



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's own English Newspaper



## RISING RAJASTHAN

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Chief Minister

**NARENDRA MODI**  
Prime Minister

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# The Matrix: How did we get here? How can we escape?



**Deepak Chopra**

The writer is MD, FACP, FRCP founder of the Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global



**S**ometimes a movie is more than a movie. The *Matrix*, which came out in 1999, was a science-fiction hit, but it also contained a disturbing image of reality. People went through their everyday lives not knowing they were trapped in an all-embracing AI creation: The Matrix. Nothing they saw around them was anything but a kind of virtual reality created by this monstrous machine. As the plot unfolded, a messiah emerged known as “the One,” who penetrated the veil of illusion to unplug humanity from the Matrix once and for all.

Everyone has moments when life feels unreal. We respond by saying things like “This can’t be happening” or “I feel like I’m in a dream.” Such moments can be good or bad—unlike the movie, we aren’t trapped in a menacing dystopia controlled by hidden overlords. But just as in the movie, a glimpse of the “real reality” is the key to escaping the Matrix.

The Matrix gave a technological update to the ancient concept of Maya, the illusion of everyday life that lies at the heart of Indian spirituality going back thousands of years. It also provided motivation to escape the illusion. Accepting it passively embroiled human beings in a mechanism that drained, quite literally, the life force inside us.

That is also the motivation needed right now. Ever since the pandemic, troubled times have kept us poised on the edge of anxiety. We find ourselves enmeshed in threats and insecurity, but unlike the movie, there is no messianic hero to bring delivery. Whether you call it the Matrix or Maya, escape is a personal project.

Social forces can drive you to participate in the matrix of fear, but society cannot get you out of it. Escape

**The Matrix gave a technological update to the ancient concept of Maya, the illusion of everyday life that lies at the heart of Indian spirituality going back thousands of years. It also provided motivation to escape the illusion. Accepting it passively embroiled human beings in a mechanism that drained, quite literally, the life force inside us**

is something each person must confront on their own. I believe that freeing yourself from anxiety, threats, and insecurity is possible. More than that, you can learn how to be free of fear despite the presence of the crisis mentality that seems ever-present.

The key is to cultivate emotional intelligence because fear and insecurity are experienced as emotions. The value of emotional intelligence never changes, and when you focus on it, you will achieve something worthwhile. Here are six principles to guide you through the process.

- Commit to never complaining, criticizing, or playing the victim.
- Imagine a creative, positive future for yourself.
- Don’t regret the past. It no longer exists.
- Be present in every situation as it occurs.
- Be independent of other people’s criticism or approval.
- Be responsive to feedback.

It is fair to say that hardly anyone hits upon these principles by trial and error or through simply experiencing life. A person can live a long time without paying attention to emotional intelligence, and particularly for men, the word “emotion” too often connotes something undesirable, as if showing emotional sensitivity is a sign of weakness. (Such an attitude, like all beliefs driven by social forces, tells you how much we are influenced by the Matrix.)

But emotional intelligence is gender neutral. The fact that humans can observe their emotions is a remarkable trait, and once you begin to observe your own emotions, you can counter the power of unwanted emotions like fear and anxiety. Whether we admit it or not, emotions fascinate us, as Hollywood well knows. Empathizing with emotions onscreen is easy and pleasurable, but we are too attached to our own emotions, and it takes very little experience of anxiety, humiliation, rejection, and failure to train us to avoid the minefield of emotions in general.

- It is worth saying that developing emotional intelligence isn’t scary or difficult. All you need to do is notice and pay attention. By pausing and standing back a little, you can observe how you are reacting at any given moment. You can even turn the six principles into questions posed to yourself.
- Am I complaining, criticizing, or playing the victim?
- Do I see my future in a creative, positive way?
- Am I pointlessly reliving the past?
- Do I see what’s going on right now?
- Am I afraid of someone else’s criticism or craving their approval?
- Am I listening to what other people are trying to tell me?

These are not mysterious or metaphysical questions. We can pause to ask them any time we want, and we

should. But we are blocked by old conditioning and the habit of feeling uneasy about our emotions. There is a great deal of social pressure to behave with very low emotional intelligence, a kind of dumbing down on the feeling level. As a result, we act in self-defeating ways. To give a few examples,

- We repeat the same reactions in most situations.
- We imitate how others behave, starting with our family.
- We act on impulse without a second thought.
- We don’t see how others react to us.
- We let negative emotions like fear, anger, envy, and resentment have their way.
- We easily go into denial and seek outside distractions.

A whole way of life is implied in these examples, and when collective fear mounts, as it does right now, people often have little or no idea how to escape. Denial and distraction simply become more intensified, and playing the victim is more tempting than usual. Alternatively, we tell ourselves that we need to stay in control more than ever. But what is needed isn’t emotional self-control but emotional resilience.

Resilience is the most important single aspect of emotional intelligence. You allow your emotions to rise and fall naturally, without trying to stop or control them. Once an emotion has passed, you feel better, and you are able to return to a state of peace and calm. The opposite of emotional resilience is seen when people are stiff, reserved, bottled up inside, censorious, aloof, proud, or remote. In all of these cases past experience has made certain emotions unacceptable. The only way to deal with them is through avoidance. One is reminded of the adage that trees can be blown over by a storm while grasses bend without breaking.

Because the mind by nature is restful, alert, quiet, and at peace, that state of balance is the basis for developing emotional intelligence. You need the experience of balance in order to return to it at will. Ultimately, this is how fear can be escaped permanently. Meanwhile, everyone can benefit from lessening anxiety being experienced all around us. Emotional intelligence goes a very long way to expanding your awareness and making you free of stress & anxiety right now.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

## IN-DEPTH

### WAYANAD LANDSLIDE TRAGEDY: NATURE CAN BE CRUEL AT TIMES

**T**he recent landslide in Kerala’s Wayanad, which claimed 291 lives and left 200 missing, highlights the devastating impact of natural disasters exacerbated by heavy rains. This tragedy underscores the urgent need for comprehensive disaster management and sustainable development practices. Wayanad’s vulnerability is not isolated; it reflects broader environmental challenges across India, where deforestation and unplanned construction amplify the risks posed by extreme weather events.

Immediate relief efforts must focus on rescue operations, medical aid, and shelter for the affected. However, long-term strategies are essential to mitigate future disasters. This includes stringent land-use policies, afforestation projects, and improved early warning systems. Community awareness and preparedness programmes can also play a crucial role in reducing the human toll. As we mourn the lives lost in Wayanad, it’s imperative to take proactive measures to prevent such calamities from becoming recurring tragedies and not indulge in blame games as done by Kerala CM. Only a concerted effort can safeguard communities against the relentless forces of nature.

### TWIN BLOWS TO HURT IRAN’S INFLUENCE



**T**he recent assassinations of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and its military chief Mohammed Deif mark a significant escalation in the already volatile Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two assassinations deliver a substantial blow to both Hamas and its primary ally, Iran. As one of the key figures in Hamas, Haniyeh’s leadership has been pivotal in orchestrating the group’s political and military strategies. Deif was suspected of involvement in the October 7 attack on Israel. Their assassinations not only destabilize Hamas’ operational capabilities but also signal Israel’s unwavering commitment to dismantling the organization.

Iran, a staunch supporter of Hamas, faces a strategic setback with the twin blows. Tehran has long provided financial and military support to Hamas, viewing it as a critical proxy in its broader geopolitical contest against Israel. The deaths could potentially reduce Iran’s influence in the region. Teheran has promised reprisals but the US and Israel are ready to defend their interests.

For Israel, these assassinations raise critical questions about its long-term strategy. While the immediate goal of incapacitating Hamas leaders may appear successful, the broader implications are complex. Hamas is not merely a collection of individuals but a deeply entrenched political and militant movement with significant grassroots support in Gaza and beyond. The cycle of retaliation and violence is likely to continue, with Hamas possibly seeking to avenge Haniyeh and Deif’s deaths. Ultimately, the assassinations may embolden hardliners on both sides, diminishing prospects for peace. Israel’s actions suggest a determination to persist until the terror outfit is completely dismantled. Its relentless pursuit of that goal leaves Iran and Hamas with little chance.

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## EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Resilience is the most important single aspect of emotional intelligence. You allow your emotions to rise and fall naturally, without trying to stop or control them. Once an emotion has passed, you feel better, and you are able to return to a state of peace and calm. The opposite of emotional resilience is seen when people are stiff, reserved, bottled up inside, censorious, aloof, proud, or remote. In all of these cases past experience has made certain emotions unacceptable

The only way to deal with them is through avoidance. One is reminded of the adage that trees can be blown over by a storm while grasses bend without breaking. Because the mind by nature is restful, alert, quiet, and at peace, that state of balance is the basis for developing emotional intelligence. You need the experience of balance in order to return to it at will. The experience comes naturally to everyone unless it is thrown off by stress and crisis



Regarding the incidents of cloudburst at many places in Himachal Pradesh, I spoke to the Chief Minister @SukhuSukhvinder and inquired about the situation. NDRF and local administration are engaged in relief and rescue work. I express my condolences to the families of the deceased and wish for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Amit Shah @AmitShah



Union Minister Sh George Kurian has been deputed by Hon’ble Prime Minister to the disaster site in Wayanad for coordination from the ground zero. He is personally visiting relief camps & assisting the relief works.

Kiren Rijju @KirenRijju

## SPIRITUAL SPEAK

As a strong wind sweeps away a boat on the water, even one of the roaming world of the senses on which the mind focuses can carry away a man’s intellect.

BHAGAVAD GITA



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## MODI'S 'VIKASWAAD' VISION FOR VIETNAM!

- India gifted its missile corvette INS Kirpan to Vietnam in July 2023
- Vietnam-India tie to grow in trade, maritime security, tech & culture
- Two PMs inaugurate modern Army Software Park in Vietnam virtually
- India offers Vietnam loan of \$300 million to build maritime security

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held wide-ranging talks with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Minh Chinh, to further expand the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. Chinh arrived in Delhi on late Tuesday on a 3-day visit.

India and Vietnam firmed up a new action plan to expand their strategic ties, with PM Modi asserting that both sides will work towards a free & rules-based Indo-Pacific and Delhi supports development and not "expansionism". Vietnam is India's important partner in our Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision, he said. Both leaders also virtually inaugurated the Army Software Park at Tele-Communications University in Nha Trang, Vietnam. PM Modi also offered condolences over the demise of General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, saying that he was India's good friend.



Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on Thursday.



PM Narendra Modi and Vietnamese PM Pham Minh Chinh hold hands at a presser in Delhi's Hyderabad House, on Thursday.

“Indo-Pacific is a locomotive for growth in the world. PM Modi and I are pleased to witness gains in bilateral relations, since our strategic partnership.”  
PHAM MINH CHINH, VIETNAM PM

“We believe that development has gained momentum in both the countries due to India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision and Vietnam's 2045 vision.”  
NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

### INDIA-VIETNAM INK MULTIPLE PACTS



S Jaishankar & Bui Thanh Son exchange documents at presser by PMs Modi and Chinh at the Hyderabad House on Thursday.

