



SANTA COMING TODAY!

Men dressed as Ded Moroz' (Grandfather Frost, the Russian Santa Claus) ride bicycles at the Palace Square in St. Petersburg, Russia, Saturday (local time).

IN BRIEF

Boost surveillance to check COVID cases: WHO
New Delhi: The World Health Organisation has urged countries in South-East Asia to strengthen surveillance in view of increasing cases of respiratory diseases due to COVID-19 and its new sub-variant JN.1, and influenza. **P6**

Freezing cold grips Valley as temperature dips
Srinagar: Kashmir valley gripped in freezing cold following a drop in night temperature on Sunday. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said Srinagar recorded a low of -2.1 °C on Sunday, against 1.2°C recorded Saturday night.

3 Maoists killed in police encounter in Dantewada
Dantewada: At least three Maoists were killed in a gun battle with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Sunday. IGP (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said on Sunday. **P7**

SPORTS MINISTRY SUSPENDS WFI

New body in complete control of former office-bearers, says Ministry

First India Bureau
New Delhi

In a strongly-worded communiqué, the Sports Ministry on Sunday suspended the newly-elected body of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The Ministry has said that the newly elected WFI body appears to be in complete control of former office bearers. In an official release, the Sports Ministry said that the announcement for national competitions was hasty and that due process was not followed. "WFI has been instructed to suspend all its activities further orders," sports ministry said in a press statement. **P7**



Brij Bhushan Sharan with new WFI chief Sanjay Singh (R). **FILE**

IOA TOLD TO FORM AD-HOC COMMITTEE
Soon after suspending the newly-elected Wrestling Federation of India, the Sports Ministry on Sunday asked the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to constitute an ad-hoc body to control and manage the affairs of the WFI.

I AM DONE WITH WRESTLING: BHUSHAN
Former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Sunday said he is "done" with the sport and the newly-elected body will now take care of it as he has many more responsibilities to look into, including next year's Lok Sabha polls.

Probe ordered into 3 civilians' death in Poonch

PTI
New Delhi

The Army has ordered a thorough internal investigation into the deaths of three civilians in the Poonch district of J&K following allegations that they died in its custody, people familiar with the matter said on Sunday. The three civilians were allegedly picked up by Army for questioning in the wake of the killing of four Army jawans in an ambush by unidentified terrorists in Poonch on December 21. The three civilians, aged between 27 and 42, were found dead on December 22. Their relatives alleged that they died due to "custodial torture" as they were among eight people picked up by Army for questioning. **P6**

2024 General Election ABP CVoter opinion poll predicts 3rd consecutive term for PM Modi

First India Bureau
New Delhi

In a recent poll survey done by ABP CVoter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is predicted to create a history by getting elected for a third consecutive term in 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

PREDICTIONS FOR SOME OF THE STATES

MADHYA PRADESH: 29	BJP : 27-29	INC : 0-2
KARNATAKA: 28	BJP+ : 22-24	INC : 4-6
RAJASTHAN: 25	BJP : 23-25	INC : 0-2
CHHATTISGARH: 11	BJP : 9-11	INC : 0-2



PM INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS FROM J&K
PM Narendra Modi on Sunday interacted with about 250 students representing almost every district of Jammu and Kashmir as part of 'Watan Ko Jano' programme under which they have been touring the country. Official sources said these students come from an underprivileged background.

PM LIFTED 60 CR PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY: SHAH
Union HM Amit Shah on Sunday heaped praise on PM Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, saying it was singularly instrumental in lifting 60 crore people out of poverty. Shah was addressing beneficiaries of PM-SVANidhi Yojana in Ahmedabad.



ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Governor, CM pay tributes to Vajpayee on eve of his birth anniversary

Aishwary Pradhan & Yogesh Sharma
Jaipur

SEVERAL EVENTS WILL BE HELD TODAY FROM DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS TO GRAM PANCHAYAT LEVEL TO MARK THE DAY OBSERVED AS SUSHASAN DIVAS

Governor Kalraj Mishra and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma paid heartfelt tributes to former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on the eve of his birth anniversary. While recalling the late PM's legacy of *sushasan* or good governance, Mishra reflected on his commitment to public welfare and emphasised his belief in inclusive politics and integrity to propel the nation forward. Governor urged everyone to draw inspiration from Vajpayee's noble life values. "Atal they, Atal hain, Atal rahenge! Good Gov-



ernance Day will be celebrated across the state on December 25 on birth anniversary of the pioneer of Indian politics, former Prime Minister 'Bharat Ratna' Revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Under this, various programmes will be organized from district headquarters to gram panchayat level," CM Sharma posted on social media. The Governor and CM also extended Christmas wishes to the people of the State while emphasising the importance of embracing the teachings of Jesus Christ during this festive season.

