



FIRST INDIA

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IN BRIEF



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat offering prayers during the concluding programme of Bhagwan Bhavbhaveshwar Rajyotsav organised at Shri Sad Guru Dham in Valsad, Gujarat, on Monday. **P6**

Violence in another WB district over Waqf Law

Kolkata: As situation in Murshidabad started rolling back towards normalcy, tensions have now gripped yet another WB district Bhangar in South 24 Parganas — as anti-Waqf Act protesters clashed with police, set a van & other vehicles on fire. **P6**

Ghulam Nabi dissolves all units of his party

New Delhi: Less than 6 months after his Democratic Progressive Azad Party unsuccessfully made its maiden electoral foray in the Assembly polls in J&K, former Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday dissolved all the units of the party.



Salman Khan receives another death threat

Mumbai: Actor Salman Khan has received a fresh death threat. On Monday, Mumbai Traffic Police received a threatening message claiming they would kill the actor after entering his house and blow up his car with a bomb.

IGI Airport T2 shut for repairs from today

New Delhi: Starting today, T2 of Delhi's IGI Airport will be closed for 4 months to facilitate repair and upgrade work. Flights previously operated from T2, including those by airlines such as IndiGo and Akasa Air, will be relocated to the T1.

Pashupati Paras quits NDA ahead of polls

Patna: Ahead of polls this year, former union minister and RLPJ chief Pashupati Kumar Paras on Monday announced to quit the BJP-JD(U) led NDA and said that the RLPJ is no longer a part of the ruling alliance both in the State and at the Centre.

'WAQF LAW IS REAL SOCIAL JUSTICE'

First India Bureau
Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

PM Narendra Modi on Monday launched a multi-pronged attack on the Congress, cornering it for Muslim appeasement and objecting to the new Waqf law, and targeting it for price hikes in Karnataka and clearing forests in Telangana.

SPIRIT OF WAQF

Modi said that through the new law, the sacred spirit of Waqf will be respected, and the poor and Pasmada families of the Muslim society, Muslim women, especially widows, and children will get their rights. "And this is what Ambedkar has given us the task of doing in the spirit of the Constitution. This is real spirit and real social justice," Modi said.

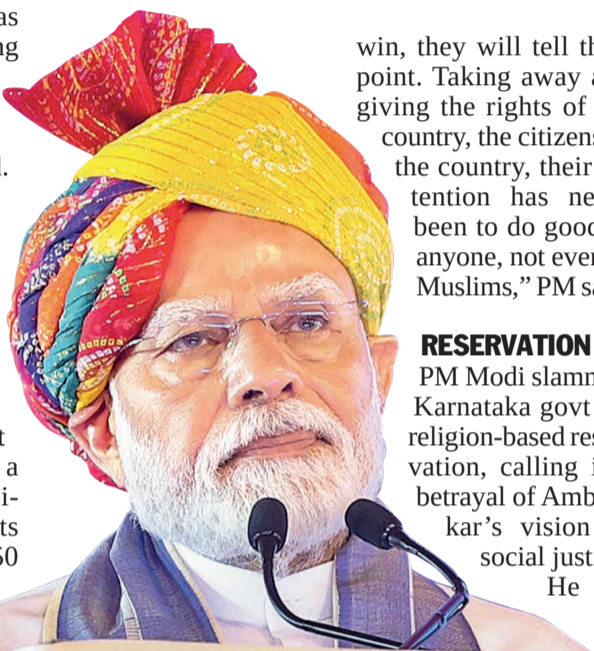
DARE TO CONGRESS

"I want to ask all these people, I want to tell these vote bank hungry politicians, if you have any sympathy for Muslims in your heart, then why doesn't the Congress make a Muslim its party president? They give tickets to Parliament, give 50 per cent to Muslims. If they

- PM Modi challenges Congress to make a Muslim its party president
- Modi's 5 sharp blows deliver one clear message to the Congress



PM Narendra Modi with Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, Krishan Pal Gurjar, Anil Vij, Naveen Jindal and others during laying of foundation stone and inauguration of the development projects, in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, on Monday.



win, they will tell their point. Taking away and giving the rights of the country, the citizens of the country, their intention has never been to do good to anyone, not even to Muslims," PM said.

RESERVATION

PM Modi slammed Karnataka govt for religion-based reservation, calling it a betrayal of Ambedkar's vision of social justice. He ac-

cused Cong of turning constitutional provisions into tools of appeasement for political gain.

K'TAKA PRICE HIKE

PM also pointed to "A to Z" of price hikes in Congress-ruled Karnataka to say there is a clear contrast between BJP-ruled states and those governed by the Congress.

TELANGANA FOREST

Modi targeted Congress in Telangana for running bulldozers over the lands destroying forests that were once protected. **P5**

MODI FLAGS OFF 1ST HISAR TO AYODHYA FLIGHT, NEW TERMINAL WORK BEGINS

PM Narendra Modi on Monday flagged off a commercial flight from Hisar to Ayodhya and laid the foundation stone for a new terminal building at Maharaja Agrasen Airport. The terminal to be built at an estimated cost of over ₹410 crore. PM Modi said, "Before 2014, there were 74 airports in the country, but today there are over 150 airports. Imagine 74 airports in 70 years? Every year, there are record airline passengers in the country."

BAREFOOT DEVOTION! MODI FULFILLS 14-YEAR VOW OF ADMIRER, HELPS HIM PUT ON SHOES



PM Narendra Modi presented a pair of shoes to a long-time admirer, who had given up wearing footwear 14 years ago, vowing not to wear them until Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. Rampal Kashyap's vow was fulfilled at a Haryana rally on Monday as PM Modi met him personally and made him wear shoes. Acknowledging Kashyap's affection and admiration, PM Modi urged his well-wishers to "focus on something that is linked to social work and nation building". "At today's public meeting in Yamunanagar, I met Shri Rampal Kashyap Ji from Kaithal. He had taken a vow 14 years ago — that he will only wear footwear after I became PM and he got to meet me," PM Narendra Modi posted on X.

Mehul Choksi, wanted in PNB fraud case, nabbed in Belgium

First India Bureau
Brussels/New Delhi

Belgian authorities confirmed on Monday that they have Mehul Choksi, the fugitive diamond businessman, in custody after he was arrested over the weekend. He is wanted, along with his nephew Nirav Modi, in a case by Punjab National Bank alleging loan frauds worth more than ₹13,578 crore. The CBI has been pursuing his extradition since 2018 when he left the country.

Choksi is an Antiguan citizen at present, and had moved to Belgium a few years ago, reportedly for cancer treatment. He was arrested near his home in Antwerp. As per reports, he secured a Belgian residency permit in



Mehul Choksi

November 2023, as his wife is a Belgian citizen. In a petition filed with a special court in Mumbai this February, Choksi had provided medical documents that said he was suffering from chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (blood cancer) and was unable to travel. The two diamond tycoons had earlier denied any sort of wrongdoings.

CBI, ED TEAM HEAD TO BELGIUM FROM INDIA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) have been shortlisted officials on Monday, to visit Belgium after the arrest of Mehul Choksi. Team from India will complete documentation and coordinate with Belgian government to execute extradition procedure.

'BAIL PLEA TO CITE HIS CANCER TREATMENT'

Legal representative of Mehul Choksi said they are in process of filing an appeal against his arrest in Belgium. "Our appeal seeking his release on bail will mainly be on ground of medical condition, he is undergoing treatment for cancer. We will also be arguing that he is not a flight risk," lawyer said.

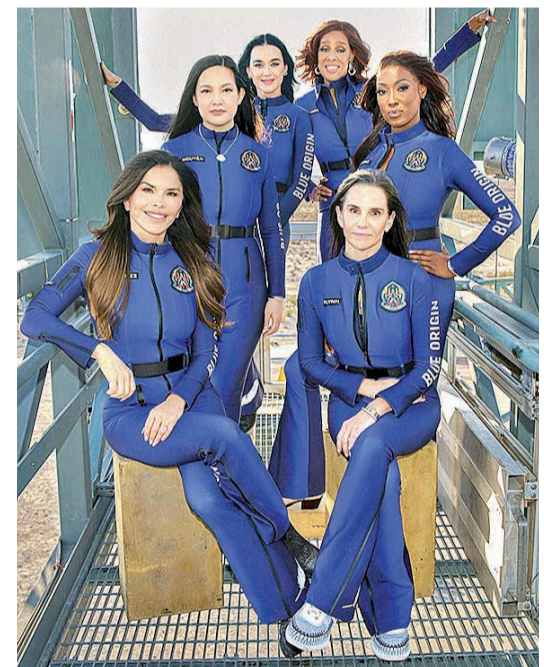
NIA grilling Rana for 8 to 10 hours daily to unravel 'larger conspiracy'

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Mumbai terror attacks key mastermind Tahawwur Hussain Rana is being interrogated for 8 to 10 hours daily by NIA sleuths to unravel a larger conspiracy behind the dreaded strikes, official sources said on Monday.

"Rana has been cooperating during the questioning," a source said, adding that a team led by Chief Investigating Officer Jaya Roy is interrogating him. Sources said that Rana has so far asked for only 3 things — a pen, paper sheets or notepad and Quran — which have been provided to him.

Blue Origin's all-women 11-minute space flight



Katy Perry, Jeff Bezos' fiancée Lauren Sanchez, Gayle King, Amanda Nguyen, Kerianne Flynn and Aisha Bowe, all-female crew made 11-minute trip into space from West Texas, on Monday morning, thanks to Jeff Bezos' private rocket company Blue Origin. It was first all-female spaceflight since 1963. **P7**

Telangana 1st state to implement SC sub-categorisation

First India Bureau
Hyderabad

Telangana government on Monday issued an order on the implementation of Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorisation, making it the first state in the country to do so, Irrigation Minister N Utam Kumar Reddy said.

Telangana government had earlier appointed a commission headed by retired HC judge Justice Shameem Akther on SC sub-categorisation, which made recommendations that the 59 Scheduled Caste (SC) communities be divided into three groups viz I, II, and III for total reservations of 15% in government jobs and education. The issuance of order coincides with birth anniversary of BR Ambedkar.

REMEMBERING Dr BR AMBEDKAR ON HIS 135TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Ambedkar inspired the world through his vision: CM

Tripti Gautam
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Monday commemorated birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar at a state-level ceremony held at the Rajasthan International Centre. Emphasizing global influence of Dr Ambedkar, the CM said that the revered leader not only guided India but also inspired the world through his vision of uplifting the most marginalized. He reaffirmed the state gov-



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma along with (L-R) Kuldeep Ranka, Avinash Gehlot, Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Jogaram Patel and Jogeshwar Garg during the state-level ceremony on the occasion of birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, at the Rajasthan International Centre, in Jaipur on Monday.

ernment's commitment to fulfilling Dr Ambedkar's dream of empower-

ing the last person in the social order, under the leadership of PM Modi.

Highlighting the focus on four key social segments—youth, women,

farmers, and labourers—Sharma stated that the government is taking long-term steps to ensure comprehensive development across the state. CM announced launch of "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Sambal Yojana" for villages with over 50 per cent Scheduled Caste (SC) population. Budget of ₹250 crore has been allocated to develop basic infrastructure & support community upliftment. CM Sharma lauded PM Modi for spreading awareness about Ambedkar's legacy. **P2**

SALUTING VISIONARY BEHIND INDIAN CONSTITUTION!

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister & BJP National President JP Nadda, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar and Union Minister of State BL Verma, pay tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary, at Prerna Sthal, inside the Parliament premises, in New Delhi, on Monday.



32 policemen sent to police lines after custodial death in Jhunjhunu

28-yr-old man detained for questioning in theft case dies at police station



Pradeep Gadhwal
Jhunjhunu

A man, detained for questioning in a case of theft, died at a police station in Jhunjhunu, police said on Monday.



The station house officer of Khetri, Gopal Lal Jangid, said Pappu Meena (28) was detained on Sunday in connection with a case of theft registered on February 28.

"He was brought to the police station for questioning. He suddenly fell sick, vomited and got unconscious. Meena was rushed to the government hospital where he was declared dead," the police official said. Superintendent of Police Sharad Chaudhary put the entire Khetri police station on line duty. Along with this, three policemen of Nizampur Mod outpost were also put on line duty. The headquarters of all 32 policemen was kept in the police line. Other policemen were also appointed in place of all the policemen who were put on line duty.



Police officers reached the hospital after receiving information about the death of the youth in custody.

INMATE DIES DURING TREATMENT, FAMILY ALLEGES CUSTODIAL ASSAULT IN PRATAPGARH

Pratapgarh: An undertrial prisoner, Ajay Jat died during treatment at the district hosp on Monday, sparking outrage & protests from his family. Ajay had been lodged in the district jail after being arrested by police on Saturday under the Arms Act. According to initial reports, he collapsed inside the jail on Monday after complaining of dizziness. Jail authorities rushed him to the district hospital, where he was later declared dead.



