBLI ART IS A WORLD OF MAGIC AND REALITY

Studio Ghibli's art style is a mesmerising blend of intricate detail, vivid colours, and emotional depth that transcends age and culture. The Japanese animation studio, co-founded by Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata, has crafted unforgettable worlds where magic and reality intertwine seamlessly. From the lush landscapes of My Neighbour Totoro to the hauntingly beautiful ruins in Castle in the Sky, Ghibli's art captures the essence of wonder and nostalgia.

What sets Ghibli apart is its meticulous attention to detail—every frame feels like a painting, brimming with life. Characters' expressions, the sway of grass in the wind, and the soft glow of lanterns evoke powerful emotions. This distinctive style reflects the studio's philosophy: celebrating nature, cherishing childhood innocence, and exploring complex human emotions.

In an era dominated by computer-generated imagery, Ghibli's hand-drawn art remains timeless, reminding us of the beauty in simplicity. It's not just animation—it's a heartfelt tribute to the world's quiet magic which makes it so popular.

## CLAMOUR FOR KING'S RETURN IN NEPAL



The recent demonstrations in Nepal, where hundreds of supporters rallied in favour of reinstating the monarchy, highlight the enduring nostalgia for a royal past. These gatherings, marked by the waving of traditional flags and portraits of former kings, reflect a deep-seated disenchantment with the present political establishment which is seen as corrupt. Since the abolition of the monarchy in 2008, Nepal's journey as a federal democratic republic has been fraught with challenges—political instability, corruption, and slow economic progress. Frustration over unfulfilled promises has spurred a yearning for the perceived stability of monarchical rule.

However, the demand for King Gyanendra Shah's return overlooks the complexities of Nepal's political evolution. The monarchy itself was not without flaws—marked by autocratic rule and suppression of dissent. Restoring the crown would be seen as a regressive step, undermining hard-won democratic gains. Nepal's problems stem not from the absence of a king but from a lack of effective governance, accountability, and inclusive leadership.

Instead of romanticizing the past, Nepal's leaders must focus on deepening democracy, addressing economic hardships, and fostering unity in a country divided by political and ethnic lines. The people's grievances are valid, but a monarchy cannot be a panacea so long as China's shadow looms. Genuine reform, transparency, and delivering on promises are the keys to restoring faith in democracy.

Nepal's future lies in fortifying its democratic institutions, not in turning back the clock 19 years after monarchy's tragic end. The government must recognise the frustrations driving these royalist sentiments and respond with transformative governance—ensuring democracy delivers for all Nepalis.

The recent demonstrations in Nepal, where hundreds of supporters rallied in favour of reinstating the monarchy, highlight the enduring nostalgia for a royal past

### TRANSFORMATIVE NEW LAWS

In Conclusion we can find changes in New Laws as transformative future for Indian Prisons, significant progress has been made in reducing the number of undertrial prisoners, enhancing prison administration, and expediting judicial processes. The provisions for mandatory bail and shorter detention durations have already made a tangible difference, easing the burden on the prison system

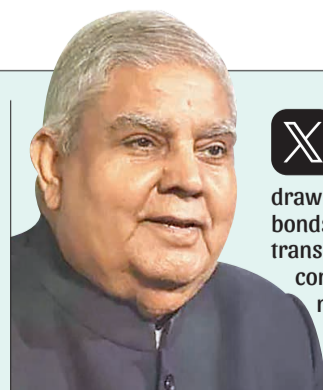
The efforts of the MHA, NCRB, BPRD, CDTIs, Police and Judicial academies and various Prison Training Institutes continue to ensure that prison staff receive the necessary training to effectively implement these reforms. Moving forward, the emphasis on rehabilitation, alongside continued investment in resources and training, will be crucial to the long-term success of India's prison system

### TOP TWEETS



I extend my greetings to all my fellow countrymen, especially my Muslim brothers and sisters, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. This festival strengthens the spirit of brotherhood and conveys the message of compassion, goodwill, and charity. I pray that this festival brings peace, prosperity, and happiness to everyone's life

President of India@rashtrapatibhvn



On the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, I extend warm greetings to all citizens of our nation. It reminds us of the strength we draw from our cultural diversity and the common bonds that unite us. The essence of this holy day transcends mere celebration; it embodies the constitutional ideals of unity, compassion, and mutual respect that form the cornerstone of our diverse democracy.

Vice-President of India @VPIndia

### SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

BIBLE



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Maa Chandraghanta



## KASHMIR SET TO WELCOME ITS 1st-EVER VANDE BHARAT TRAIN, THANKS TO MODI!

PM Narendra Modi will flag off first Vande Bharat to Kashmir from Katra on April 19

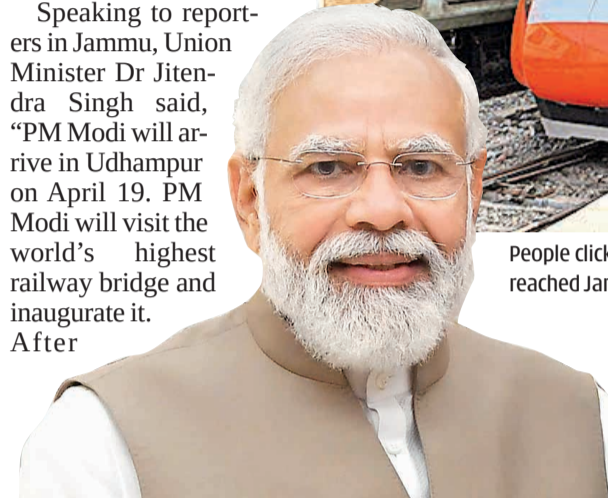
First India Bureau  
New Delhi/Srinagar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19 from Katra, marking the completion of 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. According to officials, the rail link project was completed last month. Trial runs of the train on Katra-Baramulla route have been successfully conducted. The commissioner of railway safety approved the train service between Katra and Kashmir in January, they said. The Vande

Bharat Express is expected to significantly reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar, providing a modern and efficient rail service for the region, they said. Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said, "PM Modi will arrive in Udhampur on April 19. PM Modi will visit the world's highest railway bridge and inaugurate it. After



People click pictures of the first-ever Vande Bharat Express destined to run between Katra and Srinagar, that reached Jammu Tawi Railway Station during its trial run, in Jammu on January 24, 2025.



that, he will flag off the Vande Bharat from Katra. "The inauguration will fulfil a long demand for direct rail connec-

tivity to Kashmir. At present, train services operate only between Sangaldan & Baramull and from Katra to many destinations.

The project includes 38 tunnels spanning a total of 119 km, with longest among them being 12.75 km-long Tunnel T-49.

### MESSAGE FROM MODI-BHAGWAT BONHOMIE!

Reports from Nagpur suggest that PM Narendra Modi and RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat held a private meeting & 2 leaders had a one-on-one discussion for about half an hour, reportedly covering crucial political matters. After the meeting, Modi returned to Delhi late Sunday night from Nagpur, his face beaming with a smile and a renewed sense of confidence. Following this, a series of meetings have begun at PMO. Modi may carry out Cabinet reshuffle, some state Governors might also be changed in recent times.

Moni Sharma



### IN BRIEF



EAM S Jaishankar meets with Netherlands Foreign Affairs Minister Caspar Veldkamp in New Delhi.

### Woman Naxal with ₹25 lakh bounty killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

Dantewada: A woman Naxalite, named Renuka alias Banu, carrying a reward of ₹25 lakh, was killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Monday. The gunfight broke out in a forest along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts, located in the Bastar region.



### France's leader Le Pen sentenced to prison

Paris: Far-right French leader Marine Le Pen was handed a four-year prison sentence and banned from holding public office for five years by a French court Monday, in what could be the biggest setback for her political cause in a generation. The court also handed her a fine of 1,00,000 euros.

### Reciprocal tariffs to be imposed on all countries starting April 2: Trump

Washington: Trump tariffs are poised to torment the world. The US President on Sunday confirmed he will be imposing a uniform global tariff (basically taxes or duty on all imports into the US) on all countries - with no exceptions - on Wednesday April 2, which he has characterized as "Liberation Day."

### NIVESH UTSAV: 'RISING RAJASTHAN' IMPACT 1.0 EVENT

## MoUs worth ₹3L cr executed at lightning speed, says CM

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma says 'Rising Rajasthan' Partnership Conclave to be held on 11-12 Dec, 2025

CM Sharma launches 3 new policies to boost investment in the logistics, textile and the data centre sectors

The CM launches Investor Interface Mobile App, logo for the 'Rising Rajasthan' Partnership Conclave 2025

Vinod Singh Chouhan  
Jaipur

The Government of Rajasthan on Monday announced MoUs worth over ₹3 lakh crore, signed under the ambit of 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024, have been executed on ground.

Speaking at Nivesh Utsav: 'Rising Rajasthan' Impact 1.0 program in Jaipur, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said swift implementation of MoUs demonstrates govt's commitment towards not just attracting investment but also facilitating their conversion into running projects. Sharma also announced the government's decision to host 'Rising Rajasthan' Partnership Conclave 2025 on December 11 & 12 later this year & launched its official logo. Sharma also launched three new policies namely- Ra-



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma with (L-R) Madhav Singhania, Ajitabh Shrama, Sanjay Aggarwal, Sudhansh Pant, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hari Mohan Bangur, Alok Gupta and Shivangi Swarnkar during the launch of Rajasthan Logistics Policy 2025, during the Nivesh Utsav in Jaipur on Monday.

**'Rising Rajasthan' Impact 1.0 showcases our commitment towards not just attracting investment but also facilitating their conversion into running projects.**

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER

period of time is a landmark occasion in the history of Rajasthan. CM said we will also monitor investors who came with good intentions but are now unwilling to take action. Monthly meetings will be held on the 11th to discuss investments. We will look into any problems or reasons affecting the progress. P8

### Celebrating Tradition & Culture



The palanquin of Goddess Gauri being carried during a traditional procession near the Tripolia Gate in Walled City, on the occasion of Gangaur festival in Jaipur on Monday.

SUNIL SHARMA

### IFS Nidhi Tewari appointed Modi's Private Secretary

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Nidhi Tewari, 2014-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, will take over as the next private secretary of PM Narendra Modi. She is currently serving as the Deputy Secretary in the PMO. Her new role is set at Level 12 of pay matrix, which announced her appointment Monday.