BJP TO HOLD EVENTS ACROSS INDIA TODAY
The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party will organise multiple events across India on December 25 to commemorate the 99th birth anniversary of former PM Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day is celebrated as **Good Governance Day** or **Sushasan Divas** in Hindi. To mark the occasion, BJP national president JP Nadda has asked the party officials and state presidents across India to pay floral tributes to the former Prime Minister at all booths and discuss his works.

MP: Mohan Yadav Cabinet expansion today

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet will be expanded on Monday with the induction of at least 15-18 ministers. Currently, the cabinet has three members — CM Mohan Yadav and two deputy CMs Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda. They were sworn in on December 13. On Friday, CM Yadav and his two deputy CMs met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. **P5**

Health Matters

Yogesh was going to his class when he fell down

14-year-old student dies of heart attack in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In a shocking incident, a 14-year-old student studying in a private school in Jaipur died of cardiac arrest (heart attack). The student was going to his class when he fell down. A school teacher took him to a private hospital. After giving CPR, he was referred to Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The incident happened on December 19.

Kardhani police station head constable Manoj said that Yogesh Singh (14), son of Tanwar Singh, was a Class 9th student. Yogesh's postmortem was conducted by medical board.

Medical jurist Kaluram Yadav said that death occurred due to excessive contraction of muscles and increase in the size of the heart. The weight of a normal person's heart is 250 to 300 grams, but Yogesh's heart weighed 650 grams. His heart was not able to pump, due to which he died. The samples have been sent for testing and reports are awaited. Yogesh's father Tanwar Singh told that Yogesh was completely fit.



(Top) Doctors with the patient at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital after the surgery. (Bottom) Doctors performing the surgery.

FIRST 3D 4K EXOSCOPE BRAIN TUMOR SURGERY HELD AT SMS HOSPITAL

Neurosurgeons of SMS Hospital performed first 3D 4K Exoscope HD Digital Camera System assisted brain tumor surgery on a 55-years old patient. "The female patient was investigated and diagnosed with arachnoid cyst in right cerebropontine angle region. The surgery was performed with help of 3D 4K Exoscope system and patient is doing well after surgery", said Dr. Manish Agrawal, Senior Prof and Unit Head (Neurosurgery) at SMS Hospital. Also, Dr. Rohit Babal, Dr. Abdul R Gouri, Dr. Harsimran, Dr. Rajendra, Dr. Sobha Purohit, Dr Neelu Sharma and team played important roles.

19-MONTH-OLD SMA TYPE-1 PATIENT SEEKS HELP FOR ₹17 CR INJECTION

Nineteen-months-old Arjun from Jaipur has been diagnosed with rare Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type-1 disease. Its treatment is gene therapy, which is very expensive and its medicine Zolgensma costs worth Rs 17 crore for a single dose. The European manufactured medicine is imported for a patient only after the approval of CDSCO.



The most worrying thing is that Arjun has only three

months left for this therapy. The medicine is authorized only for children up to two years of age. As the therapy is very expensive, Arjun's father has appealed for crowd funding. A dedicated bank account and portal has been created & people willing to help the family can contribute. Anyone willing to help the family can contact 890 555 45 22. **Vikas Sharma**

RSSB to use AI to check unfair means in exams

First India Bureau
Jaipur

To stop the use of unfair means in recruitment examinations in the state, the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board will take the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The board will check the OMR sheets of the candidates with the help of AI. This experiment has been successful in Maharashtra. The board team had been studying this for the

last several days. The OMR sheet of the recruitment examination has also been checked by the board on a trial basis.

After the successful experiment, now the board is going to adopt this process. This technology will be adopted in the upcoming recruitments in the new year. If any candidate is found guilty during OMR sheet verification through AI, legal action will be taken against him.



Woman killed, daughter, niece injured; two held

PTI
Jodhpur

Two persons were arrested on Sunday for allegedly killing a woman and injuring two others, including a one-year-old daughter of the deceased, in a village here, police said. The incident took place at Lamba in Bilara area here around 10.30 pm on Saturday when accused entered house of Mahendra, a truck driver, with the intention of robbery, they added.

