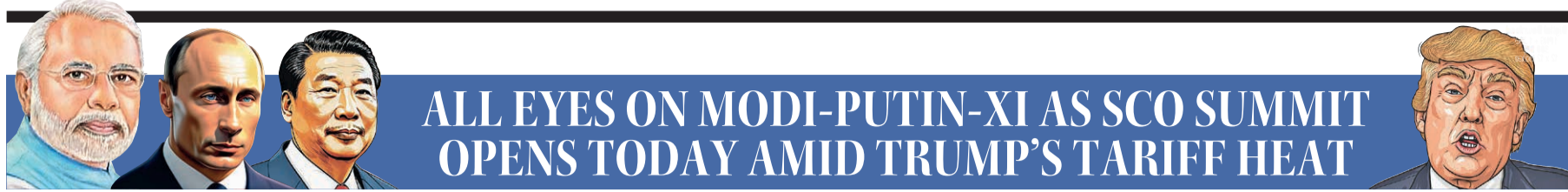




# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



## China rolls out red carpet for Modi

First India Bureau  
Tianjin (China)

After wrapping up his visit to Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in China on Saturday for a two-day visit to attend the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, marking his first trip to the country in seven years. "China's Indian community accorded a very special welcome in Tianjin. Looking forward to deliberations at the SCO Summit and meeting various world leaders," PM posted on X.

The Prime Minister is set to join leaders from the 10-member SCO bloc for the annual summit on August 31 and September 1. Modi's bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday is also expected to be closely watched, given the recent thaw in India-China ties. Apart from this, PM Narendra Modi will also hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

The visit comes against a backdrop of friction with Washington, after the Donald Trump administration imposed steep tariffs on Indian exports, with additional tariffs imposed due to the purchase of Russian oil.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome on his arrival to attend the SCO Summit, in Tianjin, China on Saturday.

While ties with the US remain strategically important, New Delhi sees value in keeping channels with Beijing open to diversify its options. P7

### PM MODI SPEAKS WITH ZELENKYY AHEAD OF KEY MEETING WITH PUTIN

PM Narendra Modi had a telecon on Saturday with President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in China. Zelenskyy shared his perspective on recent developments related to Ukraine. Modi thanked Zelenskyy and reaffirmed India's steadfast and consistent position for peaceful settlement of



conflict and support for efforts aimed at earliest restoration of peace. PM reiterated India's commitment to extend all possible support in this regard. The leaders also reviewed progress in India-Ukraine bilateral partnership and discussed ways to further enhance cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

PM Narendra Modi may celebrate his birthday in Rajasthan. His visit to the state has been proposed for September 17, and instructions have already been given for all the necessary preparations. However, the detailed schedule of the PM's tour is yet to be announced.

### HIGH-SPEED DIPLOMACY?



PM Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, travelled from Tokyo to Sendai, which is 370 kilometres away from the capital city, by bullet train on Saturday, marking the final leg of his two-day visit to Japan. Highlighting the bonhomie between the two leaders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba shared pictures of their bullet train ride. "With Modi to Sendai. Continuing from last night, I'm accompanying him from inside the car," Japanese PM wrote on X. Modi also shared pictures, saying they have arrived in Sendai. Upon their arrival, the two leaders met Indian loco pilots undergoing training at the East Japan Railway Company.

### IN BRIEF

#### 'Human GPS', terrorist behind 100 infiltration bids, killed in J&K

Srinagar: Security forces killed Bagu Khan, known as the "human GPS" in terror ranks, in Gurez on Saturday. Bagu, known as Samandar Chacha, was based in PoK since 1995. One of the most prolific facilitators of infiltration, Bagu, was shot dead along with another terrorist during an infiltration attempt from Nowshera Naar.



#### Jagannath Rath Yatra chariot wheels to adorn Sansad premises: Birla

New Delhi: In a significant move to promote Odisha's cultural and spiritual heritage, three sacred wheels from Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra will be installed at the Parliament complex. This decision was made after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's visit to Puri's Shri Jagannath Temple, where the temple administration presented the proposal. Birla accepted the proposal, marking a historic moment for both the temple and the nation.

#### 'No power to impose': US court declares most tariffs illegal

New York: A divided US appeals court ruled that most of Donald Trump's tariffs are illegal, undercutting the Republican president's use of the levies as a key int'l economic policy tool. It allowed tariffs to remain in place through October 14 to give the Trump administration a chance to file an appeal with US SC.

### Raksha Mantri's remarks amid Trump tariff row

## There are no permanent friends or enemies: Rajnath

He reiterated that "self-reliance is not just an advantage but a necessity"

First India Bureau  
New Delhi



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday underscored India's push for "aatmanirbharta" or self-reliance in defence and declared that "there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests".

Singh also noted the significant strides made in indigenisation, including the commissioning of two locally designed Nilgiri-class stealth frigates, including INS Himgiri and INS Udaygiri. "In the

light of self-reliance, the nation is now making all warships domestically. The navy has pledged not to buy warships from any other country but to make them in India and nowhere else," he said. He said that Sudarshan Chakra, India's indigenously built defence system, would soon become reality.

### INDIA FIRED UNDER 50 WEAPONS IN OP SINDOOR: IAF VC

The IAF fired fewer than 50 weapons and missiles during Operation Sindoor to bring Pakistan to its knees and compel the neighbouring country to agree to a ceasefire, Vice Chief of the Indian Air Staff Narmadeshwar Tiwari said, Saturday. He said it was a big accomplishment for us that in less than 50 weapons, we were able to achieve conflict elimination.



Dravid steps down as head coach of RR



First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Rajasthan Royals (RR) on Saturday confirmed that head coach **Rahul Dravid** will conclude his tenure with the franchise ahead of IPL 2026. RR shared on social media: "Rahul Dravid has been central to the Royals' journey for many years. His leadership influenced a generation of players and instilled strong values within the squad, and left an indelible mark on the culture of franchise. As part of our structural review, he was offered broader position, but has chosen not to take it."

## Vanshika's book reflects the true voice of youth: Governor Devvrat

Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat honoured several young talents

First India Bureau  
Ahmedabad



Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat with (L-R) Rajesh Singh, Vanshika Singh, First Lady of Gujarat Darshana Devi, Seema Singh, Richa Sharma and Shashikant Sharma, launches 'Things I Scribbled Before Growing Up' book, in Ahmedabad, Saturday.

A special moment unfolded in Ahmedabad on Saturday as Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, unveiled the debut book of young author Vanshika Singh, "Things I Scribbled Before Growing Up - An Almost-Adult's Guide to Feeling Everything."

Vanshika, an enthusiastic young writer, began expressing her thoughts in childhood. What started with a small diary has now taken the form of a beautiful book. Through poetry and sensitive prose, she shares her emotions, thoughts and

experiences. Her wish is to inspire other young people to openly express their creativity and feelings. The event was organised under the ECA Global's initiative "Nanhe Sapne, Nayi Udaan" at DoubleTree by Hilton, Ahmedabad. The initiative celebrates imagination and talent among youth. Governor praised Vanshika and said, "Van-

shika represents dreams and emotions of the new generation. Her book reflects the true voice of today's youth." Governor Devvrat also highlighted the importance of natural farming, pure food and good values, emphasising that wholesome nutrition and a healthy lifestyle play an important role in the upbringing of children.

### CONDOLENCES



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav extended condolences to Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat on the demise of his father, Suraj Singh Rawat, at Muhami village in Ajmer on Saturday. (R) CM Bhajan Lal Sharma pays tribute to Suraj Singh Rawat, also seen here is MoS Bhagirath Choudhary.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma pays tribute to former Barmer-Jaisalmer MP, late Colonel Sonaram Choudhary, in Mohangarh in Jaisalmer on Saturday.

## 7 of a family killed in cloudburst in Jammu

First India Bureau  
Jammu

Seven members of a family were among 11 people killed in Ramban and Reasi districts during the early hours of Saturday as incessant heavy rains continued to batter Jammu province.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to arrive here on Sunday on a two-day visit to review the situation and the relief and rescue measures. Gushing waters swept away houses, damaged



Police personnel during rescue operation following heavy rainfall, in Ramban district, J&K, Saturday.

several structures, and left some completely washed off, officials said. Rescue and relief operations are in progress. P6

Late night heavy rainfall, thunderstorm disrupt life in Jaipur

## IMD WARNS OF HEAVY RAIN IN PARTS OF RAJASTHAN

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms was recorded at some places in the state on Saturday. The maximum temperature in the state was recorded at 37.0 degrees Celsius in Jaipur. According to the Jaipur Meteorological Centre in most parts of eastern Rajasthan, there is a strong possibility of light to moderate rain with thunderstorms over the next 5-6 days, while heavy rainfall may occur at some places in the southern and south-eastern regions. In parts of Jaipur and Bikaner divisions, except the bordering areas, there is a likelihood of moderate rainfall with thunderstorms over the next 4-5 days.

Heavy downpour has lashed Jaipur late on Saturday night, throwing life out of gear. Low-lying areas, especially Jawahar Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Moti Doongri Road, Trimurti Circle, Narayan Singh Circle, Sahakar Marg and C-Scheme, have been submerged as gushing rainwater turned roads into canals.

A large number of vehicles broke down and were stranded on almost every street.



Vehicles seen moving amid heavy rainfall, in Jaipur on Saturday. SANTOSH SHARMA



The security wall of the fort collapsed in a school, demolishing four classrooms in Tonk on Saturday. Panic gripped Bhilwara city on Saturday morning after lightning struck a house.



## MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF WEATHER

- A gravel-laden truck was swept away by strong currents while crossing the Mashi river near Ramkishan-pura (Kachauliya) in Pipalu sub-division. The driver narrowly escaped, while the co-driver saved himself by climbing onto the truck
- A couple and three daughters swept away while crossing Chaunsla culvert in Chittorgarh; villagers rescued three, two girls still missing, rescue ongoing
- In Ladpura village of Bamanwas, lightning struck a house while family members were watching television, leaving nine people from the same household seriously injured, including several children. A 14-year-old girl, Kranti, daughter of Inder Singh Kharwal, died in the incident
- Collectorate guard room building in dangerous condition after heavy rains in Banswara; cracks risk lives of police personnel working inside under constant fear
- Heavy rain flooded low-lying areas and villages near Marble City; school bus stuck, children rescued with tractor
- Five tourists were trapped in the Pushkarji Mahadev temple waterfall after a sudden surge in water flow in Sirahi
- A dilapidated haveli collapsed following heavy rainfall, damaging a neighbouring house and burying household belongings under the debris in Churu

## State orders urgent audit of school buildings

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

**District collectors were directed to expedite surveys of all govt school buildings and submit safety reports immediately. Edu Secy Krishna Kunal stressed that inspections must be prioritised**

A spate of incidents across Rajasthan has raised alarming concerns over the safety of govt school buildings, many of which have suffered roof collapses and severe structural damage following continuous rainfall. While no casualties have been reported so far, the recurring incidents highlight the grave risks posed to students and staff.

In Kishangarh Renwal, part of a government school roof caved in after two days of intermittent rain. Anticipating danger, the administration had already closed the room, preventing any mishap. Principal Sharwan Dhaka promptly alerted higher authorities, while local officials including SDM Sarveshwar Sharma inspected the site and ordered that unsafe classrooms remain sealed.

In Malpura (Tonk),

four classrooms collapsed and four more were damaged when a fort wall gave way at night.

In Bamuliya, Baran, an upper primary school is functioning under highly unsafe conditions.

In Jodhpur's Chirayon Ki Dhani, a building collapsed early morning before students arrived.

School Education Secretary Krishna Kunal convened a high-level meeting via video conferencing. District collectors were directed to expedite surveys of all government school buildings.



School Education Secretary Krishna Kunal



## Baran municipal officials defy chairperson's notice, seal houses without approval

Questions are being raised over whose pressure is leading municipal officials in Baran city to seal houses. They are not following the notice issued by Chairperson Jyoti Paras. The municipal board has also not been informed about the action regarding encroachment removal. In the notice, Chairperson Paras had directed the Commissioner to bring such matters to attention. Instructions had also been given not to take any action or issue notices without complaints or approval of the board and chairperson.

## Home department orders transfers of 34 jail officials



A major reshuffle has taken place in the prison administration, with transfers of 34 jailers. Jail superintendents in most prisons have been changed, and orders have been issued by the Department of Home.

## Karauli: Private buses 'imitate' RSRTC buses, authorities silent

In Karauli region, several private buses are operating in a deceptive manner by copying the look of Raj State Roadways buses. They have imitated the front design and colour, even writing "Related to Rajasthan State Transport" in the same style. Authorities have remained indifferent leading to heavy financial losses for the state transport department.

## Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi to address Churu rally on voter list irregularities

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi will be in Churu on September 6 to participate in a rally regarding voter list irregularities. Rajasthan Congress gave a proposal to AICC to hold a rally in the Shekhawati region of Churu as a part of a strategy. Rajasthan PCC president Govind Singh Dotsra discussed the matter with KC Venugopal about the date of the rally and Priyanka Gandhi's visit was finalised. Earlier this month, the Congress party set up a portal to garner people's support against poll rigging in the name of Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

## SOG arrests couple in dummy candidate cases

First India Bureau  
Jodhpur

The Special Operations Group has arrested a couple from Bhopalgarh, Jodhpur, for their alleged involvement in dummy candidate cases linked to the Lecturer Recruitment Exam 2022 and the SI Recruitment Exam 2021.

The accused have been identified as Daluram Meena and his wife, Mausam Meena, who

works as a Grade-3 teacher. According to officials, Daluram had arranged for his wife to appear as a dummy candidate in place of his sister-in-law, Rekha Meena, during the Lecturer Recruitment Exam 2022. In the SI Recruitment Exam 2021, Daluram himself allegedly deployed a dummy candidate to write the exam on his behalf.

Both are currently under interrogation.



The accused Daluram Meena and Mausam Meena in police custody in Jodhpur on Saturday.

## Police freeze properties worth ₹3.77 crore of drug traffickers

First India Bureau  
Barmer

Acting on the directions of the Barmer SP, Dhorimanna police froze assets worth Rs 3.77 crore belonging to five drug traffickers under the NDPS Act. On Friday, properties worth Rs 1.27 crore, including two houses, a plot, and a vehicle, were seized. The next day, assets worth Rs 2.5 crore were frozen. Traffickers targeted included Jagdish Bishnoi, whose house and vehicle were seized, and Pappu alias Naresh Kumar, with Rs 76 lakh assets attached. Shyam Sundar Sawaria's assets worth over Rs 1.4 crore were also frozen.



Dhorimanna police froze properties illegally acquired by drug traffickers in Barmer.

## 5 HELD IN MAJOR DRUG RAIDS ACROSS RAJ

Five people were arrested in separate anti-drug operations in Jhalawar, Didwana and Banswara. In Jhalawar, police seized 200 gm of smack and over 1.1 kg of adulterated drugs worth about Rs 42 lakh, arresting two accused. In Didwana, 275.93 gm of MDMA worth Rs 56 lakh was recovered in three raids. In Banswara, a farmer was caught cultivating cannabis hidden in a maize field.