OUTRAGE IN SINGOLI OVER ATTACK ON JAIN MONKS

Bhilwara: A troubling incident unfolded in Bhilwara district's Singoli town, where three Jain monks were allegedly assaulted near the Kachhala Bus Stand. The victims — Shailesh Muni, Balbhadr Muni, and Munindra Muni — suffered physical injuries in the attack, the motives for which remain unclear. In response, Singoli will observe a complete shutdown today.

SWIFT ACTION PREVENTS CHILD MARRIAGE IN JODHPUR

Jodhpur: In a swift and decisive operation, Jodhpur police successfully prevented a child marriage scheduled to take place in Bhomiya Ji Nagar. The intervention followed a tip-off received by DCP Rajarshi Raj Verma, who immediately directed the Basni Police Station to take urgent action. Authorities also learned that the wedding procession was en route from Tanawara and expected to arrive shortly.

FETUS FOUND IN GOVT HOSP'S DUSTBIN IN BHARATPUR

Bharatpur: In a deeply disturbing incident, a fetus estimated to be around three months old was discovered in a dustbin inside a ward of the Government District Hospital in Nadbai, located in Bharatpur district. The grim discovery has triggered widespread shock and raised serious concerns regarding healthcare practices and bio-waste management in public hospitals.

CROWDS GATHER IN NIWAI DEMANDING ACTION AFTER VANDALISM OF AMBEDKAR & BIRSA MUNDA STATUES

Niwai: Tension gripped the Datwas police station area in Niwai after statues of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and tribal icon Birsa Munda were found vandalized. The incident came to light during a garlanding ceremony held to mark Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary. Upon receiving the info, SDO Suresh Kumar Har-solia promptly arrived at the scene to take stock of the situation. A large crowd had already gathered, demanding immediate action against those responsible for the desecration. Members of several social and community organizations, including Ambedkar Manch urged authorities to apprehend the culprits.



MANDAWA POLICE UNCOVERS INTERNATIONAL CYBERCRIME NETWORK, 13 INDIVIDUALS HELD

Jhunjhunu: Rajasthan's Mandawa police arrested 13 individuals, including three women, involved in an international cyber fraud racket. The suspects, posing as Microsoft employees, targeted foreign nationals, primarily Americans, offering fraudulent technical support and stealing sensitive data. A joint police team seized 21 laptops, mobile phones, and other gadgets during a raid at a hotel owned by Haji Farooq Bhati. The gang used remote-access software, including UltraViewer and Turbo VPN, to steal personal and financial data.



Raj heatwave intensifies with 45.4°C in Barmer



Mother & son take shelter under umbrella to escape the blistering sun during a hot summer day, in Jaipur on Monday. NAIM KHAN

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Parts of Rajasthan continued to reel from severe heat on Monday, with Barmer recording the highest maximum temperature at 45.4 degrees Celsius, the Met office said. The maximum temperature in Phalodi was recorded at 44.2 degrees Celsius. Other parts of the desert state also continued

to reel from the heat, with Jaisalmer recording a day temperature of 44 degrees Celsius, followed by Jodhpur at 42.1 degrees, Bikaner at 41.7 degrees, Jalore at 41.6 degrees, Churu at 41.4 degrees, Kota and Dabok (Udaipur) at 40.2 degrees each and Jaipur at 37.6 degrees. The Met office has predicted a 3-4 degree rise in day temperatures during the next 3 days.

SOG NABS PHOTO STUDIO OWNER IN RAJ EXAM PAPER LEAK CASE IN JPR

Jaipur: In a key breakthrough in the Rajasthan exam paper leak case, the SOG has arrested a photo studio operator from Bhnimal for his alleged role in facilitating impersonation during competitive exams. The accused, identified as Mahendra Boran, was taken into custody for allegedly editing photographs used to create forged identity documents. Boran altered images at the behest of Ramniwas. These manipulated photos were used to enable imposters to appear for exams in place of genuine candidates.

KOTA PRINCIPAL ACCUSED OF SENDING OBSCENE MESSAGES

Kota: Students of a government girls' college in Kota have accused the principal of sending them obscene messages via WhatsApp and pressuring them to chat with him late at night. They also alleged that he would summon them to his office, post a guard outside the door to prevent entry, and threaten them with poor grades or failure if they didn't comply. The allegations were supported by screenshots shared by the students. The incident reportedly took place in the Kunhadi police station area of Kota.

Man held with ₹55K bribe on behalf of Girdawar

First India Bureau
Pratapgarh

In an anti-corruption crackdown, the Pratapgarh unit of the ACB arrested Dinesh Vaishnav for accepting a bribe of Rs 55,000 on behalf of Revenue Inspector Rajesh Meena. Vaishnav was caught during a trap

on April 14, 2025, after a complaint about a Rs 95,000 bribe for land conversion in Shambhupura Tehsil. The ACB had earlier conducted a verification operation on April 8, where Vaishnav accepted Rs 40,000. Meena fled the scene, and a search operation is underway to apprehend him.



Mines department registers 48 FIRs, arrests 31 in 12 days

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A large-scale crackdown on illegal mining is underway across the state under the direction of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. In just the last 12 days, authorities have registered 384 cases related to illegal mining, transportation, and storage of minerals.

As part of the intensified drive, law enforcement has filed 48 FIRs and arrested 31 individuals. The Mines Department, along with joint enforcement teams, has seized 199 vehicles and four machines allegedly involved in unlawful activities. The campaign is being spearheaded by



Principal Secretary (Mines) T. Ravikant and Director Deepak Tanwar, with close monitoring by Additional Director P.R. Ameta.

During the operation, authorities confiscated 25,604 tonnes of illegally mined minerals. A total fine of Rs 4.65 crore has been imposed, and Rs 2.07 crore has already been recovered.

Guv applauds PM's vision for a developed India Work together for the resolution of Viksit Bharat, says Governor

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Governor Haribhau Bagade has urged for collective efforts towards achieving a developed India, emphasizing the importance of well-planned strategies to establish the country as a leader in all sectors under the "Viksit Bharat" initiative. Speaking on the ongoing progress in the nation, Bagade highlighted the need for a holistic approach to development, focusing not only on improving education and healthcare but also ensuring the efficient delivery of essential services like clean water, electricity, and housing to every citizen.



Governor Haribhau Bagade addressing the 'Viksit Bharat' Sannam, organized by the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Sansthan in Jaipur.

He made these remarks while addressing the "Viksit Bharat" Sannam, organized by the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Sansthan on Monday. He called for a "Nation First" mindset, stressing that the benefits of government welfare schemes should reach the most marginalized sections of society. He also acknowledged the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who launched the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, aimed at making public welfare schemes more accessible to the people.

Jaipur court denies bail to alleged ₹4,000 cr GST evasion mastermind

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

In a significant legal development, the Economic Offences Court in Jaipur has rejected the bail plea of Naveen Yadav, the alleged mastermind behind a massive Rs 4,000 crore GST evasion racket.

Yadav was arrested by the DGGI, Jaipur Zonal Unit, following an extensive raid, and has remained in judicial custody since February 19. Authorities allege that he orchestrated a large-scale operation involving the clandestine supply of goods while evading statutory tax obligations.

The case also implicates Manoj Vijay and Rajeev Yadav as co-ac-

Yadav was arrested by the DGGI, Jaipur Zonal Unit, following an extensive raid, and has remained in judicial custody since February 19

cused. While Vijay has been arrested, Rajeev Yadav remains at large following the raids. Naveen Yadav's counsel contended that his client had no role in the fraudulent transactions and was being falsely implicated. However, Special Public Prosecutor R.N. Yadav, appearing for the DGGI, opposed the plea, citing the accused's history of tax evasion and repeated fraudulent conduct.

Close shave for forest guard in Ranthambore

First India Bureau
Sawai Madhopur

Babulal, a forest guard stationed in Ranthambore National Park, had a close brush with danger while on patrol near the iconic Jogi Mahal.

While trekking through the area, he unknowingly came too close to a tigress, known as Arrowhead, who was concealed in the underbrush with her cubs. Sensing a threat to her young, the tigress let out a growl and charged at Babulal. Fortunately, Babulal, who was aware of the tigress's recent movements in the area, reacted swiftly. Park authorities have reiterated the need for extreme caution in zones with known tigress activity, especially during the breeding season.

HEALTHCARE REFORMS DISCUSSED

Bikaner hospitals to enhance services: Secy

Laxman Raghav
Bikaner

Ambrish Kumar, Secretary of the Medical Education Department, conducted an extensive inspection of Bikaner's healthcare infrastructure, assessing the efficiency and functionality of several prominent medical institutions. His visit included a comprehensive review of the Super Speciality Block, Haldiram Heart Hospital, the Psychiatry Department, and the Trauma Centre. Join-



Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar reviewing the arrangements in Bikaner on Monday. Also seen are Dr. Pintu Nahta, Dr. Devendra Agarwal and Dr. Surendra Verma.

ing Kumar during the inspection were Dr. Gunjan Soni, Principal of Sardar Patel Medical College (SPMC), Dr. Surendra Kumar, Superintendent of

PBM Hospital, Dr. Sonali Dhawan, Superintendent of the Super Speciality Block, and Dr. Pintu Nahta, Head of the Cardiology Department. The visit was



MLA Jethanand Vyas met Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar in Bikaner.

followed by an in-depth meeting at the medical college auditorium from 3 PM to 8 PM with the HODs and department in-charge. The meeting also discussed various proposals to improve hospital management and patient care. Key topics included extending outpatient department (OPD) hours on holidays from two to six hours.

CM Sharma launches 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Panchteerth Yatra'

From P1...

Key locations associated with Ambedkar—his birthplace in Mhow, initiation site in Nagpur, resting place in Delhi, memorial in Mumbai, and educational site in London—have been developed as 'Panchteerth' pilgrimage sites. Additionally, Modi introduced Constitution Day to honour Ambedkar's contribution. Sharma noted that Ambedkar was an early advocate for women's empowerment, a vision now realized through a constitutional

amendment ensuring 33% reservation for women in Parliament & State Assemblies.

Highlighting efforts in social welfare, Sharma mentioned that over 7.25 lakh new beneficiaries have been added to the state pension scheme, with the monthly pension amount raised to Rs 1,250. The Palanhar Yojana now provides financial assistance of up to Rs 2,500 per month for the care of orphaned and needy children. The state has also allocated Rs 60 crore under the Dadudayal Nomadic Empower-

ment Scheme for the welfare of nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.

The CM also transferred funds via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Ayushman Bal Sambal Yojana, which provides up to Rs 50 lakh in free medical assistance for children under 18 suffering from 56 rare diseases. The inauguration of the Ambedkar Institute of Constitutional Studies and Research under Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Law University, Jaipur, was also announced, along with the launch of several de-addiction centres.

Remembering Babasaheb

CM Sharma, Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa join 135th Ambedkar Jayanti event; tributes offered

Guv, CM urge all to follow Ambedkar's ideals

Vinod Singh Chouhan,
Tripti Gautam
Jaipur

Governor Haribhau Bagade offered floral tribute on the statue of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar at Ambedkar Circle on Monday on his 135th birth anniversary and remembered his immense contribution in the making of the Constitution and the all-round development of the deprived class. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma also garlanded the statue of Ambedkar.

Bagade said that everyone should adopt the ideals of Ambedkar, who gave the mantra of social, economic and political justice, equality of dignity and opportunity and fraternity to all the citizens of the country. On the occasion, Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa, MLA Kalicharan Saraf, Gopal Sharma and Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater Mayor Saumya Gurjar along with other public representatives, officials and citizens were present.



Governor Haribhau Bagade and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma offering floral tribute on the statue of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar at Ambedkar Circle on Monday.



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari unveils the statue of Dr BR Ambedkar in her constituency Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur, on Monday.

BJP PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR BR AMBEDKAR ON HIS BIRTH ANNIV

A solemn ceremony was held at the BJP state headquarters on Monday to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Floral tributes were offered before his portrait as leaders remembered the architect of the Indian Constitution and his lifelong struggle for social justice. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa, speaking at the event, paid homage to Dr. Ambedkar and reiterated the government's commitment to fulfilling his vision. He stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, the state government is working earnestly to uplift the most marginalized sections of society.

Yogesh Sharma

CONGRESS LEADERS PAY TRIBUTES, QUESTION BJP'S COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Pradesh Congress Committee chief Govind Singh Dotsra, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly and AICC incharge of Rajasthan Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa paid floral tributes to Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at the PCC office. While addressing a seminar held on the occasion, the three tried to corner the BJP.



