



FIRST INDIA

RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 6 | ISSUE NO. 306 | PAGES 12 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



AMBEDKAR JAYANTI

‘A DARK CHAPTER IN HISTORY’

PM Modi pays homage to Jallianwala Bagh victims on Baisakhi

Agencies

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid homage to the people killed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 and said the “coming generations will always remember their indomitable spirit”.

Hundreds of people protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Acts, which granted the colonial administration repressive powers, were gunned down by British forces without any provocation on this day in 1919 at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar.

“We pay homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh. The coming generations will always remember their indomitable spirit,” Modi said in a post on X.

“It was a dark chapter in our nation’s history. Their sacrifice became a major turning point in freedom struggle,” he said.



Punjab police present a Guard of Honour to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre at the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial in Amritsar on Sunday.



X We pay homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh. The coming generations will always remember their indomitable spirit. It was indeed a dark chapter in our nation’s history. Their sacrifice became a major turning point in India’s freedom struggle. **Narendra Modi @narendramodi**

PM MODI TO LAUNCH HISAR-AYODHYA FLIGHTS TODAY

➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Haryana on Monday to mark Ambedkar Jayanti and will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several major development projects aimed at enhancing the state’s infrastructure and connectivity. PM Modi will begin his visit in Hisar at around 10:15 a.m., where he will flag off the first commercial flight from Hisar to Ayodhya and lay the foundation stone of the new terminal building at Maharaja Agrasen Airport.

21 killed, over 80 hurt in Russian missile strike on Ukraine’s Sumy

Agencies

Kyiv

At least 21 people were killed and 83 others were wounded by a Russian ballistic missile strike in the heart of the northern Ukrainian city of Sumy on Sunday morning, Ukraine’s interior minister Ihor Klymenko said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy condemned the attack - one of the deadliest strikes on Ukraine this year - and called for a tough international reaction against Moscow.

“Only scoundrels can act like this. Taking the lives of ordinary people,” he wrote on social media, alongside a chilling video which showed corpses on the ground, a destroyed bus and burnt-out cars in the middle of a city street.

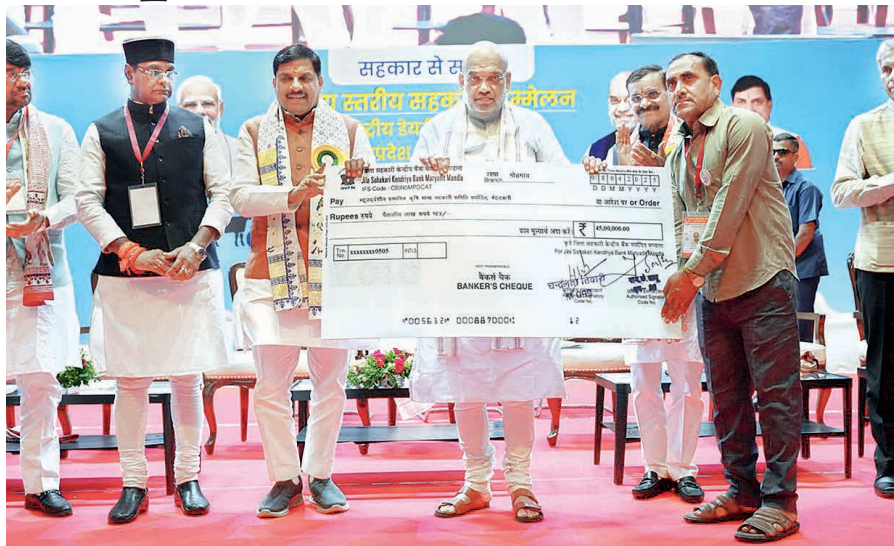
“And this is on a day when people go to church: Palm Sunday, the feast of the Lord’s Entry into Jerusalem,” Zelenskyy said.

Interior minister Klymenko said the victims were on the street, in vehicles, public transport and in buildings when the strike hit.

“Deliberate destruction of civilians on an important church feast day,” he wrote.

Amit Shah in Madhya Pradesh

‘PM brought changes to cooperative movement’



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav present a cheque during the 'State Level Cooperative Conference' in Bhopal.

ANI

Bhopal

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought significant changes to the cooperative movement in just a span of three and a half years.

Addressing the State Level Cooperative Conference in Bhopal, Shah said, “After 75 years of independence, PM Modi established the cooperation ministry and made me the first minister. In just three-and-a-half years, PM Modi has

“After 75 years of independence, PM established the cooperation ministry and made me the first minister. In just three-and-a-half years, PM Modi has brought significant changes to the cooperative movement”

AMIT SHAH, UNION HOME AND COOPERATION MINISTER

brought significant changes to the cooperative movement.”

Shah who is also the Union Minister of Cooperation said that the cooperative movement in India had become uneven, speeding up in some

states and dying in others where efforts were not made to make the required laws.

“If we look at the cooperative movement in India at a glance, it had become uneven. In some states, it had sped up,... it was governmentalised in some states, and it had died in some states... The main reason behind this was that the changes required in the laws were not made with time. Efforts were not made to make the required laws. There was no common thought at the central level as there was no cooperation ministry,” Shah said.

IN BRIEF



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat arrived at the Kanpur central railway station on Sunday for a five-day visit to the city.

India's first futuristic laser shoots drone

In a game-changing event for armed forces, India has successfully tested a futuristic weapon for the first time by using high-powered laser-based directed energy to shoot down a drone. The system made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tracked the drone, fired a laser beam and destroyed the target.

Man accused of killing girl dies in encounter

A migrant labourer from Bihar accused of killing a five-year-old girl died in a police encounter in Karnataka’s Hubballi on Sunday. The police suspect the child was raped before she was murdered but were awaiting post-mortem reports to confirm the same. The accused, identified as Ritesh Kumar, was a native of Patna in Bihar.

8 killed in firecracker unit blast in Andhra

Eight people, including two women, were killed and seven others injured in a fire accident at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock over the incident. The Chief Minister directed Anitha and district officials to ensure better medical care.

Tension persists in Bengal’s Murshidabad

5 more BSF companies deployed as BJP claims Hindus fleeing home

The protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act spiralled into violence in Murshidabad, resulting in three deaths and arrest of atleast 150 people

Agencies

Murshidabad

After three people were killed amid protests against the new waqf law, the situation in West Bengal’s Murshidabad remains tense, necessitating the continued presence of security forces, the Border Security Force said on Sunday.

“Today five additional companies have been deployed to control the situation and prevent any violence. We are moving our resources immediately to those areas from where we are hearing disturbance,” Nilotpal Kumar Pandey, BSF DIG said.



AFTER BENGAL VIOLENCE, STONE PELTING AT WAQF AMENDMENT ACT STIR IN ASSAM’S

➔ After West Bengal, protests against the Waqf Amendment Act in Assam witnessed violence today. A demonstration against the new law, which cleared the Parliament a week back, in Assam’s Cachar district turned violent when a section of protesters threw stones at police. Security forces dispersed the mob to bring the situation in Silchar town under control. The areas affected by the violence include Chamragudam, Berenga and old Lakhipur road areas in Silchar. The protest rally started this morning and was initially peaceful. The protesters carried placards and raised slogans that the Act was “anti-Islamic”.

TO PRESENT LEGISLATIVE INTENT, CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY

Rajasthan govt moves SC to join petitions challenging Waqf Amendment Act-2025

First India Bureau

Jaipur

The Bhajan Lal government of Rajasthan has decided to approach the Supreme Court, seeking to become a party in the petitions challenging the Waqf Amendment Act-2025.

For this, the state government has formally requested permission to be included as a party in the ongoing legal proceedings. The application on behalf of the state govern-



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

ment was presented by Additional Advocate General Shivmangal Sharma.

According to the state’s petition, Rajasthan has a “direct, substantial

and legally protected interest” in the issue as it holds the key authority in the administration and regulation of Waqf properties within the state.

The application further highlighted that the state government’s intervention was crucial to present the legislative intent, constitutional validity and administrative realities of the Waqf Amendment Act-2025 before the court. The Supreme Court is expected to hear the case on April 16.

IPL: Kohli, Jaiswal shine at SMS



Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s Virat Kohli (62*), on Sunday, added another record to his career as he became the first Asian batter to complete 100 half-centuries in T20s. Kohli achieved the feat against Rajasthan Royals at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, where RCB defeated RR by 9 wickets. For RR, Yashasvi Jaiswal hit 75 but it went in vain. **P3,7**



‘Leave now, self-deport’

US’s 30-day warning to foreign nationals for registration

Agencies

Washington

Foreign nationals who are living in the US for more than 30 days must register with the government and a failure to do so can attract fines and imprisonment, the Donald Trump administration has said.

In a post titled ‘message to illegal aliens’, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stressed the need for self-deportation.

A fine of \$1,000-5,000 (approx Rs 86,096 to Rs 4.30 lakh) will be imposed on those foreigners who fail to self-deport after informing authorities that they will do so.

5 of UP family die in accident, were headed to Khatu Shyam

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Five members of a Uttar Pradesh family died Sunday as their car collided with a truck in the Jamwa Ramgarh town of this Rajasthan district when they were on their way to the Khatu Shyam Temple to offer prayers, police here said.

The incident happened near the Nekawala toll plaza on the Dausa-Manoharpur National Highway, and the deceased include two women and a six-month-old



The mangled remains of the accidental vehicles.

girl, Raisar SHO Raghuveer Singh said.

He said the impact of the collision was so severe that the truck also overturned. The police had to work hard to pull out the bodies from the car, he said.

Singh said the family

was from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and was going to offer prayers at the famous temple.

The deceased were identified as Satya Prakash (60), Rama Devi (55), Abhishek (35), Priyanka (30) and her six-month-old daughter.

Weather Update

IMD predicts temperature to rise by 5 °Celsius

Heatwave to grip western Rajasthan from today

PTI
Jaipur

A fresh spell of heat wave will sweep across western Rajasthan from Monday, according to the Meteorological Department, adding that the temperature is expected to rise by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius.

The weather is likely to remain mostly dry for the next few days.

According to the Meteorological Department, a new round of heatwave will start in western Rajasthan from Monday and there is a strong possibility of heat wave on April 15-16.

The spokesperson of the department said that in the coming days, there is a strong possibility of



The impact of the western disturbance was seen in Rajasthan on Saturday as weather conditions changed in several districts by evening, bringing rain, hailstorms, and strong winds. Due to the adverse weather, two people had lost their lives

heat wave and severe heat wave in many parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner divi-

sion and Shekhawati region. During this time, the maximum tempera-

ture in the border areas is likely to be recorded 45-46 degrees Celsius.

He said that on April 17-18, due to the effect of a weak western disturbance, there is a possibility of thunderstorm and light-moderate storm in some places in eastern Rajasthan.

According to the department, in the last 24 hours, light to moderate rain was recorded with thunder at some places in the state. The maximum rainfall of 16.0 mm was recorded in Bamanwas of Sawaimadhopur. Whereas 10 mm rain was recorded in Gangapur, 10 mm in Baunli, 10 mm in Sambhar, 6 mm in Chaksu and 1.9 mm at Jaipur Airport.