### IT, GST, UPI: Many rules changing from today

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Several financial rule changes are going to come into effect from April 1, 2025 onwards, impacting UPI users, credit card holders, and pensioners across the country. A prominent rule change is that individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh/annum exempted from paying income taxes. The NPCI has now mandated

that the UPI transactions from inactive numbers will not happen. The UPS will be implemented, replacing old pension system. The E-Way Bills (EWB) can only be generated for the documents which are not older than 180 days. Banks such as SBI, PNB, Canara Bank will update minimum balance requirements with customers who fail to maintain the revised balance facing penalties.

### FIRST INDIA NEWS PRESENTS TONK KE RATNA SEASON-2

## ERCP is the result of CM Sharma's strong determination: Choudhary

First India News CEO & Managing Editor Pawan Arora praises State Government for bringing unprecedented development schemes to Rajasthan in just 15 months



Pawan Arora felicitates Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary with 'Ram Lalla' idol, during the 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' event on Monday.

Mahesh Sharma  
Tonk

Rajasthan's Public Health Engineering and Groundwater Minister, Kanhiya Lal Choudhary, praised the rapid progress of the ERCP across 21 districts, attributing its success to the strong determination of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma. Speaking at the "Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2" event organised by First India News at the Agriculture Auditorium in Tonk, Choudhary high-



Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary and Pawan Arora with Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Saroj Bansal, Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Chandraveer Singh Chouhan, Soumya Jha, Vikas Sangwan and Shweta Mishra Awasthi, during the inaugural session of 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' event organised by First India News at the Agriculture Auditorium, in Tonk, on Monday.

lighted that the project has made significant strides in just over a year. At the ceremony, 39 individuals from the district were honoured for their long-standing

contributions in various fields. During the event, Pawan Arora, CEO

and Managing Editor of First India News, welcomed Minister Choud-

hary by presenting him with a bouquet and an idol of Lord Ram Lalla. During his welcome speech, Arora extended his wishes for the Hindu New Year, Eid, Gangaur, and Rajasthan Diwas and said that we are taking forward Dr Jagdeesh Chandra's vision of 'Khabar Hi Jeevan Hai'. Arora expressed pride in the state's celebrations of Rajasthan Diwas, which this year, for 1st time, were held according to the Hindu calendar, thanks to CM Sharma's initiative. P8

# Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations across State highlight unity and devotion of public

Raj remained in the festive spirit with key figures extending their greetings to Muslim community

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In Jaipur, the main Eid prayers were held at the Eidgah, where a large number of devotees gathered to offer namaz. People exchanged warm greetings, spreading the festive spirit throughout the city. To ensure safety, stringent security measures were in place, with Additional Police Commissioner Kunwar Rashtradeep personally monitoring the situation.

In Ajmer, the historic Jannati Darwaza at the revered shrine of Khwaja Garib Nawaz was opened on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Devotees eagerly lined up to pass through this sacred gateway, which is opened only four times a year.

Similarly, in Karauli, Eid prayers were performed in mosques and Eidgahs across the district. Jhunjhunu witnessed an equally joyful celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr. Overall, Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with devotion, unity, and festive fervor across Rajasthan. The spirit of brotherhood and harmony was evident as people from different walks of life came together to mark this special day.



The day began with a sermon before the prayers, followed by the distribution of Fitra among the poor and needy. NAIM KHAN

## EID PRAYERS LEAD TO MAJOR TRAFFIC JAM IN TONK DIST

A major traffic jam occurred on Malpura-Kekri road in Rajasthan's Tonk district on Monday after thousands of Muslims gathered for a procession after Eid prayers on Monday. The highway remained closed for nearly an hour after thousands of people assembled for the procession chanting religious slogans. Tonk SP Vikas Sangwan said a crowd that gathered after Eid namaz had led to the blockage of the highway, but it was later removed and the road cleared.



## 'Op Khushi-9' by Raj police to find missing minors

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Rajasthan Police will launch a state-level campaign called "Operation Khushi-9" to search for missing minors under the age of 18. The campaign will be conducted from April 1 to April 30. During this campaign, police personnel who demonstrate exceptional dedication and hard work will be rewarded, while those who show negligence and indifference will face disciplinary action.

Additional Director General of Police for Civil Rights and Anti-Human Trafficking, Malini Agarwal, stated that teams are being formed at the police station level for this campaign. Rajasthan Police has previously launched several campaigns to trace missing children, and through this initiative, comprehensive steps will be taken to locate the chil-

dren as quickly as possible and reunite them with their families.

In light of the pending cases of missing children in Rajasthan, the campaign aims to reduce the number of unresolved cases. The special operation "Khushi IX" will be carried out at the state level across all districts from April 1, 2025, to April 30, 2025.

Agarwal emphasized that police personnel who work diligently to locate missing children will be rewarded, while those who display negligence or lack of commitment will face disciplinary actions. Additionally, district-level cyber cells will be incorporated to provide technical assistance for the campaign. Weekly progress reports from each district will be compiled and sent to the Missing Person Cell of the Civil Rights and AHT Branch at the Police Headquarters.

## Tourist dies of heart attack in Sariska

First India Bureau  
Alwar

A tragic incident occurred in the Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary, located near Thanagazi in Alwar, where a tourist succumbed to a heart attack while visiting the area. The deceased, identified as Manjul Gupta, was a resident of Ashok Vihar, Delhi, and had come to Sariska with his family for a sightseeing trip. The unfortunate incident took place as Gupta was returning after relieving himself in the jungle.

Despite efforts to provide treatment, Gupta's condition deteriorated, and he was declared dead as there was no sign of life. The family, in their grief, chose not to have an autopsy.

## One more student dies by suicide in Kota

Bhawar S Charan  
Kota

In a tragic incident, the son of an agricultural scientist from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, ended his life by jumping in front of a train in Kota. Just two days later, he was scheduled to appear for his JEE Mains exam in Lucknow. His father was supposed to arrive in Kota on Monday to take him home, but before that, he received the devastating news of his son's death.

Agricultural scientist Deepak Mishra expressed his grief, stating, "We have observed that children experience immense stress, but they are unable to express their feelings. When I told him that I was coming to Kota to pick him up, perhaps



he found it easier to take this step." Ujjwal, 18, had been preparing for the JEE exam in Kota for the past two years. Sub-Inspector Dharm Singh of the GRP police station reported that the incident occurred on Sunday evening at 6:30 PM near the Mumbai-Delhi railway track in the Rajiv Gandhi Nagar area. The student lay down on the tracks before the train arrived. His identity was confirmed through his ID and mobile phone.

## Fire breaks out at MDM hospital OT in Jodhpur

First India Bureau  
Jodhpur

A major tragedy was averted in the OT of the women's wing of Muthura Das Mathur (MDM) Hospital in Jodhpur on Monday when a sudden fire broke out. The blaze was, however, brought under control within a few minutes. Superintendent of MDM Hospital Dr Vikas Rajpurohit said after that fire broke out in the morning, the fire brigade team was immediately informed and the firefighters reached on time and extinguished the fire.

Basni fire officer Prashant Swingh Chauhan said that oxygen supply pipes have been laid at the place where the fire broke out. The Home Guard jawans also helped in controlling the blaze.



OT in women's wing of the MDM hospital caught fire on Monday.

## FIRE RAVAGES WHEAT FIELDS IN CHITTORGARH'S NIMBAHERA, FARMER SUFFERS HUGE LOSS

A devastating fire broke out in a wheat field in Lakshimpura village, near Nimbahera in Chittorgarh, destroying a significant portion of the crop. The fire, which initially spread across the fields, was traced to a neighboring farm owned by Narayan Jat. The blaze consumed around 15 bighas of standing wheat. Upon receiving the distress call, fire trucks quickly arrived at the scene and managed to bring the fire under control. The farmer faced a devastating loss as his crop worth lakhs of rupees. Due to the swift actions of the fire department and the support of locals, the fire was contained before it spread to nearby fields.

## FIRE WIPES OUT STANDING CROPS IN BHIVSAGAR, COMPENSATION DEMANDED

Standing crops worth lakhs of rupees got completely destroyed after an electric wire fell on it in a field in Bhivsagar in Phalodi. Wheat crop was planted on 15 bighas and fengreek on five bighas which were destroyed in the fire. Patwari Chetanram and Sarpanch Bhom Singh inspected the spot. The victim farmer Aidan has demanded adequate compensation for the damage.

## CROPS, CATTLE LOST IN FIRE IN DAUSA DIST

Incidents of fire were reported at two different places in Dausa on Monday. A fire broke out in a stack of harvested wheat kept in a barn in Gerota village in which about three bighas of wheat got gutted. The second incident happened in Karanpur village where a thatched house caught fire. Besides, two buffaloes and three goats also got charred in the fire.

## TENT HOUSE GODOWN CATCHES FIRE IN PALI

A fire broke out in the warehouse of a tent house in Pali on Kenpura Road in Rani. Fire engines of Rani, Falna, Bali, Sumerpur Municipality were rushed to the spot to control the blaze. Items worth lakhs of rupees have been gutted in the fire. Minister Joraram Kumawat too reached the spot and directed the officials to control the fire. Cause of the fire is yet not known.

## Man arrested for using fake letter from MP CM to avail free safari

Nirmal Tiwari  
Sawai Madhopur

In a shocking incident at Ranthambore, a forged letter bearing the name of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh was caught. The letter, printed on the official letterhead of the Madhya Pradesh CM, recommended the provision of a gypsy for a safari. Early this morning, a man named Ashok Jain arrived at Ranthambore with this letter, which requested free safari arrangements in a government gypsy for five people.



Suspecting foul play, forest department officials questioned the man, and after thorough verification, the letter was found to be fake. The officials arrested the accused and handing him over to the Kotwali police station in Sawai

Madhopur. Further interrogation is now underway to uncover the origins of this forged letter. Authorities are investigating who created the letter and where it was obtained from. The incident has raised serious concerns.

## EMERGENCY PRIVATE BUSES DEPLOYED

## Karauli: Pilgrims stranded as roadways staff go on strike over unpaid overtime

First India Bureau  
Karauli

A sudden strike by Rajasthan Roadways bus drivers and conductors on Monday morning at the famous Kaila Mata Laxhi Mela in Karauli caused significant disruption for thousands of devotees visiting the temple. The strike left many pilgrims stranded, leading to a state of chaos. The police and local administration struggled to manage the



situation initially.