Dotsra said that people who came to power but never believed in the Constitution nor in Mahatma Gandhi have no right to question the Constitution. Jolly also slammed the BJP for weakening the Constitution made by Ambedkar. "The Election Commission is working at the behest of BJP. Before cleaning Ambedkar's statue, people in BJP should first clean their thought process," he said. Randhawa also expressed his concern that if the Constitution is in danger, it would impact the entire country. He said that the party would emerge stronger if workers are respected.

Madan Rathore slams Congress for ignoring Ambedkar's true legacy

Rajeev Gaur,
Shivprakash Purohit
Jodhpur

BJP State President Madan Rathore on Monday said that Congress was aware of Bhimrao Ambedkar's exceptional capabilities but the party denied him any opportunities for advancement.

"Dr. Ambedkar had extraordinary talent but Congress never allowed him to rise. Even when he contested elections twice, Congress played a key role in ensuring his defeat," he said at a press conference in Jodhpur. Rathore criticized Congress for not honoring Dr. Ambedkar during his lifetime, and claimed that even after his passing, a portrait of the iconic leader was not placed in Parliament.

"It was the BJP government that not only conferred the highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, on Dr. Ambedkar but also ensured that his portrait is displayed in the Parliament," he said. Rathore also praised PM Modi for initiating the establishment of the five "Panch Tirtha" of Dr. Ambedkar.



GS Shekhawat, Madan Rathore and other leaders during the press conference on Monday.

UNION MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO BR AMBEDKAR IN JODHPUR



Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday paid floral tributes to B R Ambedkar in Jodhpur, Rajasthan on the 135th anniversary of the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. He paid the tributes at Nagori Gate Circle in the city.

MEGHWAL APPROVES FUNDS FOR AMBEDKAR CIRCLE, OTHER PROJECTS

On the occasion of Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti, Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal announced that Rs 10 lakh will be spent on the beautification of Ambedkar Circle and another Rs 20 lakh was approved for solar panels in Ambedkar Welfare Society in Bikaner. This is Meghwal's first financial approval in the year 2025-26. His personal assistant Tejaram Meghwal made the announcement in the presence of BJP rural district president Shyam Sundar Pancharia, city district president Suman Chhajed, district minister Manish Soni, BJYM General Secretary Pankaj Agarwal, employee leader Shivlal Teji and others were present.

Laxman Raghav

New liquor prices up to 5%; action to be taken if sold more than MRP



First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Excise Department has released the list of new rates of liquor in the state under the financial year 2025-26. The list of new rates is available on the department's website of RSBCL <https://iems.rajasthan.gov.in> for the general public.

Excise Commissioner Shivprasad Nakate said that the list of new rates of liquor has been put up on the portal and the gen-

eral public can get information about the new rates here. "The new rate list of Indian Made Foreign Liquor, beer and other brands of liquor can be viewed by clicking the link of Approved Rate List in the Public Section on the home page of the website," Nakate said.

Notably, liquor will be sold at the licensed shops in the state as per the new rate list and action will be taken as per rules on charging more than the MRP.

Congress MLA grabs BJP leader's collar over 'plaque'

Sandeep Goyal
Sawai Madhopur

Congress MLA Indira Meena had a heated altercation with a local BJP leader in Sawai Madhopur district over installing a commemorative plaque at the site of an Ambedkar statue.

A video surfaced in which Meena is purportedly seen grabbing BJP mandal president Hanuman Dixit by the collar, leading to a physical scuffle. Dixit was sitting in a car. The incident happened on Sunday night at Ambedkar Chowk in Boli town.

The controversy began when MLA Meena attempted to install a commemorative plaque at the site of an Ambedkar statue, which was unveiled



MLA Meena was seen engaged in a heated exchange with SDM over the issue.

nearly two years ago.

After the change in government, BJP members opposed the installation of the plaque, sparking a verbal confrontation. When the BJP leaders raised their objections, Meena got angry and grabbed Dixit by

the collar. The situation escalated, local police and administration intervened and the plaque was kept at the local police station. In another video, MLA Meena was seen engaged in a tense exchange with the SDM.

Raj culture goes global at Turkey Tourism event

First India Bureau
Jaipur

For the first time, the vibrancy and cultural richness of Rajasthan will be on display in Istanbul, Turkey, as part of the international tourism event 'Colours of the World', scheduled from April 18 to 20. Rajasthan Tourism will participate in the event, aiming to attract global attention to the state's diverse tourism offerings. India's Ambassador to Turkey, Muktesh K. Pardeshi will inaugurate the Rajasthan Pavilion, marking a significant milestone for the state's international tourism outreach. A team of senior tourism officials will represent the Rajasthan Tourism Department at the event.

Spectacular cultural evening marks Sapta Shakti's 21st raising day



Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade with Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The 21st Raising Day celebration of Sapta Shakti Command marked by a spectacular cultural evening, held at the Cavalry Polo Ground in Jaipur Military Station on 14 April 2025. The Chief Guest of the event was the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade. The event was also attended

by Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command, five former Army Commanders of the Command, five ex-Chiefs of Staff, senior military veterans, civil dignitaries, all ranks of the station and their families. The cultural evening offered a captivating display of India's martial heritage and cultural richness. The programme included enthralling performances.

IPL ROW

RCA-Royals tussle over IPL matches

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A fresh controversy has emerged in the ongoing IPL season, involving Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) and Rajasthan Royals.

The issue revolves around the payment for the machinery and manpower provided by RCA for the IPL matches.

RCA Adhoc Committee Convenor Jaideep Bihani sent a message to Rajasthan Royals' Rajeev



FILE

Khanna, demanding payment for the use of RCA's machinery and manpower. According to the warn-

ing, the Rajasthan Royals is required to deposit Rs 10 lakh per match with RCA for the services ren-

The controversy stems from Bihani's dissatisfaction with what he perceives as RCA's disregard in the IPL organizing process, despite the association's machinery and manpower being critical to the event

dered. Bihani also made it clear that failure to comply with the payment would result in the re-

moval of the machinery from the venue for the upcoming matches.

In response, Khanna escalated the issue to the state government. Bihani's also wrote a message to Sports Minister mentioning the "fraudulent decision" taken by Neeraj K Pawan. "It should not happen that the matches goes out of Rajasthan due to mutual dispute. Rajasthan Cricket Associations resources and staff are being used in IPL matches still ignoring the Association is insulting," he said.

RUHS hospital under scrutiny after CM's strong displeasure

Vikas Sharma
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has expressed strong displeasure over the troubling conditions faced by patients at RUHS Hospital in Jaipur. His reaction came after reports emerged that surgeries were being conducted in the hospital's operation theatre without air conditioning. The Chief Minister called Medical Education Secretary Ambrish Kumar directly to convey his dissatisfaction and demanded an immediate



report on the issue.

The matter gained attention following continuous coverage by First India News, which has been highlighting ongoing administrative shortcomings and patient hardships at RUHS. Prompted by ground-level

feedback and the Chief Minister's own sensitivity to the situation, the administration has now been jolted into action.

Following the CM's intervention, Secretary Ambrish Kumar wrote a letter to the Commissioner of Medical Education raising serious concerns about the functioning of RUHS Vice Chancellor Professor Pramod Yewale, Principal Dr. Vinod Joshi, and Superintendent Dr. Mahendra Kumar Bainada. The letter questions their administrative approach and accountability.

CAN TRUMP AMEND THE US CONSTITUTION?



Gajendra Singh

The writer is Social Thinker & Development Professional

✉ g_shekhawat



TRUMP'S POWER

Trump's comment may be a political strategy or rhetoric, but it challenges the basic spirit of democracy that gives importance to the limited use and responsibility of power. America's democracy stands on this theory that centralization of power is stopped and every institution should play its role. Trump's comment also raises the question whether he is ready to cross the limits of democracy to remain in power

In short, Donald Trump's dream of the third term is currently almost impossible in constitutional and political point of view. They have neither necessary political support nor the comprehensive confidence of the public that they will respect democratic boundaries. In such a situation, it can be said that Trump's remarks can be a well-thought out political strategy, which aims to keep its supporters active, but practically implementing it is almost impossible in the current system

President Donald Trump often makes headlines for his impeccable comments. In December, at the beginning of his tenure, to separate American stake from global development organizations, attempts to make Canada the 51st state of American, its right over the Panama Canal, right to Ukraine's mineral wealth in the name of middle-beaten in the Russia-Ukraine war, forcing Iran to a nuclear deal, the discussion of Tariff's blast, and the discussion of the third judicial of the President of USA. Which has launched a new debate on the traditions of American democracy. Are they planning a change in US Constitution. Currently, 22nd Constitution Amendment of America (1951) prevents any person from staying in presidency of more than 2 terms. This simply means that any person can be elected President only twice.

If Trump really wants to make way for the third term, they have to amend the constitution, which is a complex and difficult process. For this, first amendment has to be passed with a two-thirds majority in both the Houses of Representatives and Senate of the US Congress, then it has to be approved by at least 38 states (three-fourth states). This process is not so easy, es-



US President Donald Trump often makes headlines for his impeccable comments. In December, at the beginning of his tenure, to separate American stake from global development organizations, attempts to make Canada the 51st state of American, its right over the Panama Canal, right to Ukraine's mineral wealth in the name of middle-beaten in the Russia-Ukraine war, forcing Iran to a nuclear deal, the discussion of Tariff's blast, and the discussion of the third judicial of the President of the USA. Which has launched a new debate on the traditions of American democracy

pecially when Trump's party Republican has neither a two-thirds majority in the Congress nor is he likely to get necessary support from all the states.

Looking at history, the tradition of two term in the US started with President George Washington, who voluntarily left power after two terms. But this tradition was broken when President Franklin D. Roosevelt completed four terms from 1933 to 1945. After his long-term rule, the 22nd amendment of the Constitution was passed in 1951, making it clear that any person could be elected to the presidency only twice. If Trump thinks of breaking this limit, it will not only create a constitutional crisis, but will also challenge the foundation of democracy.

According to a recent

survey conducted by Wall Street Journal, 62% of American voters admitted that the President should not have the right to close federal agencies without the permission of the Congress, while 58% believe that the President should respect court decisions, even if he disagreed with them. This makes it clear that the general public is in favor of maintaining control over the power of the executive, and is cautious about excessive centralization of power.

Following Trump's statements, there has been a discussion in political circles whether they intend to challenge the boundaries of the presidential. Some experts have expressed apprehension that Trump may try to find 'Luphol'. For example, some people are arguing that if Trump is

elected as the Vice President and the elected President resigns, Trump may come to the presidency. However, this interpretation is constitutionally controversial and can be challenged in the Supreme Court.

Another discussion has also been that if Trump becomes speakers in the American House of Representatives and if both the President and the Vice President are vacant, Trump can become President in a series of constitutional succession. But this landscape is only theoretically possible, this is extremely difficult to be in practicality. In addition, Trump will also need political support to become a house speaker, which is currently suspicious.

Legal experts and constitutional scholars believe that the 22nd amendment clearly prevents any person from becoming President for the third time. In early 2025, several major American law professors said that any attempt that Trump moves to the third term can lead to a constitutional crisis and have a serious impact on the credibility of democratic institutions. Eminent organizations like 'Factchec. ORG' and 'Constitution Center' have also clarified that Trump's third term is not possible without amending the Constitution.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

HAS FUGITIVE CHOKSI FINALLY RUN OUT OF LUCK

The arrest of Mehul Choksi, a slippery fish and one of India's most wanted economic offenders, in Belgium is a significant development in the long pursuit of justice. Accused in the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank fraud, Choksi has been evading Indian authorities since 2018 after fleeing to Antigua and Barbuda, where he later obtained citizenship. The diamondaire owned Gitanjali Group.

Choksi's detention renews the prospect of his extradition, a move that would be seen as a major win for India's investigative agencies and a boost to the country's efforts to hold high-profile fugitives accountable. The government must now act swiftly through diplomatic and legal channels to ensure that procedural delays or legal loopholes do not thwart his return.

While extradition remains a complex and time-consuming process, especially involving multiple jurisdictions, this arrest offers a rare opening. India must capitalise on this opportunity not only to bring Choksi back but also to reaffirm its resolve against financial fraud and white-collar crime.

A SYMBOLIC MOVE ON SC GROUPS



Telangana has become the first state in India to implement the sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes (SCs), a long-debated issue aimed at ensuring a more equitable distribution of benefits among SC communities. The timing — coinciding with Dr B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary — lends symbolic and political weight to the decision.