- Cooperation in Customs Capacity Building between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs of India and the General Department of Vietnam Customs
- Central Agricultural University, Imphal and Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences join for cooperation in agricultural research and education
- Ministry of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Ministry of Law and Justice of India join in cooperation in the legal field
- MoU between Prasar Bharati, Delhi and the Voice of Vietnam (VoV), Vietnam for cooperation on radio and television
- Duo agreed on a review and early conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement for mutual trade potential
- Traditional Medicine Administration Ministry of Health of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the National Medicinal Plants Board, India, ink pact on cooperation in the Field of Medicinal Plants
- PM Modi want that the youth of Vietnam should also take advantage of Nalanda University



## State Govts can sub-classify SCs for quota, rules Supreme Court

In a 6:1 majority verdict of Top Court, Justice Trivedi authors the lone dissent

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that Scheduled Castes are not a homogenous group and governments can sub-classify them to give more weightage in 15% reservation to those who suffered more discrimination among SCs. The bench of CJI DY Chandrachud, Justices BR Gavai, Vikram Nath, Bela M Trivedi, Pankaj Mithal, Manoj Misra and Satish C Sharma overruled 2004 SC judgment in Chinnai case that ruled against sub-classification of SCs.

The seven-judge bench penned the separate opinions, six in favour of the sub-classification of the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of giving the most backward among

### OTHER COURT NEWS

- 'Cases maintainable': High Court dismisses Muslim side's petition and agrees to hear Hindu side suits seeking removal of the mosque
- Delhi's Patiala Court denies anticipatory bail to Trainee IAS Puja Khedkar, asks Delhi Police to expand probe
- Delhi court granted bail to SUV driver accused in deaths of 3 students at coaching

SCs a better chance to get benefits of the 15% reservation. Justice Trivedi said once a caste fulfills the criteria for inclusion among the SCs and conferred SC status through a Presidential notification, they become a homogenous group and can't be further sub-classified.

### IN BRIEF



Army completes Bailey Bridge construction in record time, on Thursday. Bridge near Wayanad over Iruvanipzha River connects Chooramala.

### In Rajasthan Assembly, Bhajan Lal government promises key UCC Bill

Jaipur: The Bhajan Lal Sharma government on Thursday formally reiterated its promise of UCC Bill for the state but without specifying a time frame. During Question Hour Minister Jogaram Patel said the State was "considering" to implement UCC "on lines of Uttarakhand. P5



### Hamas military chief died in July: Israel

Jerusalem: The Israeli military said Thursday that it has confirmed that the head of Hamas' military wing, Mohammed Deif, was killed in an airstrike in Gaza in July. This came day after an apparent Israeli strike killed Hamas' top political leader.

### Manipur tense after fresh clashes erupt, security fire tear gas

Imphal: Tensions escalated between Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and security forces at a relief camp in Manipur's Imphal East district on Thursday. Police officials had reported that tear gas was deployed to disperse a protest rally, leading to clashes.

### NEET paper leak: CBI files 1st chargesheet, names 13 as accused

New Delhi: The CBI on Thursday filed its first chargesheet in the alleged NEET-UG 2024 question paper leak case. The chargesheet names 13 people as accused who were allegedly involved in the paper leak and other irregularities. Six FIRs were filed by probe agency.

## AFTER DELHI, A BASEMENT TRAGEDY IN JAIPUR • 'CONCERNED' CM PRESIDES DISASTER MANAGEMENT MEETING

### Three, including minor girl, drown as water floods basement in VKI

Body of 12-yr-old Piyush recovered after 6-hour rescue operation in Bagru

Satyanarayan Sharma, Dinesh Kasana and Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur



Broken wall and floor that caved in after rainwater entered the basement of a house in VKI area of Jaipur on Thursday. CM Sharma announces financial aid of ₹5 lakh. SUNIL SHARMA

Three people, including a minor girl, drowned after rainwater gushed into the basement of their house in Vishwakarma area of Jaipur early on Thursday morning, officials said. The bodies were recovered after a rescue operation that lasted for several hours, they said. DCP West Amit Kumar said that SDRF retrieved the bodies of Kamal, his niece Purvi and Pooja. Police said the passage to

the basement of the house was narrow and deep. The bodies of the victims have been shifted to Kanwatiya Government Hospital for postmortem, the police said. CM Sharma expressed grief over the death of 3 persons & released financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to their dependents. He has approved to give ₹4 lakh each to the family of each deceased from Disaster Relief Fund and ₹1 lakh each from CMRF and directed administrative officials to ensure fool-proof arrangements. P4

### CM Sharma insists on field visits for immediate disaster response

Aishwary Pradhan  
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma held a meeting with officials regarding situation arising due to rain in the state since Wednesday night. He said that the officials should go to the field and take stock of the situation and ensure immediate relief to general public in case of disaster.

Sharma was addressing the meeting organized on disaster management through video conferencing in the CMO on Thursday. He instructed the officials to identify old and dilapidated buildings in advance, so that any kind of damage can be prevented in time.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with (L-R) Alok Gupta, Anand Kumar, Sudhansh Pant, Utkal Ranjan Sahoo and Abhay Kumar during the disaster management meeting through VC in the CMO on Thursday.

“Sign boards should be installed at these places to avoid accidents and movement of common people, especially kids, should be constantly monitored. All the departments should work in mutual coordination so that general public can get quick help.”  
BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER

“Health Dept should ensure adequate availability of medical facilities to prevent seasonal diseases, as well as proper arrangements should be made for the prevention of diseases in livestock,” he said. Keep a watch on the movement of com-

mon people, especially children, in waterlogged areas. “Arrangements for food items should be ensured in affected areas. CM asks officials to take immediate cognizance of news of rain-related accidents, instructed depts to repair sunken roads and broken drains in the affected areas.

## INDIA GRAB 3RD MEDAL AT PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES

### SWAPNIL SHOOTS BRONZE!

First Indian to win bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event

First India Bureau  
Paris

Shooter Swapnil Kusale secured India's third medal at Paris Olympics after finishing third in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at National Shooting Centre in Châteauroux on Thursday. Kusale delivered an exceptional performance amidst intense competition, earning third place with a score of 451.4 points in final. Swapnil

has now become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event. This is also first time that Indian shooting contingent won 3 medals in single edition of any Olympics. China's YK Liu won gold medal with a score of 463.6 points, while Ukraine's S Kulish claimed silver with 461.3 points. Kusale's achievement not only made India proud but also highlighted his expertise in shooting. P7



Swapnil Kusale poses with bronze medal at Paris Olympics, Thursday.

### PRESIDENT MURMU, VP, PM MODI AND SPORTS FRATERNITY HAIL BRONZE MEDALLIST SAWAPNIL

President Droupadi Murmu, VP Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Mansukh Mandaviya, S Jaishankar, Kiren Rijju, Dr Jitendra Singh, Pralhad Joshi, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar and others joined country's sports fraternity in hailing Swapnil Kusale after the Indian shooter claimed a landmark bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions event at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games on Thursday. Olympic medallist rifle shooter Gagan Narang said Kusale's bronze is "worth more than gold".

### INDIA @ 2024 PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES DAY 6

- PV Sindhu faced defeat against He Bing Jiao in the round of 16, ending her hopes of adding a third Olympic medal to her name
- Nikhat Zareen plans solo trip, vows to come back strong post Paris heartbreak
- Lakshya Sen secured a spot after beating Prannoy, reaching quarters in maiden Olympic appearance
- One of India's biggest medal prospects, Satwik and Chirag faced a quarter-final exit following a defeat against the duo of Aaron and Wooi Yik Soh

## Courtesy Meet!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted Bhupender Yadav, Union Cabinet Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, during a courtesy meeting at the latter's residence, in Delhi, on Thursday.

## City's infra drowns in rain

Governor Bagade talks to CM Bhajanlal Sharma over situation; Jaipur schools to remain closed today



'Dravyawati' flowing over the bridge at Maharani Farm in Jaipur.



Waterlogging at Ridhi-Sidhi circle, the 'coaching hub' of Jaipur.

**Bharat Dixit & Vinod Singh Chauhan**  
Jaipur

The continuous heavy rain exposed the faulty drainage system and inept emergency management in Jaipur city. Major areas of Jaipur got waterlogged. As roads turned into rivers, traffic snarls and stuck vehicles were common sights. City Center, Vidyadhar Nagar, Malviya Nagar and other areas were submerged. The waterlogging caused jams and many vehicles got stuck. Mayor of JMC Greater Somya Gurjar visited the Dravyavati river, the control room at Mansarovar fire station, airport and other places and also directed the officials to provide immediate help to people. Waterlogging also damaged the pipe-



As water subsides, gaping potholes were seen at various places in the city.



JDA received over 150 complaints of waterlogging, roads caving in and bursting sewer lines in city throughout the day.

**NAIM KHAN, SUNIL SHARMA & MUKESH KIRADOO**



Water pumps being used to drain the JK colony underpass which was almost submerged.



Heavy water logging at Jaipur's Panch Batti, MI Road.

line system. Many shops on Gopalpura bypass were submerged in water. Meanwhile, rain also disrupted life at other places in state. In Nohar of Hanumangarh, low-lying areas got submerged. In Churu, rain broke a 60-yr-old record with 125mm in the last 24

hours. In Baoli of Sawai Madhopur, 175mm of rain was recorded. Electricity and mobile services were disrupted and waterlogging was seen at various places. In Tonk, Peeplu-Malpura SDM Kapil Sharma issued orders to start relief work and stop traffic on Kashipura-Peeplu ghat.

## SDRF's eight hour rescue op in vain as 3 lives perish

**Dinesh Kasana & Nirmal Tiwari**  
Jaipur

In a grim reminder of the deaths due to drowning in a basement in Delhi, three people died in Jaipur's Vishwakarma area due to waterlogging in the basement after heavy rain swept the city on Thursday. All the three deceased were from Bihar's Ara district. They have been identified as Kamal Shah (23), Pooja Saini (19) and Poorvi Saini (6). After about eight hours of rescue operations, the Civil Defence and SDRF teams fished out their bodies. Deputy CM Diya Kumari expressed grief over the death and met the families. Diya then reached the spot and took stock of the situation. "The condition of the sewer and roads is bad. JMC has a shortage of water pumps. This will be addressed so that at least one pump is available in every assembly," she said. Governor Hari Bhau Kisanrao Bagade has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives due to heavy rains.



Dy CM Diya Kumari reached the accident spot at VKI in Jaipur and spoke to the family of the deceased.



SDRF team during the rescue operation. (Inset) The family of the victims greiving inconsolably at the accident site.



A member of SDRF bringing out body of the deceased child.

## Walled City to Ramniwas Bagh: Free shuttle begins

**Abhishek Shrivastava**  
Jaipur

Jaipur Municipal Corporation (Heritage) has launched a free shuttle bus service for the walled city markets. The service, initiated jointly by JCTL, JDDA, and the Heritage Municipal Corporation, starts from Ramniwas Bagh parking area with six buses. The shuttle will operate on two routes: one from Ramniwas Bagh to Ajmeri Gate, Kishanpol Bazaar, Choti Chaupad, Chandpol, Tripolia Gate, and Chaura Rasta; the other from Ramniwas Bagh to Sanganeri Gate, Badi Chaupad, Tripolia Bazaar, and Chaura Rasta. The Shuttle Buses will run every 15 minutes from 9:30 AM to 9:30 PM while security and coordination will be managed by the Heritage Corporation's vigilance team. This move is expected to aid the tourists and visitors by facilitating easy movement to and from the walled city area.

## Student leader ends hunger strike after 9 days on appeal of his mother

**Divya Kanwalia**  
Jaipur

Student leader, Shubham Rewar has been on a hunger strike for nine days, demanding student council elections. In the protest, marked by a lathi charge and a letter written in blood, his health severely affected by hunger strike. Shubham lost 10 kg and is suffering from a kidney infection and elevated ketone levels. Despite his deteriorating condition, he refused medical treatment, stating he would only accept help once his demands



Shubham Rewar's hunger strike ended on Thursday. He pledged to continue his struggle with even greater resolve.

were met. Despite repeated appeals, he refused to end the strike. In response, MLA Ladnun, Mukesh Bhakhar brought Shubham's mother to SMS Hospital. His mother's affection lead Shubham to relent and end the hunger strike. Shubham Rewar clarified that the end of the hunger strike does not mean the end of the fight.