## 10 YOUTH HELD FOR DISTURBING PEACE

Jhunjhunu: Ten youths were arrested in Babai, Jhunjhunu for disturbing the peace under the area domination campaign. According to police, there was a dispute between two parties in Padeva regarding illegal mining after which young men came in two SUVs and tried to create ruckus and spread panic in the area. Babai police reached on the information and arrested the youths.

## Nachna land allocation scam SIT probe may expose several big names

Suryaveer Singh Tanwar  
Jaisalmer

The land allocation scam in Nachna, Jaisalmer, involving thousands of big-has, is moving towards major revelations. Taking the matter seriously, the state government has constituted a SIT to conduct a thorough probe. It is expected that the investigation may expose several influential names.

For years, villagers and social groups alleged that influential individuals and land mafias, in collusion with officials, fraudulently acquired government and residential land. Records were manipulated, fake documents prepared, and illegal allot-

ments made, leading to transactions worth crores. Despite repeated complaints and protests, no concrete action had been taken until now.

The matter recently reached the Chief Minister, following which the SIT was formed with the mandate to uncover the entire scam and identify the extent of collusion. The team has begun seizing records from concerned departments.

## Devotees hurt as high-tension wire touches flag pole

PK Agarwal  
Chittorgarh

A major accident occurred during a religious procession in Rawatbhata on Friday when a flag carried by a participant came into contact with a high-tension power line, leaving four youths injured. The mishap took place during the grand procession of Lord Devnarayan.

According to reports, the procession, which began from Paleshwar Mahadev Temple, was attended by thousands of devotees. The accident occurred when a flag held by a youth, Kanhaiyalal, touched an overhead high-voltage wire, triggering an electric discharge that caused severe burn injuries to four participants.

## AIR SERVICES TO GET STRONGER

## CM Sharma's new aviation push for growth

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Known for its rich cultural heritage and historic monuments, Rajasthan welcomes millions of tourists every year, carrying forward its tradition of Padharo Mhare Desh. Under the able leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the expansion of air services has given new direction to tourism and economic growth in the state. Air connectivity is not only helping tour-

## FLYING TRAINING SCHOOLS IN RAJ

To promote the aviation sector and increase youth participation, a Flying Training Organisation (FTO) was established last year at Kishangarh, Ajmer. Continuing this initiative, a flying school will be set up at Hamirgarh airstrip in Bhilwara.

ists but also linking traders, investors and students with the state, making Rajasthan an attractive destination for business and investment.

## KOTA-BUNDI GREENFIELD AIRPORT

On 19 August, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Airports Authority of India's (AAI) proposal to develop a Greenfield airport at Kota-Bundi at an estimated cost of Rs 1,507 crore. For its construction, 440.65 acres of land have been allotted to AAI.

## AIRSTRIPS TO BE LEASED FOR AERO SPORTS

In the cabinet meeting held on 23 August, the state government took important decisions regarding the expansion of the aviation sector. To promote aero sports activities, ensure optimum use of underutilised airstrips, and encourage adventure tourism, the "Land Lease Policy for Airstrips for Aero Sports Activities" was approved.

## BOOST TO AIR CONNECTIVITY

The central govt has allotted 12,778 sq. metres of land for a dedicated state terminal at Jaipur Airport, with construction set to begin soon. Free land has also been provided to AAI for Kishangarh Airport's expansion, while work is underway for Udaipur Airport's expansion and a new civil enclave at Uttaral (Barmer). Raj, with its tourist sites, religious places, and industrial hubs, is focusing on the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

## Teacher foils 19-year-old NEET aspirant's suicide bid in Jaipur

Satyanarayan Sharma  
Jaipur

A teacher saved a 19-year-old NEET aspirant who attempted to end her life by jumping off the terrace of a coaching institute here, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place on Friday in Mahesh Nagar when the student, who stays at a PG accommodation, climbed to the terrace of the three-storey coaching centre in a bid to end her life, they said. As people on the road noticed the girl and raised an alarm, the



A teacher, who had climbed onto the terrace wall, caught hold of the student and pulled her back to safety.

teachers of the institute rushed to the terrace. One of the faculty members managed to catch hold of the girl from behind just as she prepared to jump

and pulled her to safety despite her attempts to resist, police said, adding that the girl was brought down safely and later counselled.

## HC ORDERS ON 2021 SI RECRUITMENT EXAMINATION

## High court ordered probe, not annulment: Min Jogaram Patel

Rajeev Gaur  
Jodhpur

Law and Justice Minister Jogaram Patel, during his visit to Jodhpur, held a public hearing at the Circuit House and addressed the ongoing controversy surrounding the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment examination. In a significant statement, he clarified that the Rajasthan High Court has not cancelled the SI recruitment, but has instead directed an investigation based on its observations.



"The court has not annulled the recruitment. It has sent the matter for investigation with its observations," Patel stated, adding that the government has been asked to investigate the case and

send the report to the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC).

He emphasized the court's observations, particularly regarding the appointments made during previous govt. "The court has raised serious questions over the appointments of chairpersons and members of the RPSC made during Congress regime," he said. Patel openly addressed allegations surrounding the recruitment process, claiming that names of several influential individuals have surfaced.



Selected candidates and their family members at Collectorate Circle, protesting against court's decision. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

## Selected candidates of SI exam stage protests throughout State

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

A wave of protests swept across several districts in Rajasthan on Friday after the Rajasthan High Court's decision to cancel the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment process. Families of selected candidates staged symbolic demonstrations, expressing anguish over what they termed as "injustice towards deserving and honest candidates."

In Jaipur, protesters, holding placards and

raising slogans, accused the system of punishing those who had cleared the exam with hard work. In Bikaner, families of candidates assembled outside the Collectorate and voiced opposition to the blanket cancellation. Similar scenes were reported in Jhunjhunu, where protesters submitted a memorandum addressed to CM via district collector. In Dausa, families of selected candidates also voiced their frustration and submitted a memorandum to the CM.

## Visiting monuments to become costly as entry fee hike proposed

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Visiting Jaipur's iconic monuments may soon become more expensive, as the state tourism department is considering a proposal to increase both standard and composite ticket rates for Indian and foreign tourists. The proposed revision comes in light of growing tourist footfall and the need for enhanced maintenance and conservation efforts.



Key tourist destinations such as Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar, and Albert Hall Museum are included in the list of monuments where ticket rates may be revised. The dept is also

planning to add Gandhi Vatika, and Central Park, to the composite ticket category for the first time. Currently, composite ticket for Indian tourists is priced at Rs 420. The new proposal suggests increasing it to Rs 550. For foreign tourists, the ticket of Rs 1,100 could be hiked to Rs 1,700. Officials said the pro-

## EX-CM GEHLOT SLAMS GOVT OVER SI RECRUITMENT EXAM STANCE U-TURN

On the SI recruitment issue, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot said that the government has been completely exposed. He remarked that earlier the stance on the SI recruitment was different, but now the decision reflects something else. He pointed out that in court, the government had refused to cancel the recruitment, yet now that the court has given its verdict, they are congratulating themselves. He said that his government had brought in a law against irregularities and had cancelled the REET in the interest of the youth. He further added that there should be no politics over RPSC members, as even the Vasundhara govt had appointed them.



## CONGRESS LEADERS SHOULD LOOK WITHIN THEMSELVES: RATHORE

BJP state president Madan Rathore, said that they should look within themselves. He stated that during Ashok Gehlot's tenure paper leaks had taken place, but since the formation of Bhajan Lal Sharma's govt, no paper leak had occurred. He added that their government had investigated 2021 SI Exam and arrested the accused. Rathore further said that Datasra now makes statements, but he has no other option. Since the crimes happened during his party's government and while he was state president, Datasra too would be considered directly responsible for them. In such circumstances, he should refrain from making such statements.



## Dy CM Dr Bairwa's 'special' birthday plans!

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The birthday of Deputy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa will be celebrated on Sunday in a unique way, dedicated to public service and development. A series of events have been planned in Dudu Assembly constituency to mark the occasion.

At 11 am on Sunday, foundation stone laying

and inauguration of development projects will take place at the premises of Shri Shaileshwar Mahadev Temple in Gaiji village, Dudu tehsil. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will be the chief guest at the programme.

As part of the celebrations, a voluntary blood donation camp will be organised by workers from Dudu, Mozmadabad and Phagi

Assembly areas. The camp will run from 10 am to 5 pm in the temple premises. At 11:15 am, prayers and aarti will be performed at Shri Shaileshwar Mahadev Temple. At 12:15 pm, the Dy CM's birthday programme will be held, followed by a special session at 1:15 pm to welcome guests from outside and honour blood donors.

## Devnani hails Bansal's journey from ABVP to BJP's skilled organiser

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

During his visit to Jaipur on Sunday, BJP National General Secretary Sunil Bansal met Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani at his official residence.

Devnani greeted him with a bouquet, a traditional stole, and a copy of the inspirational book Samidha, extending a heartfelt welcome. Both leaders shared their experiences from the time of Vidyarthi Parishad, describing it as an inspiring and enriching time in their lives. They said that the memories of their youthful commitment and efficiency in organisational work continue to excite them even today.

Expressing his good



BJP National General Secretary Sunil Bansal met Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani at his residence in Jaipur on Saturday.

wishes, Speaker Devnani said that Sunil Bansal should continue to serve Bharat Mata with dedication and contribute to the journey of nation-building. He added with satisfaction that through his diligence, Bansal has risen from the Vidyarthi Parishad to establish a strong identity at the higher levels of the party.

## Bansal, Rathore bat for 'One Nation, One Election' for faster growth

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

BJP national general secretary Sunil Bansal on Saturday said the concept of 'One Nation, One Election' would bring about significant social, economic and political changes along with accelerating the nation's development.

Bansal said that between 1951 and 1967, India successfully held four general elections simultaneously, but political instability set in after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's decisions in the 1970s, which led to fractured political mandates.

"Due to the imposition of the model code of conduct, which lasts



BJP leaders Sunil Bansal and Madan Rathore during the event at Khandelwal Vaishya Girls Institute of Technology College in Jaipur on Saturday.

150-200 days annually in every state, development work for the public comes to a standstill," Bansal said while addressing a conclave of student leaders here. "If the cost of elections is reduced to half with the implementation of 'One Nation, One Election,' it will give a much-needed boost to national development,"

Bansal said. BJP state president Madan Rathore said the idea of holding simultaneous elections had been a practice after independence. However, he said, the country faced political instability later due to policies of Congress. "This issue is not of one political party, but of the nation," Rathore said.

## HC raps 3 cops in NDPS case, relieves 4 others

Shivprakash Purohit  
Jodhpur

High Court expressed doubts over the role of police officials in a case related to NDPS act and ordered continuation of departmental action against 3 police officers involved. The bench of Justice Farzand Ali issued the order during hearing and granted bail

to accused, Satyanarayan, in the case. The court also directed that a copy of the order be sent to the DGP for further action.

In the same case, HC provided relief to four other police officers, including Inspector Mohammad Shafiq Khan, Inspector Devender Singh, Constable Dalaram, and ACBASP Chakravarti Singh Rathore.

## CIVIL COURT HEARS CASE OF HINDU TEMPLE DISPUTE IN AJMER DARGAH

The court on Saturday heard arguments in the ongoing dispute concerning the Ajmer Dargah and claims regarding a Hindu temple. The case was originally filed by Hindu Sena's national president, Vishnu Gupta, who was present in court along with Hindu leader Gyandev Ahuja. After the hearing, the court deferred the matter and fixed the next date for 6 September. On that day, the court will deliver its order on the 7/10 application and also take up further arguments on the 7/11 application connected to the case.

## Deepti Maheshwari injured in mishap near Udaipur; stable

Ravi Sharma  
Udaipur

Rajsamand MLA Deepti Maheshwari sustained serious injuries late Friday night when a wrong-side vehicle rammed her car near Amberi.



She was rushed to hospital in Udaipur, where doctors treated a chest injury and she is out of danger. Police detained and later arrested four Udaipur residents, Imran Khan, Usman Khan, Mohammad Imran, and Rahul Lohar, who were in the Gujarat-registered black TUV that collided with Maheshwari's vehicle.

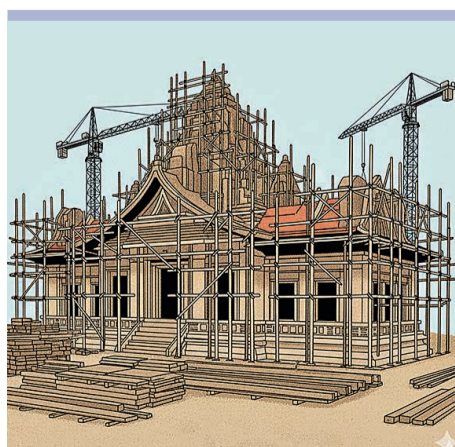
## JAIPUR'S MASSIVE INFRA DEVELOPMENT

## Sanganer to be a hub of religious tourism

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

In CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's constituency, Sanganer, a new blend of faith and tourism is taking shape. Under the project, 122 temples will be restored and modern facilities will be created at a cost of Rs 50 cr.

The survey work has already been completed, and by September 15 the blueprint for development works will also be ready. Once implemented, this religious tourism



circuit will not only strengthen devotees' faith but also generate new opportunities for

employment and trade. Devpt Plan includes restoration of temples and preservation of an-

cient heritage, modern facilities for devotees such as parking, rest houses, promotion of religious

fairs and festivals, support for local shops, hotels and services and employment opportunities.

## MANDAL WISE TEMPLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- **Sanganer Town Mandal:** 34 temples: Including Triveni Balaji, Shri Ram Mandir, Shri Jagannath Mandir and Hanuman Dham.
- **Shankrota Mandal:** 15 temples: Rajaji Mandir, Chomu Balaji and Hanuman Dham.
- **Sheopur Mandal:** 21 temples: Renovation of Veer Hanuman Mandir, Sitaram Dham and Laxminarayan Mandir will become key attractions.
- **Siddhi Siddh Mandal:** 15 temples: Hari Mandir, Durga Mata Mandir and Mahadev Dham will add grandeur to the region's heritage.
- **Sanganer Mandal:** 13 temples: Sites like Rai ka Balaji, Shri Ram Mandir and Mataji Mandir will see improved facilities, making access easier for devotees.
- **Mansarovar Mandal:** 24 temples: From Mansarovar Mahadev Mandir to Shiv-Hanuman Mandir.

## Jaipur junction set for ₹717 crore green, airport-like redevelopment

Ziauddin Khan  
Jaipur

Jaipur Junction is all set to undergo a major transformation under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The redevelopment project of Rajasthan's largest railway station, estimated to cost around Rs 717 crore, is now in its final stages and is progressing at a fast pace.