The move seeks to address an uncomfortable truth: a few dominant sub-castes have disproportionately availed the benefits of reservation, leaving many other marginalised groups behind. By dividing 59 sub-castes into three categories—Group I, Group II and Group III—providing for different percentages of reservation in education and employment, Telangana hopes to correct a historical imbalance.

While the initiative is courageous, it also reopens a contentious debate. Sub-categorisation has faced legal hurdles, with the state high court striking down an earlier Act. The Supreme Court upheld this order in 2004. However, in 2024 the Supreme Court ruled that the states have the right to sub-classify reserved categories. Telangana's decision may still face legal scrutiny, but it also sets the stage for a larger national conversation.

Politically, the move can resonate with communities that have long felt left out of affirmative action's gains. However, its implementation must be transparent, data-driven, and regularly reviewed to ensure that it does not become another layer of inequity.

Dr Ambedkar envisioned a just society that uplifts all, not just a few. Telangana's bold step, if handled judiciously, could become a template for other states to emulate. It challenges the status quo and compels policymakers to think beyond tokenism in affirmative action, aligning welfare with the spirit of social justice.



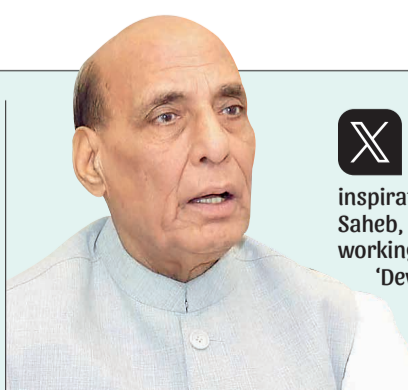
Telangana has become the first state in India to implement the sub-categorisation of SCs, a long-debated issue aimed at ensuring a more equitable distribution of benefits among SC communities

TOP TWEETS



On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Constitution maker 'Bharat Ratna' Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji, today paid homage by offering floral tribute to the statue of Babasaheb at the National Memorial Mahaparinman Sthal in Delhi.

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda



Baba Saheb Ambedkar was a nation builder who played an important role in the creation of modern India. Taking inspiration from the thoughts and works of Baba Saheb, Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi is working wholeheartedly to achieve the goal of 'Developed India'.

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

BIBLE

PM Modi hails Sankaran Nair who dared British



PM Narendra Modi during laying of foundation stone and inauguration of projects, in Yamuna Nagar of Haryana.

Agencies

Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday hailed Kerala-born Sankaran Nair for his legal battle he fought against the British Empire after the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre that took the lives of over 1000.

Hailing Nair for his endeavour to seek justice for the civilians killed on orders of British general Reginald Dyer, PM Modi said every child in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal should know about him.

"We must learn about the contributions of Sankaran Nair from Ker-

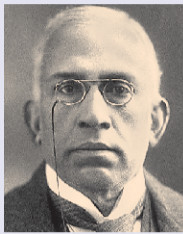
Hailing Nair for his endeavour to seek justice for the civilians, PM Modi said every child in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal should know about him

ala. Every child in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal should know about him," PM Modi said while addressing a gathering in Haryana's Yamuna Nagar.

PM Modi's appeal comes when a movie, "Kesari 2", based on Sanakaran's legal battle against the Crown, is set to be released on April 18.

WHO WAS SANKARAN NAIR?

→ Chettur Sankaran Nair (11 July 1857 – 24 April 1934) was a distinguished Indian lawyer, judge, and statesman who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence. Born in Mankara, Palakkad district of present-day Kerala, he pursued his education in law at Madras Law College, embarking on a legal career that would see him ascend to some of the highest judicial and political positions available to Indians under British rule. As the sole Indian member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Nair resigned in 1919 to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, marking a significant moment in India's freedom struggle.



WHAT HAPPENED IN JALLIANWALA BAGH?



→ The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, Punjab, when British troops under Brigadier General Reginald Dyer opened fire on a peaceful gathering of thousands of unarmed Indians protesting against the Rowlatt Act. The troops blocked the only exit and fired for about ten minutes, killing over 1,000 people and injuring many more. The massacre, which took place on the festival of Baisakhi, shocked the nation, leading to widespread outrage, the resignation of key Indian figures from British honors (like Rabindranath Tagore), and a significant boost to the Indian independence movement. It remains one of the darkest chapters in colonial history and is commemorated at the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial in Amritsar.

Prez, PM, Shah and others greet Odisha people on Odia New Year

PTI

Bhubaneswar

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and a host of leaders on Monday greeted the people of the state on Odia New Year.

The day is also celebrated as Pana Sankranti in the state.

Taking to X, President Murmu, who hails from the state, said, "On the occasion of the holy Odia New Year, Pana Sankranti or Maha Bishuba Sankranti, I extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of Odisha and to our Odia brothers and sisters living abroad. Pana Sankranti brings a message of love and peace to our society. This joyful festival also inspires us to work dedicatedly for our country. On this occasion, I wish everyone happiness and prosperity."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also greeted the people and said, "Best wishes on Odia New Year."

PM also shared a sticker on his X post depicting the worship of the Tulsi plant by Odias.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Heartiest wishes to my sisters and brothers of Odisha on the occasion of Maha Bishuba Sankranti".

WITH CRIME BECOMING BORDERLESS...

Importance of forensic science increases: Shah

PTI

New Delhi

The importance of forensic science has increased manifold with crime becoming borderless and criminals often breaching the boundaries of states and countries, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Monday, highlighting that the Modi government has made forensic science a part of the criminal justice system.

The government also is working to ensure people get justice in time and to their satisfaction, he said at the All India Forensic Science Summit 2025.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the government is striving to make the criminal justice system people-centric and scientific. Along with this, the government is working to ensure that the person seeking justice gets justice in time and also gets satisfaction of getting justice," he said.

The home minister said forensic science is very useful to strengthen the country's criminal justice system.

"Prime Minister Modi's vision has worked to change the landscape of the criminal justice system of this country. We have made forensic



Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses the All India Forensic Science Summit 2025 organised by NFSU, in New Delhi.

In today's times, if we have to provide timely justice and increase the conviction rate, then this is not possible without forensic science.
AMIT SHAH,
UNION HOME MINISTER

justice and increase the conviction rate, then this is not possible without forensic science," he said.

Shah said there was a time when crime used to be limited to the boundaries of districts, states and countries, but it has become borderless now. "In such a situation, the importance of forensic science increases manifold."

The home minister said there should be no injustice done either to the accused to the complainant. "If we want to ensure this, then we will have to make forensic science a part of the criminal justice system."

Shah said the two initiatives of establishing Forensic Science University in 2009 and 2020 were taken under the leadership of Modi, first as the chief minister of Gujarat and then as the prime minister of the country.

5 arrested as Delhi Police busts ₹28 lakh IPL betting racket

PTI

New Delhi

Five people were arrested for allegedly running an online betting racket from a flat in Vikaspuri here where bets worth around Rs 28 lakh were placed on two IPL matches, an official said on Monday.

The arrests were made during a raid at the flat while they were engaged in betting activities for an ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) match, he said.

Youdhvir (36), alleged to be the mastermind of the racket, Vikas Girsra (36), Sukesh (24), Mohit Shakya (32), and Mandeep Girsra (29) were



arrested on Saturday.

A total of 14 mobile phones, one laptop, and an LED TV displaying a live match were seized. They were allegedly using a software to track betting odds and rates, a senior police officer said.

Investigation revealed bets worth around Rs 28 lakh were placed on two IPL matches and a case under the Delhi Gambling Act has been registered, he added.

BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

RJD, Congress to hold crucial meet today to discuss seat-sharing mantra

ANI

New Delhi

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswhi Yadav is going to meet Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on April 15 (Tuesday) to discuss seat-sharing talks and the alliance between the two parties for the upcoming Bihar elections, RJD MP Manoj Jha said on Monday.

With the Bihar Assembly elections expected to take place in roughly six months, all the political parties have ramped up preparations. RJD, known as Congress's "oldest ally" in Bihar, is also part of the INDIA bloc.

The RJD-Congress meeting is expected to



RJD leader Tejaswhi Yadav and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi.

take place at Kharge's residence. On April 20, the Congress president is also expected to address a public rally in Bihar's Buxar district.

"This is a formal meeting. If we look at the allies of the Congress party, RJD has been the oldest ally as of now. In this formal meeting, the entire scenario will be dis-

cussed," said RJD's Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha.

Saying that the "entire context" of Bihar will be discussed in the meeting, Jha added, "This meeting has been scheduled keeping in view the entire context of Bihar, and since the elections are now about 6-8 months away, it will be discussed."

Notably, Congress

leader Kanhaiya Kumar has raised the issue of migration in Bihar, taking out the 'Naukri do' rally to urge the state government to stop migration and facilitate job creation for the youth. On April 7, Kumar was joined by Rahul Gandhi in Begusair for the yatra.

Earlier on March 30, while sounding the poll bugle for the party in Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah slammed former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav of presiding over a "jungle raj" and corruption between 1990-2005. Since his meeting on March 30, Shah is also going to spend two days a month in Bihar to prepare for the polls.

Party got raw deal in LS polls, discussed with Nadda: Manjhi

PTI

Patna

Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi alleged that his Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) was not given a fair deal by the BJP-led NDA in the Lok Sabha polls last year.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of HAM's national executive meeting here on Sunday, Manjhi claimed to have taken up the matter with BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda and JD(U) working president Sanjay Jha, among others.

"My party workers have been feeling sidelined by the BJP and JD(U). Both Nadda and



Jha have assured me that our concerns will be addressed squarely in the assembly polls due later this year," said the former Bihar chief minister.

Manjhi claimed that his party was promised "two Lok Sabha seats and one berth in the Rajya Sabha", but "because of our loyalty towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we remained content with what was actually offered".

TO FETCH OVER ₹400 CRORE

Diamond, once owned by maharajas, set for auction

Agencies

Geneva

A dazzling relic of India's regal past is set to make headlines once more. The Golconda Blue - a rare, vivid blue diamond once owned by the Maharajas of Indore and Baroda - is poised to go under the hammer at Christie's 'Magnificent Jewels' auction in Geneva on May 14.

Weighing 23.24 carats and mounted in a sleek, contemporary ring by acclaimed Parisian jeweler JAR, the gemstone is ex-



pected to fetch between \$35 million and \$50 million (approximately Rs 300 crore to Rs 430 crore), according to Christie's.

"Exceptional noble

gems of this caliber come to market once in a lifetime. Over the course of its 259-year history, Christie's has had the honor of offering some of the world's most impor-

tant Golconda diamonds, including the Archduke Joseph, the Princie, and the Wittelsbach.

"With its Royal heritage, extraordinary color, and exceptional size,

LEGACY OF GOLCONDA DIAMONDS

→ The legacy of Golconda diamonds begins with a reference found in a 4th-century Sanskrit manuscript. In 327 BC, Alexander the Great brought diamonds from India to Europe, sparking the West's enduring fascination with these rare gems. By 1292 AD, Marco Polo chronicled the beauty of Indian diamonds in his travel writings. The diamond's roots trace back to the famed Golconda mines of present-day Telangana-legendary for yielding some of the world's most celebrated diamonds, including the Koh-i-Noor and the Hope Diamond. What makes this stone particularly compelling for Indian collectors and history enthusiasts is its illustrious lineage through Indian royalty.

"The Golconda Blue' is truly one of the rarest blue diamonds in the world," Rahul Kadakia, Christie's International head of Jewellery, said in a statement.

Tributes pour in for Ambedkar



(Clockwise from left) Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu garlands a statue of Dr BR Ambedkar in Guntur. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis pays floral tribute to an idol of Gautam Buddha and a bust of Dr BR Ambedkar. Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar pay tribute to a bust of Dr BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, in Bengaluru on Monday.

Anti-Waqf Amendment Act protests Over 200 people have been arrested since violence last week in Murshidabad

Plea in Supreme Court seeks special team to probe Bengal violence, deaths

Now, violence mars South 24 Parganas district

Agencies
New Delhi

The issue of violent protests in Bengal's Murshidabad district - protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act and in which three people died - reached the Supreme Court Monday.

A top court lawyer - Shashank Shekhar Jha - has asked for a special team to investigate the violence and the deaths and for the Supreme Court to supervise this investigation.

SC must seek an explanation from the state government regarding the poor law-and-order, petitioner states

The Supreme Court must seek an explanation from the state government regarding the poor law-and-order condition, and also take steps to save lives and prevent further violence, the petitioner said.

Over 200 people have been arrested since violence last week in Murshidabad and other Bengal districts, including South 24 Parganas, Malda, and Hooghly.



Charred remains of police vehicles that were set on fire allegedly by members of Indian Secular Front (ISF) during a protest march to Kolkata over Waqf (Amendment) Act, at Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal on Monday.