## Retired IPS officer to be questioned in JIM scam

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

In a new twist to the ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission scam investigation, a retired IPS officer has come under the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) scrutiny. Sources indicate that the ED may soon question former officer, who was reportedly close to a former PHED Minister. During interrogation, Sanjay Badaya, a key figure in the case, mentioned this retired officer's involvement. The officer has had a long and distinguished career, having served in various capacities within Jaipur, including the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA). He was also notably active in the state assembly and was once entrusted with the responsibility of a Special Assistant. As the Enforcement Directorate tightens its investigation, the retired officer's role in the scam is expected to be closely examined.

## Operation Aahat: RPF busts child labour gang

**CRIME ROUNDUP**  
**First India Bureau**  
Gangapur City

In a successful Operation - codename Aahat - the RPF apprehended a child labor gang on train number 12938 Garba Express. During a routine check of the general coach, 13 boys and 2 girls were found, brought from Jharkhand and Bihar under false pretenses of sightseeing. Four contractors en route to Gujarat with the children were also arrested. The children disclosed they were to work in a canteen and a thread-making factory. Presenting to committee members Babulal Rishabh Jain, Anjumanji Bano, and Harpreet Kaur Rana, they were sent to a shelter home for counseling. The GRP Gangapur has registered cases against the smugglers, and further action is underway.



The accused persons belonging to Pardi gang in custody of Chittorgarh police on Thursday.

### 4 HELD FOR THEFT AT JUDGES' RESIDENCES

Chittorgarh: Police have solved the case of theft of 26 tola gold and 250 grams silver jewellery and other valuables from the residence of two judicial magistrates in Kapasan in broad daylight and recovered the stolen goods and arrested four accused. Superintendent of Police Sudhir Joshi said that the value of the recovered gold, silver jewellery and precious watches is more than Rs 17 lakh. Police arrested four accused of the country's notorious Pardi gang involved in the crime.

### SCHOOL VAN RUNS OVER 4-YR-OLD KID

Jaipur: A tragic incident occurred in Murlipura when an uncontrolled school van hit a 4-year-old boy standing outside his house, crushing both his legs. The driver fled the scene, leaving the injured boy behind. Local residents rushed the child to the hospital, and the boy's father, Deepak, filed a complaint at the Murlipura police station. The police are actively searching for the van driver.

## JAIPUR JEWELRY MARKET

### Gold and Silver prices inflated for cash buyers in Pink City

**Vimal Kothari**  
Jaipur

Gold and silver buyers have to shell out more by Rs 300-400 per 10 grams of the actual prices while buying jewellery in cash. The price of gold in Jaipur market was Rs 71,500 per 10 grams on Thursday but the spot price of gold in cash in the market is at Rs 71,800-900. The current price of silver in the market is Rs



FILE

86,000 per kg but is being quoted in cash up to Rs 86,100-200 per kg. The prices are changing based on the fluctuations in the MCX market. However, there is no change in the premium for those who buy in cash. Merchants attribute this difference to the cash handling charge.

### JODHPUR ACB ARRESTS TWO EMPLOYEES OF ESI HOSPITAL OVER ₹11,000 BRIBE DEMAND

Jodhpur: The Jodhpur Special Unit of the ACB arrested 2 employees of ESI Hospital for accepting a bribe of ₹11,000 on Thursday. The arrests were made as part of a trap operation after a complaint was filed by a citizen. According to Dy Superintendent of Police, Govardhan Ram, the ACB's Jodhpur office received a complaint alleging that Harendra Singh Rajput, a Senior Assistant, and Jaiprakash Rajpurohit, a Senior Nursing Officer at ESI Hospital, were demanding a bribe of ₹15,000 to process the complainant's wife's VRS file.

**Yogesh Kumar Meena**  
(Advocate, Rajasthan High Court)  
1-D-140, Lalia Colony, Shastri Nagar, Jaipur. Mob: 9928276736

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The general public is hereby informed that I am Dileep Kumar Sharma S/o Late Shree Rameshwar Prasad Sharma and my wife Smt. Sheela Sharma (both) R/o A-106, Chandra Vatika, Maharana Pratap Road, Vaishali Nagar (West), Jaipur have served all relations with our son Akshay Sharma. We have disowned and debarred our said son from all our movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with Akshay Sharma will do so at their own risk. We will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Shree Akshay Sharma.  
Dileep Kumar Sharma  
Ret. A.O. (R.S.R.T.C.)  
Date: 1.8.2024



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**Uniform Civil Code** On lines of U'khand, Bhajan Lal govt to bring UCC in Rajasthan; U'khand is the first state where UCC is implemented

## CONSIDERING TO BRING UCC: PATEL

First bill of govt in Assembly sent to Select Committee

Govt said in Assembly that UCC is being considered & will bring the Bill at right time

**Pankaj Soni**  
Jaipur



Parliamentary Affairs Min Jogaram Patel during the proceeding in Assembly on Thursday.

Bhajan Lal govt will bring a bill to implement Uniform Civil Code in Rajasthan on the lines of Uttarakhand. In response to the question of BJP MLA Kalicharan Saraf on bringing a bill to implement UCC in Rajasthan, Law, Justice and Parl Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said that yes, the state govt is considering this matter. After considering all the aspects, said bill will be brought by govt at the right time.

However, the govt has not told about time limit for bringing the bill and implementing UCC. Uttarakhand is the first state in the country where UCC is applicable. The law has similar legal provisions for all religions.

### EXPLAINED: WHAT IS UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

The Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly passed the UCC on February 7, 2024. After the implementation of UCC in Uttarakhand, marriage, divorce, inheritance and live-in relationships are being regulated under it. After notification of UCC is issued, all previous personal laws in the state are now automatically abolished. This law of Uttarakhand has received President's approval but many provisions have been challenged in the court.



### LOKANTRA SENANI BILL WILL NOT BE INTRODUCED, GETS POSTPONED

The Loktantra Senani bill will not be introduced in the current session of the Rajasthan Assembly. Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg met with freedom fighters including Rajendra Raj and others. During the meeting, he said that there are some shortcomings in the draft of the bill and therefore it will not be introduced in the current session. The bill will be brought only after removing the shortcomings.

### QUESTION RAISED ON OPS BY MLA HARIMOHAN SHARMA POSTPONED

A question regarding Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for the state employees was postponed in the assembly. The question was put up by Congress MLA Harimohan Sharma. The previous government provided the benefit of OPS to state employees appointed after 2004. The MLA had asked in his question how many employees have benefited from the scheme. However, the question was postponed.

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

The Bhajan Lal government of the state has suffered a major setback in the assembly. The Groundwater (Conservation and Management) Authority Bill 2024, which was presented in the assembly with half-hearted preparations, had to be sent to the Select Committee for reconsideration by the government. Not only Congress, but BJP MLAs also opposed this bill. Due to this the government had to withdraw this bill. In this bill, the government had proposed to constitute a new authority for groundwater management. Along with this, many strict provisions were made.

Congress and BJP MLAs opposed it saying that provisions have been made in the bill for rationing of water. Under the Act, there was a provision to ban private industries and domestic tubewell digging in Rajasthan.

### THE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER THE BILL

The Select Committee comes under the advisory committee of the ad hoc committee. It is formed to consider a bill and give its report. This committee considers the bill in the same way as both the houses consider a bill. If the members of the committee want, they can put forward a proposal for amendment to various provisions.

Telemetric digital water meters were to be installed in the industries running in the state. In the assembly, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel, in view of the opposition of the MLAs, announced to send the bill to the Select Committee, saying that the matter is related to more than six crore people of the state and the government does not want to hurry in this matter.

### Assembly Publication



Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani releases the compilation of articles published by the Assembly, with Minister Jogaram Patel. Also seen are Mahaveer Sharma and Lokesh Sharma among others.

### DEVNANI CALLS FOR ADHERENCE TO RULES

Speaker Vasudev Devnani on Thursday said cooperation among all members of house, regardless of party affiliation, in ensuring smooth and productive sessions was necessary. He stressed the need for members to adhere to rules set by Chair, follow allotted time slots, and come prepared with well-studied subjects for debate. Devnani encouraged MLAs to engage in meaningful debates that contribute positively to policy-making and benefit the public. The Speaker also urged members to focus on constructive dialogue.

### Govt will amend old rules to restart closed units of RTDC, says PWD Min Manju Bagmar



MoS for PWD Dr Manju Bagmar said that govt will amend old rules to restart the closed units of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation. During question hour, she said that under the currently applicable rules of 1997, there is no provision to operate these units on basis of operations and maintenance. The process of changing these rules by the state govt is under process.

### Financial approval of ₹63.50L was issued for construction of Teski Gaushala: Min Otaram



MoS for Rural Development Otaram Devasi assured that works approved for construction of Teski Gaushala through Mewat Regional Devp Board will be completed soon. He said that financial approval of Rs. 63.50L was issued for construction of Teski Gaushala, under which 6 out of 7 works have been completed. The work of construction of Anicut is in progress.

### Devasthan Min Joraram Kumawat announces ropeway, addresses temple encroachments



Min Joraram Kumawat confirmed plans for a ropeway at Bijasan Mata Temple and noted Rs 8,13,500 income from Keshavrajji K. Patan temple's agricultural land over 5-years, deposited in state treasury. In Zero hour, he informed that Devasthan dept will take concrete action to remove encroachment from the lands of temples with the cooperation of the district administration.

### 'Anti Gangster Task Force formed in Rajasthan, special team in each district to prevent crimes'



Health Min Gajendra Singh Khimsar said in House that serious efforts to prevent crimes, including formation of an Anti Gangster Task Force on Dec 16, 2023, and special police teams in each district. A criminal database is being prepared, and more CCTV cameras have been installed. Increased police patrolling is directed for high two-wheeler theft areas in Kishangarh constituency.

## Food Safety Dept finds moldy mutton, expired flour in Hotel Grand Uniara

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

In a significant operation, the Food Safety Department conducted a raid at the Heritage Hotel Grand Uniara located on JLN Marg, Jaipur. During the inspection, the team discovered moldy mutton, expired multigrain flour, rotten cashews, and spoiled food items such as mango. Additionally, the kitchen was found to contain decayed mushrooms, spoiled cabbage, and other vegetables.

Pankaj Ojha, Addl Officer from the Food Safety Dept, stated, "We received complaints that some of



Team raiding Hotel Grand Uniara at Trimurti Circle on Thursday.

city's prominent hotels were serving poor-quality food to customers. Acting on this, after raiding Belacasa Hotel, we targeted Grand Uniara on Thursday." The inspection revealed several irregularities, including expired

food products and decaying vegetables in hotel's kitchen and storage areas.

The findings have raised serious concerns about food safety and hygiene practices at one of Jaipur's well-known heritage hotels.

## JMCG CEO asks junior officers to probe senior officer's graft

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Cracking down on corruption, Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater (JMCG) CEO ordered his junior officers to investigate against his senior IAS officer and former commissioner for passing a map against the rules for the plots in the Army area of Ramnagar, Bani Park.

The layout plan of plot number A-2, A-3, A-6 was approved against the rules. Despite these plots being in prohibited areas, the layout plan was approved.

Also, the directions of the High Courts were violated. An inquiry has been



ordered for corruption against the officer and against the suburb planner as well. The corporation has handed over the investigation of the senior officer to the Planning Commissioner and Revenue Officer. According to rules, officers at this level cannot investigate IAS officers. There is also a mention of taking bribe of crores of rupees for the investigation order.