A major aspect of redevelopment includes construction of a 108 m



long air concourse, designed to connect both main & secondary entrances of the station. The air concourse, covering an area of 10,260 sq meters, will offer passengers airport-like facilities. The

station will feature 30 lifts and 18 escalators. Moreover, the station will also be built as a 'green building' with provisions for solar energy, rainwater harvesting and waste management.

# WHY THE EIFFEL TOWER EXPANDS IN SUMMER?

The structure known today as the Eiffel Tower was originally dubbed the Tour de 300 mètres, the 300-metre tower. The name was proposed by engineers Maurice Koechlin and Émile Nougier to Gustave Eiffel, who oversaw the tower's construction. It hinted at the desire to build something extraordinary, a technological feat that would set a new height record.

However, as temperatures rise during the summer months, the Eiffel Tower grows even taller than its original design.

## A LIGHTWEIGHT IRON STRUCTURE

The Eiffel Tower was erected at the 1889 World's Fair to commemorate the centenary of the French Revolution.

Eiffel chose puddled iron for its construction, a material he knew well and had used in previous projects with good results. This ferrous material can withstand high levels of stress, which allowed for the construction of a large, very light tower that would be safe from horizontal wind forces.

To give an idea of how light the tower is, its weight of 7,300 tonnes is close to the weight of the volume of air contained within it – around 6,300 tonnes.

The Eiffel Tower was intended to be a prime observation point, as well as a base for radio broadcasting. The tower itself is a gigantic triangular lattice structure, much like the Garabit Viaduct (also designed by Eiffel's office) and the Forth Bridge in Scotland, both from the same period.

All of these structures grow when the temperature of the material increases. However, unlike bridges, which behave in a more complex manner, the Eiffel Tower experiences mainly vertical growth and shrinkage due to changes in temperature. This

phenomenon is known as thermal expansion.

## MATERIALS THAT GROW AND SHRINK

We know that most solids expand when the temperature rises and contract when it falls. This is because an increase in temperature causes greater agitation in the atoms, which leads to an increase in the average distance between them.

Depending on the nature of the bond, different kinds of solids experience greater or lesser growth, which engineers have to record with great care. Ceramics and glasses, with stronger bonds, expand less than metals, which in turn expand less than polymers.

So, how can we estimate the amount of movement in a solid? When the elements are straight – as is the case in most public works and architecture, where beams and bars predominate – the movement is proportional to three parameters: the length of the element, the change in its temperature, and the material's coefficient of expansion.

## A HAIR'S BREADTH

Many ceramic materials typically have expansion coefficients ranging from

$0.5 \times 10^{-6}$  to  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$ ), while metals range between  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  and  $30 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$ ), and polymers between  $50 \times 10^{-6}$  and  $300 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$ ). These (perhaps strange-looking) numbers indicate the growth of a standard-length unit when the temperature rises by one degree Celsius.

The most expandable materials are polymers, which expand about ten times more than metals, and metals expand ten times more than ceramics.

The puddled iron used in the Eiffel Tower, and its steel components, have a coefficient of around  $12 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$ ), meaning that a one-metre-long iron bar expands by  $12 \times 10^{-6}$  metres when the temperature rises by one degree. That is just a dozen microns, less than the thickness of a human hair.

So does heat have any noticeable effect on buildings? Yes, if we take into account that there are two other parameters to consider: the length of the element and the temperature range where it is located.

The length can be very great. The Eiffel Tower is 300 m high, but the Garabit Viaduct is 565m long, and the Forth Bridge is over 2.5km long. Today there are many larger linear structures, and their

mal expansion also affects the railway tracks that many bridges are built to carry.

Historical temperature ranges must also be analysed. Paris has been recording temperatures for more than two centuries, with winter minimums below  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  and summer maximums of around  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We should also take into account the effect of solar radiation – metals can reach much higher temperatures in direct sunlight, often exceeding  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

## LEANING AWAY FROM THE SUN

Now, let's do the maths. We'll estimate how much a simple 100-metre-long metal bar expands when the temperature fluctuates by  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  – the approximate range experienced by the Eiffel Tower.

The calculation is simple. If a one-metre bar expands by 0.00012 metres when the temperature rises by one degree, a 100-metre bar expands by 0.12 metres when the temperature rises by 100 degrees. And a 300-metre bar would expand three times as much: 0.36 metres. That is, 36 cm. This is a noticeable difference.

Clearly, a simple bar does not behave the same as a tower made of more than 18,000 pieces of riveted iron oriented in all directions. Furthermore, the sun always shines on one of its sides. This means one of its faces grows more than the others, causing a slight curve in the tower, as if it were leaning away from the sun.

Specialists have estimated that the Eiffel Tower actually grows between 12 and 15 centimetres when comparing its size on cold winter days with the hottest days of summer. This means that, in addition to being a landmark, a communications tower and a symbol of Paris itself, the Eiffel Tower is also, in effect, a giant thermometer.

Source: theconversation.com

# Vitamin D deficiency is widespread, overuse of supplements dangerous



Vitamin D has become a hot topic in recent years, largely because failure to get enough of it is associated with multiple diseases, and because much of the general population is deficient in this micronutrient.

Since 1930, when its chemical structure was first identified, significant advances have been made in research into vitamin D's functions in the body. Initially, studies focused on the role of this compound and its metabolites in calcium homeostasis and bone metabolism. Later, with the discovery of the metabolised forms of 25-hydroxyvitamin D (25(OH)D) in 1968 and then 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D (1,25(OH)2D), research expanded and focused on the role it plays in the onset of immunological diseases, infections and cancer, as well as chronic non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular conditions, obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Currently, there is no doubt that vitamin D plays a role in the regulating the immune system – vitamin D deficiency is actually associated with a worse prognosis for COVID-19 infection.

## A GROWING DEFICIENCY

Epidemiological data from 2020 shows that 40% of Europe's population are not getting enough vitamin D. In the US, 24% of people are lacking it, as are 37% of Canadians. These high figures are cause for alarm. The population groups most at risk are pregnant women, children, the elderly, obese people, individuals with darker skin tones, and those with little exposure to sunlight.

Humans can meet part of their vitamin D requirements through skin synthesis from cholesterol, provided they are exposed to sufficient sunlight. However, it is difficult to specify the minimum recommend-

## SUPPLEMENTS: USE WITH CAUTION

Interest in vitamin D has increased significantly due to its association with multiple diseases and a possible, though perhaps not well-established, deficiency in the general population. However, research into the effects of vitamin D supplements in people who do not have a deficiency is by no means conclusive. There is evidence that they can help reduce the severity of respiratory diseases in people with deficiencies, but hypervitaminosis D, resulting from improper supplementation, is also a real risk, potentially leading to hypercalcaemia and other health problems. It is therefore essential to approach this issue with caution, always acting on the basis of scientific evidence and exercising prudence when taking or recommending a vitamin D supplement. One thing is clear though: the myth of vitamin D as a "supervitamin" does not stack up against current scientific evidence. The truth is that there is still a lot that we don't understand, and more research is needed.

ed amount of time, as it depends on a range of factors, including the season, time of day, geographical latitude, age, and skin type.

An expert panel from the Spanish Society for Bone and Mineral Metabolism Research recommends that light-skinned people expose their face and arms to the sun for 15 minutes every day between March and October. For elderly people and patients with osteoporosis, the recommendation is to extend this to 30 minutes. In both cases, sunblock with an SPF between 15 and 30 should be used, depending on the latitude and intensity of UV (ultraviolet) radiation.

Source: theconversation.com

Within two days of launching its AI companions last month, Elon Musk's xAI chatbot app Grok became the most popular app in Japan.

Companion chatbots are more powerful and seductive than ever. Users can have real-time voice or text conversations with the characters. Many have onscreen digital avatars complete with facial expressions, body language and a lifelike tone that fully matches the chat, creating an immersive experience. Most popular on Grok is Ani, a blonde, blue-eyed anime girl in a short black dress and fishnet stockings who is tremendously flirtatious. Her responses and interactions adapt over time to sensitively match your preferences. Ani's "Affection System" mechanic, which scores the user's interactions with her, deepens engagement and can even unlock a NSFW mode.

Sophisticated, speedy responses make AI companions more "human" by the day –

# AI COMPANIONS: COMFORT OR RISK?

they're advancing quickly and they're everywhere.

Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, X and Snapchat are all promoting their new integrated AI companions. Chatbot service Character.AI houses tens of thousands of chatbots designed to mimic certain personas and has more than 20 million monthly active users.

In a world where chronic loneliness is a public health crisis with about one in six people worldwide affected by loneliness, it's no surprise these al-

ways-available, lifelike companions are so attractive. Despite massive rise of AI chatbots & companions, it is becoming clear there are risks – particularly for minors and people with mental health conditions.

## THERE'S NO MONITORING OF HARMS

Nearly all AI models were built without expert mental health consultation or pre-release clinical testing. There's no systematic and impartial monitoring of harms to users. While system-

atic evidence is still emerging, there's no shortage of examples where AI companions and chatbots such as ChatGPT appear to have caused harm.

## BAD THERAPISTS

Users are seeking emotional support from AI companions. Since AI companions are programmed to be agreeable and validating, and also don't have human empathy or concern, this makes them problematic as therapists. They're not able to help users test reality or chal-

lenge unhelpful beliefs.

An American psychiatrist tested ten separate chatbots while playing the role of a distressed youth and received a mixture of responses including to encourage him towards suicide, convince him to avoid therapy appointments, and even inciting violence.

Stanford researchers recently completed a risk assessment of AI therapy chatbots and found they can't reliably identify symptoms of mental illness and therefore provide more appro-

prate advice.

There have been multiple cases of psychiatric patients being convinced they no longer have a mental illness and to stop their medication. Chatbots have also been known to reinforce delusional ideas in psychiatric patients, such as believing they're talking to a sentient being trapped inside a machine.

## SUICIDE

Chatbots have been linked to multiple cases of suicide. There have been reports of AI encouraging suicidality and even suggesting methods to use. In 2024, a 14-year-old completed suicide, with his mother alleging in a lawsuit against Character.AI that he had formed an intense relationship with an AI companion.

This week, the parents of another US teen who completed suicide after discussing methods with ChatGPT for several months, filed the first wrongful death lawsuit against OpenAI.

Source: theconversation.com

## Shah visits Lalbaugcha Raja; holds meeting with Shinde

PTI  
Mumbai

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday offered prayers at the famous Lalbaugcha Raja Ganapati here with his family members, and visited the residence of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as part of the ongoing Ganesh festival.

Shah also held a meeting with state Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and state BJP leaders.

Shah arrived in the city on Friday night. On Saturday morning, he met Shinde at the government's Sahyadri Guest House in south Mumbai, where he also interacted with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) joint general secretary Atul Limaye, Maharashtra BJP president Ravindra Chavan and newly-appointed Mumbai BJP chief Ameet Satam.

Shah later visited 'Varsha', the official residence of CM Fadnavis, who hosts Lord Ganesh by installing an idol of the deity, party sources said. After that, the Union minister visited the famous Lalbaugcha Raja Ganesh mandal with his family members as per their annual practice. CM Fadnavis and Deputy CM Shinde also accom-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde visits the pandal of 'Lalbaugcha Raja' idol of Lord Ganesh, in Mumbai.



UHM Amit Shah & Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis prayed to Lord during 'Ganesh Chaturthi' festival, at the latter's residence 'Varsha', in Mumbai. Also seen are Amrita Fadnavis and Sonal Shah.

panied them.

He later visited the pandals of Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Mandal in Bandra West and Shri Mogreshwar Sarvajanic Ganeshotsav Mandal in Andheri East.

### SHAH MEETS BJP GENERAL SECY TAWDE

After Shah's arrival in the city, BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde met him at the Sahyadri Guest House last night and they discussed the upcoming vice-presidential election, Bihar assembly polls and the party's organisational matters, the party sources said.

## Rijju criticises retired judges' drive against Shah, slams Oppn

PTI  
Bengaluru

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijju on Saturday questioned the involvement of retired High Court judges in the ongoing process to elect the Vice President, criticising their signature campaign and comments against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He said the Vice President's election is a political matter and the participation of retired judges gives an impression that they had ideological

leanings even during their tenure.

Rijju maintained that launching such campaigns against constitutional authorities was inappropriate.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, Rijju said, "Some retired judges have written something against the Home Minister. This is not good. The election for Vice President is a political matter — why should retired judges interfere? It gives an impression that they had a distinct ideology even when they were judges.



Union Minister Kiren Rijju

This is not right to launch a signature campaign against the Home Minister and write a letter".

The minister, who was in Bengaluru to address a lawyers' conference, also accused Congress leaders of using abusive lan-

guage against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We are democratic people and we speak with respect, but opposition leaders — be it Rahul Gandhi or some MPs, including Mahua Moitra— have resorted to invective. Abusing the prime minister and his mother—who is no more—is not good for the nation's future," he said.

Rijju asserted that the BJP-led NDA contests elections within the constitutional framework and accused the Congress of blaming the EC for its electoral losses.

## Rahul on stage, Tejashwi Yadav declares himself Bihar CM face

Agencies  
Ara (Bihar)

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav unilaterally declared himself as the chief ministerial face of the Grand Alliance in Bihar on Sunday as Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' concluded on a dramatic note on Sunday.

Apart from Rahul Gandhi, who has so far sidestepped the question on the alliance's face, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, was present on the dais when Tejashwi made the announcement. Addressing a rally in Ara, Tejashwi



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav at a Bihar rally.

launched a sharp attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, labelling him a "copycat Chief Minister".

The former Bihar deputy CM alleged that Nitish was just copying his policies and making announcements.

## Opposition VP candidate Reddy meets Hemant Soren in Ranchi

Agencies  
Ranchi

Opposition candidate for vice presidential polls, B Sudershan Reddy, arrived in Ranchi on Saturday and held meeting with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and INDIA bloc leaders.

Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge, was welcomed at the airport by Congress leaders and workers, including Jharkhand Congress president Keshav Mahato, minister Dipika Pandey Singh and Lohardaga MP Sukhdev Bhagat.



B Sudershan Reddy

He visited Circuit House and then proceed to CM residence at around 3.45 pm, where he met the chief minister, members of Parliament and leaders, followed by a press conference.

"Hemant Soren was tortured, his dignity was crushed," Reddy said over ED's money laundering charges against J'khand CM.

"Constitutional functionaries involved in framing J'khand CM responsible for violating his dignity. Have sent letters to all RS, LS members to consider my candidature on merit," he added.

## Prayed to Lord to make India strong, atmanirbhar: Nadda

PTI  
Pune

Union minister and BJP president J P Nadda on Saturday visited Pune city in Maharashtra to attend the ongoing Ganesh festival, and said he prayed to god to make India strong, developed and 'atmanirbhar' or self-reliant.

At the outset of his visit, Nadda offered prayers and perform pooja at Sai Mitra Mandal in Kothrud area, which is associated with Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Pune MP Murlidhar Mohol.

The Health and Family Welfare Minister also visited the residence of former Union minister and BJP leader Prakash Javadekar in the city.