Car rams into truck in Sikar killing two, one other injured

First India Bureau
Sikar

Two youths died and another was injured when their car rammed into a container truck parked on the side of a road in Rajasthan's Sikar district on Sunday, police said. Anil Mahala (29) and his cousin Krishna Jakhar (25) died in the accident in Rashidpura village. Krishna's friend Shravan (25) suffered injuries in the accident and has been admitted to the SK Hospital in Sikar. According to a police official, Mahala had landed at Jaipur airport from Dubai. Jakhar and his friend Shravan had come to Jaipur from Sikar to pick him up from the airport, he said. While returning home, their car rammed into the container truck, police said.

Karauli faces water supply disruptions, public outraged

First India Bureau
Karauli

There is a crisis of drinking water at the district headquarters since last 3 days. Two-thirds of the city's colonies are not getting water. People are forced to wander for every drop of water. Public representatives are accused of becoming indifferent and officers are becoming careless.

Water supply from the tank behind the college and the water supply office campus tank is stopped. Supply from the college tank to Sainath Khidkiya, Chaudhary Pada, Anaaj Mandi, Bada Bazar, Bhudara Bazar Chatikana area is disrupted. Water supply is not being done from the campus tank to Gomti Colony, Shiv Colony, Panchana Colony, Collectorate Square Wazirpur Gate area.



People climbed a water tank in protest on Sunday.

BHARATPUR'S JAICHOLI VILLAGERS DEMAND WATER SUPPLY AFTER YEARS OF NEGLECT

➔ Bharatpur : Half a dozen people climbed on the tank due to water problem. Villagers have been craving for drinking water for many years. Local and district administration were informed about the problem but even after being informed, no action was taken, so they climbed on the tank. On receiving the information, local administration and Uchain police station reached the spot. The case is of village Jaicholi of Uchain police station area.

Ambedkar statue defaced in Bkn's Gairsar, accused detained by cops



REPRESENTATIONAL
Laxman Raghav
Bikaner

In a shocking incident, the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the village of Gairsar was defaced with black paint. Upon receiving the information about the incident, Bechwal Police Station Officer, Govind Charan, immediately reached the spot to take stock of the situation. This incident has caused outrage among leaders and members of the Dalit community. Advocate Prahlad Charan condemned the act, saying, "The incident should be condemned as much as possible. The police should take strict action against individuals responsible for this vile act. These people disrupt social harmony."

SP Kawendra Singh Sagar said, "The accused have been detained and is being questioned. Legal action will be taken against them."

Minor rape survivor kills herself by drinking acid

CRIME ROUNDUP
First India Bureau
Jodhpur

In Jodhpur, a minor rape victim drank acid in the bathroom of her house and died during treatment in the hospital. According to the police, the girl had befriended the accused through Instagram. On April 10, he called the minor to his house and raped her.

On the basis of the FIR lodged by the family, the police have taken the accused into custody. He is accused of rape and abetting suicide. According to Vivek Vihar police station, the victim's mother



told that the minor had befriended the accused boy about four months ago. Two days ago, the minor had left the house saying that she was going to get a copy from her friend. She returned home after three-four hours. When she was questioned about the copy, she did not tell anything. When she was questioned again on suspicion, she informed about the rape.

POLICE ACTION AGAINST CYBER THUGS IN DEEG

➔ In a major action under Operation Anti-Virus 2, the police nabbed 3 fraudsters for online fraud of Rs 50 lakhs. Mobile, fake SIM card and other documents seized. There are 12 complaints in cyber cell against Gaffar, Zaid, Rahul Haryana. Transactions of more than Rs 50 lakhs found in bank accounts. Online fraud network was being run in the forest of Dhimari. Police was continuously getting inputs about the accused. Action was taken by Special Cell and DST team under the leadership of Yogendra Rajawat.



ESCORT SERVICES GANG BUSTED BY JPR POLICE

➔ Hard work of DCP South Digant Anand paid off as the Shyam Nagar police station exposed a gang running online escort service. Rajendra Meena alias Raju and Balwant Singh were arrested. On March 13, the accused had looted people standing on the footpath by fatally attacking them. A clash involving three youths and two girls outside Shagun Sweets took a violent turn when club managers Suresh and Brijesh tried to intervene. The girls asked to wait for their car, but soon after, miscreants arrived in two vehicles, attacked the managers with sticks, and looted them.

FIVE HELD FOR BETTING ON PIGEONS IN TIBBI

➔ The Tibbi Police acted against the accused betting on the pigeons. The incident took place in Chak 11-12 SLW of 2KSP Panchayat. Police seized 15 bikes and 2 cars from the spot; 2 pigeons and pigeon cages and umbrellas were also recovered. 5 persons were arrested on the spot. Police also found pamphlets of pigeon fancier club on the mobile, however no confirmation has been made about it yet. The accused were betting on mute birds in the scorching heat.

63 DRUMS OF CHEMICALS SEIZED BY AGTF

➔ In a major action by AGTF and police, about 63 drums filled with chemicals were seized, about 60 empty drums were also seized. The action was taken under the supervision of IPS Nishchay Prasad. AGTF SHO Satpal Bishnoi, SHO Rajesh Sihag carried out the action in a warehouse near Dokhwa village. Police also seized several tools from the spot, including an electric machine used for chemical mixing, a petrol generator, and an electronic scale.



WOMAN HELD FOR SMUGGLING GOODS INTO JAIL

➔ Hanumangarh: A young man and a woman threw a packet full of goods inside the Hanumangarh district jail. 3 mobile phones, 3 data cables, 5 bundles of beedis, 8 lime tubes, 2 pouches of tobacco were found in the closed packet. Jail guard Ramdhan caught Shakuntala from the spot and recovered the bike. The youth fled leaving the bike at the spot. Accused woman Shakuntala had thrown the packet for her husband who is in jail. Junction police station's ASI Krishna Bishnoi is investigating the case.

Rajasthan Police Day celebrations from April 15

Shivendra Parmar
Jaipur

Like every year, this year also three-day grand programs are being organized from 15 to 17 April in the series of Rajasthan Police Foundation Day celebrations. The state level function is being celebrated on 16 April at Rajasthan Police Academy. During this, programs like children's quiz competition, blood donation camp, cleanliness campaign, cultural



programs and sports competitions, poetry recitation, dance competitions, children's visit to police stations, plantation, police band performance, seminar, Badakhana etc. will be organized.

In a first, Mohini Didi takes the helm of Brahma Kumaris org

First India Bureau
Sirohi

Rajyogini Mohini Didi has been appointed as the new Chief of Brahma Kumaris following the demise of Dadi Ratan Mohini. The decision taken by the management of the organisation marks the beginning of a new era in the leadership of Brahma Kumaris.

This is the first time in the institute's history that a "Didi" has been ap-



pointed as the head, ending the tradition of "Dadi" leading the organization. Dadi Ratan Mohini passed away on April 8. Mohini Didi, who has

been associated with the Brahma Kumaris since the age of 15, has a long and illustrious history with the organisation.

She has previously served as the head of various centers, including those in America and the Caribbean. With over 50 years of experience, Mohini Didi has played a pivotal role in the expansion of organisation's centers across several countries, making significant contributions to its growth.

Unlicensed activities at Nahargarh putting tourists' lives at risk



REPRESENTATIONAL
Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

Rampant incidents of illegal trekking, climbing, ziplining in Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary in the absence of proper security and permission from the competent authority are becoming a threat to people's life who go there for some fun.

Besides adventure tourism, makeshift stone stoves can be spotted at several places here to serve everything from Maggi to meat to the tourists. Even on Sunday, illegal trekking and ziplining was going on in front of Kadamkeshwar temple near Sagar in Amber.

Around 24 people were accompanied by some gym trainers and others during this. And all this was being done without permission from a competent level. While such illegal and dangerous tourism goes on, the officers of the forest department act as mute spectators.

Local people, on the other hand, allege that the forest department officials collude with the wrong people and allow such illegal activities on every Saturday and Sunday.

Sources claim that some people sell this idea of trekking and feasting in the jungle to youths for a huge amount.

STRIDES IN HEALTHCARE

300-bed Sukshem Arogya Vihar hospital to be built

Neeti Gopendra Bhatt
Churu

Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal will lay the foundation stone of 300-bed

Sukshem Arogya Vihar Multi-Specialty Hospital to be built at a cost of Rs 250 crore in the historic Sujargarh town near the world famous Salasar Hanuman



Ji Temple of Rajasthan on Tuesday, April 15.

On this occasion, the holy company of All India Sangliya Dhuni Peethadhishwar Omdas

Ji Maharaj will also be available.

Sukshem Foundation Trustee KC Malu said that Rajasthan Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa,

SUKSHEM FOUNDATION WILL BUILD THE HOSPITAL BUILDING AND STATE GOVT WILL OPERATE IT

➔ Trustee KC Malu said that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sukshema Foundation and the Government of Rajasthan for this hospital at the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit-2024 held in Jaipur last year. Sukshema Foundation will construct this hospital building with public cooperation and it will be operated by the state government. Sukshema Foundation will also take up the responsibility of changing linen and cleaning etc.

Medical and Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar, Urban Development and Housing (UDH) Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra, Social Justice and

Empowerment Minister Avinash Gehlot and senior BJP leader and former Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Rajendra Rathore will also be present in the function.

sent as special guests in the function. Local MLA Manoj Meghwal and Municipal Council Chairman Neelifor Gauri will welcome the guests as hosts.

Along with Sukshem Foundation's Patron Shayar and Hiralal Malu, Vice President Bajrang Lal Baheti, General Secretary Rajendra Dadhich, Treasurer Anil Jain, Trustees Vijay Singh Dosi, JC Sharma, Anita Choradia and Yashwant Bafna will also be present in the function.

A YOUTH BROKE THE SECURITY CORDON AND REACHED NEAR KOHLI BUT WAS CAUGHT BY SECURITY PERSONNEL

HOUSE FULL AS IPL FEVER GRIPS PINK CITY



PEOPLE THANKING CM AT SMS STADIUM FOR ERCP: CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's craze was seen in the IPL match between RR and RCB organised in Jaipur's SMS stadium on Sunday. Fans of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma were seen waving posters in their hands and raising slogan "Rajasthan ka ek hi Lal, Bhajanlal Bhajanlal". The fans were also seen giving messages about ERCP in the posters. This enthusiasm of fans towards Bhajan Lal Sharma was a topic of discussion during the entire match.

The IPL craze gripped Jaipur on Sunday as Sawai Mansingh Stadium roared with RR vs RCB fans in full swing. Though some VIP galleries faced AC issues, the electrifying vibe remained unmatched. Even in chilling heat, Jaipur people came in huge numbers and vibe was covered by Santosh Sharma & Mukesh Kiradoo



(Clockwise) Spectators standing in queues at main gate of SMS Stadium in Jaipur for RR vs RCB match on Sunday. Rahul Dravid & Virat Kohli engage in discussion post match. Ruma Devi at the match.



Sheo MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati enjoying the match on Sunday.



(L) Niraj K Pawan, (R) Ranjit Barthakur and Priyanka Khanna



Sanju Samson, Rahul Dravid and others seen in RR team huddle.



Cheerleaders seen elevated after RR player hits a boundary.