While Mahendra was out with his family members to attend a wedding only 500 m away, his wife Anjali (27) alias Anju was present in the house with her one-year-old daughter Kavya and niece Kusum alias Khushi (12), SP said.

Jaipur sees huge saffron rally for consecration ceremony in Ayodhya



People donning saffron colour turbans take out a procession in Jaipur on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In the context of the invitation campaign for the consecration ceremony of Lord Shri Ram's temple in Ayodhya, the Vishva Hindu Parishad organised collective meetings on Sunday in temples of Jaipur city for distribution of consecrated rice and rais-

ing public awareness. There were mass meetings, huge processions and Kalash Yatras in the temples of Jaipur. A huge saffron procession was organized from Munshi Ramdas ji's mansion Gangapol. VHP Joint Secy Sandeep Sharma said that Akshat was taken out for distribution for life consecration ceremony of Ram

Lalla proposed on Jan 22 in Ayodhya.

In the procession, 1000 women carried the urn and 1000 youths carried the saffron flag and the procession ended with the blessings of saints at the temple of Badrinayanji. The main attraction of the procession was the huge statue of Bajrangbali and the statues of Ram, Sita.

Father-daughter duo killed in road mishap in Sirohi

First India Bureau
Sirohi

A man and his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter were killed while his wife sustained injuries when a truck overturned on their motorcycle in Sirohi district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday evening on Pidwada-Beawar Highway, they said.

The driver of the truck suddenly took a turn and lost control of the vehicle. It overturned and the two-wheeler came under it, police said. The three were taken to a nearby hospital where Mukesh (28), and his daughter Tarika were declared dead while Dimple (25) is undergoing treatment, police said.

Raj shivers as dense fog engulfs State; Fatehpur lowest at 4.2°C

PTI
Jaipur

Cold weather conditions gripped parts of Rajasthan with Sikar district's Fatehpur recording the lowest night temperature at 4.2 degrees Celsius, officials said on Sunday.

Alwar was the second coldest place in the state as the minimum temperature settled at 5.9 degrees Celsius, followed by Pilani in Jhunjhunu (6.5 degrees), Sirohi (7.1 degrees), and Churu (7.3 degrees), according to a report by the Met department here.

Meanwhile, dense fog engulfed parts of western, northern and eastern Rajasthan on Sunday with the Met department predicting that the weather



Heavy fog engulfs Taragarh in Ajmer on Sunday morning. A bird sits near a feeder as frost freezes the water.

HIMANSHU SHARMA

the state in the next two to three days and a slight drop in the minimum temperatures.

The Met Office said another western disturbance is likely to become active in the state on December 31.

There is also a possibility of dense fog at isolated places in the northern and eastern parts of

er would remain dry over the next week.

There is also a possibility of dense fog at isolated places in the northern and eastern parts of

106 criminals held in special op in Kota

First India Bureau
Kota

The city police conducted a one-day special operation from 5:00 am to 10:00 am on Sunday to arrest wanted criminals in the district. A total of 106 wanted & active criminals were held.

SP Sharad Chaudhary said that for this campaign, 58 teams of 242



Nabbed accused in custody of Kota police on Sunday.

police officers and employees were formed and raids were conducted and 73 wanted criminals and 33 active criminals were arrested. Chaudhary said that in this campaign, a

reward of Rs 25,000 in the case of murder in Jawahar Nagar police station, two permanent warranties who were absconding for a long time, 24 wanted criminals, two active history-sheeters of Kotwali police station, one of Borkheda police station, a criminal wanted in a recovery warrant from Police Station Nanta, were arrested.

Similarly, preventive action was taken against 33 anti-social elements under 151 CrPC.

'LAWRENCE AIDE' SEEKS RANSOM FROM BIZMAN

Jaipur: A man posing as Lawrence henchman demanded extortion money from a jeweller. A case in this regard has been filed at Vidyadhar Nagar. The jeweller received WhatsApp call where the unknown person demanded extortion of ₹1 crore. The police traced the call to Sevar Jail in Bharatpur and identified caller as jail inmate Devraj, who have been handed over to Jaipur police.

Satyanarayan Sharma

National Consumer Day

People must be aware of online fraud: Kachwaha

Vikas Sharma
Jaipur

National Consumer Day was celebrated on Sunday across the country, including Jaipur. A state-level programme was organized at RAS Club in Jaipur. Chairman of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Justice Devendra Kachwaha was the chief guest and inaugurated programme.