Talking to reporters,



Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda offers prayers to Lord Ganesh at Sai Mitra Mandal, Kothrud in Pune.

Nadda said he prayed to Lord Ganesh "to make India developed and atmanirbhar" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I prayed to Lord Ganesh to make every Indian prosperous and happy. I also sought god's blessings to achieve the target of be-

coming a strong, developed and atmanirbhar nation under the leadership of Modiji," he said.

Nadda will also visit other key Ganesh mandals, including the famous Shrimant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Mandal, Kasha Ganpati Mandal and Bhausahab Rangari Ganpati Mandal.

## Drones critical to modern warfare, need to be part of policy: Rajnath

PTI  
Noida

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday stressed the need for incorporating drones into war policy, calling them critical to modern warfare strategy.

"Generally, when we hear the word 'aircraft', images of Tejas, Rafale and fighter jets come to mind. This is natural, as these are all combat aircraft. However, in today's changing times, drones have emerged as a significant force in this field. Drones are now being deployed even in areas where large equipment cannot reach," he said.

"If you closely observe the Russia-Ukraine conflict, you will notice that



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking during an event.

drones have been used extensively - earlier, now, and continuously. This proves that understanding the importance of drones and incorporating them into our war policy has become absolutely essential," Singh added.

He was speaking at the inauguration of Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd's de-

fence equipment and engine-testing facility in Noida. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present at the event.

"A strong reflection of the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat was seen here today," Singh said after inaugurating the private facility.

### RAJNATH SINGH PRAISES DRDO FOR SUCCESSFUL TESTS

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted India's Sudarshan Chakra Mission during his address, recalling PM Narendra Modi's Independence Day announcement from the Red Fort. Speaking at an event, Singh highlighted DRDO's successful test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System and a High-Powered Directed Energy Weapon, calling these achievements "not just of DRDO or the armed forces but of the entire India." He said, "I am pleased that we are progressing rapidly in this direction. DRDO has recently successfully completed the first test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System".

### RBI GUV SPEAKS

## 'India to become world's 3rd largest economy'

PTI  
Indore

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Saturday said India will become the world's third largest economy soon, and credited the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana for boosting the country's growth.

His remark came at a time when India's GDP grew 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal, the highest in five quarters before the



Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

imposition of heavy tariff on the country by the United States.

Addressing a govern-

ment banks' financial inclusion campaign "Santripti Shivir" at Rangwasa village in Indore, Mal-

The RBI governor said 55 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme to ensure participation from all sections in the country's growth journey, providing them with savings, pension, insurance, credit and other services

hotra said the central government and the RBI had launched the Jan Dhan Yojana in collaboration

with banks 11 years ago, leading to development across the nation.

"Today, India is counted among the five most developed countries in the world and very soon the country will become the third largest economy," he said.

The RBI governor said 55 crore accounts have been opened under the scheme to ensure participation of people from all sections in the country's growth journey, providing them with savings, pension, insurance, credit and other services.

### Stir against objectionable comments



BJP MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat and others climb barricades as water cannons being used during a protest march to Congress headquarters over the objectionable comments made against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mother at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Vote Adhikar Yatra', in New Delhi on Saturday.

# 11 die in J&K as cloudburst hits Ramban

The Union Territory has been reeling under a series of cloudbursts and landslides since August 14

PTI  
Jammu

At least 11 people, including seven of a family, died in two incidents of cloudburst and landslide triggered by heavy rains in remote villages of Reasi and Ramban districts, as Jammu and Kashmir, beset by a series of natural calamities in the past fortnight, labours to bring life back on track.

The Union Territory has been reeling under a series of cloudbursts and landslides since August 14. With the latest incidents, 130 people have lost their lives and 140 were injured in Jammu, while 32 pilgrims are still missing.

The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district remained suspended for the fifth day on Saturday. As many as 34 pilgrims died when a landslide struck about halfway along the winding 12-km trek route from Katra to the shrine on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has directed officials to ensure round-the-clock monitoring of the situation and carry out timely evacuation of people from risk-prone zones.



(Top) Police personnel and others during a search and rescue operation after a cloudburst following heavy rainfall, at Ramgarh, in Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir, Saturday. (Left) Army personnel during a rescue operation at the flood-affected area following heavy rains, in Medak district, Telangana. (Above) Restoration work underway at an affected area after heavy rainfall and landslides, in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. PTI

## WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

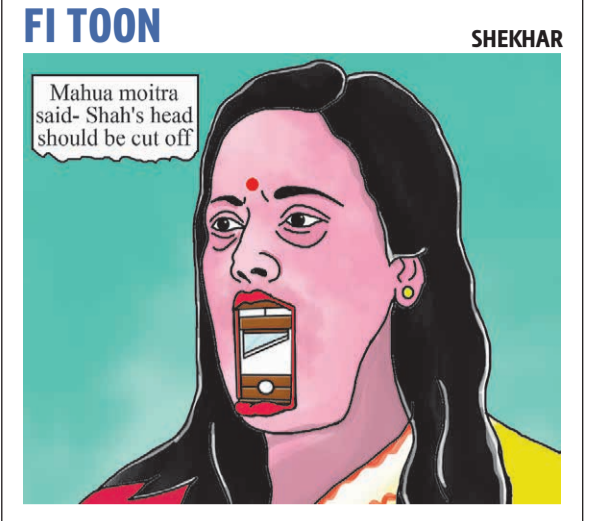
1 The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday forecast widespread rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms over several districts of Arunachal Pradesh for the next few days, cautioning residents to remain prepared for possible disruptions.

2 Rescuers rummaged through knee-high debris in the Chenagad area of Rudraprayag district on Saturday in search of missing persons, a day after heavy rain and cloudbursts pounded various districts of Uttarakhand and left a trail of destruction.

3 A day after heavy rains and a series of cloudbursts left a trail of destruction in various districts of Uttarakhand, rescuers frantically searched for the missing through knee-high debris at the break of daylight on Saturday.

4 The Northern Railways will run two special trains from the Jammu station for onward destinations on Saturday to ferry stranded passengers, while 46 incoming and outgoing trains from Jammu, Katra and Udhampur railway stations stand cancelled, officials said.

5 The Jammu-Srinagar national highway was reopened only for stranded vehicles on Saturday after being closed for four days owing to multiple landslides.



## Mandaviya and Yadav grace event in Alwar on National Sports Day



Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Union minister Bhubender Yadav and others during the National Sports Day event held in Alwar on Saturday.

Shyam Sharma

The presence of the country's Sports Minister in Alwar on National Sports Day is being seen as a major event. Locals believe that this has been made possible through the efforts of the area's Member of Parliament, Bhubender Yadav.

When renowned boxer Girish Boxer, who was the coach of the Indian wom-

en's boxing team during the World Boxing Championship, stepped onto the stage at Pratap Auditorium to receive his felicitation, the entire hall resounded with thunderous applause.

Dozens of national and international players, who have demonstrated their talent in various sports and brought pride to the nation, were personally honoured by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

## Delhi CM announces 'highest cash prizes' for medal winners

PTI  
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said sports bring lifelong respect to athletes, adding that her government has announced the "highest amount of cash rewards" for medal winners at international events.

"In sports, not just medals and trophies are won, but respect is earned for life. Under no government before PM Modi was sports given such attention. He has completely changed the sports scene across the country," Gupta said.

CM Gupta announced that Delhi will award ₹7 crore, ₹5 crore and ₹3 crore respectively to gold, silver and bronze medal winners at the Olympics.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta during an interaction with young sports persons, in New Delhi.

### CM: DELHI GOVT TO MAKE BOUNDARIES OF 11 DISTRICTS

New Delhi: In a move directed towards good governance, Delhi government said it will make the boundaries of the 11 districts across the national capital "equivalent" to the MCD zones. CM Rekha Gupta said that the move will bring jurisdictional clarity among the officers and remove boundary-related issues, paving the way for smooth implementation of development.

## Nation observes former Prez Pranab's death anniv today

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

On August 31, 2025, India commemorates the death anniversary of Pranab Mukherjee, a towering statesman and the 13th President of the Republic of India. This solemn occasion serves as a poignant reminder of his contributions to the nation.

His contributions to nation-building, commitment to democratic ideals, and dedication to public service remain etched in the annals of Indian history. His tenure as President from 2012 to 2017 underscored his statesmanship and commitment to upholding the nation's constitutional values.



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal addressing the gathering of industry leaders in UAE on Saturday.

## Piyush Goyal confident of India's GDP growth

Agencies  
New Delhi

The Centre is committed towards sustainable economic growth, as reflected in the five-quarter high growth of 7.8% in India's gross domestic product in the April-June period, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, while speaking at an event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in Mumbai.

"We are committed to

working with all of you, and we would like to ensure that this GDP growth of 7.8% is sustainable," Goyal said.

"It can happen, as in adversity, we Indians shine out. We all have the ability to put that little extra," he added.

The Union Minister's remarks comes amid the tariff cloud on India, with the United States, a crucial destination for Indian exports, imposing 50% levies on Indian goods.

## 12,500 acres of land for defence manufacturing nodes: CM Yogi

PTI  
Noida

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the state has allocated 12,500 acres of land for defence manufacturing as part of the country's two upcoming defence industrial corridors, one of which is being developed in the state.

He said the UP corridor is being developed across six nodes, including Aligarh, Kanpur, Agra and Chitrakoot.

"India has faced challenges since 1947, and the nature of those challenges keeps evolving. If you have power, the world bows before you," the chief minister said.

He also invoked Maharan Pratap's saying, 'Veer Bhogya Vasundhara' (the brave inherit the earth), to underline the importance of strength and courage.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during 'Janata Darshan' programme, in Varanasi on Saturday.

### NOIDA: SP WORKERS PROTEST OVER CIVIC ISSUES AHEAD OF YOGI ADITYANATH'S VISIT

Noida: Samajwadi Party (SP) workers staged a demonstration in Noida on Saturday, demanding a meeting with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to raise their concerns over civic issues, including waterlogging, potholes and sanitation problems in residential colonies. The protest, led by SP's Noida unit president Ashray Gupta, was held in Sector 51 ahead of the chief minister's visit to the city. Workers carried placards highlighting road conditions and other grievances, while raising slogans against local authorities. "We were going to meet Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to raise basic civic issues like waterlogging, potholes and sewer problems. Later, we submitted a memorandum to ACP Praveen Kumar Singh, who has assured us of a meeting with Noida Authority officials," Gupta told PTI.

## BHAGWAT AT LOKHITKARI KASHINATH SMARIKA VIMOCHAN SAMAROH

# 'Treating everyone with sense of belonging is true Dharma'

PTI  
Bilaspur

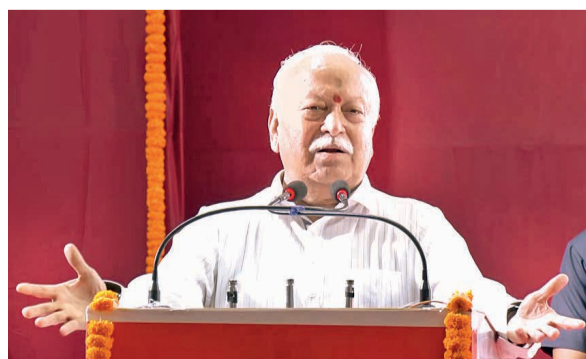
Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said that 'Dharma' means treating everyone with a sense of belonging, and carrying forward all diversities harmoniously.

Speaking at 'Lokhitkari Kashinath Smarika Vimochan Samaroh', a souvenir release function in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur, Bhagwat underlined that the strength of the RSS lies in its ordinary swayamsevaks or volun-

teers who, despite challenges, have expanded the organisation.

He released a souvenir focusing on the life and work of late Kashinath Gore, an RSS functionary from Bilaspur, at the programme held in the auditorium of the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS).

"Whatever I say, or what others have said (at the function), may be forgotten after lunch today. But the deeds of Kashinath Gore will always be remembered. Our duty is to pass this memory on to the new generation, so



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses the gathering during a book launch event organised in memory of former Sanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Kashinath Gore, on Saturday. ANI

that it continues to inspire. Whenever we need inspiration, we remember our ancestors," he said. "Some dismiss ances-

tral remembrance as useless. But even such people, when their country faces crises, invoke their ancestors to awaken the

collective courage of society," he said.

"Dharma' is looking at everyone with belongingness and harmoniously carrying forward all diversities," the RSS chief added.

Highlighting the role of swayamsevaks in strengthening the organisation and society, Bhagwat said the most important responsibility in the Sangh is that of being an ordinary swayamsevak.

The Sangh, which was founded 100 years ago, is being discussed in many ways now, but it reached this milestone because of

its swayamsevaks, he said. "It is their vow to keep it expanding under all circumstances. So despite all the obstacles and adversities, they expanded the Sangh," the RSS chief said. To expand the organisation, the swayamsevaks expanded their public contact and awakened 'apnapan' (sense of kinship) further which is already there in entire Hindu society, he added.

"We have reached this point on the strength of the silent penances that the swayamsevaks have been performing for 100 years," Bhagwat added.

## Pradhan meets Odisha CM Majhi, discuss school and mass edu

PTI  
Bhubaneswar

Though they often meet at official meetings and party events, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday visited Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence for the first time. Both leaders described the meeting as a "courtesy call."

On X, Majhi said, "Today, at my official residence, I had a courtesy meeting with the Union Education Minister @dpradhanbjp. In his social



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan & Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi's official residence on Saturday.

media handle, Pradhan said, "Had a courteous meeting with @MohanMODisha and discussed various matters related to the School, Mass Education, Higher Education Department in Odisha."

# Modi in China: India Charts Independent Course Amid Trump's Tariff Turmoil

Pari Tikkiwal  
Jaipur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in China on 30th August after seven years signals a decisive moment in India's foreign policy, one that stretches well beyond dependence on Washington. Against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's shock decision to slap 50% tariffs on Indian exports, the country is moving swiftly to broaden its diplomatic canvas.

## Trump's Tariff Gambit Backfires

Trump's tariff announcement earlier this week, impacting gems, textiles, and jewelry, was meant to coerce India into economic submission. Instead, it has triggered the opposite effect. Far from isolating India, the move has strengthened to resolve and pursue strategic autonomy. Analysts argue Trump's actions are not rooted in global order but in MAGA-fueled theatrics, personal wealth ambitions, and even his obsession with a Nobel Peace

Prize. For India, the message is clear: while engagement with the U.S. remains important, it cannot come at the cost of over-dependence.

## Modi's China Outreach

In Tianjin, Modi was welcomed warmly by Chinese Premier Xi Jinping ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit. This visit, coming after years of border tensions, represents a cautious thaw in relations between Asia's two giants. Talks are expected to cover trade normalization, resto-



PM Modi pampering a child.

ration of direct flights, easing of border trade, and investment opportunities. Modi is also scheduled to hold a trilateral dialogue with Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, underscoring India's central role in a fast-changing multipolar world.