RAJ SPORTS COUNCIL'S 'SPECIAL GALLERY' REMAINED VACANT DURING THE MATCH

Sports Council's 'special gallery' remained empty.



This gallery was built by the Sports Council President. Gallery was built at RCA Academy and Sports Bhawan. But this special gallery remained completely empty. Arrangements were made for some special people.

YOUTH CAUGHT FOR IPL TICKET BLACK MARKETING NEAR JMC GREATER GATE

Black marketing of tickets in IPL match was witnessed near the Municipal Corporation gate. When the public complained, the police caught a young man. However, the young man claimed that he was not doing black marketing. Meanwhile, media persons made a video of the incident. Policeman Piyush misbehaved with media persons.

A SPECTATOR JUMPED FROM THE GALLERY INTO FIELD TO MEET DRAVID AND KOHLI!



A spectator jumped from the gallery into the ground during the match, defying the security arrangements, and reached the players. Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal and others players got scared off. However, the security personnel sprung into action and dodged the intruder on spot.

PANKAJ SHARMA

Philanthropists vital for school growth: Dilawar

Narpat Joya
Didwana

Education Minister Madan Dilawar during his Didwana tour attended the Guru Vandana program at Shaheed Jeevanram Khaswan School in Dhankoli village and also inspected the Lalasari Government Higher Secondary School.

Dilawar congratulated philanthropist Sambhar



Min Madan Dilawar during his visit to a govt school in Didwana.

Harshwal who contributed Rs 1.5 crore for education and said that philanthropists play an important role in the development of government schools. He said that Grade 3 teachers will soon be promoted.

During this, Dilawar said that children were taught wrong history but it is now being rewritten and all the mistakes are being rectified.

‘...Suspension of Ahuja just eyewash,’ LoP
Jully reacts over temple ‘purification’ row

First India Bureau
Ajmer/Kishangarh

Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly, Tika Ram Jully, on Sunday accused the BJP of fuelling divisions based on religion and caste. He criticized the suspension of former BJP MLA Gyandev Ahuja—who had “purified” a Ram temple in Alwar with Ganga water after Jully’s visit—calling it a mere eyewash. Jully said Ahuja had been suspended in the past and was reinstated, hinting the same would happen again.

Ahuja claimed there was no caste angle to his act and accused Congress of having no moral authority to attend Ram temple events. Jully, however, said BJP’s



Tika Ram Jully paying tribute to BR Ambedkar in Kishangarh.

agenda is to distract people with religious and caste issues.

While in Kishangarh, Jully also condemned the blackening of Dr B.R. Ambedkar’s statue in Bikaner, calling it an attack on Dalit identity and the Constitution. He accused the BJP of targeting the poor, ignoring rich benefi-

ciaries, and eroding democratic values through divisive actions. Jully said, “Babasaheb Ambedkar is not just a person, but the hope and voice of crores of Dalits, deprived and exploited. The attack on his statue is an attack on the Constitution that gave us the right to equality, parity and justice.”

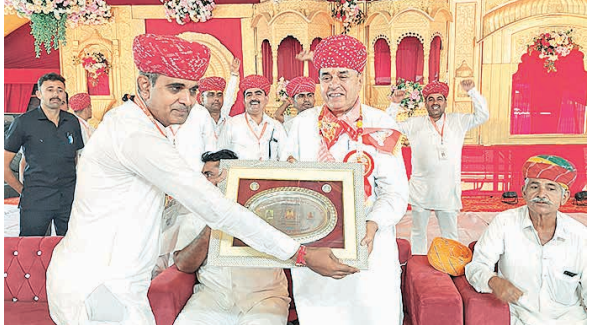
JULLY OFFERS CHADAR AT AJMER DARGAH

Leader of Opposition in Raj assembly Tika Ram Jully visited the Ajmer Dargah on Sunday and offered a chadar at Khwaja Saheb’s shrine. He also listened to qawwalis in praise of the Sufi saint. President Vijay Jain, Kishangarh MLA Vikas Chaudhary and Congress workers also accompanied Jully to the dargah. The dargah’s Gaddi Nashin Khadim Syed Bilal Chishti, Syed Daniyal Chishti and Syed Mushbir Aale Badar were also present.



LOP Tika Ram Jully with others in Ajmer Dargah on Sunday.

Min Jogaram Patel attends
Pran Pratishtha Mahotsav



Parl Affairs Min Jogaram Patel being felicitated in Luni on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Jodhpur

The Parliamentary Affairs, Law, and Justice Minister Jogaram Patel, visited Luni on Sunday. Patel arrived in the village of Sinli in the Luni region to participate in a three-day Pran Pratishtha Mahotsav. The Pran Pratishtha rituals were being performed at three temples Shri Rajeshwar Bhagwan Temple, Shri

Hariram Maharaj Temple, and Subhadra Mata Temple.

Minister Patel visited the temples, offered prayers, and performed Havan Yagya by giving offerings. The local women welcomed the minister with Kalash (water pots), while the villagers celebrated with the sound of Dhol Nagadas (traditional drums), giving him a grand welcome.

DEVNANI ON AJMER WATER, POWER SUPPLY

‘Ensure regular supply, avoid outages’

First India Bureau
Ajmer

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani has instructed the Ajmer district administration and officials from the Water Supply and Electricity Departments to ensure the public faces no hardship during the summer season. Chairing a review meeting, Devnani emphasized that water should be supplied at regular intervals with adequate pressure across Ajmer city. He directed



Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani during road devp work inauguration in Kotda, Ajmer on Sunday.

the electricity officials, including those from Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Tata Power, to

avoid unnecessary power cuts and remain on high alert.

He further warned that

officers will be held accountable for any negligence or disruptions. Devnani urged officials to personally visit problem areas, particularly in remote parts, to monitor and resolve issues on the ground.

Highlighting the rising drinking water demand in summer, he stressed that control rooms must function actively and respond swiftly to complaints. He also ordered use of water tankers in areas facing shortages to ensure smooth & consistent supply throughout the city.

PM's Principal
Secretary visits
R'bore on pvt trip

First India Bureau
Sawai Madhopur

PM Narendra Modi’s Principal Secretary, P.K. Mishra, recently visited Sawai Madhopur on a completely private trip with his family. He arrived late evening on April 11 and departed for Delhi by train on April 13. During his stay, he toured the Ranthambore National Park over two days. The visit was kept entirely confidential.

On his trip, Mishra also briefly met with CS Pant, who had been in Sawai Madhopur a day earlier.

Energy Min Nagar reviews power
dept works in Chittor, Pratapgarh

First India Bureau
Chittorgarh

Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar, during his visit to Chittorgarh on Sunday, held a meeting of electricity department officials of Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh Circle in Chittorgarh Panchayat Samiti, where he discussed the progress and problems in the power related works.

In the meeting, MP CP Joshi gave instructions to the officials on energy related issues. District head Gabbar Singh Ahir highlighted the problems



Raj Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar and Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi during the review meeting in Chittorgarh on Sunday.

in the rural areas. Chittorgarh MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya expressed concern over the power supply system.

Kapasan MLA Arjunlal Jinagar gave suggestions to provide relief to

farmers. Begu MLA Suresh Dhakad spoke about quick solutions to problems related to transformers. Nimbahera Ex-MLA Ashok Navlakha stressed on strengthening the power infrastructure.

SEVEN DECADES PAST SIGNING PANCHSHEEL WHY THE INDIA-CHINA RELATIONS STILL REMAIN OPAQUE?



Col Rajesh Bhukar

The writer is a Post Graduate in International Studies, Alumni of Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and College of Combat, Mhow

TENSE RELATIONS

The signing of the Panchsheel Agreement in 1954 did not resolve the underlying issues like China's refusal to honour the McMahon Line, its invasion of Tibet in 1950, accusing India of meddling in its internal affairs, especially over the Tibet and safe sanctuary to Dalai Lama. The Indo - China relationship began to sour and by early 1960s, border skirmishes between Indian and Chinese forces were becoming increasingly frequent. India could not perceive actual depth of China's expansionist ambitions and the situation escalated leading to the 1962 debacle. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1988 marked a thaw in bilateral relations. China's economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping were yielding positive results, and India, too, was opening up its economy. In the years that followed, both countries began to recognise the importance of cooperating in global fora. The rise of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in the 2000s highlighted the growing significance of emerging economies on the global stage. Yet, even as China and India engaged in multilateral settings like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), their bilateral ties were continually tested. Chinese incursions in Doklam and Galwan conflict followed by large scale mobilisation of armed forces on both sides of LAC are the current irritants and larger geopolitical currents where two sides converge in some and are at divergence in others



India was the first non-socialist country to formally recognise the People's Republic of China (PRC) and both India and China established diplomatic ties in 1950. India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru focused on promoting a vision of peaceful co-existence and non-alignment during the Cold War and visualised two oldest civilisations in the world could cooperate to achieve regional peace and stability. This vision was summed up in the Panchsheel Agreement signed in 1954, based on five guiding principles: respect for territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. Later PM Nehru and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai issued a Joint Statement, recodifying, incorporating and offering a new framework of code of conduct in international discourse. It's been seven decades since India and China signed the optimism of Panchsheel to the shadows of the 1962 war, the story of the Indo - China relations is one of trust gained and lost, of co-operation in multilateral arenas, and of a shared yet often conflicting vision for Asia's future. The India - China relations have been marked by shared history and contentious moments shaded with aspirations, trust, mistrust, and deeply impacted by evolving geopolitical realities with some good moments, memories and bilateral trade but the tag of competitors brings unique opaqueness hindering any systematic progress in same direction.

The signing of the Panchsheel Agreement in 1954 did not resolve the underlying issues like China's refusal to honour the McMahon Line, its invasion of Tibet in 1950, accusing India of meddling in



In the past two decades, both India and China have had to grapple with the geopolitical realities of an interconnected world. India's participation in BRICS and the SCO, its deepening ties with the US and its increasingly assertive stance in regional and global politics have put it at odds with China's ambitions. Meanwhile, China's global footprint has only expanded, further complicating bilateral ties. While cooperation in multilateral forums like BRICS and SCO continues, unresolved issues, including border disputes, the Tibet question, and the growing competition for global influence - continue to challenge the bilateral relationship

its internal affairs, especially over the Tibet and safe sanctuary to Dalai Lama. The Indo - China relationship began to sour and by early 1960s, border skirmishes between Indian and Chinese forces were becoming increasingly frequent. India could not perceive actual depth of China's expansionist ambitions and the situation escalated leading to the 1962 debacle. Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1988 marked a thaw in bilateral relations. China's economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping were yielding positive results, and India, too, was opening up its economy. In the years that followed, both countries began to recognise the importance of cooperating in global fora. The rise of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in the 2000s highlighted the growing significance of emerging economies on the global stage. Yet, even as China and India engaged in multilateral settings like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), their bilateral ties were continually tested. Chinese incursions in Doklam and Galwan conflict followed by large scale mobilisation of armed forces on both sides of LAC are the current irritants and larger geopolitical currents

where two sides converge in some and are at divergence in others. The Chinese proximity to Pakistan and spreading influence in Indian neighbourhood brings about suspicion and opaqueness in bilateral relations.