## Churu SP drives his retd driver back home

**First India Bureau**  
Churu

In a rare and kind gesture, Churu SP Jai Yadav drove his retired driver Head Constable Sampat Singh Shekhawat to his home. Shekhawat has been a driver to 26 Superintendents of Police in his 34 years of job. On the day of retirement, SP Yadav surprised him with his generosity. Shekhawat became emotional.

Before dropping Shekhawat to his home, Yadav honoured him. He bid him farewell by garlanding him. The day became a memorable one for Sampat S Shekhawat.

## Customs uncovers illegal money transfer scheme

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

The Customs Commissioner has uncovered a major case of illegal money transfers through bogus companies. Piyush Naulakha, operating DP Design Limited Hong Kong, was arrested on July 22 at Jaipur International Airport while heading to Dubai. Naulakha faces allegations of facilitating illegal imports of gold and diamonds.

Despite his lawyer's claims of false charges, the court rejected Naulakha's bail petition based on evidence presented by Customs lawyer RN Yadav. Investigations reveal



Piyush Naulakha

200 bank accounts and transactions amounting to Rs. 2,000-2,500 crores.

The operation involved companies registered in Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, and Visakhapatnam, channeling significant amounts abroad. Customs has arrested ten individuals, with twelve more identified, as the probe continues.

### OPERATION VAPE OUT

## DRI officials seize 10,540 e-cigarettes in Jpr

**Vimal Kothari**  
Jaipur

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence of the Government of India has seized 10,540 smuggled e-cigarettes under operation Vape Out in Jaipur after conducting a raid at a hideout in C-Scheme here. Officials took action after information received from Sunil Kumar Sharma, arrested on July 26 in the e-cigarette smuggling case. It is said that the market value of the seized e-cigarettes is



The market value of seized e-cigarettes is said to be about ₹1.55 crore.

about Rs 1 crore 55 lakh. These cigarettes are being supplied to Jaipur from China, Malaysia and Dubai.

According to sources, DRI officials conducted raids on July 25-26 and arrested a person. Investigations re-

vealed that e-cigarettes are being sold in India through online and offline mediums. The money received in ex-

**The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized 10,540 smuggled e-cigarettes in Jaipur under Operation Vape Out; The e-cigarettes, supplied from China, Malaysia, and Dubai, were sold online and offline, with funds funneled through fake bank accounts**

change for online sales was used in bank accounts in fake names and e-cigarettes were sold offline only in cash.

## State Government to act against striking sanitation workers

Raj govt preparing to file a case of obstruction in government work

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

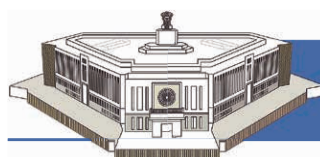
The state government is set to take stringent measures against striking cleanliness staff. Although the government is sympathetically reviewing their demands, including recruitment issues and court cases, some workers remain adamant about their unreasonable demands. The



Protesting workers take out a rally in Ajmer wearing PPE kits.

government has urged the workers to resume duties for the public's benefit. Action under "No work-no pay" policies and legal cases for obstructing government work are being considered. Reports indi-

cate that alternative arrangements are being hindered, with some workers stopping garbage collection. The government plans to register cases against those obstructing essential services.



## PARLIAMENT SESSION

The Bill intends to bring more clarity and convergence in the roles of Authorities working in disaster management

# In LS, Govt introduces Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Government introduced the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The Bill, introduced by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, seeks to amend the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The Bill is also scheduled to be taken up for introduction in the Upper House.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted to provide for the effective management of disasters. The purpose of the Act was to put in place necessary institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of disaster management plans.

The Bill also aimed to strengthen the efficient working of the National Disaster Management Authority and the State Disaster Management Authorities.

It will empower the authorities to prepare the disaster plan at national level and state level instead of the National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committee. The Bill seeks to create a disaster database at national and state level.



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai speaks in Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Thursday.

## Rly Minister Vaishnav hits back at Oppn in Parliament

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Thursday strongly defended his Ministry in Lok Sabha, responding to Opposition's criticisms regarding recent train derailments.

As the Opposition benches booed him, he responded: "Hum reel banane wale log nahi, mehnat karne wale log hai," highlighting the dedication of his team over mere showmanship.

Vaishnav also slammed the Congress party for allegedly spreading misinformation on social media.



Those who are shouting here must explain why, during their 58 years in power, they failed to install even 1 km of Automatic Train Protection (ATP). Now they dare to question us.

ASHWINI VAISHNAV,  
RAILWAY MINISTER

## 8 INDIANS SERVING IN RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES DIED: GOVT

New Delhi: Eight Indians working in the Russian armed forces have died and 12 others already left the military, the Union government said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In reply to a question, Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said another 63 individuals are seeking early discharge. "Eight deaths have been reported where the citizenship of the deceased has been verified as Indian," Singh said. The government has received requests for facilitation of early discharge of some Indian nationals purportedly recruited into the Russian armed forces in unclear circumstances, the MoS said.

## MINOR LEAK FROM GLASS DOME OF PARL BUILDING FIXED: LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

New Delhi: The Lok Sabha Secretariat on Thursday said a minor water leak in the new Parliament building was due to displacement of an adhesive material used to fix glass domes over the lobby and corrective measures were taken immediately. Several Opposition MPs had shared videos of the leaking roof of the new Parliament building. "During heavy rain on Wednesday, the adhesive material used to fix glass domes over the Lobby of the Building was slightly displaced, causing minor leakage of water in the Lobby," the Secretariat said.



SHEKHAR

# Enhance policy making skills: Rajnath to AFHQ

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday called upon the personnel of the Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services to continue enhancing their skills in the fast-changing scenario for efficient policy making and implementation and execution of reforms being undertaken in the Defence Ministry.

Addressing the 83rd AFHQ Civilian Services Day here, Rajnath Singh described the civil services as the steel frame of governance.

The Defence Minister commended the dedication and hard work of the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lights lamp to inaugurate AFHQ Civilian Services Day celebrations in New Delhi, on Thursday.

AFHQ personnel in taking forward the ongoing works, including efforts to attain Atmanirbharta, and contributing to the welfare of soldiers, an official statement said. "You are an important

link between the Armed Forces and the rest of the civilian government. There is a need to further strengthen your capabilities for enhanced efficiency," the Defence Minister further said.

# SC raps Bibhav for assaulting Maliwal

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday reprimanded Bibhav Kumar, an aide of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, on his behaviour with Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal who was allegedly assaulted by him at the CM's residence two months ago. Kumar had approached the Supreme Court seeking bail in the assault case.



A bench comprising Justice Surya Kant, Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan came down heavily on Kumar for his behaviour with a woman, asking if power "has gone into his head".

The bench asked, "Is this the way, in this a private residence... it is the CM's residence. You want to say as if a goon entered the residence and you wanted to protect... you have assaulted a young woman."

# Day after quitting BJD and Rajya Sabha, Mohanta joins ruling BJP



Arun Singh welcomes former MP Mamata Mohanta (R) in the BJP.

PTI  
New Delhi

Former BJD leader Mamata Mohanta joined the BJP here on Thursday, a day after resigning as Rajya Sabha member and quitting the Naveen Patnaik-led party.

Mohanta joined the BJP at the party's headquarters here in the presence of senior party leaders, including national secretary Arun Singh and Odisha in-charge Vijay Pal Singh. Some of the BJP MPs from Odisha were also present on the occasion.

BJP national general secretary Arun Singh welcomed Mohanta and said she has joined the party embracing its ideology. She was inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Singh said.

Welcoming Mohanta to the party fold, BJP's Odisha in-charge Vijay Pal Singh said her joining will further strengthen the saffron party in Odisha.

# 32 die in rain-related incidents in 7 states, many missing

Agencies  
New Delhi

As many as 32 people died in rain-related incidents in seven states since Wednesday evening in rain-related incidents in India. While record single-day rain submerged Delhi-NCR, cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh claimed the lives of at least 14 even as several others were missing.

As per latest figures, 10 deaths were reported in Uttarakhand, four in



Officials and locals stand near a washed away area at Rajvan village after a cloudburst, Mandi district, on Thursday.

Himachal, five in Delhi, two in Greater Noida, three in Gurugram in Haryana, and five in Bihar. With this, the nation-

wide death toll in rain-related incidents have shot up to 283, with Wayanad in Kerala having the most affected fatalities.

## KEDARNATH YATRA HALTED DUE TO RAINS

Dehradun: Fourteen people died and 10 more were injured in heavy overnight rains that triggered flooding and a house collapse as several rivers swelled in Uttarakhand. Keeping in mind the safety of devotees undertaking the Kedarnath Yatra, authorities have decided to suspend the pilgrimage for the time being due to landslides at many places. Officials said the trek route remains blocked by boulders at Ghoraparav, Lincholi, Badi Lincholi and Bhimbali.

# Congress leaders Rahul, Priyanka visit landslide-hit spot in Wayanad

PTI  
Wayanad

Congress leader and former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visited the landslide-affected area of Chooralmala here on Thursday.

After reaching the spot amidst the rain, Gandhi and his sister left for the Community Health Cen-



LOP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi along with his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Chooralmala in Wayanad, on Thursday.

tre in Meppadi. Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has expressed his deepest condolences over the Wayanad landslides tragedy.

# Infiltration bid foiled in J&K's Samba district, Pak intruder eliminated

First India Bureau  
Jammu

An infiltration bid was foiled by alert troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) on the International Border (IB) in J&K's Samba district.

BSF said that an infiltration bid was foiled in the Samba district of Jammu division late Wednesday evening in which one Pakistani intruder was killed.

"In the intervening night of 31 July/01 Aug 2024, the vigilant BSF troops observed a suspicious movement across the IB in the Samba border area. An intruder was observed approaching toward the BSF fence, the alert troops neutralised the intruder & thwarted the infiltration

## SF's SEIZE WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES IN J&K'S RAJOURI DISTRICT

Jammu: Security forces on Thursday recovered weapons and explosives in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. The White Knight Corps posted on X, "based on specific intelligence, a joint search operation by the Indian Army, J&K Police, and BSF was launched." It further posted that search operations are continuing.

attempt," the BSF said. There is no report so far about the recovery of any weapon from the intruder and whether the infiltration bid was made by just one intruder or a group of infiltrators.

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISION

# 3-day conclave begins for Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in Delhi

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated a three-day 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum', organised by the Ministry of Culture, from August 1 to 3 at Bharat Mandapam, here.

This three-day gathering aims to foster collaboration among State Museums and the Central Govt in realising PM Narendra Modi's vision for the 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' that aims to exemplify global best practices. To foster a comprehensive under-



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat after inaugurating the conclave for the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in New Delhi.

standing of India's artefact wealth for the 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum', the States have been invited to provide detailed insights into their respective State's collections at the forthcoming State Conclave. Speaking on the occa-

sion, Shekhawat said this Conclave being attended by a diverse group of stakeholders, including Resident Commissioners, Directors of Museums, Superintendents, Curators, Professors and Researchers from across the country is the third

# Amarnath Yatra: 4.76 visit Holy cave in 33 days

Agencies  
Jammu

Over 4.76 lakh pilgrims have performed the Amarnath Yatra in the last 33 days, the officials said on Thursday adding that the pilgrimage has been going on smoothly under strict security vigil.

The Yatra started on June 29 and will conclude after 52 days on August 19 coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festivals, officials said.