Karauli District Collector Neelabh Saxena promptly informed senior Roadways officials and

Transport Commissioner Shuchi Tyagi about the escalating situation. Alternative arrangements were made to ensure the

return of pilgrims using private buses. Collector Saxena directed the Mela Magistrate, Karauli SDM Premraj Meena, DTO Dara Singh Meena and other officials to coordinate with private buses for transporting the passengers. The strike continued for nearly five hours. Roadways union representatives said that despite working 24-hr shifts during mela, they were not being compensated for overtime. Later, the strike was called off.

## Over a dozen injured in Jslmr road mishap

Suryaveer Singh Tanwar  
Jaisalmer

A tragic accident occurred near Laanela village in Jaisalmer, where a vehicle overturned, leaving more than a dozen people injured on Monday. The victims were labourers returning to Jaisalmer from Ramgarh after a day's work. The injured, including women and children, were immediately rushed to the Government Jawahar Hospital, where they were receiving treatment. Among them, 2 individuals are reported to be in critical condition.

**Kirodi in Kota** Phone tapping issue downplayed, focus on farmers

## Kirodi: Will work for farmers until resignation is accepted

**Bhanwar S Charan**  
Kota

Cabinet minister Kirodi Lal Meena on Monday downplayed the phone tapping issue raised by him, saying that it was an old matter now. During his visit to Kota, reporters questioned about the matter. "That is an old matter; why are you bringing it up again?" Kirodi asked.

However, when further inquired whether his phone was still being tapped, Meena replied, "I can not comment on that." Meena visited education minister Madan



Dr Kirodi Lal Meena addressing media in Kota on Sunday.

Dilawar's residence and expressed condolences on his nephew's demise.

During the visit, Meena reiterated his commitment to working for farmers. "Until my resignation is accepted, I will



Dr Kirodi Lal Meena visited the residence of Madan Dilawar & paid tribute to his nephew Bhanwarlal Dilawar in Kota on Monday.

continue working for farmers' welfare," he said. The minister also warned insurance companies, stating that the companies involved in cheating farmers would not be spared. A delega-

tion of farmers led by Bharatiya Kisan Sangh district president Jagdish Kalminda met Meena held discussion regarding claims of Prime Minister's Crop Insurance for farmers.

Man kills wife and aunt with hammer; dies by suicide

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

A man brutally murdered his wife by attacking her with a hammer and then killed his widowed aunt in a similar manner. After committing double murder, he also attacked his son, Yash, with hammer. However, boy managed to escape. Following this, man hanged himself & ended his own life.

The deceased, Pankaj Kumawat, lived near Benar Station in Kardhani PS area. His wife, Sunita, was two months pregnant. Upon receiving info, the police arrived at the scene and sent all 3 bodies to the mortuary. Initial investigations suggest domestic discord as the reason behind the tragedy.

## Centre approves ₹6,621 cr for Raj highways upgrade

Dy CM Diya Kumari thanks PM, Gadkari for highway push

**Nirmal Tiwari**  
Jaipur

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved Rs 6,621 crore for the construction and widening of national highways across Rajasthan, aiming to enhance connectivity and boost economic activities in State.

Deputy CM Diya Kumari thanked PM Modi and Minister Nitin Gadkari for their support. Key projects include the four-laning of NH-11 (Jhunjhunu-Pacheeri), NH-311 (Singhana-Teetwar), NH-458 (Raipur Jassakheda), Sikar Bypass, Laxman-



### NHAI HIKES NH 8 TOLL RATES, COMMUTERS UPSET

The NHAI has increased toll rates on Jaipur-Ajmer NH-8 from Monday midnight, with hikes ranging from ₹10 to ₹70. At Thikriya toll plaza, the toll for cars has risen from ₹85 to ₹95, for minibuses and light commercial vehicles from ₹140 to ₹155, and for buses and trucks from ₹295 to ₹330. Commercial vehicles up to 3 axles will now pay ₹360 instead of ₹320, while heavy vehicles (4-6 axles) will pay ₹515 instead of ₹460. Vehicles with 7 axles and above will be charged ₹630, up from ₹560. The Badgaon-Kishangarh toll for cars has increased to ₹60 from ₹55. The hike has sparked public outrage due to poor road conditions, but NHAI justifies it as necessary for maintenance and construction.

transportation, create jobs, and accelerate Rajasthan's economic and infrastructural growth.

## Sharma slams SP MP's remark on Rana Sanga

**First India Bureau**  
Dausa

Forest Minister Sanjay Sharma visited the Rana Sanga Mahaprayan Memorial site in Baswa and paid tribute by offering flowers. Speaking on the occasion, he said that positive efforts will be made towards creating a panoramic display of the great warrior Rana Sanga near his memorial, so that youth and future generations continue to draw inspiration from his valor and devotion to the motherland.

Sharma also condemned the statement



Min Sanjay Sharma paying tribute to Ranga Sanga at a memorial in Baswa, Dausa.

made by Samajwadi Party SP MP Ramjilal Suman regarding Rana Sanga, calling it an attack on nation's dignity. He demanded apology from the MP. Bandikui MLA Bhagchand Tankda was also present. Later, Sharma inspected the Lavkush Garden in Jhahirampura.



Centers of Excellence of



## First time ever in Rajasthan World Class AI & Robotics Labs along with state-of-art infrastructure at NIMS - MARIK INSTITUTE



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  - Scopes
    - Aerial Imaging & Remote Sensing
    - Industrial & Smart City Applications
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- AWS Smart Labs**
  - Scopes
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- Smart Factory Lab**
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    - Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
    - Automation & Robotics
    - IoT-Enabled Machines
    - Mobile Robotics & AGVs
- Smart Mfg. Software Lab**
  - Scopes
    - Virtual Commissioning
    - Production Process Optimization
    - AGV Simulation
- EV Hardware Lab**
  - Scopes
    - Battery Technology & Energy Storage
    - Electric Powertrain & Motor Development
    - Charging Infrastructure & Grid Integration
    - Thermal Management & Safety Systems
- EV Software & Test Lab**
  - Scopes
    - Battery Management Systems (BMS)
    - Vehicle Control & Powertrain Optimization
    - Autonomous & Smart Driving Software
    - EV Testing & Simulation
- IIoT & App Development Lab**
  - Scopes
    - IIoT Systems & Smart Connectivity
    - Edge Computing & Cloud Integration
    - Custom Industrial App Development
    - Mechatronics Modular Manufacturing
- Green Energy & Hydrogen Lab**
  - Scopes
    - Renewable Energy Integration
    - Hydrogen Production & Storage
    - Smart Grid & Energy Management
    - Sustainable Transportation

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## Rathore: Registration of Waqf properties to benefit needy



Madan Rathore visited the residence of Jalam S Rawlot and paid tribute to his son Nipunraj Singh on Monday.

**Narayan Dhabhi and Shivprakash Purohit**  
Pali/Jodhpur

BJP state president Madan Rathore, during his visit to Pali, addressed the media on cabinet minister Kirodi Meena's response to a disciplinary notice, stating Meena assured adherence to party disci-

pline. Rathore advocated for registration of Waqf Board properties to benefit needy and announced upcoming mandal appointments. He paid tributes to deceased leaders' families in Sumerpur. In Jodhpur, he condoled Ex-MLA Jalam Singh Rawlot on his son's demise.

## JDA demolishes under construction SSBC bldg

**Abhishek Shrivastava**  
Jaipur

JDA completed its action on SSBC building. At the under-construction site located at Jawahar Circle, JDA punctured the ceiling of the basement built in the setback area using the Lokanda system. Earlier, the enforcement team had demolished 7-8 illegal compartments constructed there.

The tin roof of the site office was also removed. The builder was given time to remove the re-



maining construction. Recently, high-level instructions had been issued to JDC Anandhi by govt, following which JDA conducted an investigation into the illegal construction. Around 4:45 PM on Monday, the JDA zone team arrived at the site, and the action was then initiated.

Inauguration programme of Maharaja Agrasen Medical College

# Modi govt uplifted India's health infrastructure, says Amit Shah

ANI

Hisar (Haryana)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday highlighted the Modi government's achievements in the health sector at the inauguration program of Maharaja Agrasen Medical College.

During an event in Hisar, Haryana, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "In ten years, the Modi government lifted 25 crore people out of the poverty line. Four crore houses have been constructed to give shelter to 20 crore people. 81 crore people get five kg free ration per month."

He further added, "Until 2014, 12 crore families did not have toilet facilities. Today, I congratulate the Haryana government for becoming the first state government in the country to provide toilets in every house in the state...With a holistic approach, the Narendra Modi govt has thought about the health sector in the country."

"The Narendra Modi government has done a lot of work in the area of medical infrastructure. Rs 64,000 crores have been spent on creating Public Health Centres and Community Health



Amit Shah during unveiling of Maharaja Agrasen statue and inauguration of a newly-constructed ICU, at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College in Hisar. Also seen is Nayab Singh Saini & Anandiben Patel.

**In the last 10 years, over 700 Integrated Public Health Labs, 4,382 block Public Health Units and 602 Critical Care Box were established. Today, there are 23 AIIMS hospitals in the country...Earlier, there were only 51,000 seats for medical students; today, it has been increased to 1,15,000 seats, and 85,000 seats will be added in the next five years.**

AMIT SHAH, UNION HOME MINISTER

centres," Shah added.

Amit Shah said that the Modi government has done a lot of work in the health sector and in medical infrastructure; over Rs 64,000 crores have been spent on creating Public Health Centres and Com-

munity Health centres.

"In the last 10 years, over 700 Integrated Public Health Labs, 4,382 block Public Health Units and 602 Critical Care Box were established. Today, there are 23 AIIMS hospitals in the

country...Earlier, there were only 51,000 seats for medical students; today, it has been increased to 1,15,000 seats, and 85,000 seats will be added in the next five years," Shah further said.

Highlighting the last ten years of the Modi government Amit Shah said that over 700 Integrated Public Health Labs, 4,382 block Public Health Units, and 602 Critical Care Boxes were established. There are 23 AIIMS hospitals in the country.

## SHAH TO REVIEW SECURITY IN VALLEY ON APRIL 7-8

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on April 7-8 to review the security situation and interact with security personnel, said sources on Monday. During his visit, Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting in the Union Territory to assess the current law and order scenario. Besides, he is also likely to visit forward areas in Jammu region & meet the troops deployed in border security.