As China's economic power and military capabilities grew, India's strategic positioning within the global order became more important. India's rising ties with the US have further complicated its relationship with China. The two countries' growing strategic partnership - especially in the context of the Indo-Pacific has led to increasing tensions between Beijing and New Delhi. China's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea, its Belt and Road Initiative, and its growing military presence have placed India in a difficult position. Despite attempts at dialogue, there is an undeniable tension between India's desire for a more secure and independent global role and China's pursuit of regional and global dominance.

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the SCO, its deepening ties with the US and its increasingly assertive stance in regional and global politics have put it at odds with China's ambitions. Meanwhile, China's global footprint expands, complicating bilateral ties. While cooperation in BRICS and SCO persists, unresolved issues like border disputes, Tibet, and competition for global influence challenge the relationship.

If India and China move past historical grievances and align strategically, their partnership could reshape global structures through economic collaboration, tech innovation, and combined influence in forums like BRICS and SCO. But the Chinese ambition to get a pole status to lead a group of like-minded nations in the ensuing cold war 2.0 scenario at the expense of India, aggressive intent for violating even the status quo and her territorial integrity, while carrying on with sweet talks on enhancing of ties, yet executing contrary and negative actions like grand strategy of encircling India have all added to opaqueness of Indo-China relations and the fog of mistrust and hidden agenda of China is making things more complicated. China must reconsider its rigid stance on key issues like the border dispute that hinder the full potential of bilateral ties.

PM Modi, as a special invitee to the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War in May 2025 in Moscow, cements growing Indo-Russia ties. Xi Jinping, to maintain Russia's alliance, finds India's allies rising while China's options to suppress India dwindle. India has understood the Chinese game and is playing tough; yet, both giants will remain competitors if not adversaries.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

WINNING COMBO IN TAMIL NADU

The BJP-AIADMK alliance in Tamil Nadu, once strained by ideological divergence and leadership tussles, appears headed for a cautious but stronger revival, thanks to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. For the BJP, which struggles to make electoral inroads in the Dravidian heartland, an alliance with the AIADMK offers a foothold. For the AIADMK, diminished after the loss of Jayalalithaa and internal fragmentation, national-level backing and campaign heft are incentives hard to ignore.

The trust deficit has been erased as both the parties aim to oust the DMK from power. The AIADMK leadership must balance grassroots Dravidian sentiments that view the BJP as culturally alien, with the pragmatic need to stay politically relevant.

This pragmatic tie-up should translate into votes as it did in 1998 when the BJP-AIADMK-MDMK alliance won 30 of the 39 seats in the state where regional pride and linguistic identity often outweigh national narratives. The coming months will showcase the present alliance's synergy and preparedness for the polls.

A CASE OF JUDICIAL OVERREACH?



The Supreme Court's recent directive asking the President to decide on Bills passed by state legislatures but withheld by Governors within a "reasonable time"—ideally three months—has ignited a debate on constitutional propriety and judicial overreach. The ruling stems from increasing friction between state governments and Governors, especially in opposition-ruled states, where Bills are often held up for months, allegedly on political grounds. Article 200 of the Constitution empowers the Governor to assent, withhold assent, or reserve a Bill for the President. However, it does not prescribe any timeline. Yet, the Court ruled, the President has to decide one way or the other or seek the Supreme Court's opinion under Article 143.

Critics argue that the judiciary, by setting a time frame, has ventured into legislative terrain, effectively adding a clause to the Constitution. Yet, the Court's intent appears corrective, not legislative. It seeks to plug a gap that has enabled constitutional functionaries to remain inactive.

However, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani told a newspaper that before deciding the Court should have heard the President.

This verdict is being seen by some as judicial overreach. Others argue it is an effort to reinforce constitutional responsibility. A timely assent process is essential to uphold the federal structure and ensure that elected state governments function effectively but a governor's reason for withholding a Bill must also carry weight. In the absence of a constitutional amendment, this guideline may not be binding. But it certainly sets a benchmark. Governors are expected to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers—for the sake of democracy.



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TOP TWEETS

Greetings to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Baisakhi. This festival reflects the vibrant spirit of our farmers, the strength of our cultural heritage and the values of hard work and unity. May this Baisakhi inspire us all to contribute with renewed dedication towards building a stronger and developed India.

Rajnath Singh@rajnathsingh

Began this festive Sunday with the inauguration of the first edition of @edcapexil's Vibrant Buildcon 2025 at Yashobhoomi. This first-of-its-kind exhibition brings together stakeholders in the construction industry and explores the latest advancements in sustainable materials, cutting-edge technology, and architectural solutions. In my address, I called upon businesses to continue their strong support of building futuristic infrastructure in the country by adopting best practices, innovating, and committing to sustainability.

Piyush Goyal@PiyushGoyal

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

When a man gives up all desires that come to the mind, and rests contented in the Self by the Self, he is called a man of steady wisdom.

BHACAVAD GITA

LEADERS PAY TRIBUTE TO JALLIANWALA BAGH MARTYRS

Jallianwala Bagh massacre a dark chapter in our history: Amit Shah

ANI

New Delhi

Union Minister Amit Shah, in a post on X on Sunday, remembered the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, calling it 'a dark chapter' in India's freedom struggle that shook the entire nation.

Paying homage, Shah wrote, "The anger that arose among the countrymen due to the cruelty of the British rule, which had reached the pinnacle of inhumanity, turned the freedom movement into a struggle of the masses. I pay my tribute to the martyrs who were martyred in Jallianwala Bagh. The country will always cherish the immortal martyrs in its memories."

Several other leaders also remembered the victims and the impact of the brutal massacre, which took place on



Union Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to those who were martyred in Jallianwala Bagh.

File

April 13, 1919, during British colonial rule.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid homage to the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, calling it a "major turning point" in the country's freedom struggle.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote, "We pay homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh. The

coming generations will always remember their indomitable spirit. It was indeed a dark chapter in our nation's history. Their sacrifice became a major turning point in India's freedom struggle."

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place on April 13, 1919, remains one of the darkest chapters in India's colonial history.

PREZ MURMU PAYS HOMAGE TO MARTYRS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH



President Droupadi Murmu paid tributes to the martyrs of 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and said a grateful India will always remain indebted to them. "I pay my respectful tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for mother India in Jallianwala Bagh. Their sacrifices made our freedom struggle stronger. A grateful India will always remain indebted to them. "I am confident that taking inspiration from those immortal martyrs, all countrymen would continue to contribute to the progress of India wholeheartedly," Prez Murmu's post on X said.

EVENTS TO MARK AMBEDKAR'S 135TH BIRTH ANNIV TODAY

New Delhi: The 135th birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice, will be commemorated at the Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Lawns, in New Delhi on Monday. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other dignitaries will pay floral tributes to Babasaheb. Dr Ambedkar Foundation will facilitate visitors paying at the site and has arranged special bus services to Dr Ambedkar National Memorial (DANM) at 26, Alipur Road, also known as Mahaparinirvan Bhoomi.

BJP files plaint after Kanhaiya uses abusive words against PM

PTI

Patna

The BJP on Sunday filed a police complaint against Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar in Patna, alleging that he used abusive language against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS during a recent TV interview.

A delegation led by the BJP's media in-charge in Bihar, Danish Iqbal, visited the Kotwali police station and filed the complaint. Iqbal urged the police to register an FIR against Kumar over the comments.

"Kanhaiya Kumar, who is a part of the 'tukde tukde gang', used abu-



Kanhaiya Kumar used abusive language against PM Modi, and the RSS and its ideologies in an interview to a TV channel. File

sive language against PM Modi, and the RSS and its ideologies in an interview to a TV channel on April 11. The language that he used in the interview is highly objectionable and unacceptable,"

Iqbal said. "We have filed a complaint against him with the police seeking immediate registration of an FIR. We are quite confident that police will take appropriate action," he said.

CEC: Voting is the first step towards serving nation

PTI

Ranchi

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Sunday said the first step towards serving the nation is voting. He said eligible citizens must exercise their franchise whenever election takes place.

"The first step towards serving the nation is voting. To cast a vote, one must register as a voter by enrolling on the voter list. No eligible citizen of India who has completed 18 years of age should be left out," Kumar said while addressing media persons in Ranchi.

The CEC arrived in Ranchi on Friday for a three-day visit to Jharkhand. "Whenever an election takes place, electors must ensure to vote," he said. The Election Commission has al-



Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

ways stood by voters and will continue to do so, Kumar added. Earlier, he held a discussion with booth-level officers (BLO) on Ranchi outskirts Dasam fall.

The BLOs shared their experiences and efforts in remote and difficult areas during polling. The CEC also learnt about the BLOs' experiences with household surveys, the BLO app, polling time management, etc.

Pause, review, repeal RTI amendment: Jairam Ramesh

PTI

New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday strongly criticised the recent amendment to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, calling the deletion of a key proviso that equated citizens' right to information with that of legislators "completely unwarranted."

Ramesh urged Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to pause, review, and repeal the changes introduced through Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023.

This amendment, Ramesh argues, undermines the spirit of the original 2005 RTI legislation by prohibiting the sharing of personal data under RTI provisions. His remarks came in response to Vaishnaw's recent letter, dated April 10, 2025, which attempted to address concerns Ramesh had raised earlier in a March 23 letter.

In his reply, Vaishnaw had assured that personal details already subject to public disclosure under existing laws would still



Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

DPDP ACT ONLY PROTECTS DISCLOSURES UNDER THE AMENDED RTI ACT, NOT THE ORIGINAL: RAMESH

Jairam Ramesh criticized Section 3 of the DPDP Act, 2023, arguing that it is irrelevant because of significant amendments to Section 8(1) of the RTI Act. These changes now exempt personal information, meaning the DPDP Act only protects disclosures under the amended RTI Act, not the original. He highlighted that the RTI Act, as interpreted by various Supreme Court and High Court judgments, already allows withholding personal data that does not relate to public interest. Ramesh also condemned the deletion of the proviso in Section 8(1) that equated citizens' right to information with legislators', calling it "completely unwarranted." He emphasized the need to balance privacy and transparency.

be accessible through RTI, even after the implementation of the DPDP Act. Ramesh highlighted that the amendment significantly dilutes public access to information and poses a threat to

transparency. He reiterated that government reconsiders the amendment in the interest of maintaining the RTI Act's original intent and ensuring accountability in public governance.

TN Gov sparks row with 'Jai Shri Ram' chant request

Agencies

New Delhi

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi has sparked controversy by asking students to chant "Jai Shri Ram" during an event in Madurai. While addressing students at Thiagarajar Engineering College on Saturday, Ravi urged the attendees to pay tribute to Lord Ram, prompting the crowd to chant the slogan after his call. The incident



has drawn sharp criticism. Congress has labeled him as a "propaganda master" of the RSS and BJP. Critics argue that the move reflects a political agenda, further fueling ongoing debates over his actions.

CM Yogi slams Oppn for depriving Dalits of basic rights

Agencies

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP), accusing them of exploiting Dalits and marginalized communities.