## अज अदालत उपखण्ड अधिकारी कोर्टकासिम

क्रमांक: 1416 दिनांक: 29.07.2024  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट कासिम कोर्टकासिम  
द्वारा राजस्थान कासिम कोर्टकासिम, 1955  
(1) सुप्रीम कोर्ट, (2) लखनऊ कोर्ट, (3) मुंबई कोर्ट, (4) कोलकाता कोर्ट, (5) दिल्ली कोर्ट, (6) जयपुर कोर्ट, (7) रायपुर कोर्ट, (8) बंगलूर कोर्ट, (9) चेन्नई कोर्ट, (10) गुवाहाटी कोर्ट, (11) शिमला कोर्ट, (12) देहरादून कोर्ट, (13) श्रीनगर कोर्ट, (14) जम्मू कोर्ट, (15) लद्दाख कोर्ट, (16) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (17) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (18) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (19) असम कोर्ट, (20) बिहार कोर्ट, (21) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (22) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (23) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (24) केरल कोर्ट, (25) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (26) गुजरात कोर्ट, (27) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (28) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (29) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (30) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (31) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (32) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (33) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (34) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (35) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (36) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (37) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (38) मेघालय कोर्ट, (39) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (40) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (41) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (42) असम कोर्ट, (43) बिहार कोर्ट, (44) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (45) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (46) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (47) केरल कोर्ट, (48) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (49) गुजरात कोर्ट, (50) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (51) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (52) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (53) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (54) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (55) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (56) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (57) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (58) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (59) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (60) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (61) मेघालय कोर्ट, (62) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (63) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (64) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (65) असम कोर्ट, (66) बिहार कोर्ट, (67) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (68) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (69) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (70) केरल कोर्ट, (71) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (72) गुजरात कोर्ट, (73) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (74) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (75) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (76) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (77) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (78) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (79) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (80) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (81) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (82) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (83) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (84) मेघालय कोर्ट, (85) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (86) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (87) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (88) असम कोर्ट, (89) बिहार कोर्ट, (90) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (91) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (92) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (93) केरल कोर्ट, (94) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (95) गुजरात कोर्ट, (96) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (97) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (98) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (99) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (100) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (101) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (102) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (103) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (104) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (105) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (106) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (107) मेघालय कोर्ट, (108) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (109) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (110) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (111) असम कोर्ट, (112) बिहार कोर्ट, (113) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (114) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (115) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (116) केरल कोर्ट, (117) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (118) गुजरात कोर्ट, (119) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (120) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (121) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (122) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (123) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (124) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (125) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (126) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (127) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (128) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (129) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (130) मेघालय कोर्ट, (131) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (132) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (133) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (134) असम कोर्ट, (135) बिहार कोर्ट, (136) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (137) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (138) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (139) केरल कोर्ट, (140) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (141) गुजरात कोर्ट, (142) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (143) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (144) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (145) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (146) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (147) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (148) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (149) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (150) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (151) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (152) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (153) मेघालय कोर्ट, (154) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (155) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (156) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (157) असम कोर्ट, (158) बिहार कोर्ट, (159) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (160) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (161) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (162) केरल कोर्ट, (163) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (164) गुजरात कोर्ट, (165) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (166) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (167) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (168) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (169) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (170) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (171) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (172) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (173) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (174) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (175) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (176) मेघालय कोर्ट, (177) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (178) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (179) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (180) असम कोर्ट, (181) बिहार कोर्ट, (182) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (183) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (184) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (185) केरल कोर्ट, (186) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (187) गुजरात कोर्ट, (188) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (189) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (190) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (191) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (192) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (193) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (194) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (195) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (196) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (197) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (198) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (199) मेघालय कोर्ट, (200) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (201) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (202) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (203) असम कोर्ट, (204) बिहार कोर्ट, (205) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (206) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (207) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (208) केरल कोर्ट, (209) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (210) गुजरात कोर्ट, (211) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (212) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (213) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (214) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (215) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (216) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (217) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (218) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (219) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (220) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (221) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (222) मेघालय कोर्ट, (223) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (224) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (225) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (226) असम कोर्ट, (227) बिहार कोर्ट, (228) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (229) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (230) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (231) केरल कोर्ट, (232) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (233) गुजरात कोर्ट, (234) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (235) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (236) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (237) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (238) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (239) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (240) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (241) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (242) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (243) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (244) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (245) मेघालय कोर्ट, (246) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (247) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (248) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (249) असम कोर्ट, (250) बिहार कोर्ट, (251) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (252) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (253) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (254) केरल कोर्ट, (255) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (256) गुजरात कोर्ट, (257) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (258) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (259) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (260) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (261) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (262) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (263) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (264) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (265) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (266) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (267) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (268) मेघालय कोर्ट, (269) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (270) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (271) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (272) असम कोर्ट, (273) बिहार कोर्ट, (274) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (275) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (276) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (277) केरल कोर्ट, (278) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (279) गुजरात कोर्ट, (280) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (281) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (282) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (283) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (284) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (285) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (286) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (287) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (288) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (289) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (290) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (291) मेघालय कोर्ट, (292) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (293) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (294) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (295) असम कोर्ट, (296) बिहार कोर्ट, (297) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (298) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (299) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (300) केरल कोर्ट, (301) कश्मीर कोर्ट, (302) गुजरात कोर्ट, (303) हरियाणा कोर्ट, (304) हिमाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (305) उत्तरांचल कोर्ट, (306) उत्तर प्रदेश कोर्ट, (307) पश्चिम बंगाल कोर्ट, (308) राजस्थान कोर्ट, (309) तमिल नाडु कोर्ट, (310) तेलंगाना कोर्ट, (311) मध्य प्रदेश कोर्ट, (312) महाराष्ट्र कोर्ट, (313) मणिपुर कोर्ट, (314) मेघालय कोर्ट, (315) मिजोरम कोर्ट, (316) त्रिपुरा कोर्ट, (317) अरुणाचल प्रदेश कोर्ट, (318) असम कोर्ट, (319) बिहार कोर्ट, (320) छत्तीसगढ़ कोर्ट, (321) झारखण्ड कोर्ट, (322) कर्नाटक कोर्ट, (323) केरल 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**BADMINTON ON DAY 6** Sen stayed on course for a maiden medal but Rankireddy & Shetty's dreams came crashing down

# Lakshya beats Prannoy, storms into men's singles quarterfinals

PTI  
Paris

India's Lakshya Sen registered a comfortable straight-game win over compatriot HS Prannoy to become only the third male player ever from the country to reach the quarterfinals of the Olympics badminton competition here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Commonwealth Games champion and a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, looked in complete control as he notched up a 21-12 21-6 win over world no. 13 Prannoy in a 39-minute pre-quarterfinal clash.

Sen joined Parupalli Kashyap and Kidambi Srikanth, who had reached the quarterfinals in the London and Rio edition of the Olympic Games in 2012 and 2016 respectively. Currently ranked 22, Sen will face 12th seed Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the quarterfinals.

"I think having tough matches gives you confidence. I am now ready to go deep into the tournament. It will be a tricky match against Chou, I have to go and give my 100%," Sen said.



India's Lakshya Sen during his men's singles Round of 16 badminton match against compatriot HS Prannoy at the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris, France, Thursday. PTI

## MANIKA, SREEJA MISS CHANCES; EXIT GAMES

Paris: Curtains fell on India's historic singles table tennis campaign at the Paris Olympics following Manika Batra's meek surrender against higher-ranked Japanese Miu Hirano and Sreeja Akula's fighting loss against world number one Yingshuang Sun on her bitter-sweet birthday. Never ever India had two singles players competing for quarterfinals berths but seasoned Manika and Sreeja showed that TT had potential to do better at the big stage by reaching the Round of 16.

## ARMY'S LIEUTENANT COLONEL KABILAN SAI MAKES HISTORY AS INDIA'S YOUNGEST OLYMPIC REFEREE

In a remarkable achievement, Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, a serving Indian Army Officer, has become the youngest Olympic referee in boxing from India at the Paris Olympics 2024. This milestone reflects his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and integrity, embodying the high standards of the Indian Army. Currently serving in Indian Army as Joint Secretary at Services Sports Control Board, Lieutenant Colonel Ashok's participation as an Olympic referee demonstrates his unwavering commitment to moral ethics, fair play, and excellence in sportsmanship. As a referee, he ensures the games are conducted with utmost integrity and impartiality, upholding the true spirit of the Olympics.



PT Usha with shooter Swapnil Kusale. PTI



PT Usha with shooter Swapnil Kusale. PTI

In the last two Olympics shooting didn't win medals but Manu gave a good start but we were expecting good from Manu earlier also. We are frequently in contact with Manu's personal coach Jaspal Rana and he was very confident about Manu and knew that Manu is going to do well. We were expecting medals from shooters and now we have won three and expecting more from shooters. Great moment for me and overall all of us. We have won seven medals in Tokyo but we should win more than seven here and hoping good results from other disciplines as well.

PT USHA, IOA PRESIDENT

## GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, SARABJOT RELISHES FOOD AT INDIA HOUSE AFTER WINNING BRONZE



Bronze medalist India's Swapnil Kusale, right, uses his phone to take a selfie with gold medalist China's Liu Yukun, center, and silver medalist Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish on Thursday. PTI

Paris: "Please give me something to eat," Olympic bronze medal winning shooter Sarabjot Singh said on his arrival at India House -- a repository showing the soft power of the country that aspires to host the 2036 Olympic Games. Singh and Manu Bhaker combined to beat South Korea 16-10 in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team event to land India its second medal at the Olympics. The 22-year-old, soon after his podium finish, drove to India House - a hospitality house that showcases Indian architecture and artistic motifs, offers virtual reality tourism, yoga sessions, Bollywood dance classes and workshops on henna tattooing and block printing. It also serves the best of Indian cuisines -- from biryani and mutton curry to curd rice and a host of desserts. He arrived to a rousing welcome by fans and Nita Ambani, chairperson of Reliance Foundation, which set up the pavilion in partnership with the Indian Olympic Association.

MEDALS TALLY					
RANK	COUNTRY	Gold	Silver	Bronze	TOTAL
1	CHINA	11	07	04	22
2	FRANCE	08	11	08	27
3	JAPAN	08	03	04	15
4	AUSTRALIA	07	06	04	17
5	USA	06	13	12	31
6	GREAT BRITAIN	06	07	07	20
31	INDIA	00	00	03	03

LAST UPDATE 11:00 PM

## INDIA'S SCHEDULE FOR TODAY - DAY 7

- Golf:** Men's Individual Finals (Round 2): Shubhankar Sharma and Gaganjeet Bhullar - 12.30 pm
- Shooting:** Women's 25m Pistol Qualification Pre-Selection: Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker - 12.30 pm, Men's Skeet Qualification Day 1: Anantjeet Singh Naruka - 1.00 pm
- Archery:** Mixed Team (1/8 Eliminations): India (Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat) vs Indonesia - 1.19 pm
- Rowing:** Men's Single Sculls Finals (Final D): Balraj Panwar - 1.48 pm
- Judo:** Women's +78kg (Elimination round of 32): Tulika Mann vs Idalys Ortiz (Cuba) - 2.12 pm
- Sailing:** Women's Dinghy (Race 3): Nethra Kumaran - 3.45 pm, Women's Dinghy (Race 4): Nethra Kumaran - 4.53 pm, Men's Dinghy (Race 3): Vishnu Saravanan - 7.05 pm, Men's Dinghy (Race 4): Vishnu Saravanan - 8.15 pm
- Hockey:** Men's Tournament (Group stage): India vs Australia - 4.45 pm
- Badminton:** Men's singles quarterfinals: Lakshya Sen vs Chou Tien Chen (Chinese Taipei) - 6:30pm
- Athletics:** Women's 5,000m (Heat 1): Ankita Dhyan - 9.40 pm, Women's 5,000m (Heat 2): Parul Chaudhary - 10.06 pm, Men's Shot Put (Qualification): Tajinderpal Singh Toor - 11.40 pm

## 30 killed, 35 missing after rains in China



Agencies  
Beijing

At least 30 people are dead and 35 are missing in central China, state media reported Thursday, following days of torrential rain that lashed the country earlier this week.