The families affected during the Murshidabad violence are seen sitting at a shelter home, in Malda.



Union Minister of State for Development of North East Region and West Bengal BJP President Sukanta Majumdar visits displaced people taking shelter at a relief camp after fleeing their homes amidst violence during protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Malda on Monday.

Elections must be held under President's rule in WB: Adhikari

ANI
Kolkata

West Bengal Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday demanded that elections be held under President's Rule in areas where Hindus are in the minority, citing concerns over voting rights after the Murshidabad violence.

He also called for a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the violence, labeling it as "anti-national activities."

Adhikari has petitioned the Calcutta High Court, seeking the deployment of central forces in Murshidabad due to escalating violence. The violence erupted over protests against the Waqf Amendment Act, resulting in three deaths and multiple injuries.

He said, "I have this in my petition that the NIA should investigate as these are anti-national activities".

Eight cops injured

Agencies
Kolkata

A fresh bout of violence - over changes to the Waqf laws, which govern how Muslim charitable properties are administered - rocked Bengal, this time in South 24 Parganas district, Monday.

Videos showed police motorbikes set on fire and an overturned police bus with its windshield ripped out. The videos also showed a large contingent of police on the streets.

The violence erupted as supporters of the Indian Secular Front clashed with cops in the Bhangar area, leading to injuries and arson of police vehicles.

The ISF supporters were reportedly moving towards the Ramlila Maidan in central Kolkata, to attend an anti-Waqf law rally to be addressed by the party's MLA, Naushad Siddique.

But the police said no permission had been given for the rally, which was held nonetheless and at which Mr Siddique called the new law "an attack on Muslims and assault on the Constitution" and ten-

BENGAL BJP CHIEF VISITS RELIEF CAMP IN MALDA DISTRICT

West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar on Monday visited a relief camp in Malda district, where hundreds of families from Murshidabad have taken shelter after fleeing their homes amidst violence during protests over the Waqf Amendment Act. Majumdar, the Union Minister of State for Education, visited the makeshift camp set up at Paralalpur High School in Kaliachak Block 3, where he interacted with the displaced families, many of whom are women and children. According to local officials, as many as 640 people have taken refuge in Malda, with 550 currently staying in the high school camp. "Many women broke down while recounting their ordeal," Majumdar told reporters.

sion escalated when the crowd attempted to break through barricades.

A cop confirmed some police personnel were injured in the clashes; eyewitnesses said cops held lathi-charge to disperse protesters.

Ambedkar dedicated his life to unite Hindus: Bhagwat

PTI
Kanpur

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday praised Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar for his "lifelong efforts to unite Hindus", saying despite facing hardships since childhood, he remained committed to social harmony and national development.

Speaking at the inauguration of the newly constructed four-storey RSS regional office 'Keshav Bhawan' in Kanpur's Karavalo Nagar, Bhagwat said, "Babasaheb had to face severe hardships in his life. From childhood, he faced discrimination and inequality.

"Yet, throughout his life, he tried to bring the Hindu society together.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat paying tribute to Ambedkar in Kanpur.

Bhagwat called it a privilege that the inauguration of the RSS's new building coincided with Ambedkar Jayanti

His commitment to social unity and progress is an inspiration to all," he said.

In his address, Bhagwat also drew parallels between Ambedkar and

RSS founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, stating that both men devoted their lives to the upliftment of society and shared a vision of national development.

"Both Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Hedgewar worked for the Hindu society throughout their lives. They dreamed of a strong and developed India," Bhagwat said.

4-km security wall to be erected around Ram Temple in Ayodhya

PTI
Ayodhya

A security wall spanning approximately four kilometres is being erected around the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and is anticipated to be finalised in 18 months, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Building Construction Committee chairperson Nripendra Misra on Monday said.

Updates regarding the Ram Temple's construction were discussed on the third day of the meeting of the committee on Monday, officials said here.

The meeting centred on providing updates regarding the temple's construction progress, encompassing new security



measures, installations of statues and developments in the surrounding precincts, they said.

A significant religious ceremony, the 'Kalash Pujan Vidhi', was also held in the morning at the main peak of the sanctum sanctorum and the 'kalash' was positioned.

Misra indicated that the Ram Temple construction endeavour is advancing towards com-

pletion within six months. A security wall spanning approximately four kilometres is expected to be finalised in 18 months, he said.

"Engineers India Limited will construct the security wall for the Ram Temple. The conclusive resolution regarding the wall's height, thickness and design has been established. Construction will be initiated after soil

testing," Misra said.

He said the passenger facility centre's capacity with a storage facility will be constructed on 10 acres within the Ram Temple complex and it will feature 62 storage counters.

A meditation precinct will also be established on 10 acres within the Ram Janmabhoomi Complex for devotees to worship, he said.

"All the statues of Sapta Mandal temples arrived in Ayodhya on Sunday. Each of them has reached its respective temple.

"The statues have been delivered to all seven temples. These statues, originating from Jaipur, have been placed inside," Misra stated.

With blessings from family, I will step into politics: Vadra

ANI
New Delhi

Businessman **Robert Vadra**, the husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, expressed his willingness to join politics, saying that if the Congress party feels he should take that step, he would do so with the blessings of his family.



Speaking to ANI in an exclusive interview on Monday, Vadra emphasised that his connection to politics has largely been due to his association with the Gandhi family. However, he stated that over the years, multiple political parties have tried to pull him into political discussions, often using his name as a distraction during elections or other issues.

"My association with politics is only because I am a member of the Gandhi family. But I will also say that in the last many years, many parties have used my name and always pulled me into politics by default because every time there's an election, they remember my name. Every time they have an issue that they want to digress from, they remember my name," Vadra said.

FI TOON

SHEKHAR



INDIA'S TECHNOLOGICAL RENAISSANCE

A decade of power, precision, and progress

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Over the past decade, India has transformed from a promising developing nation into a global force across defense, space, and technology. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India have redefined national priorities—driving self-reliance, innovation, and strategic advancement.

India's defense sector

has undergone a revolutionary leap. From testing its first long-range hypersonic missile to achieving MIRV capability with Agni-V, and fielding directed energy weapons, India now stands shoulder-to-shoulder with military giants. The DRDO's strides, including sea-based ballistic missile defense and indigenous stealth UAVs, reflect a future-ready defense posture built on indigenous innovation.

In space, ISRO's achievements have not only inspired but aston-



ished the world. India's historic Chandrayaan-3 landing on the Moon's South Pole and record-setting 104 satellite launch in 2017 underline its growing stature. Ad-

vanced missions like SpaDEx and the establishment of the cryogenic engine facility further solidify its place among elite space powers.

Beyond rockets and

missiles, India is entering next-gen tech frontiers—quantum computing, semiconductors, and AI—through initiatives like the Rs 6,000 crore NMQTA and Semicon India.

This is more than a story of milestones; it is a declaration of India's intent to lead. With sustained focus and global recognition, India is not just participating—it is shaping the future. The vision of Vishwaguru is no longer aspirational; it is increasingly a lived reality.



MATCH TODAY

KKR vs PBKS

7:30 pm IST, Chandigarh

Chennai Super Kings beat Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets in their Indian Premier League match

CSK's Jadeja, Noor shine against LSG



CSK's Matheesha Pathirana and teammates celebrate the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants' captain Rishabh Pant during IPL match, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium. **ANI**

First India Bureau
Lucknow

Chennai Super Kings defeated Lucknow Super Giants by five wickets to break their run of losses in the Indian Premier League here on Monday.

Asked to bat first, Lucknow Super Giants scored 166 for seven. Skipper Rishabh Pant top-scored for LSG with 63 off 49 balls, while opener Mitchell Marsh made 30 in 25 deliveries.

In reply, CSK chased down the target of 167 with three balls to spare with the legendary MS Dhoni contributing a vital 26 off 11 balls after opener Rachin Ravindra made 37 in 22 balls. This was CSK's first win in their last six matches.

The Kings were powered by impactful spells from spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Noor Ahmad. While Jadeja took 2 wickets, the Afghan spinner conceded just 13 runs in his 4 overs. Meanwhile, Pant played a captain's knock (63) for LSG.



Lucknow Super Giants' captain Rishabh Pant celebrates the wicket of Chennai Super Kings' Rachin Ravindra during an IPL match between Lucknow Super Giants and CSK. **PTI**



Lucknow Super Giants' captain Rishabh Pant and Ayush Badoni run between the wickets during their IPL 2025 match against Chennai Super Kings, in Lucknow on Monday. **ANI**



Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni during an Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 T20 match between Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, in Lucknow, Monday. **PTI**

MS DHONI BECOMES FIRST PLAYER WITH 200 FIELDING DISMISSALS

The legendary MS Dhoni has added another feather to his illustrious cap. Dhoni is now the only player to have registered 200 fielding dismissals in the Indian Premier League (IPL). He achieved the milestone during the IPL 2025 encounter between Lucknow Super Giants and CSK in IPL 2025. Dhoni's historic 200th dismissal came as he stumped Ayush Badoni, further cementing his legacy as one of the greatest wicket-keepers. As per Cricbuzz, Dhoni now has 201 dismissals as a fielder in the IPL. Dinesh Karthik is his closest rival, with 182 dismissals. Dhoni's path to this incredible milestone features as many as 197 dismissals as a wicket-keeper. He owns 151 catches and 46 stumpings with the gloves. The veteran wicket-keeper completed his 200th fielding dismissal with a quick stumping of Badoni off Ravindra Jadeja's delivery. Even at 43, Dhoni continues to show his brilliance behind the stumps.

Extending Best Wishes...



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade presents a floral bouquet and extends his best wishes to the Additional Director at Raj Bhavan, Dr Rajesh Vyas and his wife, Dr Aruna Vyas on their 25th wedding anniversary during a programme held at Shri Narsingh Jaswant Mohta Bhavan inside Jassusar Gate in Bikaner on Monday. Governor Bagade also congratulated the couple's son, Shrihar Vyas on his 'Yagyopavit Sanskar'. Bikaner (West) MLA Jethanand Vyas, District Collector Namrata Vrishni, Superintendent of Police Kavendra Sagar, along with several senior officials, public representatives, and prominent citizens of the city were also present to congratulate the couple on this significant occasion.

India-born doctor Joy Saini, family killed in New York plane crash

Agencies
New York

Dr Joy Saini and her family members tragically passed away in a plane crash in upstate New York while heading to a birthday celebration in the Catskills Mountains. Along with Dr Joy Saini, her husband, Dr Michael Groff, her son Jared Groff, and her daughter Karennia Groff also died. Jared Groff's partner, Alexia Couyutas Duarte, and Karennia Groff's boyfriend, James Santoro, were also victims of the crash.



Tariffs on imported semiconductor chips coming soon: US Prez Trump

Agencies
Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would be announcing the tariff rate on imported semiconductors over the next week, adding that there would be flexibility with some companies in the sector.

The president's pledge means that the exclusion of smartphones and computers from his reciprocal tariffs on China likely will be short-lived as Trump looks to reset trade in the semiconductor sector.

"We wanted to un-complicate it from a lot of other companies, because we want to make our chips and semiconductors and other things in our country," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One.



US President Donald Trump greets El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele as he arrives at the White House, Monday. **PTI**

CHINA'S EXPORTS JUMP 12.4% AND IMPORTS FELL AS TRUMP PUSHED US TARIFFS HIGHER

China's exports jumped 12.4% in March from a year earlier as companies rushed to beat increases in U.S. tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, the government said Monday. Imports fell 4.3% to \$211.3 billion in March, the customs administration reported, far exceeded by exports worth \$313.9 billion, leaving a trade surplus of \$102.6 billion. China's trade surplus surged to a record \$992.2 billion in 2024 and its exports climbed 5.4%, helping to make up for sluggish growth at home as the country slowly recovers from a crisis in its property market and lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BLUE ORIGIN SPACE MISSION

Perry sang 'what a wonderful world' after seeing Earth from space

Agencies
Washington

Singer Katy Perry has explained why she chose to sing What a Wonderful World during her time in space, calling it a gesture of collective appreciation rather than a performance centred on herself.

The California Girls hitmaker said, "I've covered that song in the past. Obviously my higher self is steering the ship. I had no clue I'd one day decide to sing a little bit of that in space," Perry said.



The mission included Amanda Nguyen, Katy Perry, Aisha Bowe, Kerianne Flynn, Gayle King, and Lauren Sanchez.

"It's not about me. It's not about singing my songs. It's about a collective energy and making space for future women. It's about this wonderful

world that we see right out there and appreciating it. This is all for the benefit of Earth."