Speaking at the 'Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan' workshop in Lucknow, he condemned these parties for claiming social justice while de-



UP CM Yogi Adityanath

priving Dalits of their rights. Yogi alleged that these parties were behind illegal encroachments on Dalit land. He

CONGRESS DID NOT ALLOW AMBEDKAR'S LAST RITES TO BE PERFORMED IN DELHI: UP CM

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday accused Congress of disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, alleging the party denied him a memorial and obstructed his last rites in Delhi. Speaking at the 'Bharat Ratna' Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samman Samaroh in Lucknow, Adityanath claimed that Congress made Ambedkar lose elections and prevented his memorial from being built. He also criticized the 1976 Constitutional amendment that inserted a word against Ambedkar's own arguments. Dr. Ambedkar, who passed away on December 6, 1956, had his last rites performed according to Buddhist traditions at Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai.

also cited a brutal incident in Murshidabad, West Bengal, where three Hindus were killed, criticizing the op-

position's silence when the truth didn't fit their narrative.

The CM further accused the opposition of

disrespecting national icons like Chhatrapati Shivaji and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, while glorifying figures like Aurangzeb and Jinnah. Yogi recalled how these parties conspired to defeat Dr. Ambedkar in elections, including his loss in 1952 and 1954 due to sabotage.

He described the ongoing state-wide awareness campaign as a movement to expose the opposition's legacy of insulting great leaders, from Shivaji to Ambedkar and Maharana Pratap.

IAF-MYANMAR-AIRCRAFT-SPOOFING

IAF planes faces GPS spoofing while carrying relief for Myanmar quake victims

PTI

New Delhi

Indian Air Force's transport aircraft carrying relief materials to earthquake-hit Myanmar late last month faced "GPS spoofing", triggering security concerns as pilots were forced to rely on the backup systems, sources in the military establishment said on Sunday.

India sent the first consignment of relief materials to Myanmar on March 29 in a C-130

J aircraft and its pilots reported that the plane's GPS signal was tampered with when it was in Myanmar's airspace, the sources told PTI.

New Delhi sent a total of six military transport aircraft to Myanmar transporting relief materials, field hospitals and rescue teams and a majority of them experienced GPS spoofing, they said.

GPS spoofing is considered to be a form of cyber attack that includes generating false GPS signals. The false signals result in misleading the



IAF's transport aircraft carrying relief materials to earthquake-hit Myanmar.

navigation equipment which creates a significant risk to aircraft.

When the aircraft faced "GPS interference and spoofing", the pilots im-

mediately activated the backup system called 'inertial navigation system', the sources said.

GPS spoofing is used to trick an aircraft into

thinking it's in a different location as it receives false location data, according to experts.

Besides the C-130J Super Hercules, the In-

New Delhi sent a total of six military transport aircraft to Myanmar transporting relief materials, field hospitals and rescue teams and a majority of them experienced GPS spoofing

no immediate comment from the Indian Air Force on the incidents of the GPS spoofing.

Asked if the IAF would probe the incidents, the sources said it is practically impossible to investigate such episodes if they take place in foreign airspace. "The GPS spoofing must have been carried out by our adversary in the region," said a source without explaining.

Though it is not immediately clear whether all six aircraft faced GPS

spoofing, the sources said the majority of them reported the challenge.

Out of six, five aircraft had landed in Yangon and Nay-Pyi-Daw on March 29-30, while one was sent to Mandalay on April 1.

After the first aircraft experienced GPS "interference" and "spoofing", the pilots of other aircraft were sensitised about the problem and they were flying to Myanmar expecting such a challenge, the sources said.

GPS spoofing is generally reported in conflict zones.

Murshidabad Violence Roads were deserted, shops closed and people remained indoors as police and central forces patrolled amid Waqf unrest

Hundreds cross river to take shelter in Malda



People affected by communal violence in WB's Murshidabad district take shelter in adjoining Malda district on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Kolkata

Hundreds of people affected by communal violence in West Bengal's Murshidabad district have crossed the Bhagirathi River and taken shelter in adjoining Malda, as per the officials reported.

The local administration has arranged for accommodation and food for the fleeing riot-hit families and sheltered them in schools, while deploying volunteers at the river bank to assist those arriving in boats.

Several areas in Muslim-majority Murshidabad, including Suti, Dhulian, Jangipur and Shamsherganj, have witnessed violent protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act that

spiralled into communal violence, sparking the exodus.

Visuals on the media showed burnt shops, hotels and houses in these parts of Murshidabad.

"We escaped from Mandirpara area of Dhulian as our houses were set on fire and women and girls molested by a gang of outsiders and some locals," a young woman, who fled the area along with four other family members, told reporters.

"They hurled bombs, blamed us for the Waqf (Amendment) Act and asked us to immediately leave our homes. They beat up the men of our houses. We were afraid for our lives and escaped our homes with the help of central forces," the woman added.



People gather near the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar to protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, in Hyderabad, Telangana, Sunday.

BJP MP JYOTIRMA Y MAHATO WRITES TO AMIT SHAH SEEKING AFSPA IN 4 WEST BENGAL DISTRICTS

BJP MP from Purulia Jyotirmay Singh Mahato has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, urging the imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, and South 24 Parganas districts of West Bengal, citing a deteriorating security situation and alleging targeted violence against the Hindu community. In a letter sent this week, Mahato requested that Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, and South 24 Parganas be declared 'disturbed areas' under AFSPA. "For the last many days, a 'Jammu & Kashmir type' situation - when Hindus were forced to migrate in the 1990s - has been created, especially in these four districts of Bengal," Mahato said while speaking to ANI.

AIMPLB TO HOLD PROTEST MEETING AGAINST WAQF AMENDMENT ACT IN HYD ON APRIL 19

Hyderabad: All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) will conduct a protest meeting against the Waqf (Amendment) Act here on April 19, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said on Sunday. The meeting will be held at Darussalam (AIMIM's headquarters) under the leadership of AIMPLB president Khalid Saifullah Rahmani from 7 PM to 10 PM, Owaisi told reporters here. Members of the Muslim Personal Law Board from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh along with other Muslim organisations from both the states will take part in this protest meeting, the Hyderabad MP said, adding they will deliver speeches and tell the public about how the Waqf (Amendment) Act is not in favour of the Waqf.

YUSUF PATHAN'S 'GOOD CHAI' POST SLAMMED AS WEST BENGAL SIMMERS AFTER VIOLENCE



Local Trinamool Congress MP and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan is drawing fire for an Instagram post in which he is seen relaxing and enjoying a cup of tea. While most of the violence-hit areas are not part of Pathan's constituency, they are located nearby and the timing of the Insta post has raised eyebrows and triggered outrage on social media. Pathan shared 3 pictures two days back, with the caption, "Easy afternoons, good chai, and calm surroundings. Just soaking in the moment." Shortly after, social media users started criticising him for the post at a time when Murshidabad was tense due to the violence. The BJP hit out at the Trinamool MP and accused the Mamata Banerjee government of encouraging state-protected violence.

BENGAL GOVERNOR SENDS COMMUNIQUE TO CENTRE ON MURSHIDABAD SITUATION

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor C. V. Ananda Bose has sent a communique to the Ministry of Home Affairs giving updates on the current situation in Murshidabad, which has been on the boil for the last few days after protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act. In the communique, the Governor provided the details of what happened in Murshidabad during the last few days, and also how tension flared up in certain pockets of the district, according to sources in Raj Bhavan. Meanwhile, the state government has decided to depute 23 police officers currently posted in different districts of West Bengal, with special skills and proven track records in handling law and order situations in such cases, to Murshidabad.

Will develop Delhi into health tourism hub: CM



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta poses for photographs with school children during the Walkathon 2025 event in New Delhi, Sunday. PTI

PTI
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said her government has plans to develop the city into a "global health tourism hub." Gupta termed the hospital "a living embodiment of service, dedication, and excellence in healthcare."

She added, "This institution, which began its journey in Lahore in 1921

and was re-established in Delhi in 1954, has earned respect both nationally and internationally." Gupta attacked the erstwhile AAP government, saying it failed to prioritise the health sector.

"Many lives were lost during the pandemic due to a lack of timely treatment. While the government of the time remained inactive, doctors at this hospital stood as a beacon of hope," she said.

Nagpur IPS officer faces rape charges

Agencies
Nagpur

Police have registered a case against a 30-year-old IPS officer for allegedly raping a woman doctor in Maharashtra's Nagpur after promising to marry her, officials said on Sunday.

The 28-year-old woman approached the Imamwada Police Station in Nagpur with a complaint, they said. According to the complainant, she and the man got in touch through social media platform, an official said.

The accused was then preparing for the Union Public Service Commission exams, while the woman was pursuing MBBS course, the police said. After being selected for the IPS, the accused started avoiding the woman and refused to marry her, the official said.

Focus on modular infra, green construction: Min

Agencies
New Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday asked the construction industry players to reduce import dependency, focus on clean and green construction, and work towards earthquake-resistant and modular infrastructure. Speaking during the inauguration of the first edition of Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council's (CAPEXIL) Vibrant Buildcon 2025, in New



Union Minister Piyush Goyal during the event in New Delhi.

Delhi, he said sectors, including housing, infrastructure, commercial real estate, railways, airports, highways, and energy play a key role in boosting the country's economic growth.

The government initiatives, including 20 new smart industrial cities, improved tourism infrastructure across 50 destinations, and 100 new industrial plug-and-play hubs would help India move from a USD 4-trillion economy today to a USD 30-35 trillion economy by 2047, Goyal added.

Nation celebrates Baisakhi with devotion, cultural spirit



Sikhs pay obeisance at the Golden Temple on the occasion of Baisakhi festival. PTI

First India Bureau
New Delhi

A large number of devotees today on Sunday are celebrating Baisakhi with spiritual devotions and religious fervour throughout the country. Thousands of devotees are flocking to the sacred precincts of Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar and offering prayers and taking holy dips in the Sarovar. The whole city of Amritsar is resonated with hymns and spiritual chants.



Sikhs visit the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Sunday. PTI



Shikhar Dhawan visits gurudwara, Sunday. PTI



Yogi Adityanath at Khalsa Sajna Diwas event, Sunday. PTI



Sikhs visit the Golden Temple, in Amritsar, Sunday. PTI



Artists perform during the celebration of Baisakhi festival, at Sector-38 area, in Noida, Sunday. PTI

ON LAND ACQUISITION ISSUE IN PRAYAGRAJ

Farmers' meeting to be held on May 8: Tikait

PTI
Prayagraj

Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday announced that a farmers' meeting will be held Prayagraj on May 8 on the issue of alleged irregularities in land acquisition.

He said that land acquisition is a big issue in the country. "Land is being snatched in the name of land acquisition. Under a conspiracy in tehsils, the land is being registered in the names



Bhartiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait

FILE

of different people so that people keep fighting with each other," he alleged.

Speaking to reporters here, Tikait, who was a key figure in the farmers' agitation against the

Speaking to reporters here, Tikait, who was a key figure in the farmers' agitation against the now-repealed three central laws, said that farmers are facing harassment when they try to approach authorities for land measurement.

now-repealed three central laws, said that farmers are facing harassment when they try to

approach authorities for land measurement.

"If a businessman applies for land measurement, then his land is measured immediately. A big movement is also needed in Prayagraj," Rakesh Tikait said.