## NCB, DELHI POLICE SEIZE NARCOTICS WORTH RS 27.4 CR

A joint team of the Narcotics Control Bureau and Delhi Police have seized a large cache of narcotics worth Rs 27.4 crore and arrested five persons, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Monday. Shah also said the govt's relentless hunt against drugs trade will continue. "In line with the Modi government's zero tolerance against drugs, a major narcotics network was busted in Delhi-NCR.

Hunt for terrorist in Kathua: Border on alert, 6 held for questioning

PTI  
Jammu

Security forces have intensified search operations using aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs following a night-long cordon after fresh reports of suspected movement of three individuals, believed to be terrorists, who escaped a recent encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, officials said.

Two terrorists and four policemen were killed while three others, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured during a gunfight in a remote forested area in the Sanyal belt of the district on Thursday.

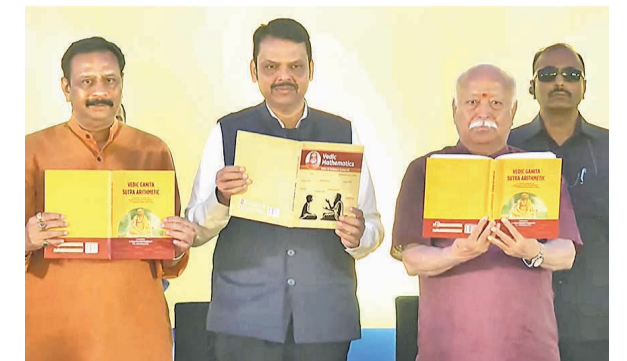
Security forces, which have picked up six persons for questioning, have also launched a search operation in Samba sector near the international border to sanitize the area, while the entire border belt has been put on alert, officials said.

On Sunday night, three suspected terrorists entered a house in Rui village, several kilometres from the encounter site, and took away food from her kitchen, they said.



Maha CM pledges support

## Vedic math key to India's scientific heritage: Fadnavis



Devendra Fadnavis, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and others during an event on 'Vedic Mathematics' book publication, in Nagpur.

Agencies  
Nagpur

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said that the state government will support in establishment of an Excellence Centre on Vedic Mathematics, emphasising that a quality centre should be set up in Bharati Krishna Vidya Vihar School for its research.

He also said that the state education department will think positively about making the subject of Vedic Mathematics accessible to students.

He said this while speaking on the occasion of the release of two volumes of Vedic Mathematics written by Adi Shankaracharya Krishna Tirtha Maharaj by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat.

"The foundation of various sciences devel-

oped in India is based on mathematics. This knowledge will be brought to the fore in a new way through the volumes of Vedic mathematics. It is necessary to reach the importance and use of this Vedic mathematics to the coming generations. For this, a quality center for Vedic mathematics should be set up at Bharati Krishna Vidya Vihar School and the government will provide full support for this," said the chief minister in his speech.

The Bharati Krishna Vidya Vihar School is run by the Vishwa Punarnirman Sangh.

CM Fadnavis said that many important studies in the field of science had evolved in the ancient Indian culture. However, due to the prevailing conditions and foreign invasions, the knowledge of these sciences could not reach everyone.

## Aurangzeb tomb matter being raised unnecessarily: Joshi

PTI

Nagpur

Amid the demand from some right-wing outfits for the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb, senior RSS leader Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi on Monday said the topic has been raised unnecessarily.

Whoever has faith will visit the structure, located in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, the RSS leader told reporters to a query on the sidelines of a programme in Nagpur. Notably, Maharashtra Navanirman Sena chief (MNS) Raj Thackeray on Sunday slammed attempts to incite communal tension over Aurangzeb's tomb.



Suresh 'Bhaiyyaji' Joshi

### 'NO QUESTION OF MODI'S RETIREMENT'

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday rejected speculation about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's retirement, asserting that Modi will continue leading the country beyond 2029. His remarks came in response to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's claim that Modi's visit to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur signaled his retirement.

## BJP lambasts Banerjee over 'provocative speech' on Eid

Agencies

Kolkata

The West Bengal BJP on Monday launched a blistering attack against CM Mamata Banerjee over her "Ganda Dharma" remark, accusing her of making a "provocative speech" during an Eid-ul-Fitr event. Mamata Banerjee, who recently made headlines for her visit to London, sparked controversy during an Eid prayer in Kolkata by saying that she "doesn't follow Ganda Dharma."

Taking to X, West Bengal leader of the opposition and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari questioned Banerjee's remarks, accusing her of making provocative statements.

## Influential encroachers misleading public on Waqf properties: Rijju

ANI

New Delhi

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Monday dismissed the opposition against the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill, saying that those opposing the same are "powerful people" while accusing them of "misguiding" people.

He said that criticising the bill was everyone's right, but it must be substantial. "Who are those who are opposing this bill? There are a few powerful people who have encroached upon the Waqf properties. They are misguiding people. They are saying the bill is unconstitutional," Rijju told ANI.



Kiren Rijju

### WAQF BILL LIKELY IN PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 2

The amended Waqf Bill, which was referred to a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) in August 2024, is set to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on April 2, according to sources. Senior government ministers, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, reached out to all alliance partners, stressing the importance of their support for the bill.

## 'Carnage' of India's public education system must end: Sonia Gandhi

PTI

New Delhi

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday slammed the Modi government's education policy, charging its core agenda is centralisation of power, commercialisation and outsourcing of investments to the private sector, and communalisation of textbooks.

Noting that these three Cs haunt Indian education today, the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson said in an article that this "carnage" of India's public education system must end.

In the article "The '3Cs' that haunt Indian education today" in The Hindu, Gandhi said the introduction of the high-profile National Educa-



Sonia Gandhi

tion Policy (NEP) 2020, has hidden the reality of a government that is profoundly indifferent to the education of India's children and youth.

Gandhi charged that "unchecked centralisation" has been the hallmark of this government's functioning over the last 11 years, but its most damaging consequences have been in the domain of education.

### RAGA URGES PM TO CANCEL OFFSHORE MINING TENDERS

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to PM Modi seeking cancellation of tenders permitting offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Flagger the threat to marine life, the Congress leader said opening up offshore mining blocks to private players without any rigorous assessment of its impact was concerning. "I write to you to strongly condemn the central government's decision to permit offshore mining along the coast of Kerala, Gujarat, and Andaman & Nicobar," he said in his letter to the prime minister.

## MESSAGE OF HARMONY AND BROTHERHOOD

# Prez Murmu & PM Modi, extend Eid greetings; wish joy and success



People shower flower petals on devotees arriving to offer namaz on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr festival, at Shahi Jama Masjid.

Agencies

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted the nation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, praying for the festival to strengthen the spirit of hope, harmony, and kindness in society. Taking to social media, he wished, "May there be joy and success in all your endeavors. Eid Mubarak!"

Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramzan, is being celebrated with great enthusiasm



Women offer namaz during the 'Eid-ul-Fitr' festival celebrations, at the historic Aali Masjid in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, Monday. 2. Muslim children greet each other after offering namaz on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr festival, at Jama Masjid in Mominpura in Nagpur, Monday.

across India and the world. The festival symbolizes joy, generosity, and unity

as families and communities come together in prayer and celebration.



President Droupadi Murmu also extended her heartfelt wishes, empha-

sizing that the festival strengthens brotherhood and promotes compassion and charity. "I wish that this festival brings peace, prosperity, and happiness to everyone," she wrote on X. Several other leaders joined in extending their greetings. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Kiren Rijju all took to social media to wish citizens a joyous and blessed Eid, highlighting the importance of unity and goodwill.

### CLASH BETWEEN TWO GROUPS IN NUH

A post-Eid prayer dispute escalated into a violent clash between two groups from the same community in Tirwada village, Nuh. The clash resulted in injuries to more than five people on Monday morning. The violence erupted as members of one group were returning home from Eid prayers at the local Idgah, leading to an altercation with members of the opposing group. The confrontation quickly turned physical, with both sides resorting to sticks & other blunt objects.



**MATCH TODAY**  
**LSG v/s PBKS**  
 7:30 pm IST, Ekana Stadium, Lucknow

**RICKELTON FIFTY, ASHWANI HELP MI BEAT KKR BY 8 WICKETS**

# Mi wrap run chase in 12.5 overs, beat KKR



Mi batter Ryan Rickelton plays a shot during the IPL 2025 cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders.

**First India Bureau**  
 Mumbai

Ashwani Kumar's record four wicket-haul on IPL debut and Ryan Rickelton's 62 not out powered Mumbai Indians to a commanding eight-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here on Monday. The 23-year-old Ashwani from Punjab's Jhanjeri became the first Indian ever to take four wickets on IPL debut as he ended with figures of 3-0-24-4 to blow away KKR's star-studded batting lineup.

With only four senior T20 matches in his kitty apart from four List A games and two Ranji Trophy matches, Ashwani's rich returns heralded the domination shown by MI's seamers.

Deepak Chahar (2/19), Trent Boult (1/23) and Hardik Pandya (1/10) ensured a collective bowling performance as KKR crumbled for the lowest total of this season, rolling over for just 116 in 16.2 overs.



Mi batters Suryakumar Yadav and Ryan Rickelton being greeted by KKR players after their team's victory in the IPL 2025 cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders, in Mumbai, Monday.



KKR bowler Andre Russell with a teammate celebrates the wicket of MI batter Rohit Sharma.



Mi bowler Ashwani Kumar celebrates with teammates the wicket of KKR batter Andre Russell.

**PANDYA CREDITS MI SCOUTS FOR UNEARTHING FRESH TALENT AFTER KUMAR'S DREAM DEBUT**

Skipper Hardik Pandya on Monday credited Mumbai

Indians' scouting team for unearthing fresh talent after debutant left-arm pacer Ashwani Kumar starred for the side in its eight-wicket win over KKR in the IPL. Opting to bowl, MI rode on Kumar's brilliant display with the ball to bundle out KKR for 116 before they chased down the target in 12.5 overs. Left-arm pacer Kumar became the first Indian to take four wickets on IPL debut and help restrict KKR, who were bowled out in 16.2 overs. "Very satisfying to win, especially at home. The way we did it, as a group, everyone chipped in - can't be happier. It's always a challenge of picking one guy here and there. With our team it's pretty sorted with the players who we are backing. "This wicket just offered a bit more and we thought Ashwani can come in and bowl the way he bowled. First of all, it's all because of the scouts," Pandya said after the team's first win of the season.