Commission's Registrar Ashok Sharma and Director of Consumer Affairs Department Navneet Kumar were special guests. During the programme, e-commerce and other new types of businesses and the problems faced by consumers were discussed. After the program, Justice Kachwaha



Justice Devendra Kachwaha

said that with time the trend of consumers is also changing. "Now, there is aggressive shopping and keeping this in mind, consumers should be aware and not fall victims to any kind of fraud," he said. Navneet Kumar, Director of Consumer Affairs Department, gave several examples and said that now people are also becoming aware of the complaints of fraud related to online trading.

JAIPUR JEWELLERY SHOW

JJS houseful on Day 3; culmination today

A large number of foreign buyers also attended the show

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

The Jaipur Jewellery Show i.e. JJS, which started from Friday at Novotel Jaipur Convention Center located in Sitapura Industrial Area, reached its final stage on Sunday. Monday is the last day of JJS. On Sunday, the third day of JJS, jewelers and common people not only



(L) Huge foot-fall of visitors was seen during the third day of JJS owing to Sunday. (R) Various idols carved out of different stones are also put on display at the JJS.



MUKESH KIRADOO

from Jaipur but also from outside Jaipur reached the venue. The participants are already showing their interest to the organizers

to participate in the next JJS show.

Sunday has great significance every year in JJS, which started 21

years ago. The situation became such that people had to struggle to get passes and people had to face difficulty in parking

four-wheelers in the huge parking of the venue.

JJS organizers claim that till now around 39,000 entries have been marked in JJS, out of which more than 500 were NRIs. Kamal Kothari, Treasurer of JJS Organizing Committee, said that this time special efforts were made to include Indian jewelers in JJS. Special road shows were organized in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Amritsar, due to which a large number of jewelers from these cities also participated. **MORE IN CITY FIRST**

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

RAJASTHAN

Festive Feels Over 50,000 tourists visited Jaipur on Sunday

Record influx of tourists during X-mas & New Year

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

A huge number of tourists have thronged Jaipur and the State on Christmas and New Year holidays. While Amber was visited by more than 13,000 tourists on Saturday, the number crossed 14,000 on Sunday. Similarly, a large crowd of tourists was seen at other monuments including Nahargarh, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar, Jhalana Leopard Safari and Nahargarh Biological Park.

Due to the increasing arrival of tourists, all government and private hotels in Jaipur are 100% booked.

However, due to the fear of a new variant of Corona, there was a feeling of doubt among the tourists. Especially tourists from Gujarati and South India have come in large numbers to Jaipur this time. It is believed that in the week from Sunday to December 31 till the year ends, the number of tourists coming to Jaipur may cross 5 lakh.



Tourists at Jantar Mantar in Jaipur on Sunday. There has been a significant increase in the number of foreign tourists with about a 1000 foreign tourists arriving in the city everyday. **NAIM KHAN**

ing of doubt among the tourists. Especially tourists from Gujarati and South India have come in large numbers to Jaipur this time. It is believed that in the week from Sunday to December 31 till the year ends, the number of tourists coming to Jaipur may cross 5 lakh.



X-Mas decorations at St. Andrew's Church, Chandpole, Jaipur.

No. of Covid19 patients rises to 20; 11 on Sunday alone

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Corona figures are increasing in Rajasthan constantly. 11 new patients were reported on Sunday evening. The number of Corona positive patients in the state has risen to 20 since Corona made a return. So far, 1 person from Dausa has died of the Covid. At the same time, two infected patients died in an accident. Samples of a total of 722 people were taken.

Of these, 7 infected patients have been found in Jaipur. At the same time, one infected patient each has been found in Alwar, Dausa, Kota and Sawai Madhopur.

Tigers missing: Is administration turning a blind eye?



Questions have also been raised over the health of tigress 'Arrowhead'.

Nirmal Tiwari
Sawai Madhopur

In Ranthambore there seems to be emphasis on tourism while the tigers are going missing one after the other.

Many tigers are missing as monitoring capabilities of the Ranthambore Tiger reserve

seems to have failed. There is no trace of T-79, while at the same time, female cub of T-99 is also missing. The cub was wandering from Talai to Mala in Zone 10 but has not been seen for many days.

There is big question whether the Ranthambore administration will

make the status of tigers public or will the tigers keep disappearing one by one without any clue of their whereabouts? According to DCF Mohit Gupta, 74 tigers in Ranthambore are all seen in camera traps. But there is no reply about the status of Tiger T-79 and female cub of T-99.

राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम

RIICO
GROW WITH RAJASTHAN

नव वर्ष की करें शुरुआत उद्योगों की स्थापना के साथ

सरल ई-नीलामी के माध्यम से

आधारभूत सुविधाओं युक्त औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में करें उद्यम की स्थापना

कुल भूखण्ड	औद्योगिक भूखण्ड	व्यावसायिक भूखण्ड	आवासीय/गुप्त हाउसिंग भूखण्ड	दुकानें	कियोस्क (1), वे फिज (1), वेवर हाउस (2), नर्सिंग होम (2), सरकारी (3) आई.टी. उद्योग (1)
481	397	18	17	39	10

ईएमडी प्रारम्भ तिथि : 26 दिसम्बर, 2023 (प्रातः 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि : 18 जनवरी, 2024 (सायं 06:00 बजे)

ऑनलाइन बिड प्रारम्भ तिथि : 19 जनवरी, 2024 (प्रातः 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि : 23 जनवरी, 2024 (सायं 05:00 बजे)

14 आबू रोड़	11 किशनगढ़
16 अजमेर	03 खुन्दर
26 बालोतरा	05 जोधपुर
06 बांसवाड़ा	70 मण्डोर
13 भरतपुर	25 सवाईमाधोपुर
10 बीकानेर	06 झालावाड़
14 बोरानाडा	13 कोटा
02 सीकर	08 चूरू

ईएमडी प्रारम्भ तिथि : 26 दिसम्बर, 2023 (प्रातः 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि : 19 जनवरी, 2024 (सायं 06:00 बजे)

ऑनलाइन बिड प्रारम्भ तिथि : 22 जनवरी, 2024 (प्रातः 10:00 बजे)
अंतिम तिथि : 24 जनवरी, 2024 (सायं 05:00 बजे)

10 अलवर	07 ईपीआईपी, सीतापुरा (जयपुर)
10 भिवाड़ी-I	17 राजसमंद
10 भिवाड़ी-II	16 पाली
10 नीमराना	26 उदयपुर
05 धौलठ	22 नागौर
12 जयपुर (उत्तर)	39 भीलवाड़ा
08 जयपुर (दक्षिण)	20 जालौर
23 जयपुर (ग्रामीण)	04 दौसा

25% भूगतान के बाद, शेष 75% भूगतान 11 किस्मों में 8.5% ब्याज के साथ या 120 दिनों के भीतर ब्याज रहित भूगतान या टर्म लोन स्कीम के तहत भूमि की लागत का 75% तक का ऋण 5 साल की पुनर्भूगतान अवधि एवं 8.5% ब्याज के साथ

ई-नीलामी का उपयोग के लिए क्लिक करें

सामान्य प्रश्नों के लिए क्लिक करें

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Dr. Sandeep Bakshi
Chancellor, Jaipur National University

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THE LOVE THAT IS JESUS



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

The writer is an Indian yoga guru, a spiritual leader, founder of The Art of Living

UNDERSTANDING JESUS

You cannot understand the teachings of Jesus unless you are filled with and thriving with 'Prana' or life force. It will simply be conceptual knowledge. You know, to understand Jesus, we need to connect with him from our heart, feel his presence in our heart. The mind cannot understand him. Only the heart can know Jesus. When you find there is authority, there cannot be love, and where there is love, authority is not needed. You will see the one who loves you has more authority on you. He opened his arms and said, "Come, you are my friend, don't be afraid, don't put me on the altar. Give me a seat in your heart. See me in everyone you see around. Love everyone as much as I love you, or as much as you love me. Share that with everyone around." What more do you need, to see that complete embodiment of love?

Love bears no form or name and yet it manifests in all names and forms. Love is the biggest mystery of this creation. You need a keen eye to observe this love that fills this creation. Just look at a bird feeding its young one in the nest. The young bird simply waits for its mother's arrival. There is love in there. There is love among the fish, the sky, under the water, above the ground. There is love in the outer space. Love comes with courage.

You will find the complete expression of love in Jesus. Love is the strongest force in the Universe. Yet love makes us meek. We are the weakest when we are in love. That is why Jesus overthrew concepts familiar to mankind. Instead of saying, "The strong will inherit the Earth", he said, "The meek shall inherit heaven". He had the courage to say this, because love brings courageous.