Blue Origin, the space tourism company found-

ed by Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos in 2000, successfully launched and landed an all-female celebrity crew on Monday. The group travelled to the

edge of space on a nearly 11-minute journey, during which they experienced a brief period of weightlessness before returning safely to Earth. Blue Ori-



Katy Perry kisses the Earth after returning from space.

gin's founder, Jeff Bezos, showed his support for Monday's launch of the NS-31 mission, posting "I love this crew!" on X early this morning.



Subsidy scheme for farmers buying bullock pairs

In a significant move to support traditional farming practices, the Rajasthan government, led by CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, has announced a subsidy scheme for farmers purchasing bullock pairs. Farmers engaged in conventional agriculture will receive a financial grant of Rs 30,000 per bullock pair. The government has issued guidelines for the scheme, and the online application process is expected to begin soon. Only bulls aged between 15 months and 12 years will be eligible for the subsidy.

Rajasthan to roll out a new Cooperative Code soon

Rajasthan is on track to roll out a new Cooperative Code aimed at updating the Cooperative Societies Act of 2001. A draft of the new code has been sent to the Law Department for final approval. The initiative, announced during the state budget, followed the formation of a five-member committee tasked with studying cooperative laws from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Karnataka, and Assam. Public feedback was also invited after the draft was published online. Cooperative Minister Gautam Kumar participated in a session with legal experts.

Minister Meghwal continuing the Dr. Ambedkar's legacy

As the nation observes the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, it is noteworthy that Arjun Ram Meghwal, a prominent Dalit leader from Rajasthan and the current Union Law Minister, continues the legacy of Ambedkar, who was the country's first Law Minister. Historically, only three Prime Ministers — including Rajiv Gandhi, P.V. Narasimha Rao — have held the Law Ministry portfolio. Meghwal, an MP from Bikaner, now joins this distinguished list, symbolically reinforcing Rajasthan's connection to Dr. Ambedkar's legacy on his Jayanti.

A rare display of bipartisan unity witnessed

Leaders from both the ruling and opposition parties came together in Delhi to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. The official ceremony witnessed cordial interactions between Union Ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Kiren Rijjuji with Congress leaders. Meghwal warmly greeted Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, who was accompanied by Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, signaling a moment of political grace on a day of national importance.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Good health and a positive mindset are the roots of a fulfilling life.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

CM ensures fast redressal of complaints at Jan Sunwai

Fulfilling public aspirations and swiftly resolving grievances is the core of our 'Suraj Sankalp,' says CM Sharma

Aishwary Pradhan
Jaipur

On Monday, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma conducted a public hearing at the Chief Minister's residence, where he listened attentively to citizens' grievances and directed concerned officials to ensure timely resolution of the issues raised.

Reaffirming the State government's commitment to good governance, CM Sharma stated



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

that the administration is working earnestly to provide high-quality

services and facilities to every citizen of the state. "Fulfilling public

aspirations and addressing grievances swiftly is at the core of our com-



mitment to Suraj (good governance)," he said. During the session,

the Chief Minister reviewed complaints related to various depart-

ments including the Jaipur Development Authority, Municipal

Corporation, Education, Health, Drinking Water, Revenue, MGN-REGA, Energy, and Rural Development. Several issues were resolved on the spot, providing immediate relief to the complainants.

The event was attended by public representatives and a large number of citizens, reflecting the government's focus on transparency, accessibility, and responsive administration.

Babasaheb's thoughts inspire justice and unity: Om Birla

First India Bureau
New Delhi

On Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary, tributes were paid by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers, Opposition leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Hariwansh, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, MPs, former MPs, and other dignitaries. Floral tributes were laid at Babasaheb's portrait in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan. The portrait was unveiled by then PM Vishwanath Pratap Singh on April 12, 1990.

Om Birla tweeted, "Tributes to Babasaheb, the architect of the Indian Constitution, a tireless advocate for equality, jus-

stice, and fraternity. His thoughts continue to inspire the fight for social justice and unity."

"Coming from a humble background, Babasaheb used education as a tool for social transformation. As we celebrate 75 years of adoption of the Constitution, his ideas are more relevant than ever. Babasaheb's legacy inspires us to build a united and just India for all."



On Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Om Birla, Union Ministers, Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, JP Nadda, Hariwansh, Rekha Gupta, MPs, & ex-MPs pay tributes at his portrait in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Monday.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla interacts with Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami during his visit to Haridwar on Monday. Birla attended the inauguration of Mata Krishna Udyan built by the Prem Prakash Mandal family in Haridwar. In his address, Birla praised the Sindh community's nation-building role, calling its service ethos exemplary, & cited Swami Teonram Ji Maharaj & Mata Krishna Devi as timeless icons of virtue and humanity.

Congress feared Ambedkar's political rise: Union Min Yadav

Ashvini Yadav
Alwar

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Monday alleged that Congress leaders deliberately blocked Dr BR Ambedkar's entry into the Lok Sabha, fearing his emergence as a powerful political figure. Speaking on Ambedkar Jayanti in Alwar, Yadav said, "The Congress leadership was afraid of Ambedkar's rise and hence denied him a seat in the Lok Sabha." He lauded the BJP for preserving places associated with Ambedkar's legacy—his birthplace, educational sites in England, Mahaparinirvana site in Delhi, Diksha Bhumi, and Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai—making them accessible to the public.



Bhupender Yadav during the 'Sansad Samvad' programme in Mundawar, Alwar on Monday.



Bhupender Yadav pays tributes to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar during an event organised by the Jatav community on the occasion of Babasaheb's birth anniversary in Khairthal, Alwar.

During his Behror visit, Yadav laid the foundation for the Agricultural Produce Market's expansion and met protesting lawyers at the District Ses-

sions Court. After his assurance of support, the protest was called off. MLA Jaswant Yadav and other key legal representatives were present.

Amit Shah likely to visit Mount Abu on April 16

First India Bureau
Mount Abu (Sirohi)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Mount Abu on April 16 for a two-day trip to attend various programs, including the inauguration of a four-day event by the Brahma Kumaris. Shah is expected to arrive on April 16 and stay overnight at the circuit house. During his visit, he will take part in several events and engage with local officials.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma is also anticipated to be present to welcome Amit Shah to Abu Road, where the inaugural ceremony of the Brahmakumari's security division program will be held on April 17. Preparations for the visit are underway.

Randhawa leads organisational review, pushes for booth-level focus

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Congress State In-charge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotsara reviewed party organization status and gathered feedback from Assembly coordinators on Monday. At a PCC office meeting, leaders discussed vacant posts and upcoming initiatives. Dotsara announced plans to form booth-level committees and begin grassroots



Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Govind Singh Dotsara, Tika Ram Jullu during a meeting with party officials at PCC Office in Jaipur.

outreach. He warned that those skipping meetings for three months would lose official posts.

Emphasising field-work over symbolism,

Dotsara said, "If you don't work hard, you don't have the right to call yourself a Congressman," urging active public engagement from all party leaders.

Safeguarding Constitution's core is true tribute to Babasaheb: Pilot

First India Bureau
Tonk/Jhalawar

Congress National General Secretary Sachin Pilot, speaking at Ambedkar Jayanti in Tonk, criticized the BJP for changes that threaten democracy, including the removal of public voter lists and changes in the Chief Election Commissioner selection.

He praised Ambedkar's struggle, highlighting his role in drafting the Constitution. Pilot condemned rising religious violence and attacks on Dalits and tribals, empha-



Sachin Pilot unveils a book based on Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar's struggle for nation-building and social justice to mark his birth anniversary on Monday during a programme in Tonk. Sukhbir Singh Jaunapur and others were present.

sizing the need to protect their rights.

The Congress leader also accused both central and state governments of

distracting the public from inflation issues and challenged Vasundhara Raje to visit the state to see the real situation.

Rajasthan assigns field posts to 13 IAS officers from 2024 batch

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

In a significant bureaucratic development, 13 IAS officers of the 2024 batch from the Rajasthan cadre have been assigned their first field postings as Assistant Collectors and Executive Magistrates across various districts of the state. These postings mark the beginning of their practical training phase in field administration.

The officers and their respective district postings are as follows: Srishti Dabas in Udaipur, Aishwaryam Prajapati in Alwar, Medha Anand in Bhilwara, Swati Sharma in Bikaner, Neha Uddhavsingh Rajput in Ajmer, Rohit Verma in Jaisalmer, Mohanlal in Jodhpur, Ravindra Kumar Meghwal in Chittorgarh, Birju Gopal Choudhary in Pali, Aditi Yadav in Sri Ganganagar, Mrinal Kumar in Jaipur, Aradhana Chauhan in Kota, and Bhanu Sharma in Bharatpur.

These officers will serve as Assistant Collectors during their field training, while also taking on responsibilities as Executive Magistrates. In this role, they are authorized to exercise certain powers delegated by the District Collector, providing them crucial on-ground administrative experience. The 2024 batch officers are currently undergoing training at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and are scheduled to be relieved from the academy on April 18. Upon release, they will report to the Director General of the Harish Chandra Mathur Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA), who will then direct them to their respective training districts.



The 2024 batch officers are undergoing training at LBSNAA and will be relieved on April 18 to begin field assignments

DEVELOPMENT PUSH

Diya Kumari inaugurates key projects in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari inaugurated multiple development projects and participated in various programs across Jaipur on Monday. She began her day by inaugurating a new ward at Shivam Hospital and attending a gathering of the Senior Citizen Dhobi (Rajak) Basetha Samaj Sudhar Seva Samiti, organized by Sampurna Vikas and Ekta Sansthan.



Diya Kumari addresses during the 'Ambedkar Jayanti Samman Samaroh' organised by the Valmiki Welfare Organisation in Sitabari, Jhotwara in Jaipur on Monday.

Later, she unveiled the statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at the newly inaugurated Ambedkar Park in Vidyadhar Nagar

Sector 6. She also approved ₹10 lakh from her MLA fund for works in Shiv Park, Sector 6. Diya inaugurated a

park constructed by JMCG, along with sewer line work in Ward No. 23, and various civic development projects in



Diya Kumari being felicitated during the 'Yuvak-Yuvati Parichay Sammelan' at Guarakshnath Ashram Sansthan Jyotirling Hanuman-Ganesh temple in Vidyadhar Nagar in Jaipur.

Jaivayu Vihar, Malhotra Nagar, and Udak Papad village. She also participated in Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations organized by Valmiki Welfare

Organization at Sitabari, highlighting the government's commitment to inclusive development.



City First

JAIPUR, TUESDAY | APRIL 15, 2025



NEW BEGINNINGS AT PALLACIA!

The Housewarming ceremony of the newly constructed flat of senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former State President, Ashok Parnami, was held on Monday. P12

Blooming Bold

City First spotlights the inspiring journey of 19-year-old supermodel Mehak Dhingra, from Delhi to global runways. Her recent breathtaking shoot at Kashmir's Tulip Garden adds charm to her story of passion, perseverance and breaking boundaries in fashion!



Mehak Dhingra channels floral charm in a saree as she strolls through Srinagar's breathtaking Tulip Garden



MEHAK DHINGRA: THE FACE OF A NEW ERA



Mitali Dusad

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At just 19, Mehak Dhingra is already redefining the contours of Indian fashion with poise, passion and purpose. Born on November 9, in Delhi, Mehak is currently pursuing Fashion Media and Communication at Pearl Academy while also studying Psychology through Delhi University's open learning program. Crowned Miss Teen India 2022 and second runner-up at Miss Teen of the Universe 2023, she has steadily made her mark in the pageant world, recently securing a spot in the Top 20 at Miss Diva and being crowned 1st runner-up at Miss Universe Uttar Pradesh, all under the mentorship of Nikhil Anand, owner of Glamanand Group.

Trained under fashion veterans Lakshmi Rana, Rita Gangwani, Alesia Raut and Anjali Raut, Mehak's journey began when she was just a year old with her first TV commercial. "It was my mom

who saw something in me," Mehak said. "Modelling started as a hobby at 12, but after winning my first pageant, I knew the stage was where I belonged."

A proud daughter of Uttar Pradesh, Mehak finds deep inspiration in her roots. "The embroidery from Lucknow, the silks from Varanasi—my heritage



shaped my love for detail. But more than that, growing up around traditional expectations gave me the fire to break barriers for girls like me."

One of the highlights of her recent journey was a breathtaking photoshoot in the mesmerizing Tulip Garden of Kashmir. "It was my first time in J&K and the Tulip Garden felt like a dream. The colours, the calm—it's truly heaven on earth," she shared. The

stunning visuals from the shoot captivated audiences, blending natural elegance with Mehak's magnetic presence. A dancer since the age of three and a skating hockey player in her childhood, Mehak has always embraced a disciplined and athletic lifestyle. "Staying active is a part of who I am. Modelling enhances it—it doesn't take away from it." With campaigns for Britannia Little Hearts, Brinzz Energy Drink and Lakmé Fashion Week under her belt, Mehak's achievements keep growing. "Indian models are no longer just faces; we are voices. We're not walking the ramp—we're walking a revolution."