The downpours were triggered by Typhoon Gaemi, which moved on from the Philippines and Taiwan to make landfall in eastern China a week ago, with hilly, landlocked Hunan province hit particularly hard.

More than 11,000 people had been evacuated from the city of Zixing after some areas endured record rainfall of 645 millimetres (25 inches) in just 24 hours, news agency said on Tuesday.

Many roads connecting townships in the Zixing area were temporarily cut off by the extreme weather, which also affected the power supply & communications infrastructure.

## Sri Lanka eye comeback against Men In Blue in 1st ODI match today

Agencies  
Colombo

After routing Sri Lanka 3-0 in T20Is, India are gearing up for the ODI leg, starting August 2.

The two sides are set to clash in the 1st ODI at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

Rohit Sharma, who led India to the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup title, is back to spearhead the side in ODIs.

Virat Kohli also re-



Rohit Sharma during a practice session in Colombo, on Thursday.

turns to the setup.

As per ESPNcricinfo, India have firmly dominated Sri Lanka, as far as the ODI head-to-head record is concerned (99-57). One of their duels ended in a tie.

Their last bilateral series saw India thrash SL 3-0 at home last year.

On Lankan soil, the two Asian nations last met way back in 2021 (bilateral series). The Men in Blue clinched that series 2-1.

## "Detained Americans coming home"

PTI  
Washington

President Joe Biden says detained Americans are coming home and their brutal ordeal is over.

Addressing the nation from the White House State Room, Biden said it was a "feat of diplomacy" that brought home Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, Kurmasheva and Kara-Murza. He said multiple countries worked together to get it done.

As Biden made his statement at the White



US President Joe Biden

House, he was joined by relatives of the freed Americans.

The US president said

## US ELECTIONS: DEMOCRATS START VOTING TO MAKE HARRIS THEIR OFFICIAL NOMINEE

New York: The Democratic Party began the formal vote to nominate Vice President Kamala Harris for president on Thursday, kicking off a virtual roll call that will cement her status as the party's standard-bearer heading into November. The Democratic National Committee opened the vote to the delegates who will decide the party's nominee at 9 a.m. Delegates are voting using a virtual platform that is run and organized by the DNC, with each delegate using a personalized and watermarked form to cast their vote.

he and the families had spoken to their relatives by phone from the Oval Office minutes before his address. Biden called the release an "incredible relief" for the families and a feat of diplomacy.

## TO WHO'S GLOBAL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CENTRE

# India commits USD 85 million

PTI  
Geneva

India has committed USD 85 million over 10 years to support the World Health Organisation's Global Traditional Medicine Centre in Gujarat for a cross-sectoral programme to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, World Health Organisation's Director General on Thursday thanked India's "strong commitment and invest-



Dr Bruce Aylward, Assistant Director-General of the Universal Health Coverage of WHO with India Ambassador Arindam Bagchi.

ment" in the WHO's work on traditional medicine. The USD 85 million commitment was formalised at a signing ceremony here on Wednesday, a statement from WHO said on Thursday and acknowledged that integration of

traditional practice and knowledge is critical to achieving health for all.

While laying the foundation stone for the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at its global headquarters in Jamnagar in India on April 19, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre "is recognition of India's contribution and potential in this field.

The WHO said India's 10-year financial contribution - from 2022 to 2032 - will strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine.

Agencies  
Dubai

Top Iranian officials will meet the representatives of Iran's regional allies from Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen on Thursday to discuss potential retaliation against Israel after the killing of the Hamas leader in Tehran, five sources told the media.

The region faces a risk of widened conflict between Israel, Iran and its proxies after Ismail Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran and the killing of Hezbollah's senior commander on Tuesday in an



Protesters hold a banner during a protest to condemn the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tunis, Tunisia on Thursday. PTI

Israeli strike on the outskirts of the Lebanese capital Beirut. Representatives of Iran's Palestinian allies Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, as well as

Yemen's Tehran-backed Houthi movement, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi resistance groups will attend the meeting in Tehran, said the sources.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A new beginning- look afresh at what you want and what makes you happy - choose to do it more often!

Dr Jagdish Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

### MEETING OF 16TH CENTRAL FINANCE COMMISSION

State government is asking for a 50% share in taxes, up from the current 41%

# RAJ SHOULD RECEIVE EXTRA AID DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS: CM

By CM Diya Kumari emphasises that resource distribution should accelerate the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' & 'Viksit Rajasthan'

Dr Rituraj Sharma and Aishwary Pradhan

Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, presiding over a meeting with the 16th Finance Commission at the Secretariat on Thursday, emphasised the need for additional financial support for Rajasthan due to its challenging geographical conditions. He highlighted the state's vast area, desert region, water scarcity, and large population of SCs & STs, urging the Commission to recommend extra financial aid from the Centre. Sharma also requested inclusion of heat waves & desert locusts as natural disasters in NDRF and asked for a revised formula for central tax distribution to address regional disparities & support essential infrastructure. He stressed need of grants for water deficit due to irregular monsoon & falling groundwater levels. The meeting included ACS Finance Akhil Arora's presentation and talks with Commission members.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma chairs a meeting of the 16th Finance Commission at Secretariat in Jaipur on Thursday. Diya Kumari, Dr Premchand Bairwa, Sudhansh Pant, Akhil Arora, Shikhar Agrawal, Finance Commission Chairman Arvind Panagariya, and the members of the Commission Ajay Narayan Jha, Annie George Mathew, among others, were present.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses during a cultural programme held in honour of the delegation of the 16th Finance Commission at The Rambagh Palace in Jaipur on Thursday. Diya Kumari, Dr PC Bairwa & Sudhansh Pant were also present.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma releases a detailed memorandum prepared by the members of the 16th Finance Commission at Secretariat in Jaipur on Tuesday. Diya Kumari, Dr PC Bairwa, Sudhansh Pant, Arvind Panagariya & Ajay Narayan Jha were present.

**SPECIAL STATUS FOR RAJ TO BE DECIDED AFTER FULL REVIEW: PANAGARIYA**

Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, addressed Rajasthan's demand for special state status, stating that no decision will be made until the Commission has visited all 24 remaining states. Rajasthan has requested a higher tax share from the

Centre, proposing an increase from the current 41% to 50%, citing its vast area, significant wasteland, extensive international border, and severe water crisis as factors justifying the revision. The state also highlighted its low population density, which leads to higher infrastructure costs.

Panagariya acknowledged the unique challenges faced by Rajasthan but stressed that a comprehensive assessment of all states is vital before any conclusions can be drawn. Ajay N Jha, Soumya Kanti Ghosh, and Annie George Mathew joined Panagariya at the press conference.

## TOP QUOTES

Rajasthan's vast area and dispersed population mean higher costs for basic services like education, healthcare, drinking water, electricity. Given these extra costs & state's geographical conditions, apt financial resources should be provided.

**BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER**

The Commission is visiting states to gather suggestions. After visiting Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Punjab, Rajasthan is the fourth state on the Commission's tour. Suggestions received from states are being considered seriously.

**ARVIND PANAGARIYA, CHAIRMAN, FINANCE COMMISSION**

Rajasthan is the largest state in the country. The western districts particularly face challenges in achieving service delivery goals. Due to limited resources, the state relies heavily on central funds.

**SUDHANSH PANT, CHIEF SECRETARY**

## Rising Rajasthan Summit to propel State as a USD 350 Billion economy: CM



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma unveils the logo for the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit, scheduled to be held in December, at the Chief Minister's Office in Jaipur on Thursday. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, KK Bishnoi, Sudhansh Pant, Akhil Arora, Shikhar Agrawal, Ajitabh Sharma along with the Director General of CII and his team were also present.

First India Bureau

Jaipur

**The MoU intent webpage, opened at 4 pm on Thursday, received over ₹10K cr investment intents so far**

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma announced the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit, set for December 9-11, 2024, in Jaipur. The event aims to attract global investment and innovation. Sharma unveiled the summit's logo and introduced a single-point investor interface for streamlined MoU submissions, which already received over INR 8000 crore in proposals. "With India now the world's fifth-largest economy, Rajasthan aims to become a USD 350 billion economy in five years under Prime Minister Modi's guidance. Our investor-friendly policies

reflect a new era of holistic development for the state," CM said.

The summit will feature roadshows globally and nationally to showcase Rajasthan's investment potential. Industry Minister Colonel Rajyavardhan Rathore stressed using Raj's resources and youth for growth. Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant highlighted the summit's role in creating new investment opportunities and simplifying the process.

## Why isn't there a regulatory body for Coaching Institutes?



JMC authorities seal a Coaching Centre on Gopalpura bypass, Tuesday. (R) Dr Somya inspects a coaching centre. FILE

Manoj Mathur  
Jaipur

Following the recent Delhi incident, investigations into coaching institutes are underway in various cities. While some coaching institutes may face penalties if deficiencies are found, most are likely to escape consequences. Eventually, these institutes will resume their previous operations. The recurring pattern of government response to such incidents raises a critical question: Why is the government system so lenient towards these coaching institutes? What are the motivations and influences that compel the administration to remain passive? The coaching sector has grown to rival the traditional education system. Almost every student in school or college joins a coaching institute, making it a necessity for competitive exams, whether for higher education or job selection. What was once a feature of major cities is now prevalent in smaller towns. Given that coaching has be-

come a significant business, it is perplexing why the government has not established regulatory bodies for these institutions, as it has for schools, colleges, and universities. It is time for the government to regulate coaching institutes. Just as schools and colleges have rules for campus facilities, staff, and fees, similar regulations should apply to coaching institutes. Implementing such norms could address irregularities like classes in basements, overcrowded classrooms, and arbitrary fee collections. Additionally, banning coaching institutes in residential and congested areas could alleviate traffic and other issues. In Jaipur, the Housing Board has created a coaching hub in Pratap Nagar, but without legal restrictions, institutes continue to operate in crowded areas. While coaching institutes may oppose regulation, protecting the interests of students, their families, and the public should take precedence over business interests.



View

## Raj Guv Haribhau Bagade meets key Central Ministers during Delhi visit

Aditi Nagar  
New Delhi

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade met with key Central Ministers in New Delhi on Thursday.

He had discussions with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on parliamentary traditions.

Bagade also had a courtesy meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The Guv greeted Shah with a bouquet during the courtesy visit. Additionally, he called on Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav. The Governor is scheduled to attend the Governors' Conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan today from 9 am to 5 pm.



Rajasthan Governor, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade calls upon Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday. This was Governor's courtesy visit to the Union Home Minister.



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade greets Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla during his visit to New Delhi on Thursday. They discussed various topics related to Parliamentary traditions.



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade met with Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi on Thursday. This was Guv's courtesy visit to Yadav.

## 'Shared Buddhist heritage connects India and Japan'

Gopendra Nath Bhatt  
New Delhi

Japanese Speaker Nukaga Fukushima, leading a parliamentary delegation, met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday. Birla welcomed the delegation and highlighted India's commitment to women's empowerment, recent legislative progress, and the growing economic opportunities in India. He emphasised the shared Buddhist heritage and strong democratic values between India and Japan, advocating for increased parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation. "Both civilizations have a shared heritage of Buddhism which connects the citizens of both countries," Birla said.

Fukushiro congratulated Birla on his re-



Om Birla presents a copy of 'The Constitution of India' to Nukaga Fukushima at Parliament House in New Delhi on Thursday.

election and highlighted opportunities for enhancing economic ties, human resource exchanges, and technological collaboration.