## Reciprocal tariffs will target all countries: Donald Trump

**Agencies**  
 Washington

US President Donald Trump has declared that he will tariff the entire world, as the United States gears up for what he has called "Liberation Day" on April 2. His announcement came aboard the Air Force One. In the coming days, we would impose tariffs on "all countries", he said.

Till now, the talk in Washington was about reciprocal tariffs on nations that levy an import duty on US goods and services and those with which the US has trade imbalances. But that is not the case, as Donald Trump has said. "We would start with all countries, so let's see what happens," Trump told.



President Donald Trump waves as he walks down the stairs of Air Force One upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

**DONALD TRUMP BOMBING THREAT SPARKS FIERCE RESPONSE FROM IRAN'S KHAMENEI**

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday issued a strong warning to the United States, warning that any action on Trump's threat of "possible bombing" would be met with a "strong blow". "They threaten to do mischief," Khamenei said in a live speech, referring to US threats. "If it is carried out, they will definitely receive a strong counterattack." Khamenei's remarks came in response to Trump's warning that Iran could face severe consequences, including military strikes and economic penalties, if it refuses to agree to a new nuclear deal with Washington.

India dismisses NYT report on HAL-Russia ties as 'misleading'

**Agencies**  
 New Delhi

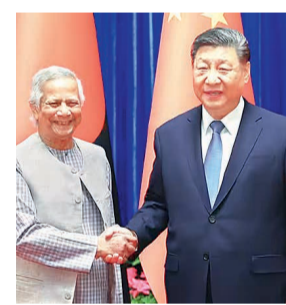
India has rejected a report by The New York Times that alleged Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) supplied sensitive technology to a Russian arms agency, news agency ANI reported on Monday. The Ministry of External Affairs reportedly stated that the Indian entity (HAL) mentioned in the New York Times report has adhered to all international obligations on strategic trade controls and end-user commitments. "The said report is factually incorrect and misleading. It has tried to frame issues and distort facts to suit a political narrative," ANI quoted the MEA as saying.

## Yunus: Bangladesh, the 'ocean guardian,' can boost China trade

**Agencies**  
 New Delhi

Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who was on a four-day China visit, urged Beijing to make the ocean-facing part of Bangladesh an extension of the Chinese economy. In a video that went viral on social media, Yunus urged the Chinese government to set up its economic base in the country while saying that Dhaka was the only guardian of the ocean in that region.

"Seven states of India, Eastern part of India called seven sisters, they are landlocked country. They have no way to reach out to the ocean. We



President Xi Jinping with Muhammad Yunus.

are the only guardians of the ocean in this region. This opens up a huge possibilities. This could be an extension of the Chinese economy - Built, produce and market things, bring it back to China, export to the rest of the world," said Yunus. Earlier, Yunus also said that it's important for Bangladesh to see China as a good friend.



**Political math behind ward delimitation**

What is the math behind the ward delimitation? The BJP govt may face a blow back on this issue. First, there is a strategy for a municipal corporation. After that, there is the delimitation strategy during Congress rule. The BJP think tank believes that Congress had carried out delimitation based on appeasement during its rule, which benefited the Congress. Now, under BJP rule, the strategy of Cong rule will change.

**Lack of oversight hits transport revenue**

Find out why the transport department has once again fallen short of its revenue target. This time, there was no effective monitoring at the transport headquarters. The department lagged due to a shortage of officials at the headquarters. Positions like the Transport Commissioner and Additional Commissioner Enforcement remained vacant. Frequent transfers without priority caused the department's system to become disrupted.

**New BJP President likely from OBC category**

The race for the next national president of the BJP is taking an interesting turn. Earlier, former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were seen as frontrunners for the post. However, informed sources now suggest that the party may opt for a leader from the OBC category. In this scenario, Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav emerge as strong contenders, given their political stature and experience.

**Transport HQ unhappy as staff block transfers**

The transport department personnel applied for a stay, made numerous attempts, but still managed to get a stay on transfers. No one received a stay after the transfers, and the transport department made full efforts for this. However, these efforts had no effect on the department personnel. Om Singh Shekhawat, DTO of Bhilmal, got a stay on his transfer to Banswara. Bhilmal's revenue performance has been quite poor.

**Jaipur RTO lets heavy vehicles slide**

The Jaipur RTO-II performed the worst in tax collection, with over Rs 35 crore in unpaid taxes. Heavy vehicles continued to operate across the region without paying their dues, while the RTO's focus remained on intercepting small vehicles from other states. This misplaced priority significantly contributed to the delay in tax collection. However, the focus of the RTO office remained only on catching small vehicles from other states.

## Oli accuses Gyanendra of fueling unrest in Nepal



**PTI**  
 Kathmandu

Nepal's Prime Minister K P Oli said on Monday that violence erupted in the pro-monarchy protests here as former king Gyanendra Shah attempted to disrupt social harmony and create so-

cial division. Oli accused the former king of aligning with individuals refusing to repay bank loans and stirring social unrest for his ambitions.

Oli said the Tinkune area incident occurred because of these actions of the former king, My Republica reported.

**WORLD BOXING CUP IN FOZ DO IGUACU**

## Berwal leads India at World Boxing Cup

**PTI**  
 New Delhi

Asian Games bronze medalist Narender Berwal will headline a 10-member Indian men's boxing team at the inaugural World Boxing Cup in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, starting Monday. This tournament marks the first event hosted by World Boxing since receiving provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee in February and the inclusion of boxing



Narender Berwal will headline Indian men's boxing team.

in the 2028 LA Olympics. Competitions will be held for both men and women, but India has sent only male boxers, as the women's Na-

tional Championships concluded only on Thursday.

It will be the first time Indian boxers compete internationally

in the new weight categories introduced by World Boxing.

Boxers who finished first and second in each weight category at the National Championships in January travelled to Brazil for a week long camp. The team does not include the likes of Nishant Dev and Amit Panghal, both of whom have turned professional, or veteran boxer Shiva Thapa and 2023 World Championship bronze medalist Deepak Bhoria, who had competed in the Paris Olympic qualifiers.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Success is never final, and failure is not fatal; what truly counts is the courage to keep going.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

## CM: Vision of Viksit Raj to be realised under PM Modi

CM Sharma launches online Investor Interface mobile app during the event

Rising Rajasthan Partnership Conclave to be held on December 11-12 this year

Vinod Singh Chouhan

Jaipur

During the 'Nivesh Utsav' in Jaipur, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma launched an investor interface mobile app for tracking investment proposals signed during RRGIS 2024. The website version, active since January, was also mentioned. The CM felicitated 15 fast-tracked investors from sectors such as Energy, Mines, and Tourism, including Honda Motors, Acme Solar, & Adani Group. Sharma also announced 14 new chapters of the Rajasthan Foundation globally to connect overseas Rajasthanis and foster investment. He highlighted PM Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Rajasthan.' Principal Secy Ajitabh Sharma discussed key govt initiatives. The CM also announced that new investors signing MoUs before April 30, 2025, would be eligible for RIICO's Direct Land Allotment. The event concluded Rajasthan Diwas celebrations.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma interacts with an investor over the investment climate in Rajasthan during the event in Jaipur on Monday. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Sudhansh Pant, Shikhar Agrawal, Ajitabh Sharma, Alok Gupta, HM Bangur, Shivangi Swarnkar were also present.

Rajasthan, rich in natural resources, human capital, and economic potential, is an investor's paradise. With the Pachpadra refinery, it will emerge as a key petroleum hub while excelling in agriculture and connectivity.

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER

Under CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's leadership, the state hosted the Rising Rajasthan Summit in its first year to boost economic strength. We are continuously fostering investment to achieve a developed Rajasthan by 2047.

RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE, INDUSTRIES MINISTER

Rajasthan is a leading state in providing a favorable environment for investors. Departments are also working swiftly to implement MoUs on the ground.

SUDHANSH PANT, CHIEF SECRETARY

## CM lends a patient ear to public grievances, orders swift resolution

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma held a public hearing at the Chief Minister's residence on Monday, warmly meeting the attendees and listening to their grievances with sensitivity. He directed concerned officials to resolve the issues at the earliest. During the hearing,



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses people's concerns during a 'Jansunwai' at CMR in Jaipur on Monday.

Sharma addressed complaints from various departments, including JDA, Municipal Corporation, Public Health and Engineering, Public Works, and Medical. Several problems were resolved on the spot, bringing immediate relief to complainants.

The public expressed their gratitude by greeting CM Sharma with a 'dupatta.'

Girija Vyas suffers burns, CM ensures best medical care

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Senior Congress leader and ex-Union Minister Girija Vyas suffered burns during an aarti when her dupatta caught fire. After initial treatment in Udaipur, she was referred to Ahmedabad. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed concern, coordinated with Zydus Hospital and Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel for top care.

Former CM Ashok Gehlot and Congress leader Sachin Pilot also expressed concern, with Pilot posting on X, praying for her recovery.

## CM unveils posters for major upcoming religious events



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma releases the poster for 'Ek Julus Ek Hum, Aao Kare Mahavir Vandari' procession to be held on April 10.



CM Sharma unveils a poster with Manohardas Maharaj.

First India Bureau

Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma unveiled posters for upcoming religious events at his residence on Monday. During the event, Mahamandaleshwar

Manohardas Maharaj met him. The poster for the seven-day Hanumat Janmotsav (April 6-12) was released, along with posters for the "Ek Julus Ek Hum, Aao Kare Mahavir Vandari" procession by Rajasthan Jain

Sabha on April 10 and the 88th annual fair of Shri Bad Ke Balaji. Organizers shared event details and invited the CM. Sharma extended his best wishes and appreciated their efforts. Various others were also present.

## Expressing Condolences



Union Home Minister Amit Shah expresses his condolences on the demise of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav's father, late Kadam Singh Yadav, during his visit to Yadav's residence in New Delhi on Monday. Bhupender Yadav's father passed away on March 15. "Today, Union Home Minister Shri @AmitShah visited my residence in Delhi to express his condolences on the passing of my revered father. I sincerely thank Hon'ble Amit Shah ji from the bottom of my heart for providing me strength in this time of sorrow," posted Yadav on X.



Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary addresses the esteemed guests during the mega event in Tonk.

Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary and Pawan Arora felicitate Dhiraj Saini during the 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' award ceremony organised by First India News at Agriculture Auditorium in Tonk on Monday. Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Chandraveer Singh, Ram Sahay Verma, Vikas Sangwan, Saroj Nareish Bansal & Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria were present.

Pawan Arora addresses the gathering during the 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' award ceremony on Monday.

## Those prioritising selflessness over self-interest honoured: Pawan Arora



Mahesh Sharma, Tonk

Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria speaks during the 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' event.

Vikas Sangwan addresses the guests during the programme.

Ram Sahay Verma addresses during the grand felicitation ceremony.

Saroj Nareish Bansal addresses during the mega event in Tonk.

While addressing guests at the 'Tonk Ke Ratna Season-2' event, organised by First India News at the Agriculture Auditorium in Tonk, CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora outlined Rajasthan Diwas' week-long events, including conferences on women's issues, farmers, youth and employment, governance, and the Rajasthan Investment Festival, emphasising their role in state development. Arora commended Minister Choudhary for his 'zero tolerance' approach and remarked that the individuals honoured at the event were recognised for pri-

oritising selflessness over selfishness, particularly in their service to the poor & needy. He noted that showcasing their stories would inspire others. Praising the CM's 'Rising Rajasthan' initiative, Arora called it commendable and congratulated the state govt on its development efforts. He emphasised that First India News serves as a bridge between the govt & the public, committed to positive journalism regardless of the ruling party. The event followed the traditional

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through media. BJP District Prez Chandraveer Singh Chauhan & Zila Pramukh Saroj Nareish Bansal praised First India News. SP Vikas Sangwan highlighted its reliability in administration. District Collector Soumya Jha attended. Editor Jinendra S Shekhawat, V-P Vishal Mathur, Senior Manager Imran Khan, & District in-charge Wajahat Akhtar welcomed guests. The event, hosted by Shweta Mishra Awasthi, ended with Akhtar's gratitude.

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## GS SHEKHAWAT IN DIU

### 'INS Khukri Memorial is a symbol of indomitable courage'

Nirmal Tiwari

Daman

Union Min GS Shekhawat, during his visit to Daman & Diu, called INS Khukri Memorial a symbol of indomitable courage while paying tribute to Captain Mahendranath Mulla and 200 martyrs. He celebrated Rajasthan Day with locals, visited Diu Fort, praised Silvan Didi initiative, explored Daman's aviary.



GS Shekhawat visits the INS Khukri Memorial during his visit to Daman and Diu on Monday.





## GRAND VICTORY!

The Centrum Hotel in Lucknow witnessed a spectacular evening as Tanya Sharma was crowned Miss Universe Uttar Pradesh 2025, securing her place at the Miss Universe India competition. P11



Salman Khan

## Beyond the Cape

Salman Khan's much-anticipated "Sikandar" hit theatres on Sunday, the superstar shared a heartfelt reason for never doing a superhero movie. In a recent interview, he stated, "The kind of films we do, we don't need to wear a cape. Our heroes—whether in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, or Malayalam films—are superheroes without one."

His Sikandar co-star Rashmika Mandanna echoed his sentiment, highlighting that Indian cinema finds its superheroes in fathers, brothers, and sisters. Salman further emphasized that every protector is a superhero in their own right.

Directed by A.R. Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar marks Sal-

man's first collaboration with Rashmika. The film's trailer and songs have already created immense buzz. At The Bhootnii trailer launch, Sanjay Dutt called Sikandar a "superhit," expressing confidence in Salman's success.

With soaring anticipation, Sikandar is poised to be another blockbuster in Salman's illustrious career.

As excitement peaked, fans were eager to witness Salman's action-packed avatar in this high-octane entertainer. The film delivered a blend of gripping storytelling, intense action, and emotional depth, making it a must-watch. With a stellar cast, chartbuster music, and grand visuals, Sikandar dominated the box office in the following weeks.

# Fierce & Flawless!

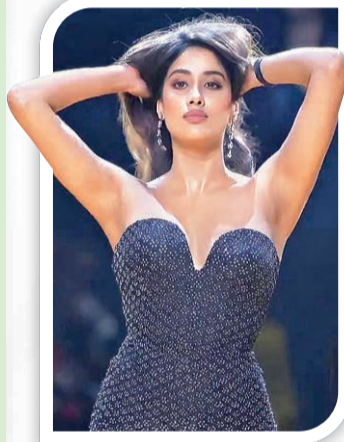
Janhvi Kapoor set the internet ablaze with her electrifying ramp walk at Lakmé Fashion Week, where she turned showstopper for renowned designer Rahul Mishra. The actress exuded confidence and elegance, leaving fans mesmerized by her poise and attitude on the runway. Clad in an off-shoulder bodysuit layered under a long black coat, Janhvi was stunned as she dramatically removed the coat mid-stage, effortlessly owning the moment.

Videos of her walk quickly went viral, sparking a flurry of reactions online. Fans couldn't stop raving about her presence, with one user gushing, "The Walk, The Attitude, The Looks—The Sexiest Ever!" Another fan hyped her up, saying, "Her ramp walk, uff! Everything was perfect."

However, not everyone was on board with her performance. A section of netizens critiqued her hand movements, with one comment reading, "Oh, Janhvi totally 'ate' that ramp walk... if we're counting exagger-

ated hip shaking as fine dining."

On the work front, Janhvi Kapoor is gearing up for her cross-cultural rom-com, Param Sundari, opposite Sidharth Malhotra, set to release on July 25, 2025. She also has Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari lined up, featuring Varun Dhawan, Rohit Saraf, and Sanya Malhotra. With her star power soaring, Janhvi continues to dominate both fashion and film with equal flair.



Janhvi Kapoor set the runway on fire with her breathtaking look at Lakmé Fashion Week



Janhvi Kapoor

## Queen of Style

Bollywood's ultimate fashion queen, Kareena Kapoor Khan, turned heads yet again at Lakmé Fashion Week 2025. Draped in a stunning ivory lehenga saree by Manish Malhotra, adorned with delicate floral embroidery, Kareena exuded timeless elegance. Paired with statement jewellery and soft, glam makeup, she looked nothing short of ethereal.

During the event, Kareena reminded us about her runway moments over the years, recalling how she walked

the ramp in every phase—from her size-zero days to proudly flaunting her baby bump while pregnant with Taimur. She shared, "Whether I was size zero, size 10, or 12, it never mattered. My heart was always on stage."

Fans couldn't stop gushing over her, flooding her Instagram with comments like "Timeless elegance" and "Queen for a reason." Bollywood stars, including Ananya Panday, Janhvi Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor, and Arjun Kapoor, also showered love on her post. On the work front, Kareena was last seen in Singham Again and is set to star in Meghna Gulzar's upcoming film, reportedly titled Daarya.



Priyanka Chopra



Kareena Kapoor Khan

## Eid Bliss Unfolds

As Bollywood embraced the Eid 2025 spirit, celebrations were filled with joy, love, and warmth. Priyanka Chopra added a delightful touch, sharing a glimpse of a traditional dessert on Instagram. Along with the picture, she wrote, "Eid Mubarak to everyone celebrating! Sending love and light your way." Her heartfelt post instantly resonated with fans, making the festival even more special.

Other Bolly-

wood stars also joined in spreading the festive cheer. Sonam Kapoor and Arjun Kapoor extended their Eid wishes on social media, while Anil Kapoor shared a thoughtful note, wishing for peace, prosperity, and gratitude for all.

From grand feasts to heartwarming messages, Bollywood came together to celebrate the festival with love, laughter, and togetherness. As fans joined their favourite stars in the celebrations, Eid 2025 became a beautiful reminder of the bonds that unite people beyond screens.



post

## Evolving Fearlessly

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt recently revealed the one statement she dislikes the most—being told she has changed. In a recent interview, Alia stated, "It would be terrifying to be the same person you were at 16. Change is good." Known for her seamless transition from Student of the Year to powerful roles in Highway and Gangubai Kathiawadi, Alia has evolved both personally and professionally. In a conversation, she acknowledged her transformation, stating, "I feel a change in my personality and growth as an actor." Alia credits her evolution to working with renowned filmmakers. From Karan Jo-

har, she learned discipline and respect, while Sanjay Leela Bhansali taught her to embrace creativity and freedom on screen. On the work front, Alia is gearing up for Alpha, a Yash Raj Films spy thriller, releasing Christmas 2025. She will also star in Bhansali's Love & War alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal, set for March 2026. With an evolving journey, Alia proves that change is not just inevitable but essential for growth.



Alia Bhatt

**WHAT'S NEXT?**



**Khuli Kitaab:** Standup comedy by Devesh Dixit, "Khuli Kitaab Stand Up" by Devesh Dixit is a hilarious comedy experience. With sharp wit and keen observations, he takes audiences on a rollercoaster through India's everyday absurdities, ensuring nonstop laughter.

When: April 6, 6:00 PM

Where: Jaipur Comedy Club, Jaipur.



**Rahgir-Kya Jaipur Kya Dilli Tour:** After winning hearts on his last tour and Jashn-e-Rekhta, Rahgir returns with a new special featuring released and unreleased songs. Experience soul-stirring lyrics and his raw desi voice live!

When: April 20, 6:00 PM

Where: Knighthouse, Jaipur



**Gaurav Gupta Live:** India Tour, This dentist won't perfect your smile but will make you laugh! Known as Being Baniya, with 50M+ YouTube views and Market Down Hai on Amazon Prime, get ready for nonstop fun!

When: 26 April, 7:30 PM

Where: Maharana Pratap Auditorium, Jaipur

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



**Mahhi Vij**  
**ARIES**  
April 1

Lucky Number: 5

You may feel a bit off today, possibly from last night's indulgence. However, exciting midday calls could lift your spirits with good news from a friend or colleague. A positive financial shift is ahead, boosting your self-esteem and promising wonderful months ahead!

Lucky Colour: Pink



**Jaipur Flight Plan**

**MUMBAI-** Air India, Indigo, Spicejet, Air India Express, Akasa Air, Alliance Air

**CHANDIGARH-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

**GOA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

**PUNE-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Spicejet, Akasa Air, Alliance Air

**VARANASI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

**CHENNAI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo

**NEW DELHI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

**KOLKATA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo

**PATNA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

**DUBAI-** Air India, Indigo, Air Arabia, Air India Express



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**AatmaNirbhar INDIAN TOYS**



**Rachna Singh**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

As the child steps into this world – toys follow. Initially for amusement and engaging attention, they are gradually transformed into important interactive playsets designed to stimulate creativity and cognitive development in children.