Mehak credits her family's unwavering belief in her as the cornerstone of her journey. "If it wasn't for my family, I wouldn't be where I am today. They've stood by me through every challenge, every triumph and every tear." From 5 AM rehearsals to the spotlight of the main show, her days are intense yet fulfilling, each moment driven by purpose, grit and grace.



Books Replace Garbage Bags

A BEACON OF HOPE AND EDUCATION FOR DEPRIVED CHILDREN



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In 2009 Mrs Santosh Saini established Shaurya Seva Sansthan (NGO), to work in the field of women's empowerment, children's education, and animal welfare, and since then this NGO has been working on various social aspects. While working in the Ramdev Nagar Slum areas, the NGO founder Mrs Santosh Saini was moved by the pitiable condition of the children in Sultan Nagar Kachchi Basti as the children living there were rag pickers, who considered picking up garbage as their main

means of livelihood. Most of the children were malnourished, unhygienic, and addicted to substance abuse. Additionally, they communicated in vulgar language and were completely deprived of education. The parents were also too happy with whatever money their children were earning by rag picking. In January 2023, a determined Santosh Saini emerged as a ray of hope for these children when she decided to establish Savitri Bai Phule Pathshala next to the Ramdev Nagar slums near Gujar Ki Thadi, Jaipur.

It required a great amount of effort by Santosh Saini and the team to convince parents to let their kids come to school

which was initially set up in tents and clothing with wooden poles. Establishing and carrying on this initiative by the NGO was not at all easy, as there were many social, political, and financial hurdles. In the meanwhile, a retired army officer Col Rajesh Bhukar learnt about Santosh Saini's initiative through social media in Jan 2023 and since then has been playing a key role in advancing this initiative. He and Santosh Ji along with some other associates, have helped the NGO to take care of education, hygiene, food, clothing, and other necessities for these children. Gradually, Aadhaar cards were made for the children living in slums so that

they could benefit from government schemes. Col Rajesh has not only been giving these children affection and his valuable time but also, with the help of friends and associates, providing all possible resources, educational books, clothes, shoes, and financial aid, so that the children could remain connected to education. In the days of struggle for the institution, Col Rajesh, who is an inspiring personality and dedicated to education for poor children emerged as a strong support for these children and helped in every possible way. Initially, only temporary tents were set up in the school, causing numerous difficulties for the children in their

studies due to the scorching sun and intense heat, and studying under the tents became impossible



during the rainy season. There were no toilet facilities in the compound and especially girl child faced lots of difficulties. So, he took the lead and provided financial assistance to construct Toilets, Solid Tin Shed Roof with proper Flooring and Furniture for every child to sit on ensuring all required facilities for the children to study without any hindrance. In this noble cause executed by Santosh Saini, Bhavani Shankar Mali, Mohan Katha, Alka Singh & her staff, Jyoti Sharma, Amit Modi, Dr Shikha Garg, Ravi Narahari, Col Ranveer Singh, Dr Pratap Dootar, Anuradha, Shalu, Hema, Sushma, Ni-

Smrati, Col Mridul and so many others are also providing support. Today, there are more than 50 children attending school regularly and as part of new initiative 11 students (boys and girls), have been given admission under the Right To Education (Free) at Gyan Deep Senior Secondary School for further studies. This will be a regular yearly practice to enable more and more children to get better education. The expenses for books and uniforms for all these children will be covered by the NGO associates. This small initiative has opened doors



Col Rajesh Bhukar FILE

of success and happier life for these so deserving children. Santosh Saini and Col Rajesh are working with the hope that the light of education can reach every needy child and bring about a positive change in society.



FROM CMA TO MUSIC

Beawar's Kapil Kumawat Turns Dream Into Reality



Kapil Kumawat



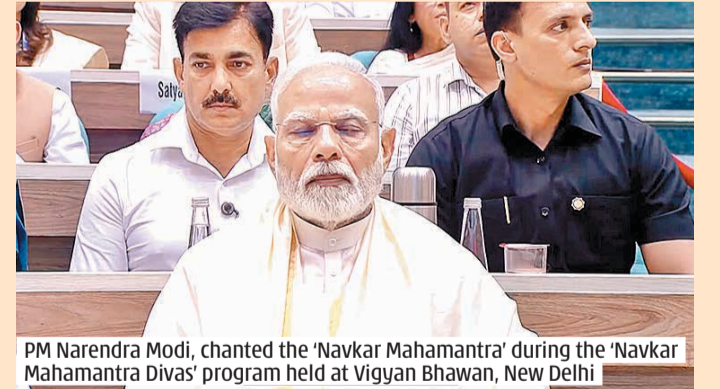
A still from the soothing musical evening

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On April 9, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, during the grand celebration of World Navkar Mantra Day, Kapil

Kumawat from Beawar fulfilled his dream by performing a musical act in the presence of the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Renowned Indian poet Shailesh Lodha also performed at the same event.

“A journey that began in the small town of Nimbahera, echoed through the streets of Beawar, and now reached one of the biggest stages in the country — with the Prime Minister himself in the audience.” When Kapil first saw a gui-



PM Narendra Modi, chanted the 'Navkar Mahamantra' during the 'Navkar Mahamantra Divas' program held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

tar in school, he was so intrigued that he made one out of cardboard and began learning on his own. Today, that same passion gave him the opportunity to perform in front of the Prime Minister of India. Leaving behind a professional career path like CMA to pursue music wasn't easy — but when the dream is true and the passion is from the heart, the path creates itself. For Kapil, music is not just a profession — it's his life. He began his musical journey by crafting a cardboard guitar and playing at home. Gradually, he started per-

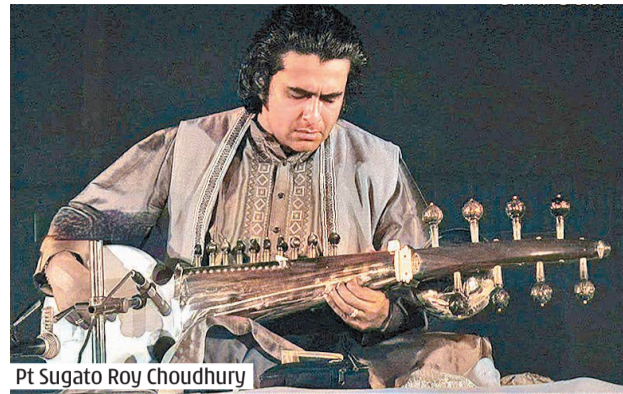
forming in school and his neighbourhood. He bought his first real guitar with his saved pocket money. Seeing his growing interest in music, his parents supported and encouraged him, eventually gifting him quality musical instruments. Once a talented boy gets the right instrument in his hands, he doesn't stop — Kapil took his music from local streets to the entire city, then to Rajasthan and finally, he fulfilled his dream by performing in front of Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.



Dr Vikas Gupta



Pt Rajendra Banerjee



Pt Sugato Roy Choudhury



Pt Suresh Goswami

Musical Festival

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Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur is hosting a three-day musical festival from April 15 to 17 at Rangayan Auditorium, featuring renowned Indian instrumentalists. The festival opens

with sitar by Vidushi Smita Nagdev and violin by Pt. Suresh Goswami. April 16 will feature sarod by Pt. Sugato Roy Choudhury and keyboard by Pt. Vijay Chandra. On April 17, Dr. Vikas Gupta (sitar) and Pt. Rajendra Banerjee (harmonium) will conclude the event. Entry is free; performances begin at 6:00 PM.



Pt Vijay Chandra



Vidushi Smita Nagdev

ELEGANCE ON RAMP



Jury members with winners Pukhraj Prajapat, Archana Das, Akanksha, Arti, Payal, Priyanka, Vaisnavi Macdonald, Deepti, Priyali, Jogita & Mukesh



Priyanka

on Saturday, participants showcased their talent on the ramp on Sunday, earning loud applause. Judge Deepti Chinariya announced the final results. Winners were honoured with crowns and mementoes by Vaishnavi McDonald. Dignitaries including Rohit Kumar (R Virat Group), Dr Suresh Prajapati (RPM), influencer Jitesh Prajapati, Shilpa Sharma and Rohit Rana also graced the occasion.

by chief guests Pawan Goyal, JD Maheshwari, Dr Shobha Tomar and celebrity guest Vaishnavi McDonald. Director Archana Das emphasised the platform's role in women empowerment, while coordinator Pukhraj Prajapati ensured smooth execution. After a grooming ses-



Archana Das, Deepti, Jogita, Priyali, Vaishnavi Macdonald, and Pukhraj Prajapat felicitated the winner

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Jaipur witnessed the grand finale of Fashion Icon India 2025, organised by Khanak Chitra Entertainment at Sukoon Bay Resort. The closing ceremony saw winners crowned in three categories: Miss Fashion Icon India - Priyanka Kataria, Mrs Fashion Icon India - Payal Sokriwal, and Mother-Daughter Fashion Icon - Jogita Sarkar and Priyali Sarkar. The event began with a lamp-lighting ceremony

by chief guests Pawan Goyal, JD Maheshwari, Dr Shobha Tomar and celebrity guest Vaishnavi McDonald. Director Archana Das emphasised the platform's role in women empowerment, while coordinator Pukhraj Prajapati ensured smooth execution. After a grooming ses-

ioned the platform's role in women empowerment, while coordinator Pukhraj Prajapati ensured smooth execution. After a grooming ses-

CAMPUS LAUNCH IN UAE

City First
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Jaipur National University marked a historic milestone with the launch of its first international campus in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, announced by Chancellor Dr Sandeep Bakshi at the JNU Alumni Meet in

Dubai on Sunday. Attended by over 1,000 alumni and dignitaries, the event celebrated JNU's global expansion. The new campus, led by Executive Director Aishwarya Bakshi, will offer cutting-edge programs for 2025-26, catering to Middle East students in business, technology and hospitality.



EVENTS!



The Department of Chemistry, SLAS, Mody University organised a one-day workshop on Popularisation of Chemistry in collaboration with the International Student Chapter, American Chemical Society. Prof Ashutosh Bhardwaj & Prof Jitendra Binwal, featuring a demo lecture by Prof Arindam Rana. A MoU was signed with City College, Kolkata for academic cooperation. The day included lab tours, a poster competition on Chemistry for Life, concluded with prize distribution and a vote of thanks by Dr Amian Das.



Stadium on Saturday. As an Associate Partner of LSG, INA Solar showcased its commitment to green energy and sports. The BSE-SME listed company is driving India's renewable future with targets of 8 GW PV modules and 3 GW solar cell manufacturing by 2025-27.

In a landmark moment, INA Solar Chairman Manish Gupta presented the Man of the Match award to Aiden Markram during the T20 clash between Lucknow Super Giants and Gujarat Titans at Lucknow's Ekana



Hotel Clarks Amer was inaugurated as the official venue for the International Wedding and Tourism Conclave (IAWTC) 2025, to be held on May 31 and June 1. The announcement took place during Miss Rajasthan's auditions and Pushkar's Hotel Savitri Resort event. Hitendra Sharma, Vineet Jain, Shivraj Singh, Yogesh Mishra & Nimisha Mishra, Mukesh Mishra and Anil Bhati were present during the event. Founder Arshad Hussain highlighted the grandeur of Hotel Clarks Amer, praising its central location, excellent services, and traditional Rajasthani hospitality that makes it special.

BRUSHSTROKES OF UNITY

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World Art Day, celebrated annually on April 15, serves as a global tribute to the transformative

power of art in fostering creativity, cultural diversity and dialogue. In 2025, the theme "Art for Unity and Peace" resonates deeply with Rajasthan's rich artistic heritage, particularly in Jaipur, where art has

long been a conduit for communal harmony and cultural expression. Jaipur, the Pink City, stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of art and culture. The Amrapali Museum showcases an exquisite col-

lection of Indian jewelry and decorative arts, reflecting the intricate craftsmanship that defines the region. Similarly, the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing preserves the traditional art of hand-block printing, celebrating the skills of local artisans.

Recent events have further highlighted Jaipur's vibrant art scene. The Jaipur Literature Festival continues to draw global attention, bringing together writers, artists, and thinkers in a celebration of ideas and creativity. Additionally, the Artist Automobile Art Festival merges the love for vintage cars with artistic expression, transforming vehicles into canvases that narrate stories of heritage and innovation.



As we observe World Art Day 2025, Jaipur exemplifies how art can bridge divides, inspire

unity and promote peace, embodying the very essence of this year's theme.