Reacting to the murder of a Dalit man in the Karchana police station area in Prayagraj district, Tikait alleged that law and order has failed in Uttar Pradesh.

Tikait also said that he would meet the family members of three people murdered in Fatehpur.



‘King Kohli Mania’ dominates as RCB crush RR

Siddhaarth Mahan
Jaipur

Jaipur witnessed ‘King Kohli Mania’ on Sunday as delirious fans screamed in excitement at the mere mention of his name. And fittingly, Virat Kohli hit a terrific, unbeaten half-century as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) cruised to an easy nine-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in a crucial afternoon fixture.

Royals were hoping that a return to their original home ground, the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, would bring a much-needed boost to their IPL 2025 campaign. But with Virat Kohli and Phil Salt slamming superb half-centuries, it was RCB who ran away with a convincing victory.

Earlier, batting first in an electrifying atmosphere in Jaipur’s first game of this IPL season, RR managed a total of 173/4, thanks to Yashasvi Jaiswal’s fine 75 off 47 balls. Playing shots all around the wicket, Jaiswal scored swiftly on a sluggish pitch. After a sedate start against RCB pacers, he dominated the



With this loss, hosts RR have dropped to 7th in the points table and will need a major turnaround in forthcoming matches to qualify for the knock-outs. Ultimately, however, the Sunday fixture was all about Virat’s impact on cricket - for Kohli’s dominance is not just about his batting prowess but also about his ability to attract fans!

spinners in characteristic style with shots like the reverse and lap sweep. Despite Jaiswal’s brilliance, batters at the other

Mumbai beat Delhi by 12 runs

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Mumbai Indians beat Delhi Capitals by 12 runs in their IPL match here on Sunday. Sent in to bat, Tilak Varma hit a 33-ball 59 to power Mumbai Indians to 205 for five.

Ryan Rickelton (41 off 25 balls), Suryakumar Yadav (40 off 28 balls) and Naman Dhir (38 off 17 balls) also made useful contributions.

Kuldeep Yadav’s artistry was well complemented by young leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam’s happy knack of picking wickets before Tilak Varma’s attractive half-century took Mumbai Indians to 205 for 5.

Tilak (59 off 33 balls) was the only MI batter to capitalise on a good start, hitting six fours and three sixes and making amends for his poor scores in some of the earlier games. Naman Dheer (38 not out off 17 balls) then used the long handle to prop up the total.



Mumbai Indians' players celebrate the wicket of Delhi Capitals' Karun Nair during an IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians, at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi, Sunday.



KULDEEP CONTINUES HIS IMPRESSIVE FORM IN IPL

➔ Kuldeep Yadav was once again instrumental for Delhi Capitals in Match 29 of the IPL 2025 season against Mumbai Indians on Sunday. The match being held at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, saw Kuldeep take two wickets for 23 runs from his 4 overs. Kuldeep was once again economical and amongst the wickets. MI managed 205/5 in 20

ICC to support displaced Afghan women cricketers

PTI
Dubai

The ICC on Sunday announced the formation of a dedicated task force to support displaced Afghan women cricketers, many of whom are now living in exile in Australia, and for this the game’s apex body has collaborated with BCCI and cricket boards of England and Australia.

The ICC has joined hands with the sport’s three most influential boards -- BCCI, England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), and Cricket Australia (CA) to “assist these talented athletes in both their cricketering and personal development journeys”.

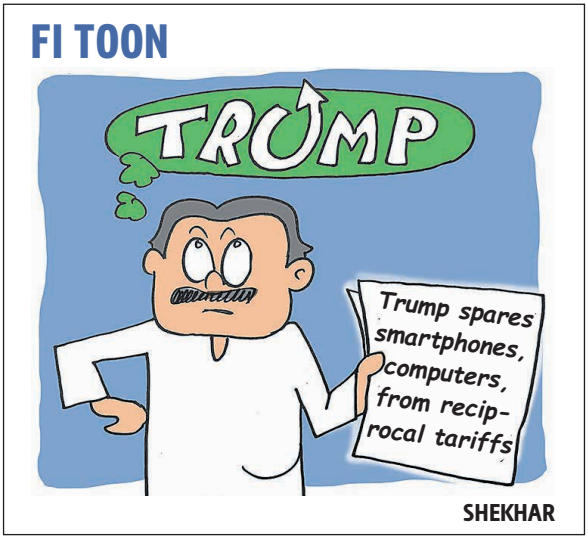
A total of 21 female cricketers, previously contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), reunited for a cricket match in Australia in 2025, drawing global attention to their plight.

US COMMERCE SECRETARY TO MEDIA Tariff exemptions may not last for electronics: Lutnick

Agencies
Washington

The tariff exemptions on smartphones and other electronics that cheered investors and consumers after being announced Friday may only be temporary — with President Donald Trump continuing to implement his vision to re-center global production in the U.S., Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Sunday.

“He’s saying they’re exempt from the reciprocal tariffs, but they’re included in the semiconductor tariffs which are coming in probably a month or two,” Lutnick told Jonathan Karl on ABC’s “This Week.” “So these are coming soon.”



While many of Trump’s tariffs are negotiable, Lutnick said the technology levies were temporarily removed Friday precisely because they aren’t. “So this is

A roadside bomb kills 8 bus passengers in northeast Nigeria

Agencies
Maiduguri, Borno

A roadside bomb suspected to have been planted by Islamic extremists in northeastern Nigeria struck a passenger bus, killing eight people and wounding over a dozen others, authorities said.

The bus was traveling along the Damboa-Maiduguri highway in the conflict-battered Borno state on Saturday when it drove over the explosive device, Borno state police spokesman Nahum Daso said in a statement.

Islamic extremists with the Boko Haram group took up arms in 2009 to fight Western education & impose their radical version of Islamic law.

At least 10 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza’s Deir al-Balahm: Civil defence

Agencies
Gaza

At least 10 Palestinians were killed in Israeli airstrikes on the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah on Sunday, according to Gaza’s Civil Defence.

Mahmoud Basal, a spokesperson for the Civil Defence, said seven people died in an Israeli strike on a civilian vehicle, six of them from the same family. Several others were wounded and taken to Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir al-Balah, he said.

Eyewitnesses reported that an Israeli aircraft fired at least one missile at the vehicle, igniting it and causing multiple casualties. The Israeli military has not issued a



statement regarding the incident.

In a separate attack, Basal said an Israeli airstrike on the Deir al-Balah municipality building killed three more Palestinians. The Israeli military confirmed the strike.

Meanwhile, Gaza’s health authorities said on Sunday that 1,574 Palestinians have been killed and 4,115 wounded since Israel resumed its military operations in the enclave on March 18.



Never liked each other but now on same page

They never got along but are now part of the same party again. This is the case between Joginder Awana and Subhash Garg. However, Garg played a role in bringing Awana to Congress. It is a different matter that the then BSP MLA Awana was originally a Congressman. When Awana joined Congress in the previous Gehlot government, at that time Subhash Garg was Gehlot’s special commander. After becoming Parliamentary Secretary in Congress, Awana’s distance from Garg increased. Now Awana has joined Jayant’s party due to his Delhi connection. From Jayant’s party, Awana wants to enter the electoral battle from Nadbai or any other seat. After Congress, BSP, now Awana has joined RLD.

CM’s plan to make farmers lives easy

Another innovative initiative of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. The state government is making the path of farmers easier. Farmers will get relief from ‘Raasta Kholo Abhiyan’. Meaningful initiative to restore the roads obstructed by encroachment. New initiative to solve the basic problems of the state. The initiative will facilitate farmers to go to their fields without any trouble. Videography and photography of roads will have to be done, and basic changes will be made in the revenue records.

IAS Krishna Joshi gets Bihar cadre

IAS Krishna Joshi got Bihar cadre. Recently, the professional training session was completed. Now she will take charge as Assistant Collector and Magistrate in Nalanda, Bihar Sharif. A wave of happiness spread in Jodhpur city. Krishna Joshi is the daughter of former Additional Advocate General Anil Joshi. She was selected in the Indian Administrative Service Examination in the batch of 2024.

UNION MINISTER IN ALWAR

Yadav to revive Saras Dairy marred by corruption

Shyam Sharma

Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has started a unique initiative of visiting every village in his parliamentary constituency Alwar, to communicate directly with the people. This has unsettled other leaders. Yadav, who entered the Lok Sabha for the first time from Alwar, has started taking care of voters by visiting their homes in the first year of his tenure

through the MP Samvad program.

On the first day on Saturday, Yadav went to many villages and listened to everyone and instructed the officers to address people’s problems on time. Yadav’s decision to sit in the village chaupals for three days has elated the villagers, mostly the farmers. The highest fat milk near the country’s capital, Delhi, is obtained from Alwar, which has a government dairy plant, Saras, operated by the Alwar Milk Producers



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav

Union. Saras brand milk, ghee, butter, curd, buttermilk, milk cake, Shrikhand, sweet lassi, and cheese were very

popular at one time, but after it was marred by corruption, Yadav brought forth the corruption in Alwar Dairy. His statement on Alwar Dairy is not a trivial matter, as it will now cost the corrupt management and officers in the dairy.

In his speech, Yadav highlighted the poor state of Alwar Dairy. He said that if the farmers associated with the dairy have faith in him, he will eradicate corruption from here and give a new identity to Alwar Dairy. The minister’s words have weight as he is also an expert in law. The minister also knows people who roam around in new luxury cars provid-

ed by corrupt people.

The echo of its corruption and adulteration has disturbed Yadav. He has not raised the issue of corruption in Alwar Dairy without a sound reason. He has been an efficient administrator of dairy management and head of dairy management for seven years in Gujarat and in Madras. He understands the nuances of this industry.

For many months, the corrupt people praised the management of Alwar Dairy but Yadav kept track of everyone.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The depth of struggles determines the height of success.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

Governor & CM extend greetings on Ambedkar Jayanti today

‘Create a society of equality by treading Ambedkar’s path’

Ambedkar’s contribution in shaping the Constitution & building a progressive India is unmatched, says CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Governor Haribhau Bagade and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma have extended their heartfelt greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar’s Jayanti today.

Remembering Ambedkar, the Governor said that he made immense contributions to the welfare of the deprived and weaker sections of society and played a pivotal role in removing societal evils. “His life was associated with ideal values. Everyone should work towards creating a discrimination-free society by following the path shown by Ambedkar,” he remarked.

CM Sharma emphasized that Ambedkar liberated the Dalits, the oppressed, the deprived, women, and the poor. “He raised his voice for social justice and equality and fought for the rights of the weaker sections. His entire life con-



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

CM TO ATTEND AMBEDKAR JAYANTI EVENT AT RIC TODAY

The Social Justice and Empowerment Department will organize a state-level event at Rajasthan International Centre today to mark the 134th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Various programmes will be held

in the presence of CM Sharma, Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel, BJP State President Madan Rathore, Jaipur city MP Manju Sharma, MLAs, and other public representatives.

tinues to guide and inspire us,” he said.

The Chief Minister described Ambedkar as a protector of civil rights, supporter of the parliamentary system, pioneer

of women’s rights, and an eradicator of untouchability. Acknowledging his contributions to law, education, economics, and sociology, Sharma emphasized

Ambedkar’s role in building an egalitarian society through the Constitution, urging everyone to follow his principles of equality, fraternity, and justice.