The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla further emphasised India's digital advancements in Parliament, driven by the on-going digital revolution.

### FRESH APPLICATIONS INVITED

## Search for RERC Chairman resumes afresh!

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

The search is on for a Chairman for the Rajasthan Electric Regulatory Commission (RERC) as the last Chairman BN Sharma retired on Wednesday, July 31 and the appointment of new Chairman will take time. The Energy Department had begun the search for a new Chairman last month itself, but, it was not successful. Applications were sought from interested persons



till June 28. Then, based on these applications, a meeting of the Selection Committee was also called on July 24, but the Committee did not find any name suitable from the applications received. The Committee then decided to invite more

**The Committee decided to seek maximum applications through broad publicity to form a suitable panel for the government**

applications afresh and now the Energy Department has invited new applications till August 23. The Committee had decided that a maximum number of applications should be sought through "wider publicity" so that a panel of suitable persons

could be made and recommended to the government. Sources stress that this advertisement should be given in newspapers, but the Energy Department has issued the notice only on the website. In such a situation the information would not reach the suitable candidates who want to apply for the position. However, until the selection process is completed, the Chairman's post will remain vacant. It is worth noting that the tenure of the Chairman is 65 years of age or 5 years.

### RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR INFORMATION COMMISSION

The recruitment process for two vacant posts in the Information Commission has begun. Applications are being accepted through newspaper advertisements, with a deadline of August 26.

### Raj Cabinet Meeting to be held on August 3

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Bhajan Lal Sharma cabinet will meet on August 3 at 5:00 PM, followed by a Council of Ministers meeting at 5:30 PM. Key topics include preparations for Raj Rising Investment Summit (Dec 9-11), a review of recent heavy rainfall impacts, damage assessment directives, and possible investment packages, land allocation for industries, inauguration events, & PM's potential participation. The detailed agenda is pending.



**JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY!**  
In celebration of a decade of dedicated service & observance of National Organ Donation Month, Navjeevan MFJCF successfully completed the 'Organ Donation Awareness on Wheels' roadshow, on Thursday. **P12**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Nikhil Anand, Roosh Sindhu (Winner), Shivangi Desai (First Runner Up), Krishna Thakkar (Second Runner up), Shreya Dhandhukia (Third Runner Up) & Lucky Barot (Fourth Runner Up)

**MISS UNIVERSE GUJARAT 2024**

**Radiance Reigns!**

The **Miss Universe Gujarat** State Auditions Finale, presented by **Bharat24: Vision of New India**, was held on Wednesday evening at Tagore Hall in Ahmedabad, showcasing glamour and talent as part of the prestigious **Miss Universe franchise!**

**T**agore Hall was the epicenter of glitz and glamour on Wednesday evening, hosting the highly anticipated 'Miss Universe Gujarat' pageant.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The evening saw a convergence of prominent personalities from various fields, underscoring the event's significance.

Presented by Bharat24: Vision of New India, the pageant marked the inaugural Miss Universe Gujarat event, adding an extra layer of charm and prestige.

A total of 26 finalists, hailing from diverse backgrounds including students, social workers, doctors, dancers and actors, competed in the event. The pageant was meticulously organised by Neepa Singh, the State Director of Miss Universe Gujarat, ensuring a seamless and memorable experience.

Daksh Singh and Danvi Mali anchored the evening with finesse, engaging the audience and maintaining the event's lively atmosphere.

The distinguished jury panel included notable figures such as Nikhil Anand (National Director of Miss Universe India and owner of Glamanand Group), Neepa Singh, Salil Patel, Siddhant Soni, Darren Gypsy, Jaimil Joshi and Riddhi Patel.

Their expertise and discerning eye for talent were instrumental in judging the contestants.

The highlight of the evening was the crowning of Roosh Sindhu as the winner of Miss Universe Gujarat, who will go on to represent Gujarat at the national level in the Miss Universe India pageant. Shivangi Desai was named the first runner-up for her outstanding performance and charisma, while Krishna Thakkar secured the second runner-up position.



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, speaking on the occasion, praised the efforts of Nikhil Anand and the entire organising team. He remarked, "Nikhil Anand and his team have orchestrated a spectacular event that not only showcases the incredible talent and beauty of Gujarat's women but also sets a high standard for future pageants. Their dedication and vision are truly commendable. We at Bharat24- Vision of New India and First India News strongly support women in the field of fashion, glamour and entertainment. I congratulate the winners and wish everyone all the best."

The Miss Universe Gujarat pageant, as part of the global Miss Universe franchise, aims to celebrate and empower women by providing them with a platform to showcase their talent, intelligence, and beauty. The event aspires to identify and nurture future leaders and role models, preparing them to represent Gujarat on national and international stages.



(Anticlockwise) Shreya Dhandhukia, Krishna Thakkar, Shivangi Desai, Roosh Sindhu (Winner) & Lucky Barot

**WHAT'S NEXT?**



**Small World Fluid Art:** Unleash creativity at our Fluid Art Workshop! Perfect for all, learn fluid painting techniques to create vibrant, organic patterns. Enjoy a therapeutic journey with no brushes, just pure colour magic and relaxation.

**When-** 4 August 2:00 PM  
**Where-** Aura Rooftop, Ajmer Road, Jaipur



**Rajat Chauhan Live:** "Shaadi ka Ladoo," Rajat Chauhan's new special, explores the journey from bachelorhood to marriage, highlighting societal "marriage age limits," the impact of digital dating, and the challenges of joining families and traditions.

**When-** 11 August 6:30 PM  
**Where-** Indralok Auditorium, Jaipur



**Good Boy Better Show ft. Aashish Solanki**

Aashish Solanki, Comicastan season 3 winner, is a good boy whose intelligent, clean jokes and hilarious observations will make everyone laugh. Enjoy his family-friendly show but don't let parents take him home!

**When-** 15 August 7:00 PM  
**Where-** Lust, Malviya Nagar

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



**SIDDHARTH ROY KAPUR**  
**Leo**  
August 02

**Lucky Number:** 6 **Lucky Colour:** Grey

Today, Leo is perfect for action. Your eagerness to explore new territories is strong, driven by a desire for the unknown. Discover your inner strength, often hidden. Prove your courage to the world on this fantastic day. Embrace the journey and new experiences.

**NIROS TURNS 75!**



**Jagdeep Singh**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**T**his year marks a momentous occasion for the iconic Niros restaurant as it celebrates 75 years of culinary excellence. Founded by the visionary Late Ved Prakash Pardal in 1949, Niros has become an institution in Jaipur, standing the test of time and continuing to delight gourmands worldwide.

Hailing from a family of farmers and landowners in Punjab, Ved Prakash Pardal's journey began in Rawalpindi where he completed his education up to the matriculate level. In 1943, he moved to Delhi and played a pivotal role in helping Mr Lamba and Mr Ghai, the owners of Kwaliti restaurant, to run their eatery. It was here that he introduced the now-famous Pindi Chana to their menu.

With an initial investment of Rs 18,000 and the unwavering support of his wife, Mohini Pardal, who sold her jewellery to help set up the restaurant, Niros opened its doors in Jaipur in August 1949. Inaugurated by the first Education Minister of Rajasthan, Hanut Singh, Niros had a modest sale of Rs 90 on its first day. Little did anyone know that this humble beginning would lead to a culinary landmark in the Pink City.

Over the decades, Niros has navigated through changing culinary preferences, innovating its menu, and maintaining the highest standards of food quality and service. The restaurant's resilience was particularly evident during the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the perils of lockdowns, Niros continued to serve its loyal patrons, showcasing the same perseverance, grit, and dedication that Ved Prakash Pardal embodied.

Niros' menu still features dishes from its original 1949 offerings, while also introducing new items to cater to younger generations. This blend of tradition and innovation has allowed families to create lasting memories, with multiple generations visiting the restaurant over the years.

The iconic restaurant is now being ably managed by Ved Prakash Pardal's sons, Vinay and Rajnish and grandson, Hamit. It is a labour of love for them.

Reflecting on Niros' journey, Former Union Minister and Economist Yoginder K Alag wrote: "In Jaipur, Niros restaurant had a somewhat iconic status in 1958 with the college and intellectual crowd. You could drink as much cheap coffee as you wanted and sit there as long as you were drinking it. The Niros owners were known to me and I said it does not make economic sense. They said it creates a great ambience and others flock in."

Kishore Rungta of Man Structuralists reminisces: "In 1951, not only the idea of taking over and running of Rajasthan Cricket Association emerged sitting in Niros restaurant but the control of our flagship company, Man Industrial Corporation also came to



Guest enjoying meal at Niros



The delectable cuisine at Niros



Vinay Pardal and Rajnish Pardal

be vested in our hands. As they say, some places are lucky for you and Niros proved to be so."

After the visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Jaipur in January 1961, the city's popularity soared among tourists. Ved Prakash Pardal, always a visionary, hired an architect from Mumbai in 1962 to renovate Niros, making it the first air-conditioned restaurant in Jaipur. That same year, Niros became the first restaurant in Rajasthan to be classified as a star-category establishment by the Government of India's newly formed Hotel Classification Committee.

Former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Farooq Abdullah, fondly recalls: "As an SMS Medical College student, my friends and I had the privilege of frequently visiting the restaurant when our hospital mess was closed, particularly on a Sunday. The food, ambience, and ser-

vice of the restaurant were unmatched by anyone else at the time. Even now, when I visit Rajasthan and I am in Jaipur, I love to have a meal at Niros."

As Niros celebrates its 75th anniversary, it is not just a celebration of food but also of the emotions and memories that the restaurant evokes. For many, Niros is a place to relive happy moments and create new ones.

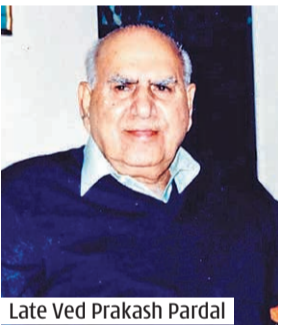
The journey of Niros is

indeed an intrinsic part of the culinary history of Pink City. From guests arriving in buggies and camels to the present-day chaos of luxury cars on MI Road, the memories associated with Niros are as diverse as they are cherished. Intellectuals, politicians, bureaucrats, and royals have all spent countless hours savouring the unlimited tea and coffee here.

The legacy of Niros goes on and on!



Mouth-watering delicacies served lavishly



Late Ved Prakash Pardal



Niros features stunning and unique wall art carvings



**Jaipur Flight Plan**

- Bengaluru-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Spicejet, Alliance Air, Star Air
- Surat-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Vistara
- Dehradun-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Vistara, Alliance Air
- Chandigarh-** Air India, Indigo, Vistara, Alliance Air, Air India Express
- Chennai-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, Indigo, Vistara, Spicejet
- Rome, Italy-** Air France, Air India, Etihad Airways, ITA Airways, KLM Royal Dutch, Lufthansa
- Sydney, Australia-** Air India, Batik Air, Indigo, Jetstar Airways, Qantas Airways, SriLankan Airlines
- Paris, France-** Air France, Air India, Etihad Airways, KLM Royal Dutch, Emirates, Indigo



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- Ambulance** 102/108
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**WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?**

https://in.bookmyshow.com/



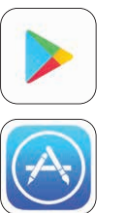
**Movie:** Bad Newz  
**Director:** Anand Tiwari  
**Cast & Crew:** Vicky Kaushal, Tripti Dimri, Ammy Virk, Neha Dhupia



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets



**Movie:** Sarfira  
**Director:** Sudha Kongara Prasad  
**Cast & Crew:** Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Radhika Madan



Scan or click here to download App of First India newspaper





Stunning top 10 finalists (L-R) Shivangi Desai, Dipna Patel, Shreya Dhandhukia, Palak Mali, Shraddha Chauhan, Krishna Thakkar, Roosh Sindhu, Sagarika Pawar, Lucky Barot & Prachi Modh



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted by Neepa Singh (State Director Miss Universe Gujarat). Also seen is Nikhil Anand

# A NIGHT OF BEAUTY!

City First brings you more glimpses of the 'Miss Universe Gujarat' pageant held at Tagore Hall. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra attended as the Chief Guest. The event featured 26 finalists from diverse backgrounds. Roosh Sindhu was crowned the winner, with Shivangi Desai and Krishna Thakkar as runner-ups. Dr Chandra commended the organisers and expressed strong support for women in fashion and entertainment.