State Bank of India's Jaipur Circle marked Dr BR Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary with a grand celebration. The event began with tributes and a lamp-lighting ceremony. GM Madan LS emphasised Baba Saheb's message of equality and empowerment. SEWA leaders Ashok Meena and Vinod Tanwar highlighted Ambedkar's legacy. Study material was distributed to 50 meritorious children. DGM Kalyan Gavjelli expressed gratitude, and all present pledged to uphold Ambedkar's ideals of justice, equality and brotherhood.

MEET & GREET!

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Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Supermodel Emily Hemibeki from Netherlands, during a courtesy visit at Hotel Rambagh Palace, Jaipur



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Ashwini Verma & Paritosh Yadav

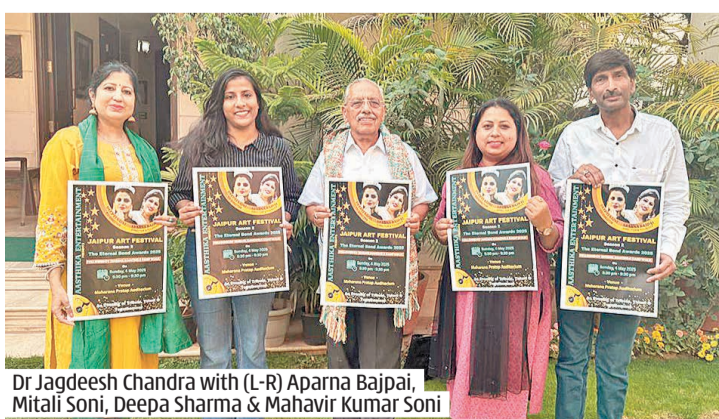
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Ashwini Verma, Director of Wonderpay Technologies Pvt. Ltd along with Paritosh Yadav, Vice President of Wonderpay Technologies during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Monday. During the meeting, Dr Chandra was introduced to the new services offered by Wonderpay Technologies Pvt. Ltd., including AEPS (Aadhaar Enabled Payment System), BBPS (Bharat Bill Payment System), and DMT (Domestic Money Transfer). The discussion focused on the promotion of these services and their potential impact on local communities, particularly in enhancing banking and bill payment access in rural areas.

GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Indu Rathore of the First India family as she visited his residence on Monday to seek his blessings on the eve of her birthday.

POSTER UNVEILED!

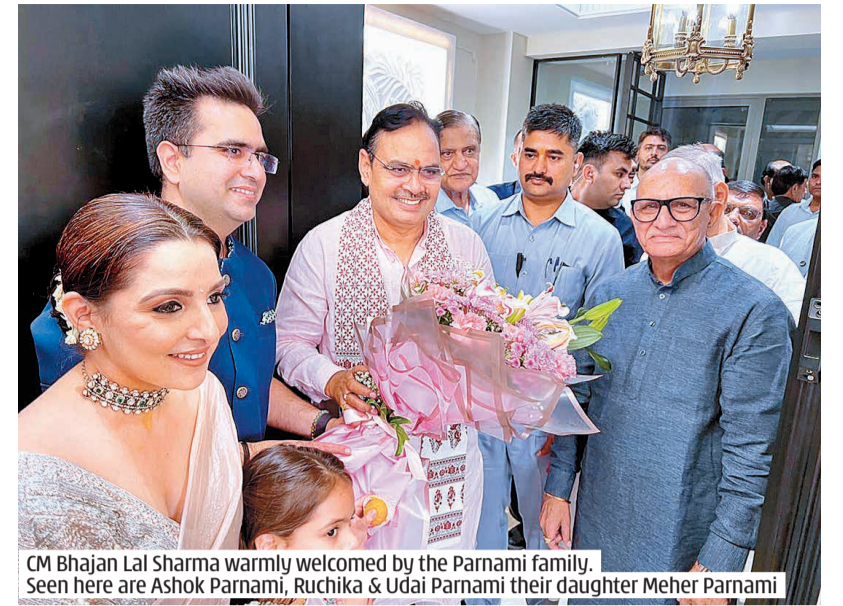


Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Aparna Bajpai, Mitali Soni, Deepa Sharma & Mahavir Kumar Soni

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Aparna Bajpai, Founder Director along with Mitali Soni, Film Director & Fashion Show Organiser; Deepa Sharma, Entrepreneur & Mahavir Kumar Soni, Celebrity Astrologer & Filmmaker, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Monday. During the meeting, Dr. Chandra graciously unveiled the official poster and was invited as the Chief Guest for the upcoming Jaipur Art Festival Season 2, presented by Aasthika Entertainment, scheduled for May 4.



CM Sharma was warmly welcomed with a ceremonial tilak during the housewarming ceremony. Also seen are members of the Parnami family



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma warmly welcomed by the Parnami family. Seen here are Ashok Parnami, Ruchika & Udai Parnami their daughter Meher Parnami

New Beginnings

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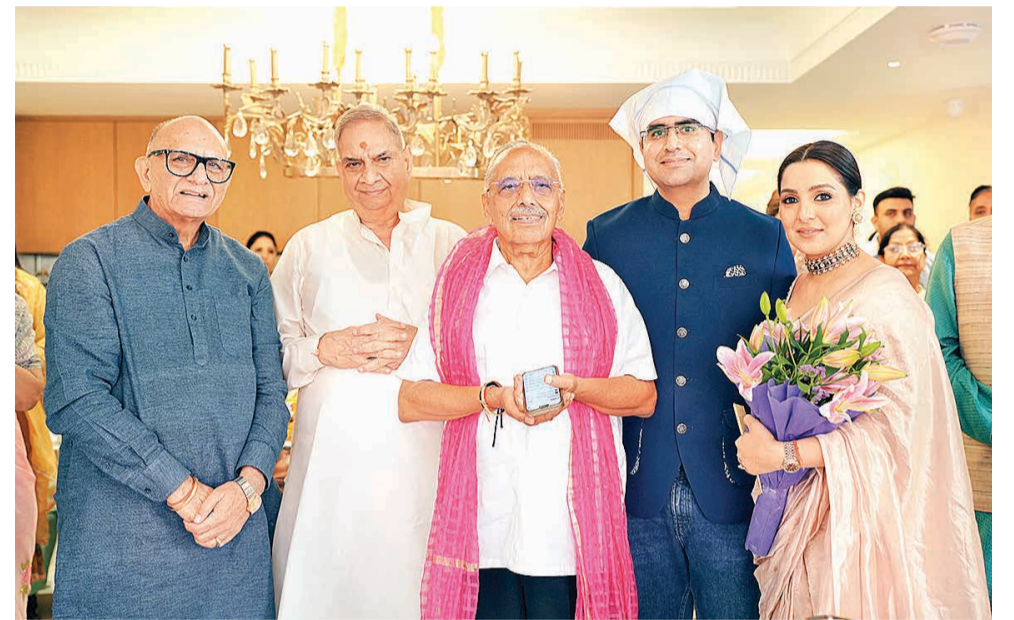
The Housewarming ceremony of the newly constructed flat of senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former State President, Ashok Parnami, was held on Monday, with traditional rituals and an atmosphere of joy and blessings. The flat is located in the prestigious Palacia complex at Statue Circle, Jaipur. The auspicious occasion was attended by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma who personally conveyed his greetings and best wishes to Ashok Parnami and his family on this joyous occasion.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the ceremony with his special presence who extended his heartfelt congratulations and warm wishes to Ashok and his family on this joyous occasion and wished them happiness, harmony and continued success in their new abode.

ued success in their new abode.

The ceremony was made more special with the presence of CP Kothari, Industrialist & owner of Pallacia; NK Jain, President of The Employers Association of Rajasthan; Parnami's close family members like Shilpa, Vipul, Anil Siddana, Shradha, Sonam, Ashu, Ruchika, Amit Jain, Bakul, Biren, Pranav, Mrinal, Riya, Monish & Niyati, relatives and notable guest like Mahant Kailash Sharma of the famous Moti Dungri Ganesh Temple, offered blessings and good wishes for peace and prosperity in the new home. Various personalities from the city's political and social circles were also present.

The housewarming ceremony at Pallacia stood as a symbol of warmth, tradition and togetherness—bringing political dignitaries, spiritual leaders and family under one roof in a celebration of new beginnings.



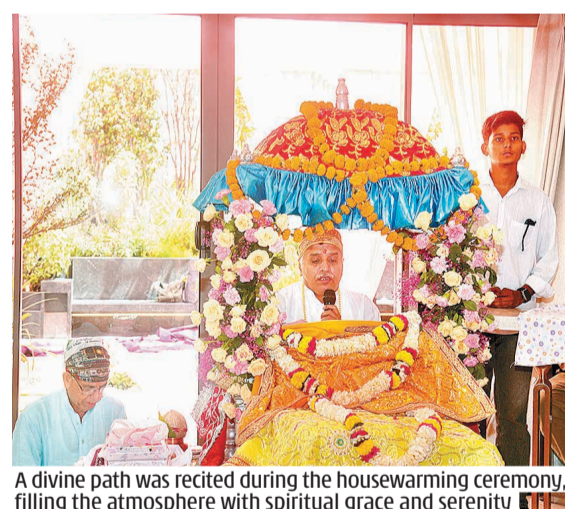
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Ashok Parnami, Mahant Kailash Sharma, Udai Parnami and Ruchika Parnami



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) CP Kothari, Mahant Kailash Sharma and NK Jain



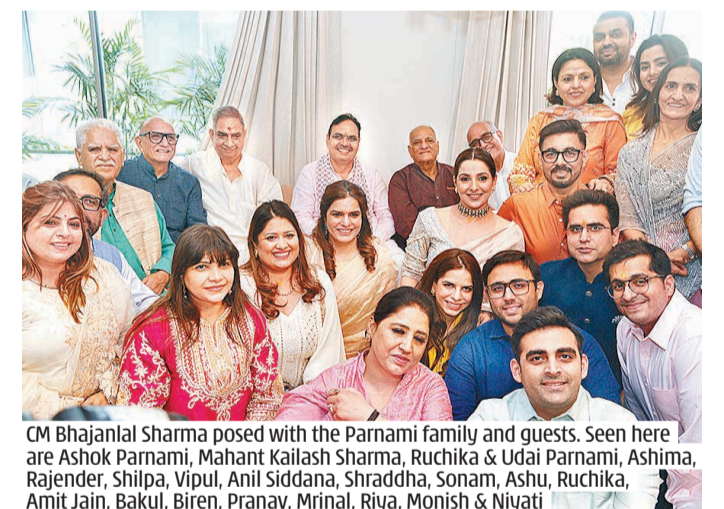
CM Bhajan Lal Sharma in conversation with Ashok Parnami & Mahant Kailash Sharma



A divine path was recited during the housewarming ceremony, filling the atmosphere with spiritual grace and serenity



Ruchika & Udai Parnami, with little Meher, performed a soulful puja during their housewarming Aarti



CM Bhajanlal Sharma posed with the Parnami family and guests. Seen here are Ashok Parnami, Mahant Kailash Sharma, Ruchika & Udai Parnami, Ashima, Rajender, Shilpa, Vipul, Anil Siddana, Shradha, Sonam, Ashu, Ruchika, Amit Jain, Bakul, Biren, Pranav, Mrinal, Riya, Monish & Niyati

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Alakh Foundation and Welfare Society organised a special program at the Nasha Mukti Kendra, Kasturba Nagar, Jaipur, on Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary. The event was attended by Secretary Ranu Parashar, Dr Sandeep Kumar Agarwal, Abhishek Gupta, Arvind, Mamta, Vishnu and Mahavir. Participants took an oath to eliminate drug addiction from society. Ranu Parashar pledged to uphold Babasaheb's principles, while Dr Agarwal discussed the harmful effects of drugs and the need for community cooperation in de-addiction efforts.

On the occasion of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary, a grand event was organised at the Central University of Rajasthan by the SC, ST/OBC Cell. Senior journalist and author Manoj Jwala, the chief guest, highlighted Dr Ambedkar's multidimensional contributions as a scholar, economist, and social reformer. He clarified that Dr Ambedkar never used the term "Dalit" and proposed Sanskrit as the national language. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Anand Bhalerao made two key announcements: the introduction of the "Baba Saheb Samaj Ratna Award" and a scholarship scheme for financially disadvantaged students.



Ares India recently hosted an Influencers and Designers Meet and Greet at Hotel Marriott. The event brought together prominent influencers like Lavina Tandon, Prajjwal, Shivli Kinger and designer Indrajit Das. Attendees discussed monetizing local talent, singer Aditi Sharma's soulful performance of Ishq Di Baaziyan and DJ Zero Gravity's act with Seven added charm. Dionysus plans to continue supporting emerging artists across Jaipur's cultural landscape.