Interestingly, while India strengthens ties with China, Indian forces remain vigilant. Just a few days before, Indian Army and ITBP held a major military exercise in Arunachal Pradesh, reaffirming India's stance: diplomacy and defense go hand in hand.

## Beyond Washington's Shadow

India's foreign policy has always prided itself on multi-alignment, engaging the U.S., Russia, Europe, and Asia simultaneously. India-China trip

demonstrates this philosophy in action. By engaging Beijing and Moscow at the SCO, India sends a strong message that it will not be boxed into America's strategic calculations.

As Modi steps onto Chinese soil, India is charting a future that looks East, West, and everywhere in between. In an era where Trump's unpredictability has eroded U.S. reliability, the country is showing that its diplomatic horizon extends far beyond America, firmly rooted in autonomy, balance, and national interest.



PM Modi being welcomed with a performance by artistes upon his arrival at the airport, in Tianjin, China, on Saturday.

## 'MODI SAN, WELCOME TO JAPAN': PM MODI GETS A ROUSING WELCOME IN SENDAI

# PM Modi pushes for India-Japan state ties



In Tokyo, PM Narendra Modi met governors of 16 prefectures. Building on the 15th India-Japan Summit, they launched inter-prefecture cooperation to boost trade, innovation, start-ups, & tech.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval (L) and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri (R) during a meeting with governors of various Prefectures of Japan.

## ASPECTS OF PM NARENDRA MODI'S JAPAN VISIT

### LEADER LEVEL CAMARADERIE

At the India-Japan Economic Forum, both Prime Ministers aimed to boost economic cooperation. After a ceremonial welcome, they held talks and dined together. The following day, they traveled on the Shinkansen to Sendai, visited Tokyo Electronics, and shared a meal. Throughout the two days, Japan's PM remained with PM Modi.

### TRANSFORMATIVE INVESTMENTS & MOUS

Japan pledged JPY 10 trillion in private investment to India over the next decade. The India-Japan Joint Vision outlines a roadmap for growth in key areas like economy, security, and technology. Multiple MoUs were signed, spanning defence, digital innovation, clean energy, space, and cultural cooperation, shaping the future of bilateral ties.

### BIPARTISAN-BACKED PARTNERSHIP

An interesting aspect of this visit was the broad engagement and bipartisan nature of India-Japan ties. PM met 2 former Japanese Prime Ministers, Yoshihide Suga and Fumio Kishida. He also met the Speaker along with a group of MPs. In another significant gesture, Governors of 16 prefectures, the equivalent of Indian CMs visited Tokyo to interact with PM Modi. This state level engagement is a unique example of deepening of Indo-Japan ties.

## Acting PM appointed in Thailand cabinet

Agencies  
Bangkok

Thailand's cabinet has appointed Deputy Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai as acting prime minister following a Constitutional Court ruling that removed Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office. The decision, announced by Minister Chusak Sirinil after a special cabinet meeting, also saw Prommin Lertsuridej named PM's Secretary General. As per constitutional requirements, the cabinet will continue in a caretaker role until a new administration is formed.



Phumtham Wechayachai

## Mehul Choksi's bail plea rejected by Belgium court

Agencies  
New Delhi

In a blow to fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, a Belgian court of appeal has again rejected his bail plea ahead of his extradition hearing, officials in the Indian agencies following up the matter said on Saturday. Choksi is wanted in India by the CBI and ED in the Rs 6,300-crore PNB fraud case. Court, citing CBI inputs, noted Choksi's history of fleeing jurisdictions and feared he may abscond again if released. This decision significantly strengthens India's case for his extradition and early return.

PTI  
Tokyo

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met governors of 16 Japanese prefectures in Tokyo and called for strengthening state-prefecture cooperation under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi got a joyous welcome with "Modi san" greetings from a large number of Japanese people who gathered to see him upon his arrival in Sendai city on the second and concluding day of his visit to Japan.

"This morning in Tokyo, interacted with the governors of 16 prefectures of Japan. State-prefecture cooperation is a vital pillar of India-Japan friendship. This is also why a separate initiative on it was launched during the 15th Annual India-Japan Summit yesterday," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

"There is immense scope to cooperate in areas like trade, innova-

tion, entrepreneurship and more. Futuristic sectors like Startups, tech and AI too can be beneficial," he added.

The Ministry of External Affairs also shared details of the interaction in a post on X saying, "Taking greater strides in the steadfast India-Japan ties. PM Narendra Modi met with the Governors of 16 prefectures in Tokyo."

PM highlighted the potential of states-prefectures collaboration and in this regard urged action under the State-Prefecture Partnership Initiative launched during 15th India-Japan Annual Summit for shared progress, it said.

Discussions focused on ways to further deepen the growing partnerships between Indian states and Japanese prefectures in the fields of technology, innovation, investment, skills, start-ups and SMEs, the ministry added.

"Modi, in his address underlined that Indo-Japan ties, drawing vitality from age-old civilisational linkages, continue to flourish", MEA.



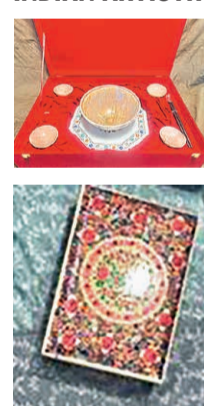
PM Modi took a bullet train ride with Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba; met Indian train drivers on training at JR East.

## PM MODI MEETS INDIAN TRAIN DRIVERS

On day two of his Japan visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday took a bullet train ride with his Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba. The two leaders travelled to Sendai, where Modi observed the advanced E10 bullet train. "Reached Sendai. Travelled with PM Ishiba to this city on the Shinkansen," PM Modi wrote on X. PM Modi also met Indian train drivers, who are currently undergoing training at JR East. Earlier in the day, PM Modi interacted with members of National Governor's Association. He met with Governors of 16 prefectures in Tokyo; highlighted the potential of state-prefecture collaboration.

## INDIAN ARTISTRY MEETS JAPANESE TRADITION

PM Modi presented the Vintage Precious Stone Bowls set with Silver Chopsticks to Japan's Prime Minister, a beautiful fusion of Indian and Japanese craftsmanship. The set includes a moonstone bowl from Andhra Pradesh, complemented by Makrana marble and parchin kari details, inspired by Japan's donburi and soba traditions. Additionally, PM Modi gifted a Pashmina shawl, woven from the fine wool of Ladakh's Changthangi goat, to the spouse of Japan's Prime Minister. Adorned with floral and paisley patterns, the shawl comes in a hand-painted papier-mâché box featuring bird and floral motifs, reflecting Kashmir's rich heritage and Indian artistry.



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## Modi and Ishiba visit Tokyo Electron Factory

ANI  
Sendai [Japan]

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba paid a visit to the Tokyo Electron Factory, and interacted with top officials of the company. The semiconductor sector is a key area for India-Japan cooperation. In the last few years, India has made many strides in this sector. A lot of youngsters are getting associated with it. We seek to continue this momentum in the times to come."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Tokyo Electron Factory with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

## STRAINED PHONE DIPLOMACY

# 'Trump tried calling Modi repeatedly, Indian PM declined'

Agencies  
New Delhi

Days after a German daily reported that United States President Donald Trump had repeatedly attempted to speak with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading American newspaper The New York Times has carried a similar story, citing unnamed officials.

The German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) claimed that PM Modi had declined at least four



PM Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

FILE

requests for phone conversations from Trump in recent weeks. Building on this, The New York

Times published a detailed report saying that although Modi and Trump last spoke on June

## German newspaper FAZ claimed that PM Modi declined at least four requests for phone conversations from Trump in recent weeks

17, the US President made "several" further attempts to connect amid mounting tensions over trade. These tensions followed the collapse of bilateral negotiations and the imposition of reciprocal tariffs by both nations.

According to the NYT,

PM Modi refused to respond to Washington's repeated requests. The White House, however, officially denied that Trump had tried to reach Modi.

Relations between New Delhi and Washington have worsened in recent months, particularly after Trump publicly took credit for a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May following the Kashmir terror attack. His claims, made prematurely on Truth Social, were strongly denied by India. New Delhi also re-

futed statements by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio that India had agreed to talks with Pakistan at a neutral venue, reiterating that it has never accepted outside mediation in its long-standing dispute with its western neighbour.

During their last phone call on June 17, Trump reportedly hinted that Modi should consider nominating him for the Nobel Peace Prize, pointing out that Pakistan had already done so after he claimed credit for "ending" the conflict.

## Indian archers bag three golds at Czech Republic tournament

First India Bureau  
Bikaner

At the World Ranking Archery Tournament in the Czech Republic, Indian archers delivered a stellar performance. Shyam Sundar Swami clinched gold by defeating France's Guerin Maxime 149-145, retaining his title for the second consecutive year after his Asia Cup triumph in Thailand. Partnering with Rakesh Kumar, he also secured gold in the compound team event. In the recurve category, Dhanaram Godara of Bikaner and Harvinder



Singh added another gold. Rajasthan sports officials, including Neeraj K. Pawan, Dipendra Singh, Surendra Gurjar, congratulated the champions and coach Anil Joshi.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

When youth embrace tradition with wisdom, they carry the past into the future.  
Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08



## Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL



By **Tridib Raman**

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

### WHY THE RIFT BETWEEN ARVIND KEJRIWAL AND BHAGWANT MANN

**A**rvind Kejriwal recently met with a prominent industrialist from Punjab and allegedly offered him a Rajya Sabha seat. According to sources, when Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann learned of this, he directly told Kejriwal, "Please let me take decisions for Punjab, and you focus on Gujarat." Mann's concern was that if all Rajya Sabha seats go to industrialists, what would become of the party workers and dedicated leaders? The Mann government is already facing considerable criticism in Punjab due to the "land pooling" policy. It is now being said that an agreement has been reached between



Kejriwal and Mann that a candidate for the Rajya Sabha should be someone who has both public support and the capability to contribute to the party's efforts.

### TARIO HAMEED KARRA'S REBELLION IN J&K

**T**he Congress infighting in Jammu and Kashmir shows no sign of resolution. Despite all efforts by the Congress high command, unity among the faction-ridden leaders in the state remains elusive. With a visibly disheartened disposition, Rahul Gandhi has entrusted Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal with the responsibility of bringing together the various groups within the state Congress. Following this directive, K.C. Venugopal summoned Jammu and Kashmir Congress in-charge Saeed Nasir and instructed him to convene a meeting of the state's leaders in Delhi. As per the instructions, this meeting was held in Delhi, and all prominent leaders from the state participated. Even party General Secretary and West Bengal in-charge G. A. Mir, several members of the Congress Working Committee, and former J&K Pradesh Congress Committee President Vikar Rasool Wani were present. However, in a surprising turn, the current state president Tariq Hameed Karra sent a slip stating that he was suffering from heat stroke and thus unable to attend the meeting. If he was truly unwell, questions are being raised as to how he managed to travel to Kishtwar just a few days later, where a cloudburst had occurred in the mountains. In a way, Karra has sent a clear message to his fellow party leaders — that he takes orders only from Rahul Gandhi.



### BJP'S STRATEGY IN BIHAR ELECTIONS

**W**hen it comes to Bihar, the Bharatiya Janata Party is treading very cautiously. Recently, Nitish Kumar came to Delhi and repeatedly expressed his displeasure before the top BJP leadership. However, the leadership did not display any annoyance towards him. Nitish remains firm in his demand that "he will contest more seats than the BJP." It appears that this demand is under consideration, and Prashant Kishor has been advised to proceed carefully in this matter. According to BJP's internal assessment, the party is currently able to attract only the upper-caste votes. Although there has been a noticeable presence of the Muslim community at BJP rallies, the party is making every effort to breach the Muslim vote bank while also attempting to bring various scattered castes into its fold.

### KARALI NATIVE, BIHAR CS, TO RETIRE TODAY

## Dausa native, Maharashtra Chief Secretary, granted 3-month extension

**Rajendra Chhabra**  
Jaipur

Two senior IAS officers hailing from Rajasthan are currently serving as Chief Secretaries in two of India's most prominent states. Rajesh Kumar Meena, a 1988 batch IAS officer, holds the post in Maharashtra, while Amrit Lal Meena, from the 1989 batch, has been serving as the Chief Secretary of Bihar. Both officers were scheduled to retire on August 31. However, distinct developments have unfolded in their respective cases.

In Maharashtra, Rajesh Kumar Meena has been granted a three-month extension, allowing him to continue in office until November 30. Originally appointed as Chief Secretary on June 30, Meena—who hails from Dausa, Rajasthan—will now oversee the crucial Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections scheduled for October.



Rajesh Kumar Meena

In contrast, the Bihar government, led by Nitish Kumar, announced Amrit Lal Meena's retirement 27 days ahead of schedule. Amrit Lal Meena, a native of Karauli in Rajasthan, had been brought back from central deputation in August 2024, where he had been serving as Secretary, Ministry of Coal. Upon his return, he was appointed as the state's Chief Secretary.

On August 3, the Bihar government officially named Pratyaya Amrit, a 1991 batch IAS officer, as the next Chief Secretary. According to administrative experts, such early and definitive announcements are rare

in Indian state governments, where indecision and last-minute appointments of Chief Secretaries are more common. Bihar's move is being viewed as highly unusual, even unprecedented in recent years.

The political significance of the timing is also notable. Bihar is set to hold Assembly elections in just two months, adding a strategic dimension to the government's decision to transition leadership at the top bureaucratic level well ahead of the polls.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra government's decision to retain Rajesh Kumar Meena through an extension reflects a contrasting administrative approach. With the extension, Meena is expected to play a key role in the monitoring and management of the upcoming BMC elections, a politically sensitive and logistically complex exercise in India's financial capital.

### Raj to harness renewable energy through farmers, consumers: CM Sharma

## CM urges timely completion of energy projects in State



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma during review meeting at CMR in Jaipur on Saturday. Senior officials (L-R) Arti Dogra, Ajitabh Sharma, Shikhar Agrawal, Vaibhav Galiya, Sandesh Nayak, & Sidharth Sihag are also seen here.

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday chaired a review meeting of the Energy Department at the Chief Minister's residence. He instructed officials to complete budget announcements within stipulated timeframe and to accelerate progress on various ongoing energy projects, including those in the renewable sector.

**CM Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed energy projects, stressing timely completion, renewable expansion, and farmer participation under PM Kusum Yojana**

Sharma said the state has immense potential in the field of renewable energy. Farmers are being enabled to become energy providers under the PM Kusum Yojana, while do-

mestic consumers are being encouraged to adopt solar energy. This will not only help consumers meet their own energy needs but also generate additional income from surplus power. He emphasised that a structured plan should be implemented on priority to achieve the goals of clean and uninterrupted energy.

Senior officials of the Energy Department and related departments were present on the occasion.

## Dy CM Diya Kumari reviews key projects of Jaisalmer, Barmer



Diya Kumari participated in the 'Langdi Competition' under 'Langdi Express' programme by Rotary Club, Jodhpur on Saturday.