US V-P JD Vance likely to tour Jaipur on April 22-23

First India Bureau
Jaipur

United States Vice-President JD Vance is expected to visit Jaipur as part of his official trip to India from April 21 to 24.

He is likely to arrive in Jaipur on either April 22 or 23 and may visit Amber Fort and Jantar Mantar, two of the Pink City’s most iconic historical and tourist sites.

There is speculation that PM Narendra Modi may accompany Vice-President Vance during the visit. In preparation for the high-profile event, the management at Amber Fort has already begun making arrangements to ensure everything goes smoothly.



Constitution Park to foster duty awareness among citizens: Birla

A grand, towering statue of Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar made of gunmetal will be installed in the center of the park

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla visited the site for the proposed Constitution Park at Srinathpuram in Kota on Sunday, accompanied by Kota South MLA Sandeep Sharma. Birla discussed the park’s design and purpose, emphasizing its role in educating citizens about the Constitution, its principles, and social justice. The park, spanning 12,000 square meters, will feature a grand entrance with the Preamble, a 20-foot wall detailing the Constitution’s creation, and paths highlighting fundamental rights. A gunmetal statue of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar will be placed at the



Om Birla directs officials while reviewing the site identified for the proposed Constitution Park in Kota. KK Kothari, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Pankaj Kushwaha, Shubham Goyal & others were present.

center of the park.

The park will also include a dedicated area for Divyangjan, along with Braille signage, ensuring accessibility.

Birla highlighted the park’s potential to promote democratic values and serve as an educational hub in Kota.



Om Birla pays obeisance at Gurudwara Agamgarh Sahib to mark the festival of Baisakhi in Kota on Sunday.

Min Goyal seeks blessings at Shrinathji Temple

First India Bureau
Rajsamand

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, along with his wife Seema Goyal, visited the renowned Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara on Sunday. The couple offered prayers and took part in the traditional ‘Utthaan Jhanki’



Piyush Goyal, with wife, Seema Goyal, offers prayers & also observes the ‘Uthapan Jhanki’ at Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara.

darshan of Lord Shrinathji. After the darshan, Goyal said, “Lord Shrinathji inspires us all. We gain fresh energy to serve the nation.”

The Union Minister also connected with Yuvacharya Vishal Bawa of the temple via video call before leaving for Udaipur.

Water protection is a shared duty: Shekhawat



GS Shekhawat interacts with locals during the ‘Samudayik Samvad’ programme at Pheench village in Luni in Jodhpur.

First India Bureau
Jodhpur

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stressed that water conservation is a shared responsibility, not just the government’s. At a community dialogue in Finch Village, Luni, he highlighted the importance of individual efforts in water management and rural development. Shekhawat

reviewed water projects by Ambuja Foundation and SKF India and recalled the Chief Minister’s Jal Swavlamban Scheme, which was halted after the government change.

He criticised the Congress for not effectively utilizing the budget allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Minister Jogaram Patel and others attended the event.

Tigress Riddhi’s cubs delight Rahul again at Ranthambore

First India Bureau
Sawai Madhopur

Congress Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, currently in Sawai Madhopur, visited Ranthambore National Park on Sunday morning. He was fortunate to witness the playful antics of tigress Riddhi and her cubs in Zone 2 for about 15 minutes, leaving him visibly pleased. Gandhi’s fondness for wildlife is reflected in his repeated visits to Ranthambore.

In the meanwhile, his much-awaited visit to Alwar today has been cancelled. Initially scheduled to travel from Ranthambore to Alwar, the Congress leader will now not be visiting the city as planned.

I am fully committed to your devp: Union Minister



Bhupender Yadav hands over the books for School library at the Govt Sr Secondary School, Ishroda Gram Panchayat in Tijara, Alwar. Mahant Balaknath, Balbir Chhillar & others were present.

Ashvini Yadav
Alwar

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav reassured the public of his continued commitment to serve his constituents during his “Sampark Samvad Yatra.” Addressing rumors about not returning post-election, Yadav emphasised, “Staying among the people is my responsibility.”

He assured equal development for all, regardless of who voted for him.

In Kamlapur Gram Panchayat, Yadav promised swift action to resolve the water shortage.

He also supported “One Nation, One Election,” stating it would streamline governance.

Tijara MLA Mahant Balaknath Yogi praised Union Minister Yadav’s vision for the region.

Complete road construction works on time: Diya to officials

Manoj Jain
Karauli

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari urged officials to complete ongoing development works in the district on time and with quality, directing timely approvals for new road proposals, DPR preparations for other projects, and quick repairs to rain-damaged roads. She reviewed the Women and Child Development Department’s work, instructing improvements at Anganwadi centers and expedited proposals for adoption by philanthropists.

Additionally, she reviewed the implementation of PM Matritva Vandana and other schemes. Later, Diya Kumari participated in Shri Mahavir



Diya Kumari chairs a review meeting of Tourism, PWD, WCD, and Child Rights Depts at Ganeshan Hotel in Hindaun, Karauli. Hemraj Paredwal, Darshan Singh Gurjar, Hansraj Gurjar, PC Meena and others were present.

Ji celebrations in Karauli, where she offered prayers for peace and prosperity.

Temple Committee President Sudhanshu Kasliwal, along with others, extended a warm welcome to her. Diya Kumari performed rituals before sending off the Rath Yatra of Lord Mahavir and joined the procession, offering her best

wishes to all devotees. Addressing the gathering, she emphasised the importance of Lord Mahavir’s teachings in today’s world.

The Deputy Chief Minister further highlighted the need to improve tourism activities in the Shri Mahavir Ji area, as well as in the district and state.

LESSON IN DISCIPLINE

Brilliant officer, bad move: Neelabh’s Kashmir detour backfires

Rajendra Chhabra
Jaipur

Young IAS officers sometimes, due to a small mistake, get into trouble at the very beginning of their service despite having a brilliant academic and administrative background.

The latest case involves 2015 batch IAS officer Neelabh Saxena, currently posted as the Collector of Karauli. A topper who secured the 12th rank in the 2014 UPSC exam, Saxena had an unblemished service

record—until now. A recent misstep, whether deliberate or accidental, has become a hot topic of discussion.

Neelabh Saxena had applied for leave to visit his hometown, Lucknow, citing urgent personal reasons. However, instead of travelling to Lucknow, he went on a trip to Kashmir. His deviation from the approved plan came to light during a virtual meeting held on Saturday by Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant, which focused on tackling the severe heatwave and water



Neelabh Saxena

scarcity issues in Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts.

When asked about his current location during the meeting, Saxena responded that he was in Kashmir. This shocked

the Chief Secretary, who expressed strong disapproval. “You were granted leave for urgent work in your hometown. Had you informed about your Kashmir trip earlier, the leave could have been cancelled. People in your district are troubled by heat, lack of electricity and water but you chose to vacation in a cool climate instead. This irresponsible attitude raises questions on your administrative sensitivity,” Pant said.

Given the seriousness of the lapse and the CS’s firm stance on adminis-

trative discipline, disciplinary action against Saxena appears imminent. The incident could tarnish an otherwise commendable career. Neelabh Saxena has had a distinguished journey so far. A bright student since school, he scored 92% in Class X and XII in Lucknow. He later took a degree in Electronics Engineering from MNIT Allahabad and worked with a Bangalore-based company for two years. He left his MTech midway to join the Indian Railways before cracking the UPSC

Civil Services Examination and joining the Income Tax service.

In 2014, he became an IAS by securing 12th rank in the UPSC exam. Saxena served as Collector of Rajsamand for two years, earning praise for his performance. In January 2024, he was transferred to Karauli, where he continued his good work. However, this recent lapse has cast a shadow on his career. Neelabh has an impeccable and undisputed service career, but now he is in trouble for lying to the government.

Pilot assures Cong victory in Raj, calls for more youth roles

First India Bureau
Nagaur

Congress leader Sachin Pilot expressed confidence in Congress forming govt with a ‘massive majority’ in Rajasthan. He highlighted party’s focus on empowering youth via recent decisions. The event saw Party incharge SS Randhawa, PCC Chief GS Dotasra, MLAs Rafeek Khan, Amin Kagzi, Hakim Ali Khan, Manoj Meghwal, Dr Shikha Meel Barala & ex- PCC member Virendra Choudhary, who also met with Randhawa and Dotasra.



Sachin Pilot attends the wedding of MLA Zakir Hussain’s son in Makrana in Nagaur district on Sunday.

DEVNANI & DOTASRA EXCHANGE GREETINGS

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and PCC Chief GS Dotasra had a cordial meeting at MLA Zakir Hussain’s son’s wedding on Sunday, with pictures showing smiles and an amicable exchange.



STYLE TAKES STAGE!

The much-awaited Fashion Icon India 2025 Season 2 commenced with style and enthusiasm at Sukoon Bay Resort, Jaipur, under the banner of Khanak Chitra Entertainment. **P12**



Contestants of Miss Rajasthan 2025, Season 2, posing gracefully during the Jaipur auditions

MISS RAJASTHAN 2025 SEES A SURGE IN PARTICIPATION FROM SMALLER CITIES

Tiara Trail

The first audition of Miss Rajasthan 2025, was held on Sunday, April 13 at Hotel Prime Safari, Jaipur. The event saw over 1100 girls from across the state showcasing talent and confidence. City First brings to you some glimpses!



Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra with (L-R) Hritika Singh, Dimple, Harshika Batra, Aura Virmani, Sezal Sharma, Aanchal Bohra, Arnika Jain, Aastha Choudhary, Khushi Belawala, Himani and Suhani Khunteta

The grandeur of Rajasthan's most prestigious beauty pageant, Miss Rajasthan 2025 unfolded with a remarkable beginning as the first audition took place on Sunday at Hotel Prime Safari in Jaipur. Organised in association with Fusion Group, Prime Safari and Arya Group of Colleges, the event witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 1100 young girls from across the state, including small towns and metropolitan cities. The venue radiated excitement and elegance as the aspiring participants showcased their talent, confidence and personality during the introduction and catwalk rounds. The audition served as the first step for many young girls dreaming of entering the fashion and glamour industry. The jury panel included Nimisha Mishra, Director of Fusion Group and Organiser of Miss Rajasthan, Harshika Batra (Miss Rajasthan 2024), Arnika Jain (Runner-up), Khushi



Mitali Dusad

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Bela Wala, Tanu Payal, Dimple Harchandani, Jyoti Shekhawat, Aanchal Bohra (Miss Rajasthan 2018), Mansi Rathore (Miss Rajasthan 2021) and Aastha Choudhary (Miss Rajasthan 2023 Runner-up), who closely observed and judged each contestant on various parameters.

Notable dignitaries who graced the event included Dr Arvind Agarwal and Dr Pooja Agarwal from Arya Group of Colleges, Meenakshi Solanki (Director, Diva & Debonair), Kirti Jain from Nutrition

Hai Jaruri, Raj Bansal (Patron, Miss Rajasthan), Pt Suresh Mishra, Pawan Goyal, Mudit Sharma from Vivo, Sandeep Jain from Park Ocean, Astrologer Mahavir Kumar Soni, Durgesh Sharma from Roopgarh Palace, Raghav Goyal, JD Maheshwari and former Mayor Jyoti Khandelwal.