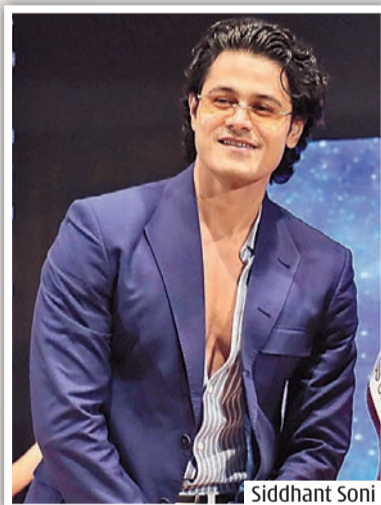
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



Prachi Modh



Jaimil Joshi



Siddhant Soni



Dareen Gypsy



Salil Patel



Riddhi Patel



Daksh Singh



(L-R) Danvi Mali, Dipna Patel, Breevashi Rajput, Dr Shraddha Singh Chouhan & Palak Mali

**GREETINGS!**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets Anmol Ahluwalia, at Taj ManSingh, New Delhi on Thursday at New Delhi. Anmol Ahluwalia recently took charge as Area Director - Operations & General Manager, Taj Mahal Hotel, Mansingh Road, New Delhi. He has had an illustrious innings at IHCL and was the Cluster GM of Taj North Goa and Head of Center of Excellence ( COE ) - Accommodations for IHCL before taking over at New Delhi. Over his remarkable tenure of 18 years with IHCL, Dr Ahluwalia has evolved as a strategic leader and has led the teams at Vivanta Bengaluru, Whitefield and Taj Chandigarh as its Executive Housekeeper and the teams at Vivanta Panaji, Goa and Taj Lands End, Mumbai in the capacity of Accommodation Manager before being promoted as the Executive Assistant Manager of Taj Bengal. He debuted into his first general management role at Taj Wellington Mews, Mumbai as its General Manager, where he successfully led the team to further take our service standards notches higher.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by supermodel Sifti Singh Sarang, during a courtesy visit by the latter in New Delhi on Thursday.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

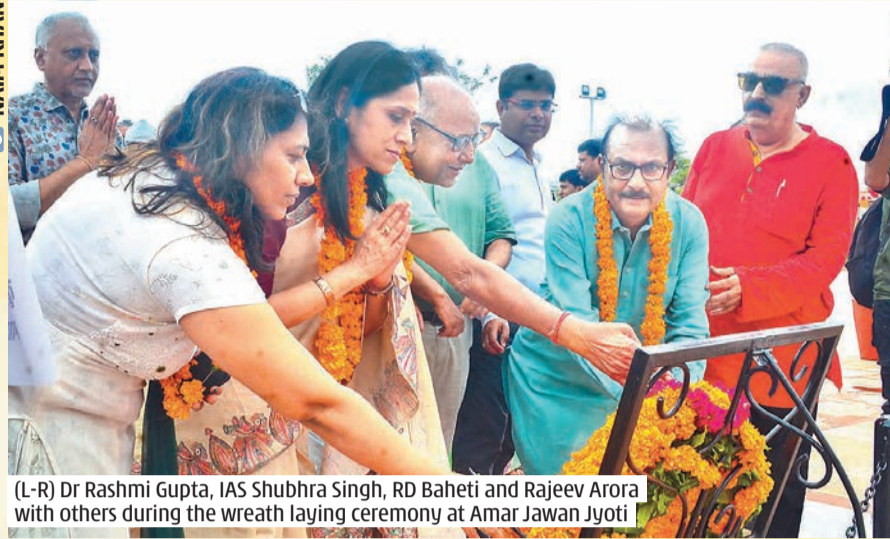


Ashok Singh Rathore, Area Director - Jaipur & Ajmer and General Manager, Hotel Rambagh Palace, Jaipur, celebrates his birthday today. A quintessential hotelier, Rathore is known for a sense of empathy and has a deep understanding of the Rajasthan market. Under his leadership, Rambagh has touched new heights. City First wishes him all the best on this special day.

**Organ Donation Awareness on Wheels in Jaipur**

**JOURNEY OF LIFE**

© NAIM KHAN



(L-R) Dr Rashmi Gupta, IAS Shubhra Singh, RD Baheti and Rajeev Arora with others during the wreath laying ceremony at Amar Jawan Jyoti



(L-R) Dr Deepak Maheshwari, Dr Rashmi Gupta, IAS Shubhra Singh, Rajeev Arora, Dr Dharmesh Sharma and Ravi Kamra with others

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**I**n celebration of a decade of dedicated service and observance of National Organ Donation Month, MFJCF (Mohan Foundation, Jaipur Citizen Forum) successfully completed the 'Organ Donation Awareness on Wheels' roadshow, on Thursday. The event, aligned with National Organ Donation Day on August 3, 2024, emphasised the critical message of organ donation through a meticulously planned route across Jaipur.

The roadshow was inaugurated at 4 pm from Amar Jawan Jyoti by IAS Shubhra Singh, ACS Medical & Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Rajasthan, and Rajiv Arora, Chairman of MFJCF. They were joined by Dr Rashmi Gupta, Additional Director of Medical Education; Bhavna Jagwani, Convener of MFJCF, and the MFJCF team. The bus, adorned with compelling messages such as 'Save a Life, After Life,' made numerous significant stops to engage with the community and spread awareness.

During the event, Shubhra Singh expressed, "Remarkable work has been done in the field



The organ donation awareness bus becomes a backdrop as Rajeev Arora, Bhavna Jagwani, Dr Swati Tomar, RD Baheti, Prajesh Taneja, Dr Dharmesh Sharma, Govind Gurbani, Sanjay Baheti, PC Jain, Sujata Baheti, Ranju Jain, Priyanka Bhatt, Dr Damini Singh, Dr Amla Batra, Kamla Choudhary, Ekta, Eva and Dr Anushree join the MFJCF team and supporters for a memorable photo

of organ donation in Rajasthan in a short time."

The roadshow was supported by prominent officials, including IPS Biju George Joseph (Jaipur Police Commissioner), IPS Preeti Chandra (Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Administration, Jaipur Commissionerate) and Kailash Chandra Bishnoi (Additional Commissioner of Police), Dr Dharmesh Sharma (IEC Consultant, SOTTO) and Dr Deepak Maheshwari (Principal, SMS Medical College, Jaipur),



Bhavna Jagwani, alongside IPS officers Biju George Joseph, Preeti Chandra and Kailash Chandra Bishnoi, rallied with supporters to advocate for organ donation through spirited slogans

among other supporters of the cause, were also present.

Rajiv Arora told First India, "This initiative reaffirms our commitment to promoting organ donation. It's heartening to see such overwhelming support from the community and officials alike." The roadshow concluded at 9 pm, marking the end of a successful day filled with impactful interactions and heightened awareness about organ donation. Ravi Kamra, member MFJCF said, "The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from volunteers and the general public, reinforcing the community's dedication to this life-saving cause."

The bus journey through key locations in Jaipur like Police Commissionerate, Albert Hall, Angdata Smarak and also the First India channel office served as a visual and educational tool, bringing the message of organ donation directly to the people.

The 'Organ Donation Awareness on Wheels' initiative stands as a testament to Navjeevan MFJCF's commitment to promoting organ donation. The roadshow not only celebrated their decade of service but also significantly contributed to raising awareness and encouraging people to consider organ donation, potentially saving countless lives.

**SILK ELEGANCE UNVEILED!**

**R**enowned designer Shivangi Kasliwal proudly announces the grand opening of her new boutique in the heart of Jaipur's C-Scheme. This boutique promises a haven for fashion connoisseurs, offering luxurious sarees, premium fabrics, and elegant readymades. Shivangi, celebrated for her intricate detailing and timeless appeal, has garnered acclaim for her work with Benarsi silk.



The boutique aims to provide an immersive experience, showcasing the artistry and heritage of Benarsi silk in an intimate setting. "This boutique reflects my passion for Benarsi Silk and commitment to preserving its legacy," said Shivangi. The store's interiors reflect Jaipur's rich cultural heritage, offering a personalized shopping experience.—City First



Shivangi Kasliwal



Members of the Sampark Sahitya Sansthan

**LITERARY GIANT HONoured**

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cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**U**nder the aegis of Sampark Sahitya Sansthan, the 144th birth anniversary of the immortal Hindi literature writer Premchand was celebrated at the Eternal Hospital auditorium on Thursday. The event was chaired by senior writer and satirist Farooq Afridi, with renowned novelist Prabodh Kumar Govil as the chief guest. The highlight was the release of Dr Neelam Kalra's poetry collection 'Shabdon Ka Aashiya' and a review of Premchand's famous stories. Farooq Afridi praised Premchand for voicing the struggles of the downtrodden through his literature, which continues to be relevant today. Prabodh Govil remarked on Premchand's life of struggle and his ability to reflect societal



experiences in his works. Special guest Tritwik Gaur emphasized the importance of connecting children to Premchand's literature to foster sensitivity.

The event featured reviews of Premchand's stories by various literary figures, along with an inauguration ceremony and Saraswati Vandana by Dr Manjula Bhatt. Anil Ladha, chairman of Sampark Sahitya Sansthan, and Dr Akhil Gupta of Eternal Hospital also addressed the gathering. The program was coordinated by Seema Wallia.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING!**



Aafka Patnaik, a student at Dharav High School, has recently had her story published in a Scholastic Book, showcasing her exceptional writing skills. Principal Seema Sahajpal expressed pride in Aafka's achievement, highlighting it as a testament to the talent and dedication of their students. The Dharav High School community is celebrating this milestone, viewing it as the start of a successful literary journey for Aafka. They hope she will continue to excel in her writing pursuits.



Manipal University Jaipur hosted a significant leadership transition on Thursday at Smt Vasanti R Pai Auditorium. The event bid farewell to outgoing president Prof. G K Prabhu and welcomed the new president, Prof. Niti Nipun Sharma. Pro-President Cmde. (Dr) Jawahar Mal Jangir praised Prof Prabhu's contributions and extended a warm welcome to Prof Sharma and Chairman S. Vaitheeswaran and other dignitaries honoured both leaders, celebrating Prof Prabhu's tenure and expressing optimism for the university's future under Prof Sharma's leadership.

Kanoria PG Women's College, Jaipur and the Progressive Writers Association organised a symposium for Premchand Jayanti on Wednesday. Principal D Seema Agrawal highlighted Premchand's story "Eidgah." Sessions discussed his revolutionary non-fiction and impactful fictional literature. Speakers included Dr Hetu Bharadwaj, Dr Rashmi Chaturvedi, Dr Satyanarayan Vyas, Mr Charan Singh Pathik and Dr Govind Mathur. Attendees enjoyed readings of Premchand's stories by Shobha Goyal and others. The event aimed to familiarize students with Premchand's literary contributions, drawing about 150 attendees.