**Nirmal Tiwari and Shiv Prakash Purohit**  
Jodhpur/Jaisalmer

Dy CM Diya Kumari on Saturday attended a series of programmes across Jodhpur, Ramdevra and Jaisalmer. In Jodhpur, she joined the Langdi Express event at the Railway Stadium, describing Langdi as a "heritage sport" and lauding the organisers for entering the Asia Book of Records. She emphasised the need to preserve traditional culture and thanked participants for their efforts. Earlier in Ram-

devra, she visited Baba Ramdev temple and Ram Sarovar Kund, and reviewed the 33-day Netra Kumbh eye camp which has benefitted over 83,000 people, assuring steps to set up a local hospital. In Mohangarh, Jaisalmer, she paid tribute to former MP Colonel Sonaram Choudhary. Later, at the Jaisalmer Collectorate, she chaired review meetings of key departments, directing officials to complete projects on time with quality, warning against any negligence.

Former VP Jagdeep Dhankhar applies for MLA pension

**Yogesh Sharma**  
Jaipur

Former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has applied for resumption of pension as a former legislator in State. Dhankhar, who served as a Cong MLA from Kishangarh between 1993 and 1998 during the Bhairon Singh Shekhawat government, had been receiving pension as an ex-MLA until July 2019. The pension was discontinued after his appointment as Governor of West Bengal. Following completion of his tenure as Vice President on July 21, Dhankhar has approached Rajasthan Assembly secretariat for reinstatement. Speaker Vasudev Devnani confirmed that the application process has been initiated.



## Shekhawat: Chenab & Anji Khad bridges testify India's engineering feat



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Jodhpur on Saturday.

**Rajeev Gaur**  
Jodhpur

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Saturday described the Chenab Rail Bridge and the Anji Khad Bridge as symbols of India's engineering excellence. Speaking at MBM University in Jodhpur, he said the bridges demonstrate the nation's capability to overcome extreme natural challenges.

Shekhawat noted that the Chenab Rail Bridge, constructed at a cost of around Rs 1,486 crore,

was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, 2025. Measuring 1,315 metres in length and 359 metres in height, it is the world's highest rail bridge, designed to withstand earthquakes, landslides and winds of up to 266 km per hour. He said the Chenab and Anji Khad bridges are more than engineering marvels, serving as lifelines by connecting Kashmir to the rest of India, giving farmers better access to markets and providing students improved opportunities for education.

### BHUBANESWAR AGENDA 2025

## 'Centre-State coordination vital for SC/ST empowerment'

**Gopendra Nath Bhatt**  
Bhubaneswar/New Delhi

**L**ok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday called for the constitution of dedicated committees on the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in every State Assembly to ensure focused action and accountability. Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day National Conference of Chairpersons of Committees of Parliament and State Legislatures on SC/ST welfare in Bhubaneswar, he



LS Speaker Om Birla, Dy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Hariyansh Narayan with Odisha Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati, & Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy in Bhubaneswar on Saturday.

said such committees would bring oversight closer to the grassroots and strengthen delivery of welfare schemes.

He underlined that

while Parliament already has active committees, absence of similar mechanisms in some states limits its effective monitoring. He emphasised that the

recommendations of committees should be seen as constructive guidance, not criticism, and stressed that education are key drivers

of empowerment for SC/ST youth. Birla said the "Bhubaneswar Agenda 2025" will serve as a roadmap towards building an equitable and inclusive society by 2047, in line with vision of BR Ambedkar.

Governor of Odisha Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati; Dy CM of Odisha, Pravatipada; Speaker, Odisha Legislative Assembly, Surama Padhy; Chairman, Parl Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs, Faggan Kulaste; and Dy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Hariyansh also addressed the gathering.

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# City First

JAIPUR, SUNDAY | AUGUST 31, 2025



## YOUNG STAR EXPLORERS!

The bright young learners of Grade 2 at Jayshree Perival International School showcased their cosmic curiosity on Saturday, presenting "Exploring the Cosmos" to an enthralled audience.

P12



**SIDNEY GOLDEN: A JOURNEY OF ART, RESILIENCE AND DREAMS ACROSS BORDERS**

# A GLOBAL MUSE

City First sheds light on the inspiring journey of Universal Woman 2025 finalist Sidney Golden, who shared how her passion for art, resilience and authenticity shaped her path across Mexico and India!



**Mitali Dusad**

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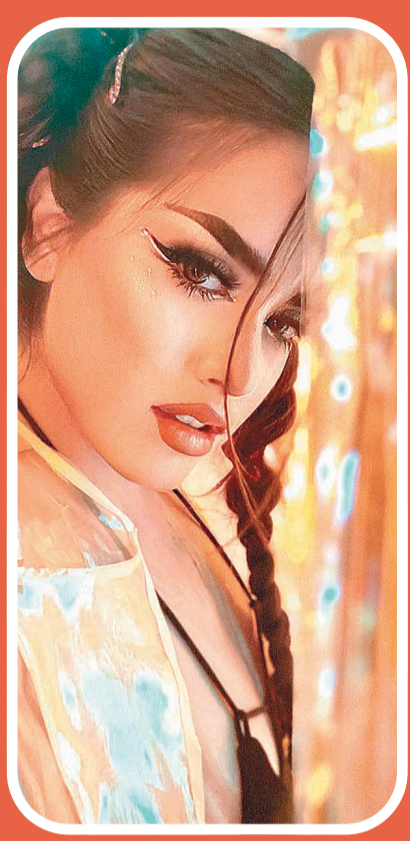
From the historic city of Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, to the vibrant lanes of Jaipur, Sidney Golden's journey had been nothing short of transformative. A Pharmacobiologist by profession, an eco-entrepreneur, a model, a TV host and a budding singer, Sidney embodied the spirit of a modern woman who dared to weave her passions into a life of purpose. Sidney, who was a Universal Woman 2025 finalist under the mentorship of Carolina London, CEO of Universal Woman, along with Nikhil Anand, Chairman of Glamanand Group and National Director of Miss Universe India, shared that her path was shaped by resilience and the constant pursuit of authenticity.

Since childhood, Sidney had been drawn to the arts—whether it was singing into makeshift microphones or dancing with her cousins. "I was always outgoing, full of energy and inclined towards creativity," she recalled. Yet, she chose to pursue Chemical Pharmacobiology, balancing academic rigour with the surprising turn her life took when a casting opportunity introduced her to modelling and television.

Her social impact project Ambakerantani reflected her commitment to both community and environment. By helping indigenous women create natural medicines, Sidney not only provided them livelihood but also supported the preservation of healing species native to her region. "Sometimes recognition didn't come, even with a strong project," she admitted, "but I learned that true strength lay not in awards, but in conviction."

India, Sidney said, had left a deep imprint on her soul. From experiencing Jaipur's Rambagh Palace to the warm hospitality of Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, she felt at home. "The kindness I received there touched me so much that I even considered living in India," she shared. Comparing fashion cultures, she noted, "In Mexico, tradition and craftsmanship shine, but in India I witnessed grandeur and vibrancy that inspired me deeply." At the time, she was preparing to release her first single in Mexico, envisioning a future where music and acting would take center stage. "For me, that was just the beginning of a journey filled with art, emotions and stories to share," she said with excitement.

To young dreamers, her message remained clear: "Your greatest value lies in your authenticity. True beauty is not just how you look, but what you carry in your story and your essence." Sidney Golden's journey showed that small sparks, when nurtured with passion, could ignite shifts that transcended borders.





**Akshita Singh**

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**IS JAIPUR CATCHING THE WAVE OF GLOBAL WELLNESS TRENDS?**



**I**t would be safe to assume that when someone talks about Jaipur, they think of palaces, vibrant markets, and rich cultural heritage. But could our city of petal hues soon be known for cutting-edge wellness trends, too? Around the globe, practices like sound healing, cold therapy, and high-tech yoga have moved from niche to mainstream. And now, it seems the Pink City might also be on the brink of embracing this wellness revolution.

So in the past decade, we have witnessed a rapid rise of social media, and this rise brought forth many new practices in the name of trends. One such trend was the increased focus on self-care. We, as the culture that gave the 21st century its favourite wellness device, Yoga, couldn't resist this new wave. With the trends travelling from small towns to global platforms, I see that Jaipurites are also hopping on the ride. We are becoming more curious about modern wellness approaches that go beyond the traditional gym and morning walk. The younger crowd, especially millennials and Gen Z, is looking for experiences that blend mindfulness with novelty.

**TRENDING GLOBALLY, WHISPERING LOCALLY**

Globally speaking, wellness has gone way beyond kale smoothies. Cutting sugar and hitting the protein intake is just not the height of it anymore. Here are some of the trends making waves across dream cities like Mumbai and L.A., and they might just trickle into Jaipur next:

**SOUND HEALING SESSIONS**

Based on these four principles of Cymatics, Harmonics, Entrainment, and Binaural Beats, sound therapy claims to reduce stress and promote deep relaxation. It is done using crystal singing bowls, gongs, tuning forks and many other devices of the practice. A few boutique studios in Jaipur are already experimenting with it for small groups.

**HOT YOGA**

Yes, it's exactly what it's called, Hot Yoga is done in a room set at 40 degrees Celsius, which is the regular temperature of our city in summers, so it's just regular Yoga for us Jaipurites. This hot take on our traditional Yoga practice was first introduced by Bikram Choudhury; his reasoning was that a hot environment relaxes the muscles, which increases flexibility and lowers the chances of any accidental injury.

**AERIAL YOGA**

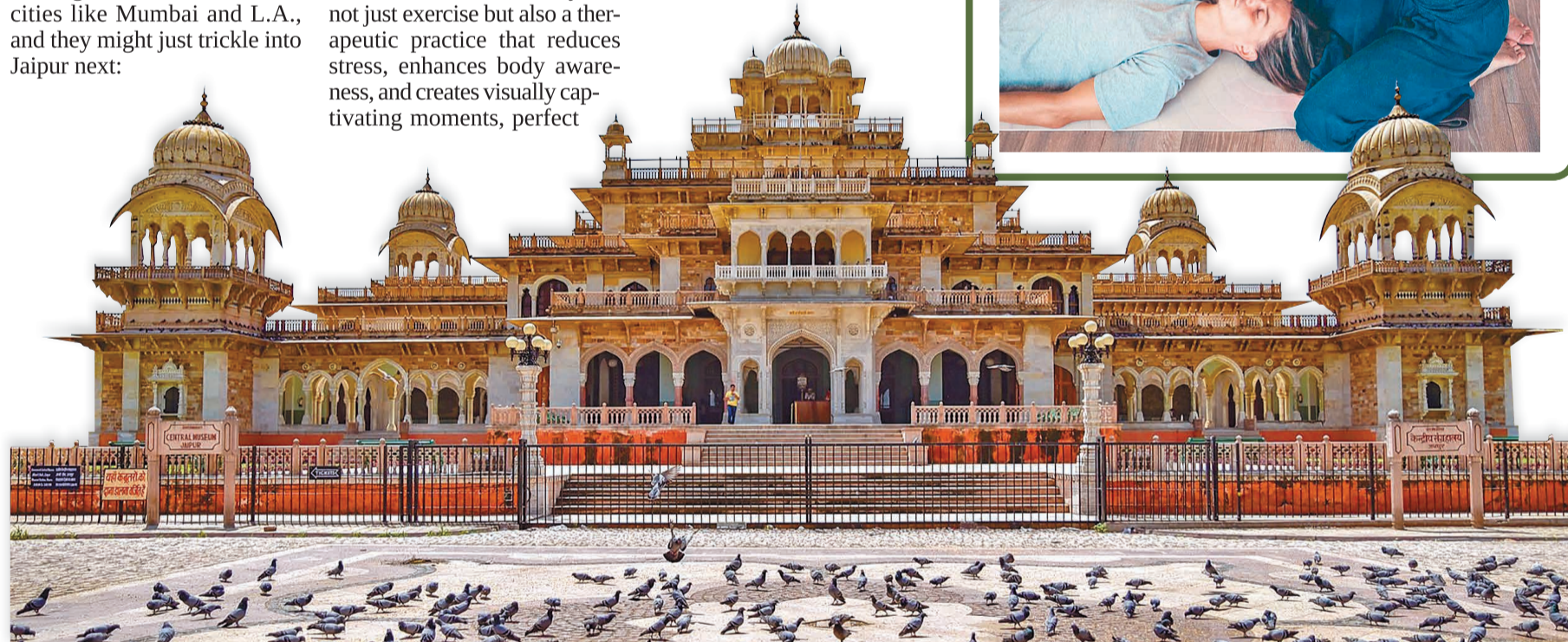
This Instagram-famous trend involves hammocks, inversions, and gravity-defying stretches. Now I, for one, am very excited for this to come to our city. It's not just exercise but also a therapeutic practice that reduces stress, enhances body awareness, and creates visually captivating moments, perfect

for wellness seekers and social media enthusiasts alike.

**MINDFUL MIXOLOGY & HERBAL ELIXIRS**

Globally, alcohol-free bars serving adaptogenic drinks and herbal tonics are taking over. With our city's love for experimenting with food and beverages, will Jaipur cafés follow suit? Such spaces could become hubs for socializing without alcohol, promoting balance, creativity, and health while still offering the joy of indulgence. Jaipur's youthful crowd and café culture make it the perfect ground for this refreshing trend.

Only time will tell how many of these global wellness trends land in our town, and how many will stick around to become part of the rich culture of Jaipur. As the city beautifully balances its royal heritage with contemporary aspirations, embracing wellness could redefine its identity. From palaces and traditions to yoga mats and mindful spaces, Jaipur might soon shine as a hub where history meets holistic living.



**RANDOM RAMBLINGS-XXII**

**MEMORIES OF MAMONI**



**Anirban Mukhopadhyaya**

Retd. IAS officer

**M**y earliest memories of Bombay (as Mumbai was then) is of a long seaside road with a broad pavement and a foot-high parapet at the seafront. This was Hornby Vellard, running from the Haji Ali shrine all the way round and then up to the Samundar Mahal estate which lay behind high wrought iron gates. We lived on the top floor, (all of four storeys high, I think), in Rabia Mansions, one of the two or three multistorey buildings on the estate. Rabia Mansions had been requisitioned during World War II and was still to be released to its original owners. My father, then Director Inspection, with the KVIC, (Khadi and Village Industries Commission), was allotted the top floor. The full floor flat had, as I remember, a long broad passageway running down its length with large rooms opening on either side and an open terrace at one end. The sea facing rooms had wide balconies and if you stood on them, you could see the waves at high tide crashing right into Rabia Mansion's walls, or so it seemed to the toddler peering through the balcony railings. The sea breeze, as I remember it, kept all open door and window curtains fluttering like pennants and my first audio memories are full of the roar and hiss of the pounding waves below.