Organiser Yogesh Mishra shared that the response from small towns was higher this season, reflecting the expanding reach and popularity of the platform. He added that the journey ahead includes exciting activities such as talent rounds, grooming sessions with national and international experts, fitness workshops, beauty sessions, media interactions and pre-parties. The grand finale is scheduled for July at the iconic Birla Auditorium, Jaipur. Miss Rajasthan continues to empower and celebrate young women across the state, providing them a platform to rise, shine and lead.



(Top to bottom) Harshika Batra, Aanchal Bohra, Dimple Harchandani & Contestants shine during the introduction round



Dr Harshita Mittal Dani

*Doctorate of Philosophy,
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Education has a significant impact on a child's future during their early years. Kindergarten is the cornerstone period where young brains begin their journey of learning, exploration, and social development. Kindergarten, which is frequently viewed as the first step into formal education, is more than just a classroom; it is a place where the seeds of knowledge, curiosity, and confidence are planted.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDERGARTEN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Studies have revealed that early childhood education has a long-term impact on a child's cognitive, emotional, and social development. Kin-

dergarten provides an atmosphere in which children can acquire important skills including communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Young learners get a basic understanding of language, mathematics, and creativity via interactive play, structured activities, and guided instruction.

A SAFE AND NURTURING ENVIRONMENT

Kindergarten provides a safe and supportive environment for children to express themselves. Trained educators assist pupils in developing self-esteem and independence while instilling a love of learning. The classroom environment encourages children to interact with their peers, teaching them valuable social skills like cooperation, sharing, and empathy. Furthermore, kindergartens strive to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment in which every child feels appreciated and encouraged. Teachers utilize positive reinforcement to encourage good behaviour and let students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and emotions. Structured routines provide young learners with



a sense of consistency, lowering anxiety and assisting them in adjusting to the school environment. Furthermore, kindergartens highlight the value of emotional intelligence, which helps children regulate their emotions and develop

resilience that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Brigadier Satish Penghal, founder of one of Jaipur's kindergarten schools, believes that offering a package to parents should not be used to attract students towards the school. Instead, the primary goal should be to provide a welcoming, safe environment that encourages children to explore freely. He emphasizes that a child's happiness and achievement are considerably more important than simply memorizing the ABCs or 123s.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

Kindergarten is often a child's first extended stay away from their parents. It serves as a transition period that prepares kids for primary

school by assisting them in adjusting to a regimented schedule. Kindergartens make the transition between learning and play easier and more pleasurable for both children and parents. Teachers collaborate closely with families to understand each child's specific requirements, making the transition as smooth as possible. Regular contact between parents and educators builds a strong support structure, allowing caregivers to take an active role in their child's early education. Parent-teacher meetings, progress reports, and classroom activities promote teamwork, which reinforces learning at home. Kindergartens also frequently establish familiar routines, such as storytime and snack breaks, which reflect some parts of home life and help youngsters feel at ease. Kindergartens develop young learners' confidence and independence by gradually introducing regulated schedules and responsibilities, ensuring that they are well-prepared for the next stage of their educational journey.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Quality kindergarten education lays the groundwork for lifelong learning. Governments and educational institutions around the world acknowledge the value of early education and continue to invest in initiatives that improve children's overall development. Parents, too, play an important role by actively participating in their child's learning path, ensuring that their children have the necessary assistance to develop.

In conclusion, kindergarten is much more than just an introduction to school: it is

THE ROLE OF PLAY IN LEARNING

Play is an essential component of early childhood education. Whether it's storytelling, building blocks, drawing, or group games, these activities foster creativity and imagination. Play-based learning allows youngsters to grasp topics in an entertaining way while simultaneously improving motor skills and coordination.

More importantly, while learning the alphabet and numbers is beneficial, a child's happiness, confidence, and emotional well-being come first. A happy and encouraging setting ensures that children acquire a love of learning rather than seeing it as a burden.

the foundation of a child's academic and social development. By encouraging curiosity, inventiveness, and confidence, it builds the framework for future success. Investing in outstanding kindergarten education today means laying the groundwork for a brighter future. A solid and pleasant start in kindergarten helps

children become lifelong learners, compassionate people, and confident leaders. After all, the purpose is to provide children with the tools they need to negotiate life with joy and resilience, rather than just teaching them letters and numbers. A happy child today is a successful individual tomorrow.



Pitch Perfect Finale

In a thrilling finale, EMR Super Kings, led by Gaurav Gaur, clinched the championship of the Kigo Match Creators Cricket League (CCL), recently held at Infinity Club, Jaipur. They triumphed over ASAP Warriors, captained by Kuldeep Rathore and Rohan Bhardwaj, marking a historic win in Jaipur's first-ever creator-led cricket league. Conceptualized by Rara Sports & Entertainment with Altanture Sports, the event featured 100+ creators, influencers and team owners. Semi-finalists included Imperial Sunrisers and Rockland Royals. Powered by Kigo Match and Aavas Buildcom, the event also saw special guests like Rishi Soni, Shubham Chaudhary and Deepanshu Rara in attendance.

NAIM KHAN



A proud moment captured as Nisha, Rutvi, Ashish, Tanu, Akanksha Bhalla, Gaurav Gaur, Varunavi, Muskan, Somya, PN Dudi, Girraj, Ranveer and Bhavya celebrated their winning achievement with joy and pride.



Jashan Kaur, Priya Agrawal, Deepanshu Rara & Shubham Chaudhary

EVENTS!



Jaipur's golf prodigy, Ojaswini Saraswat, began her season on a high by securing her sixth national title recently at Ahmedabad's Kensville Golf Course. A member of Rambagh Golf Club, she maintained her lead from day one to finish with a comfortable margin. Last year, she bagged five national titles and stood second at the US Kids Golf World Championship 2024. She also won the Asian Junior Master 2024 in Thailand. Ojaswini credited her coach and family for their support.



MUKESH KIRADOO

A press conference was organised on Saturday to announce the partnership between Bima Garage and Bima Junction (a subsidiary of Jaipur Health & Wellness) aimed at simplifying the insurance claim process for hospitals in Rajasthan. The collaboration will reduce administrative tasks, allowing hospitals to focus on patient care. Himmat Singh, CEO of Jaipur Health & Wellness, highlighted the significance of this initiative. Bima Garage, serving over 2,000 hospitals across India, is expanding into smaller cities in Rajasthan. The event was attended by Bima Garage Co-Founders Sandesh Mishra, Devang Parmar, Sandeep Kumar, Dr Manu, and officials from 30 hospitals in Jaipur.



Ambassy Millennium Senior Secondary School, Ramnagar Sodala, Jaipur, hosted the cultural festival "Navras 2025" on Thursday at Birla Auditorium. The grand event honoured the grandparents of the students, inviting them as special guests to promote familial bonds and strengthen intergenerational relationships. Students performed emotional and entertaining acts, sharing the stage with their grandparents. They sang songs like "Dadi Amma Dadi Amma Maan Jao" and "Nani Teri Morni Ko Mor Le Gaye." Bollywood singer Samarth Swaroop was awarded the prestigious "Rooh-e-Mausiqi" for his contribution to music. The event successfully blended tradition, family values, and cultural celebration, leaving a lasting impression on all participants. It was a memorable gathering that showcased the importance of family connections.

Rare Gem Revel



Abhishek Sand, Alok Sonkhiya, Sunita Shekhawat & Neeraj Lunawat



Sunita Shekhawat cut the ceremonial ribbon. Also seen are Abhishek Sand, Alok Sonkhiya, Neeraj Lunawat with association members

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The 27th edition of the Rough and Cut Gemstone Show (JAGS), organised by the Jewellers Association Jaipur, concluded grandly at Rajasthan International Center, Jhalana. Known as "India's Tucson Show," this one-day exhibition attracted

international buyers from the USA, Turkey, Gulf countries and various Indian metros like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata and Hyderabad. Over 500 rare and exquisite gemstones were showcased under one roof, with a 23-carat fine-cut emerald worth ₹1.2 crore emerging as the showstopper. The exhibition was inaugurated by renowned jewellery designer Sunita

Shekhawat. This year's edition marked the launch of three new gemstones Kunzite, Ametrine and Aquamarine priced between ₹100 and several lakhs depending on the cut. Rare stones such as yellow sapphire, moonstone ruby, dark ruby, and ammolite also drew attention. Jewellers Association President Alok Sonkhia and Secretary Neeraj Lunawat emphasised the show's

global relevance. With 117 exhibitors and 147 booths, the event, coordinated by Abhishek Sand, reinforced Jaipur's status as a global gemstone hub.



Gem

MELODIC DEVOTION!



As part of the Net-Theat series, singer Naval Dangri captivated audiences with the soulful Rajasthani folk song "Baje chhe naubat baaja mhara Diggipuri ka raja", dedicated to folk deity Diggi Kalyan. The rendition, originally composed by devotee Jamuna Dasi, evoked deep cultural pride. Musicians Neeraj Chauhan (tabla), Hardik Tharuka (harmonium), Ankesh Khatana (guitar) and Girdhari Lal (cymbals) added vibrant energy. Rajendra Sharma Raju coordinated the event, with music by Jitendra Sharma and visuals by Manoj Swami.

SACRED PATH!



In a spiritual Ashray ceremony at Gupt Vrindavan Dham on Sunday, 460 devotees dedicated their lives to Krishna Bhakti under the shelter of Vishwaguru Srila Prabhupada. Of these, 335 qualified through interviews and questionnaires for Ashraya levels—Shraddhavan to Charana Ashray—marked by chanting commitments. Devotees pledged to follow the four regulative principles and read Srila Prabhupada's books. President Amitasana Das emphasized the transformative power of chanting Krishna's name, guiding devotees toward knowledge, devotion and the ultimate goal—Bhagavad Dham.



FROM FEAR TO FRIENDSHIP WITH DOGS

KINDNESS TOWARD STRAYS

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With a sharp rise in dog bite incidents, public sentiment is currently torn between dog lovers and critics. But instead of conflict, what we need is compassion, understanding and awareness. Dogs

have been loyal companions to humans since ancient times—from Yudhishtira's Mahabharata companion to guardians of our homes today. Experts like advocates Manjari Sharma, Satyendra Singh, US attorney Rahul Dwivedi, and Banipark Vistar Yojna Vikas Samiti president Shankar Lal

Agarwal, along with dog feeder Tanuja Inani, emphasize the need for a balanced approach. Key steps include educating children about street dogs, promoting pet owner responsibilities, supporting sterilization and vaccination drives and recognizing canine behaviour. NGOs, mu-

nicipal bodies and citizen committees must work together to create shelters, store bite data, ensure rabies vaccinations and uphold dogs' legal rights. Understanding dogs' pain, hunger and health needs, along with driving responsibly and treating them kindly, can reduce aggression. Fear of dogs

can also be addressed through dog lovers and feeders who help bridge trust between animals and humans. The message is clear—love dogs, respect them and build a world where both dogs and humans can coexist peacefully. Small actions can lead to powerful, lasting harmony.