Since times immemorial, toys have been an integral part of childhood. The earliest-known written historical mention of a toy comes from about 500 BCE in a Greek reference to yo-yos made from wood, metal, or painted terra-cotta. But that was then.

In late 1970s, China's toy industry saw a shift from small-scale, hand-crafted production to a global powerhouse of toy exports, when economic reforms opened the door to foreign investment & trade.

But closer home the toy industry saw a renaissance when Prime Minister in his Mann Ki Baat on August 30th 2020, highlighted the great potential of Indian Toys. PM Narendra Modi encouraged Indians especially start-ups to be "vocal for local toys", citing the nation's rich heritage and traditions that could

drive innovations in the global toy industry. And that changed it all.

According to data, the value of toys imported by India plummeted from US\$ 371 million in FY19 to US\$ 110 million in FY22, a drop of more than 70%. Quick on the trot Indian entrepreneurs blossomed. And today, the Indian toys market, including wooden toys, is projected to grow from USD 2.40 billion in 2025 to USD 6.95 billion by 2034, exhibiting a 12.5% CAGR.

The appeal of softwood and environmentally friendly toys further amplified post Covid as consumers prioritized sustainability and natural alternatives to plastic toys for tactile play experiences. The hardwood toys market, a niche segment within the country's toy and play industry saw a remarkable surge, fuelled by a potent mix of nostalgia and innovation. The sector alone is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5.0% from 2024 to 2030.

Several key factors propelled the shift. Firstly, the cultural and traditional significance of wooden toys in Indian heritage and folklore. Wooden toys have been an integral part

● Recently, WOOD-O-KIDZ, a Jaipur based venture into wooden toys by Sneha Ajmera was recognized as the 'Best Indian Made Toy & Game Brand' by 'Kidsstoppress' at the KSP Awards 2024 on 26 March 2025 at Mumbai.

● Incidentally the lone award in the country that celebrates excellence in parenting and baby care, the KSP Awards, recognize and honor individuals and brands that make a positive impact in the lives of children and parents.

● "In a world where sustainability is becoming increasingly important, the toys children play with are undergoing a transformation. This prestigious award highlights the brand's outstanding contribution to the toy industry, as well as its commitment to creating safe, sustainable, and high-quality toys for children," said Sneha.

● Once dominated by plastic products, the toy industry is shifting towards a more eco-friendly and responsible approach. Among the growing movement, wooden toys have emerged as a favourite for parents and educators alike, aligning with the values of sustainability, safety, and creativity. This shift not only reduces the impact on the environment but also helps foster meaningful playtime experiences for children, she said.

● The venture offers a variety of wooden toys, including puzzles, building blocks, dolls, and educational toys et al with a focus on craftsmanship, design, and child safety to provide children with engaging and sustainable play experiences.

● Against the backdrop, Jaipur based, 'WOOD-O-KIDZ,' is a brand that is leading this green revolution in the toy industry. Their focus on sustainability and responsible manufacturing is not only changing the way we think about toys but is also setting a new standard for the industry as a whole

● "This recognition is a testament to the hard work, passion, and dedication that WOOD-O-KIDZ puts into every toy we make. This well-deserved honor shows how far the brand has come in its mission to create environmentally friendly toys that bring joy to children while safeguarding the planet for future generations," said Sheha.

of India play and storytelling for generations, making them popular among children and families.

Secondly, the growing environmental conservation awareness and emphasis on eco-friendly and sustainable toys. Availability of a wide variety of traditional and modern wooden toys in the market, often handmade by local artisans, influenced consumer choices, further driving the market's growth.

Then of course comes the core consumer. According to the United Nations, India has most children aged 0 to 14, with



over 300 million. By 2036, the country is expected to have 17% of the global child population. As a result, the demand for toys is expected to rise in the coming years.



**FEW TRADITIONAL TOYS OF INDIA**

- Puppets, Jaipur registered under GI
- Channappattana Karnataka, is noted for its famous handmade lacquer wooden toys all over the world and hence popularly known as "Gombegala Ooru" or the "Toy-City" of Karnataka.
- Kondapalli, Andhra Pradesh, which have been given a GI tag.
- The wooden toy industry in Varanasi has an annual turnover of approximately Rs 40 crore.
- Natungram dolls (West Bengal): Wooden dolls manufactured in the Purba Burdwan district.

**THE 'KIDSTOPPRESS' AWARD**

"Among the brands at the forefront of this wooden toy revolution is WOOD-O-KIDZ. This innovative company is redefining the toy industry by creating eco-friendly, high-quality wooden toys that are safe, durable, and educational. Their mission is clear: to provide children with meaningful toys that encourage creativity and imaginative play while promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness.

What sets WOOD-O-KIDZ apart is their commitment to producing toys that not only entertain but also align with the values of a greener, more responsible future. Each toy is carefully designed and crafted with natural wood and finished with non-toxic paints to ensure that children can play safely without compromising their health or the planet.

The brand also ensures that all their wooden toys are produced ethically and responsibly. Their products meet global safety standards, and the wood used in their toys comes from certified, sustainable sources, making WOOD-O-KIDZ a champion for both environmental and social responsibility."



Sneha Ajmera



Police 100

Fire 101

Ambulance 102/108

Child Helpline 1098

Help in Suffering 2760012

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**WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?**

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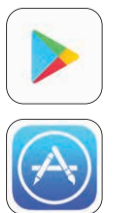
**Movie: Sikandar**  
**Director:** A.R. Murugadoss  
**Cast & Crew:** Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna, Kajal Aggarwal, Sathyaraj, Anjini Dhawan, Sharman Joshi



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**Movie: Mere Husband Ki Biwi**  
**Director:** Mudassar Aziz  
**Cast & Crew:** Arjun Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar & Rakul Preet Singh



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(L-R) Andleeb Zaidi, Kanak Agnihotri, Tanya Sharma, Rhea Singha and Mehak Dhingra

# Crowning Glory!

India?" Tanya's response, highlighting Sushmita Sen's impact, resonated deeply with the judges.

Tanya Sharma was crowned by the outgoing titleholder, Kanak Agnihotri, alongside reigning Miss Universe India, Rhea Singha. The first runner-up title was awarded to Mehak Dhingra, while Andleeb Zaidi secured the second runner-up position. The grand event was further honoured by the presence of Nikhil Anand, Owner of Gلمانand Group & National Director of Miss Universe India. With this triumph, Tanya Sharma now prepares to compete on the national stage at Miss Universe India, carrying the pride of Uttar Pradesh forward.



Tanya Sharma, Miss Universe Uttar Pradesh 2025

# Gangaur Festive Fervour



Shahpura royal family members gracefully celebrated Gangaur

City First

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The vibrant spirit of Gangaur filled the air as the festival was celebrated with great devotion and cultural fervour on Monday. Women, adorned in traditional attire, gathered across the city to honour Goddess Gauri, performing rituals with deep reverence.

Various localities came alive with festivities, where groups of women enthusiastically participated in pujas and age-old traditions. The Rani Ratna Kumari Foundation, in collaboration with the Tourism Department, hosted the Gangaur Festival at Rawla Moti Mahal, featuring folk performances like Kalbelia, Kaachi Ghorri, Camel Dance and Mayur Dance. At Bani Park, women embraced the festive spirit, performing rituals with dedication. Special celebrations took place at Patel Colony, drawing nu-



Mamta Tank, Rashmi, Aastha, Muskan, Priyanka, Nupur, Shalu, Neelu, Akshi & others



Simran, Manju, Maya, Anita, Asha, Manisha, Deepa, Poonam, Kalpana, Gudiya, Sonal, Ankita, Archana, Lalita, Munna, Kiran & Madhu

merous couples for the sacred observances. At Gokul Vatika, Jawahar Circle, a grand puja was organized under the leadership of Tank Mahila Group President Manju Tank, adding to the spiritual aura of the occasion.

Gangaur observed for 16 days after Holika Dahan, holds immense significance in Ra-

jaszhan. Women sang folk songs, applied kahal and mehndi, and offered traditional subhaag items to Mata Gauri. The Sinjara program saw young girls and married women dressing as brides, enhancing the festival's grandeur. The devotion to Isar-Gangaur beautifully reflected the region's rich cultural heritage.



Swati Gehlot, Madhu Gehlot, Poonam Solanki, Meenakshi Solanki, Nisha, Rajani & Pooja

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!



The Music Mates Musical Club hosted a mesmerizing musical evening at King's Court Theatre, Vaishali Nagar, featuring 40 talented singers. Organised by RK Soni, Pankaj Leela, Sameer Sain and Kishore Kshatriya, the event provided a platform for emerging artists. Chief guest Pawan Tank, Director of Miss India Glam, applauded the performances, while businessman NS Mehta delighted the audience with his melodious voice. Miss India Glam World 2025, Khwahish Nayak, graced the event, emphasizing the importance of good platforms for artists.

Invogue Naari organised a health awareness talk show at Jars and More, hosted by Mamta Mot. Chief guest Dr Saify Aarsiwala shared insights on lifestyle-related diseases before and after menopause. Women discussed health challenges, while Dr Aarsiwala highlighted diet, exercise and mental well-being for managing symptoms. The interactive session allowed participants to ask questions, receiving appreciation for its informative approach. The initiative promoted awareness, encouraging women to adopt a healthier lifestyle.



Jaipur witnessed a mesmerizing evening of classical music at Net-Theatre's Raga and Rhythm programme. Emerging sitar artist Adil Khan captivated the audience with a soulful rendition of Raaga Yaman, presenting Alaap, Jod, Jhaptal, and concluding with a fast-paced Teen Taal. Young tabla player Vinay Rao provided a stellar accompaniment. The event, conducted by Shweta Pareek, saw artists honoured by Manish Agarwal of Imperial Prime Capital. Visual design was led by Ankit Sharma Nonu and team.



A special Mann Ki Baat session was held in Civil Lines on Sunday marking Varsha Pratipada and Rajasthan Day. MLA Gopal Sharma engaged with local athletes while listening to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address. BJP leader Alok Pareek, State Secretary of the International Brahmin Mahasangh, honoured athletes who excelled at state, district, national, and international levels. Falgun Pareek, a St Xavier's School student, was recognized for his state-level football achievements. Pareek emphasized that MLA Gopal Sharma, along with BJP officials, is fostering community engagement through such initiatives, ensuring public concerns are addressed effectively.