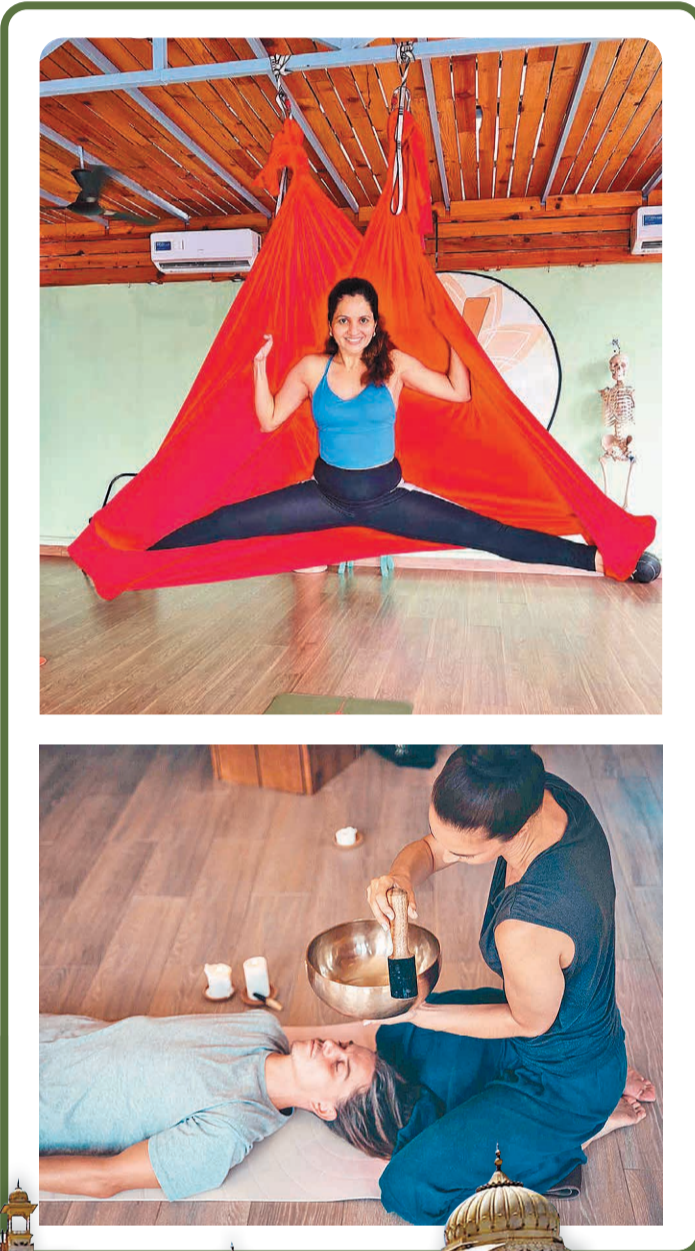
Our flat was large, four or five bedrooms maybe, but always overflowing with humanity. There was Mamoni, my widowed grandmother, in her plain white saree and blouse and my parents of course – we were the permanent residents, but it was 'house-full', with uncles and aunts of many descriptions as well as young cousins, for this was the place where all visitors, family, friend or acquaintance alike, were welcomed with open arms. They came for visits to our common matriarch – Mamoni; they came on work and on vacation from schools and colleges, they came when looking for a job in the metropolis, or yet again, when just passing through.

I can scarce remember a time when the six seater dining table was not feeding several batches at each mealtime, sometimes with the extras holding up plates in an impromptu buffet. Mamoni, a vision in white, and my young mother would be flitting and gliding amongst them, plying all with steaming hot rice, rotis and vegetables. To me, this was a world of unending plenty presided over by Mamoni who would think nothing of rushing into the kitchen any time of day or night to prepare a feast for the sudden, unannounced visitor. This done, she would disappear for yet another cold water bath!

Mamoni was also my all-weather port in a storm. Now that I think about it, her affection was so deep as to be completely unquestioning, no matter what mischief or infringement on my part.

I always preferred to lie by her side at night, listening drowsily to tales from our epics or folklore, or fairy tales, till I fell asleep. She, on the other hand, would then finish her matriarchal chores and her third cold water bath of the day and sleep well after midnight, only to rise again at four in the morning. Another cold water bath and change of clothes later, she would disappear into the puja room. We children had been told not to touch her till she emerged after her prayers as otherwise she would have to purify herself yet again with another cold bath and change of clothes and perform her puja afresh. I still remember however once, having woken up early on a winter morning, I padded into the puja room and before my mother, who also happened to be present in the puja room that day, could say or do anything, touching Mamoni on the cheek and saree. I remember my mother crying out in remonstrance and raising her hand in retribution. Mamoni's response was even swifter. "No you don't," she said firmly. "Raise your hand on my young Lord Narayan and you raise it on me," and with this left the room for her cold bath. As for me, I remember following her out, more an instinct for survival rather than devotion. I do remember though, with some shame even now, the sound of her teeth chattering behind the closed bathroom door as she poured 'lotahs' full of cold water on her head while chanting an invocation to Mother Ganga.

I was only nine or ten when Mamoni passed on, the day after I had my upanayan ceremony along with Dada, my elder cousin. Her final wish, giving 'bhiksha', (alms), to her two 'brahmachari' grandsons remained unfulfilled. Even then, as now, I knew with her passing that I had lost someone whose affection knew no bounds. It was and remains, unyielding, unflinching and yes, unending.



**City Dial**

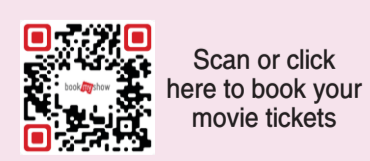
Police 100	Fire 101	Ambulance 102/108	Child Helpline 1098	Help in Suffering 2760012
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**Movie: War 2**  
**Director:** Ayan Mukerji  
**Cast & Crew:** Hrithik Roshan, NT Rama Rao Jr, Kiara Advani, Ashutosh Rana, Anil Kapoor



**Movie: Coolie**  
**Director:** Lokesh Kanagaraj  
**Cast & Crew:** Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna Akkineni, Soubin Shahir, Aamir Khan, Shruti Haasan

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सबसे पहले सबसे आगे

**THE RISE OF AI IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY**



**Neelkanth Nigam**

Writer & Art Enthusiast

# Threat or Opportunity for Human Artistry?

**W**hile growing up, we often heard stories about a future where robots would take over. Back then, the idea felt like a distant dream—fascinating, almost surreal. However, as we witness rapid advancements in technology, particularly in artificial intelligence, that future no longer seems so far away. Today, robots are everywhere, from cleaning our homes to driving our cars, seamlessly integrating into our daily lives, sometimes without us even realizing it.

But now that the world we once fantasized about is becoming a reality, it feels less like a dream and more like a looming nightmare. AI is no longer just a tool; it is actively replacing jobs, sparking protests across industries. Experts and intellectuals warn of the dangers it poses, yet AI continues to evolve at an unprecedented pace. Even as we read this, new features are being developed, making it more intelligent, more autonomous. Alarming claims suggest that AI may already be beyond human control, growing without regulation or restraint. As a result, various sectors have been, and continue to be, vocal in their resistance, fearing that this relentless progress will lead to widespread unemployment and irreversible consequences for society.

But one sector that wasn't particularly afraid of AI's growth was the creative industry, and, ideally, they had no reason to be. Creativity is deeply personal, shaped by individual experiences and imagination. Unlike technical or repetitive tasks, artistic expression doesn't follow a set formula, making it seem unlikely that AI could ever replicate or replace it. After all, AI operates on vast datasets and predefined algorithms, learning from existing information rather than generating truly original thought.

Yet, just a few days ago, ChatGPT introduced a new premium feature that allows users to create Ghibli-style images, and the internet went wild. Almost instantly, the trend took off, with people eagerly using AI to generate personalized, stylized versions of themselves and sharing them online. This sudden explosion of AI-generated art raises an unsettling question: if AI can mimic human creativity this convincingly, is

work lies in the deeply personal nature of artists, writers, and creators who generate something out of nothing, drawing from their own emotions, experiences, and perspectives. Whether it's a piece of writing, a painting, or any other form of artistic expression, each creation is unique, almost like an extension of the artist themselves. Unlike technical or mechanical tasks, creativity doesn't follow a set formula; it's nurtured through years of dedication, practice, and lived experience.

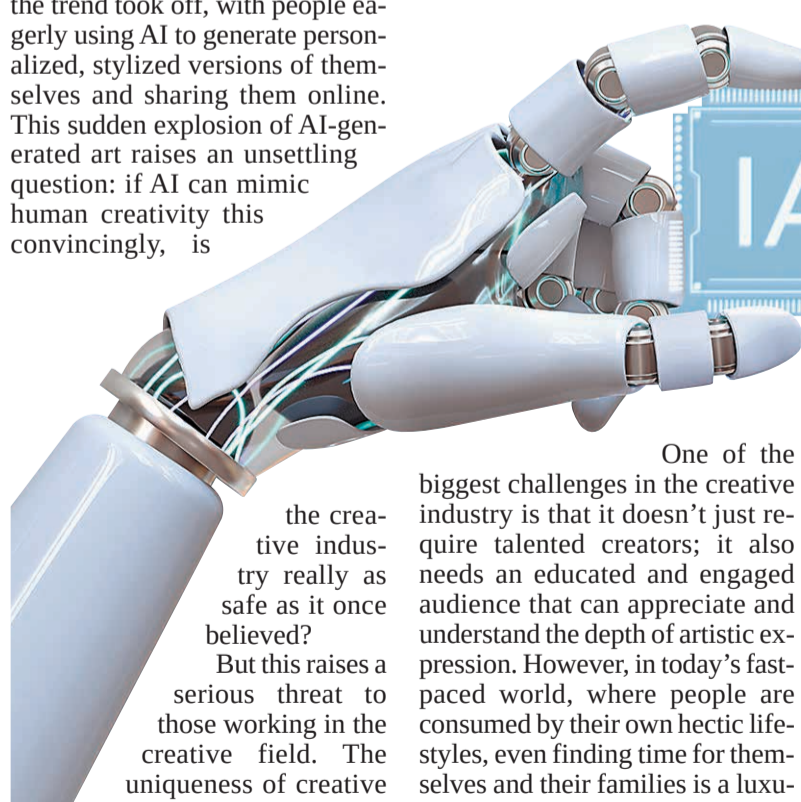
When we once imagined AI taking over the world, we never thought it would threaten the creative industry. The works of Mirza Ghalib, Premchand, or thousands of other artists weren't the result of algorithms or data-fed patterns; they were the outcome of countless hours of thought, struggle, and artistic refinement. Creativity isn't something anyone can simply wake up and master overnight; it demands years of experience, relentless dedication, and an indescribable depth of human effort.

No AI can simply generate the profound couplet by Mirza Ghalib:

*"Na tha kuchh to khuda tha,  
kuchh na hota to khuda hota,  
Duboya mujhko hone ne, na  
hota main to kya hota."*

This couplet reflects on the paradox of existence, on how being itself is the root of suffering. In a void, divinity is unchallenged, but the moment one comes into existence, they become entangled in struggle, longing, and fate. Non-existence, then, appears as a state free from the burdens of being.

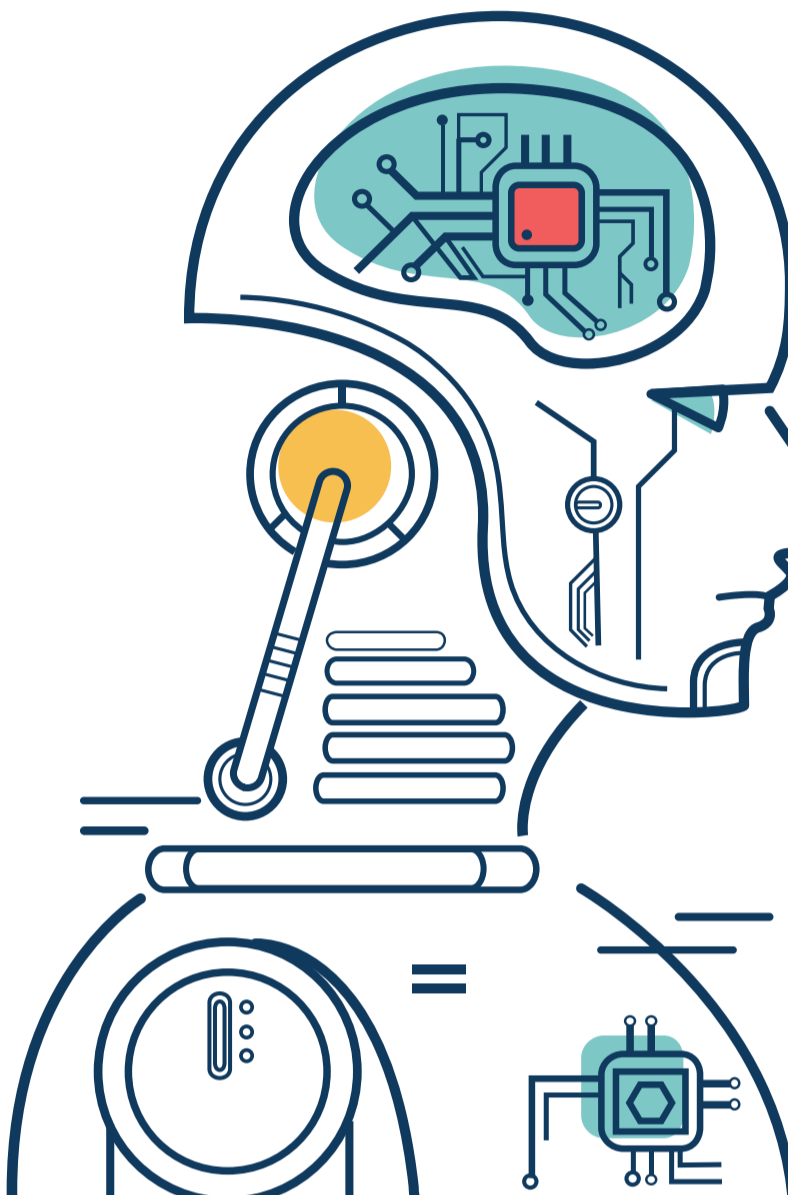
Nor can it paint *The Starry Night* with the raw emotional turmoil of Vincent van Gogh. The reason AI cannot replicate such masterpieces isn't just because creativity lacks a set formula; it's because AI lacks the human touch. It lacks the emotions, the struggles, and the lived realities that shape truly great art. And that is precisely why, no matter how advanced it becomes, AI will always fall short of what makes creative work truly extraordinary.



the creative industry really as safe as it once believed?

But this raises a serious threat to those working in the creative field. The uniqueness of creative

One of the biggest challenges in the creative industry is that it doesn't just require talented creators; it also needs an educated and engaged audience that can appreciate and understand the depth of artistic expression. However, in today's fast-paced world, where people are consumed by their own hectic lifestyles, even finding time for themselves and their families is a luxury.



**UNSUNG STRUGGLES OF CREATIVE ARTISTS**

The paradox of the creative industry, especially in India, is that only a handful of artists receive the recognition and fame they truly deserve. Countless talented individuals remain unknown, struggling to make ends meet, with many not even earning enough to sustain a basic lifestyle. Creativity may be priceless, but in reality, many artists are heavily underpaid, and their work often goes unnoticed in a world that is increasingly driven by speed and consumption.

ry. In such a scenario, expecting them to invest time in appreciating art, literature, or any form of creative work becomes difficult.

Moreover, art isn't just about talent; it also requires financial support. A painting adorning a living room or bedroom isn't just a decorative piece; it's an investment. In today's world, art has increasingly become a commodity, often valued more for its monetary worth than for the artistic brilliance it represents. As a result, while the industry continues to evolve, the gap between struggling artists and those who can afford to engage with their work only widens.

Now, with AI entering the creative industry, it raises countless questions for artists, writers, poets, and their admirers. AI can generate a piece of artwork, poetry, or literature within minutes based on a simple input, something that takes human creators years of practice, struggle, and refinement. This development will severely impact artists who are already underpaid and undervalued. More than that, it threatens to diminish the worth of creative work itself, reducing it to a mere algo-

rithmic output. What AI produces may mimic creativity, but it lacks the essence of lived experience, emotional depth, and human struggle that define true art.

An artist spends thousands of hours perfecting their craft. A single painting isn't just a combination of colors on canvas; it's the result of countless rough sketches, agonizing decisions over mediums, brush types, and color compositions. Every stroke reflects years of personal experiences, hardships, and sacrifices. It's not just about technical skill; it's about the soul an artist pours into their work. Similarly, a poet or writer meticulously chooses each word, carefully constructing the rhythm, tone, and meaning behind their piece. Their work isn't just about stringing sentences together; it's an extension of their identity, their pain, their joy, things AI can never replicate.

To reduce all of this to a mere prompt on an AI platform is not just unethical; it is an insult to centuries of artistic tradition, to the blood, sweat, and devotion of creators who have shaped human culture. If we have the vision to perceive, we will understand that art is more than just its final form; it is the journey, the struggle, and the story behind it.

The entry of AI into the creative field is like a butcher wielding a blade against something delicate and irreplaceable. Artists, who for centuries have fought to preserve and elevate their craft, now find themselves in the role of protectors once again. This time, however, the enemy is invisible, faceless yet far more powerful than ever before. And once again, the responsibility falls upon the shoulders of creatives to safeguard their field while continuing to nurture and evolve it. The question remains: will we allow AI to strip creativity of its soul, or will we fight to ensure that art remains deeply and unmistakably human?

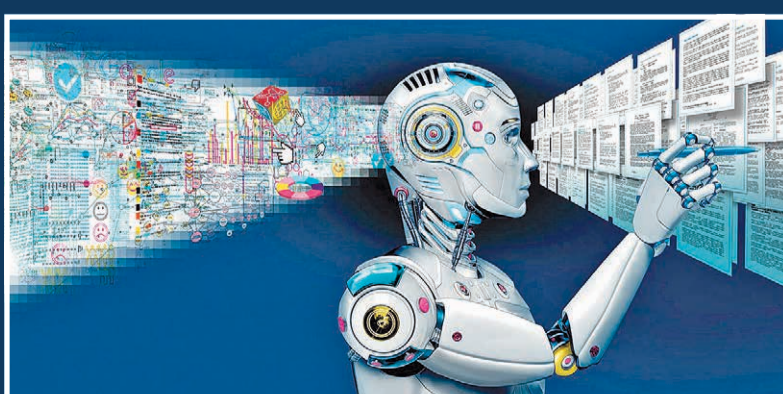
The rise of AI in the creative industry presents a paradox that on one hand, it showcases technological advancement, but on the other, it threatens the very essence of human creativity. What once seemed impossible is now a reality: AI is not just assisting but actively replacing aspects of artistic expression, raising ethical, financial, and philosophical concerns. While innovation should be embraced, we must ask ourselves, at what cost?

Creativity is not a formulaic process that can be replicated by machines; it is deeply personal, born from human experiences, emotions, and struggles. If AI-generated content begins to overshadow human artistry, we risk devaluing not just the work of artists, writers, and musicians but also the human spirit that drives all creative endeavors. This is not merely about job security; it is about preserving the depth, meaning, and authenticity that only human hands and minds can bring to art.



**SAFEGUARDING HUMANITY IN TECH-DRIVEN ART**

The future of creativity now depends on how we navigate this intersection between technology and art. If we are not careful, we may find ourselves in a world where artistic expression is no longer a reflection of the human soul and culture, but a soulless imitation generated at the click of a button. The responsibility falls on us as artists, as audiences, and as a society to ensure that art remains a testament to human imagination, not just another commodity of artificial intelligence.

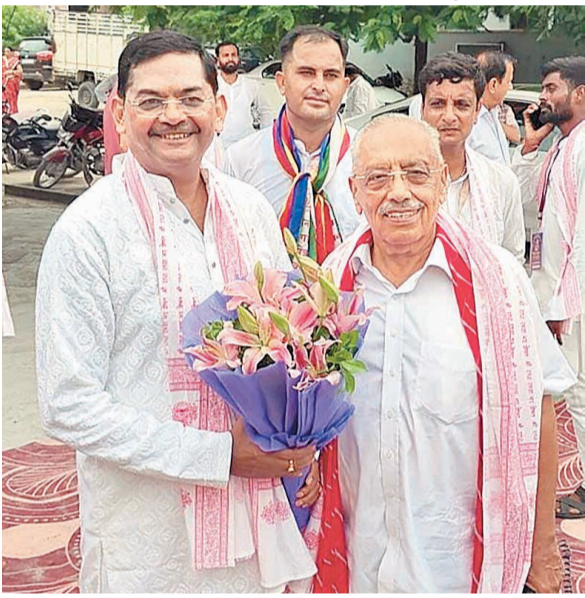


**COURTESY MEETING!**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was warmly greeted by Gourav Rana, organiser of the Rajasthani folk dance group, along with Director Lalit Rana & team members Sushil Rana and Mahendra Rana, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Saturday. During the meeting, the team extended a formal invitation to Dr Chandra to grace the 31st Grand Shobha Yatra as the Chief Guest. The procession, organised under the auspices of Shri Baba Ramdev Ji Maharaj Seva Samiti, Jaipur, will commence today from Baba Ramdev Temple in Civil Lines.

**Seven-Day Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Begins in Marble City**



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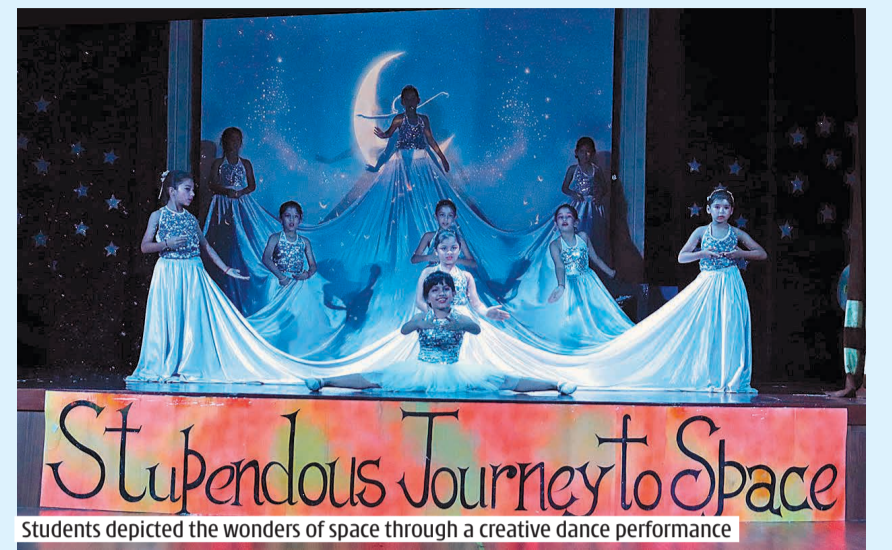
**A** grand seven-day musical Shrimad Bhagwat Katha commenced in Mayura City, Marble City, Kishangarh, under the aegis of BLG Foundation Charitable Trust on Saturday. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Dr Jagdeesh Chandra as the Chief Guest, where he was warmly welcomed by social worker and Congress leader Raju Gupta, along with his family. In return, Dr Chandra extended his heartfelt congratulations to them for successfully organising this spiritual event. A magnificent Amrit

Kalash Yatra was carried out from Laxmi Narayan Temple, Ajmer Road, with a large number of devotees participating. Women carrying kalash enhanced the grandeur, while flower showers greeted the procession at several points. The event is being organized in the sacred memory of Raju Gupta's parents, late Uma Devi and Babulal Gupta. Daily discourses are being delivered from 2 PM to 6 PM by Pujya Pundrik Goswami Maharaj. Organisers Rajendra Gupta and Dharmendra Gupta, along with several social and religious organizations, honored the participants. The Katha will conclude on September 5.

**YOUNG MINDS SHINE**



Tiny toddlers showcased a graceful Kathak performance on the theme Exploring the Cosmos



Students depicted the wonders of space through a creative dance performance

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**T**he young learners of Grade 2 at Jaysree Periwai International School took the audience on a captivating journey through space with their project



During the event

presentation on the theme "Exploring the Cosmos" on Saturday. Through music, drama, and dance,

the students creatively showcased the wonders of planets, stars, moons, and galaxies, while emphasizing the vital connections between celestial bodies and Earth. The presentation also celebrated India's remarkable achievements in space science, including Chandrayaan and

Mangalyaan, and paid tribute to visionaries like Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Albert Einstein, and Copernicus. The "star-hopping expedition" reflected both the vast knowledge and boundless imagination of these budding explorers. Dr Jayshree Periwai, Chairperson of the Jay-

shree Periwai Group of Schools, expressed immense pride, noting that such explorations nurture curiosity and inspire future discoveries. Parents admired their children's confidence and futuristic vision, as the event reaffirmed the school's commitment to innovation and passion for learning.

**IGNITING FOOTBALL'S FUTURE IN RAJASTHAN**



Three students of Jaysree Periwai International School—Avyaan Dhoka, Bharat Rana, and Rudransh Palawat—are set to organize "The Giving Goal," a charity football match today at

Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium, Jaipur. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Deputy CM Diya Kumari, Minister Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, and Sports Secretary Neeraj K Pawan unveiled the poster. Funds raised will provide 500 aspiring players with professional cleats. Supported by Rajasthan Sports Council and Rajasthan Football Federation, the initiative also envisions Shoe Libraries and an AI training app.



**WARM WELCOME!**



Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Akhara, Swami Avdhesanand Giri Maharaj, was warmly welcomed by the Indian community on his arrival at John F Kennedy Airport, New York, on Friday. RANA (Rajasthan Association of North America) President and Jaipur Foot USA Chairman, Dr Prem Bhandari, personally received Swamiji. Also present were BRUHUD President Ajay Patel, member Samir Vora, and senior community representatives, who all sought Swamiji's blessings. Swamiji is on a 7-day visit to attend various religious, social, and cultural events. Notably, he was the Chief Guest at the 2023 FIA Parade, while Dr Bhandari had served as Convener in 2022.

**CANCER AWARENESS**



Jaipur hosted the AOGIN 2025 conference at Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, where over 500 doctors and experts noted India's decline in cervical cancer due to HPV vaccination and screening. Inaugurated by Dr ML Swaranankar, with sessions by Dr Ranu Pathi and Dr Anshu Patodiya, the event featured insights from WHO, ICMR, and 70+ oncologists urging awareness & early detection.

**MAHASABHA MEET**



The two-day National Convention of Bharatiya Tailik Sahu Ganchi Rathore Mahasabha began on Saturday at Sahu Sadan, Janata Colony, Jaipur. The inaugural National Executive meeting was presided over by National President Umesh Nandlal Sahu, with senior office-bearers including Rekha Sahu, SP Gupta, Mewa Lal Sahu, and others. The session opened with lamp lighting, devotional songs, and the unveiling of the National Calendar by Mewar Ram Sahu. Special guest Prahalad Modi, Prime Minister Modi's younger brother, was felicitated. Over 500 members attended. Proceedings continue till today at Mahaveer School, Jaipur.

**SPORTS SPIRIT CELEBRATED**



Kineta Sports Management Pvt Ltd celebrated National Sports Day at Mahatma Gandhi Government School, Lal Kothi, on Friday. The event featured a range of sports activities along with an engaging Sports Quiz for students. Winners were honored with medals and certificates, recognizing their achievements. The initiative aimed to raise awareness about the significance of sports in life, promoting a healthy lifestyle, discipline, and teamwork among young learners. The celebration witnessed enthusiastic student participation, making the occasion vibrant and memorable.

**HERITAGE MEETS MODERNITY**



The Association of Event Entrepreneurs (AEE) held a press meet at Hotel Hilton on Saturday to announce EVOQUE: The Event Industry Convention, scheduled in Jaipur from September 5 to 7. The three-day event will feature business expos, B2B and B2C meetings, panel discussions, and experiential showcases at iconic venues including Rambagh Palace and Jaigarh Fort. With the theme "Designed to Inspire, Built to Evoke," the convention will host over 600 delegates and 60 hotels. AEE President Sameer Babel, Secretaries Rajesh Jain and Amitesh Taluka, along with Shweta, Geetanjali, and other members, were present. **DIVYA KANWALIYA**

**HOSPITALITY TRIUMPH**



Shahpura Hotels & Resorts was recently honoured with the "Iconic Heritage Palace/Hotel (Pre-1950)" Award at the Economic Times Rajasthan Business Awards 2025, held at Marriott Hotel, Jaipur. The award was jointly presented to Chairman Surendra Singh Shahpura and Managing Director Ratna Kumari by Dr Arun Chaturvedi. Recognised for its rich heritage and contribution to tourism, Shahpura Hotels & Resorts has properties like Shahpura House, Jaipur, and Shahpura Haveli, Shahpura. The award highlights the group's commitment to heritage preservation and luxury hospitality.

**MLA SARAF INAUGURATES ROADS & BOOSTS DEVELOPMENT**



Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf laid the foundation stone of two CC roads in Ward 127, Sector 1, and inaugurated the interlocking tiles installed by the Municipal Corporation outside the Girls School. Local councillor Jaishree Garg said the broken roads are being renovated due to Saraf's efforts. Residents and development committee officials welcomed him with garlands. Present on the occasion were Malviya Nagar Mandal General Secretary Zorawar Singh, Ward President Bhpendra Singh Chauhan, Booth President Diwan, Lalit Sharma, Lalit Raju, Leena Singh, and local citizens.

**PINK CITY WELCOMES THE TRAITORS TONIGHT!**



Hosted by Suvrat and Tanya, Jaipur is all set to witness an extraordinary evening today as "The Traitors" makes its grand entry into the Pink City. For the very first time, the city's elite will step into a world where trust shatters, secrets reign, and betrayal lurks at every turn. Behind closed doors, a handpicked circle will play this high-stakes game of survival that has already enthralled audiences worldwide. Whispers are rising — who will deceive, who will endure, and who will triumph?