RJ Arjun was recently honoured with the "Radio Ka Entertainer" award at the Influencers Award 2025, presented by the Young Style Icon Awards. The event, held at Angel Resort, Jaipur, celebrated influencers from digital and traditional media. RJ Arjun, recognized for his contribution to radio entertainment, expressed gratitude to his listeners and team. The prestigious ceremony brought together industry professionals, influencers, and fans to celebrate creativity and innovation in the digital world.



## HERITAGE QUEST



(L-R) Manuj Goyal, Vigyan Lodha, JK Jajoo, Ravi Jain, Jayshree Periwal, Jui Kulkarni Sharma, Ratan Sharma, Udai Parnami



(L-R) Vigyan Lodha, JK Jajoo, Ravi Jain, Jayshree Periwal, and Udai Parnami flag off The Grand Heritage Chase car rally, celebrating Rajasthan Diwas.

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The Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), organised The Grand Heritage Chase on Rajasthan

Diwas on Sunday. The unique car rally and treasure hunt began from Amar Jawan Jyoti, flagged off by IAS Ravi Jain, Secretary and Commissioner of Tourism, Art, and Culture.

ICC Rajasthan Chairperson Jayshree Periwal attended along with team

members JK Jajoo, Founder of Shubhashish Group and Jagriti (NGO), Manuj Goyal, Vigyan Lodha, and Udai Parnami. Also present were Fairmont Jaipur's Jui Kulkarni Sharma and Ratan Sharma, and Rajasthan Tourism's Joint Director Punita Singh.

Ravi Jain highlighted Rajasthan Diwas celebrations, emphasizing the event's role in connecting people with the state's cultural heritage. Jayshree Periwal thanked CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Dy CM Diya Kumari for their support. Fifty decorated

cars participated, exploring Jaipur's historic sites through quizzes and interactive checkpoints. A treasure hunt tested participants' knowledge of landmarks like Hawa Mahal and Amer Fort.

The event concluded with a prize distribution at

Fairmont Jaipur. Raghav Pansari won first prize, followed by Sumesh Arya and Priya Chirag. Prachi Gupta won Best Car Decoration. Winners were felicitated by Jayshree Periwal, JK Jajoo, Manuj Goyal, Vigyan Lodha, Udai Parnami and Jui Kulkarni Sharma.

## EVENTS!

The grand inauguration ceremony of Shreenath Medical & General Store was held at Shop No. 43-C, Shreenath Puram, Kota on Sunday. The store was inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Ram Swoop Meena, Branch Manager, LLC S.O. Kota-1. Owners KC Mahawar, Kamlesh Mahawar and Amit Mahawar expressed their gratitude to all attendees. The store is committed to providing quality healthcare products to the community. As a special initiative, free blood pressure and sugar tests will be offered every Sunday.



A grand Sadhana Prerana Mahotsav was held at Gupt Vrindavan Dham on the Indian New Year, uniting hundreds of devotees on Sunday. The event began with Mangal Kirtan and lamp lighting, featuring Srila Prabhupada's arrival in Jaipur. Anant Shesh Das emphasized spiritual stability through purity, publicity, utility, and books. Honourees included Dasharatha Sut Prabhu for 10 years of Mangala Aarti. The celebration featured Palki festival, Geeta-Bhagwatam classes, and Shri Ram's Leelas.





Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets birthday beauty Muskan Mishree



Muskan Mishree & Akanksha Bhalla



Gaurav Gaur & Muskan Mishree

## Elite Soirée

A joyous 30th birthday celebration of Muskan Mishree was marked with grandeur on Sunday in Jaipur. The evening commenced with a cake-cutting ceremony, followed by a delightful dinner. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion, showering his blessings and extending heartfelt congratulations to the birthday queen Muskan. Adding glamour to the event, Gaurav Gaur, Founder & Director of Elite Miss Rajasthan, attended along with renowned supermodels, including Nisha Chauhan, Mitali Kumawat, Gareema Singh, Neha Meena & Akanksha Bhalla. The milestone birthday was not just a celebration but a memorable gathering that radiated joy, togetherness, and new beginnings.

**MUKESH KIRADOO**

### FESTIVE GREETINGS!

NAIM KHAN



A get-together was organised at the residence of MLA Rafeek Khan on Monday, to celebrate the auspicious occasions of Eid al-Fitr, Nav Samvatsar and Chaitra Navratri. The event witnessed the gracious presence of Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, who exchanged warm festive greetings with MLA Rafeek Khan. The gathering aimed to foster communal harmony and strengthen social bonds, bringing together people from diverse backgrounds in a spirit of unity and celebration.

### GANGAUR FESTIVAL A SPECTACLE OF TRADITION

# Royal Rituals



Deputy CM Diya Kumari performed the traditional Gangaaur puja at City Palace



Padmanabh Singh gracefully performed the traditional puja of Gangaaur Mata at Tripolia Gate



Gauravi Kumari gracefully performed the traditional Gangaaur puja

City First  
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Jaipur witnessed a grand celebration of Gangaaur on Monday as Deputy CM Diya Kumari and Gauravi Kumari performed the traditional puja of Gangaaur Mata at Zenana Deorhi in the City Palace. Following the rituals, the royal procession commenced from Tripolia Gate, where His Padmanabh Singh also performed the customary puja. Speaking on the occasion, Padmanabh Singh highlighted the

global significance of Jaipur's Gangaaur and Teej processions, emphasizing efforts to preserve and enhance their historical grandeur. He stressed the collaboration with the Department of Tourism to sustain the ancient tradition while reviving Rajasthan's unique cultural elements. A key focus, he stated, is to engage the youth in heritage appreciation.

It is noteworthy that the Gangaaur festival is jointly organised every year by City Palace Jaipur and the Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, drawing widespread admiration for its rich traditional splendour.



A mesmerizing Chari & Kalbelia dance was gracefully performed at Tripolia Gate during the grand Gangaaur celebration

**SUNIL SHARMA**

### POSTER UNVEILED!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Kamlesh Kumar, Sharad Tripathi & Suresh Kumar

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Kamlesh Kumar, Sharad Tripathi, and Suresh Kumar during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Sunday. During the meeting, Dr Chandra unveiled the poster and invited for the upcoming event 'Autism Ek Hsaas - 4', an awareness and cultural program marking World Autism Awareness Day. The event, organised by the Rajasthan Police Academy in collaboration with the Support Foundation for Autism and Developmental Disabilities at Rajasthan Police Academy, Shastri Nagar on April 2.

### A LIFETIME OF SERVICE!

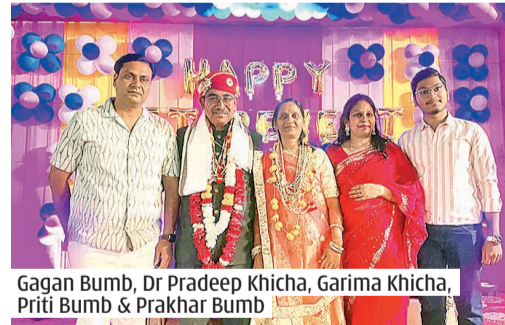


Dr Pradeep Khicha & Garima Khicha



Dr Sunil Dalal, Dr Tapan Bhadvia, and Dr Dilip Pipada presented a framed idol of Lord Shreenathji to Dr Pradeep Khicha & Garima Khicha. Also seen are Rekha Dalal, Asha Bhadvia & Anita Pipada

A heartfelt farewell dinner was hosted on Monday in honour of Dr Pradeep Kumar Khicha, marking his 36 years of dedicated service at Vardhman Jain Shrivak Sansthan, Udaipur. The event, organised by his father, Dr Inder Mal Khicha, was attended by family, friends, and notable guests, including Dr Sunil Dalal, Dr Tapan Bhadvia, Dr Dilip Pipada, Rekha Dalal, Asha Bhadvia, Anita Pipada, Gagan Bumb, Priti Bumb and Prakhar Bumb. The Khicha family, including Dr Niranjn Kumar, Sugyan Chand and Arvind Khicha, warmly welcomed the attendees. Garima, Naman and Somya Khicha expressed gratitude, emphasizing that blessings were the most cherished gifts. The evening celebrated Dr Khicha's remarkable contributions, reflecting on his legacy and lasting inspiration in his field.



Gagan Bumb, Dr Pradeep Khicha, Garima Khicha, Priti Bumb & Prakhar Bumb

### CELEBRATION!

For the first time, Rajasthan Day was celebrated in Malta on Sunday, bringing the vibrant culture of Rajasthan to Europe. Organised by the Indian Embassy and the Rajasthani community, the event at GWU Theater Hall Valletta was led by Dholi Meena, a proud daughter of Rajasthan. Notable guests included Miss World Malta Martin Cutajar, Miss Universe Malta Beatric Njoya, Hollywood actor David Tucci, and British actress Catherine Tyldesley. The celebration featured traditional Rajasthani dances choreographed by Dholi, authentic cuisine, and cultural exhibits. The event also marked 60 years of India-Malta diplomatic relations, strengthening cultural ties across borders.



### EVENTS!



The Holi Milan Samaroh of Marudhar Mathur Samaj took place at its community hall in Mansarovar recently. The event was inaugurated by child artist Risha Mathur's Ganes Vandana dance. Dr Ramesh Roop Rai and engineer Vikas Mathur were felicitated for their achievements. Senior members, including Vijay Laxmi Mathur, were honoured, and winners of indoor games were rewarded. Sanjeev Mathur and Dinesh Mathur were also recognized. The event ended with a delicious meal and contributions to society's development.



The two-day Lt Gen Himmeth Singh Memorial Golf Tournament concluded at Rambagh Golf Club with a grand prize ceremony on Monday. Girraj Singh Khadka won the Pro-Gross title, while Abhyuday Rawat was runner-up. Mohit Gothwal and Abhay Malawat secured the Amateur Gross titles. Other winners included Arjun Kuchhal, Rohit Swami and Dhishravraj in handicap categories. Pradeep Mehra, Nitika Jadeja, and Dr Anjali Jain excelled in special categories. Distinguished guests graced the event, celebrating talent across multiple categories.