You cannot understand the teachings of Jesus unless you are filled with and thriving with 'Prana' or life force. It will simply be conceptual knowledge. You know, to understand Jesus, we need to connect with him from our heart, feel his presence in our heart. The mind cannot understand him. Only the heart can know Jesus. When you find there is authority, there cannot be love, and where there is love, authority is not needed. You will see the one who loves you has more



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authority on you. He opened his arms and said, "Come, you are my friend, don't be afraid, don't put me on the altar. Give me a seat in your heart. See me in everyone you see around. Love everyone as much as I love you, or as much as you love me. Share that with everyone around." What more do you need, to see that complete embodiment of love?

A beautiful line in a carol says, 'Sleep in heavenly peace'-what does it mean?

When the small mind sleeps in the lap of the Big mind, it sleeps in heavenly peace. The small mind is like a child - always ac-

tive, crying, and demanding this or that. It is always dependent. The Big mind is like the Mother. When the small mind is away from the Big mind, it ends up in chaos and confusion. It starts crying. It runs back to the Big mind. And there, it finds peace, it finds relief. There the small self, the small mind, sleeps in heavenly peace in the lap of the Big mind, the Universal, cosmic mind. Holy is when the mother and child are together. When the mother and child are in heavenly peace, it is meditation.

You must recognize, you are made up of a sub-

stance called love. Each one of you is a special gift on this planet. You are a Christmas tree. At that time of the year, when all other trees are barren, you are lush green with all your branches pointing upwards. You come bearing gifts and lights, not for yourself but for those around you. Remember that all the gifts you are carrying are not for yourself, but for those around you. Offer your gifts to anyone who comes to you. Do this and you will see how all your needs are taken care of.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

GUIDING CONGRESS' POLITICAL COURSE IN UTTAR PRADESH

Following consecutive electoral setbacks, the Congress party has entrusted the task of guiding its course in Uttar Pradesh to relatively unknown faces, with both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra assuming non-leading roles. Priyanka, formerly the General-Secretary, has relinquished her UP responsibilities, and the UP Jodo Yatra will now be spearheaded by State President Ajay Rai. Avinash Pande, previously overseeing Jharkhand, has taken over Priyanka's role as the General-Secretary in charge of this politically pivotal state.

The UP Jodo Yatra, modelled after Rahul's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra,' commenced from Saharanpur on December 20, emphasising outreach to minority communities. However, this minority-centric strategy may pose challenges for the Congress in a year dominated by the Ram temple in Ayodhya and potential legal developments in Varanasi's Gyanvapi case. By opting for a less visible role early on, Rahul and Priyanka have strategically shielded themselves from potential future criticisms. One has to see if P Chidambaram, who will draft the party's campaign manifesto, has something catchy to offer.

LITTLE CONSOLATION FOR PROTESTING WRESTLERS

In the aftermath of a tumultuous episode involving Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the former President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and a BJP MP facing sexual harassment charges, the Sports Ministry has taken decisive action by suspending the newly-elected committee. The committee, dominated by Singh's loyalists, including the newly appointed WFI president, Sanjay Singh, faced allegations of a one-sided contest in their election, raising concerns about the integrity of the entire polling process.

This suspension, though a small solace, brings little relief to the wrestlers who had legitimate grievances against Brij Bhushan. Disappointed with the election results, the wrestlers, who had brought forward sexual harassment charges against the influential MP from Uttar Pradesh, chose a drastic protest. Returning their awards and relinquishing their involvement in wrestling, they accused the government of indifference to their plight. Notably, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia underscored his protest by parting with his Padma Shri medal and Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik deciding to quit wrestling.

The government's initial reluctance to take action against Singh, owing to his political influence, was disrupted when Sanjay Singh announced plans to host under-15 and under-20 national championships in Gonda, Brij Bhushan's stronghold. The Sports Ministry also expressed concern over Sanjay Singh meeting the former WFI president at his residence, where the federation's office is situated.

To restore order within the WFI, a fundamental step involves conducting elections at the district and state levels, followed by fresh elections for the WFI, ensuring the exclusion of former office-bearers. This comprehensive approach is crucial for rebuilding trust and transparency within the federation.



Notably, Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia underscored his protest by parting with his Padma Shri medal and Rio Olympics bronze medallist Sakshi Malik deciding to quit wrestling

TOP TWEETS



Heartiest congratulations to our Women's Cricket Team on winning their first-ever Test match against Australia. Our girls put up a splendid all-round performance throughout the game, showcasing their indomitable grit and talent. Wishing them all the best for their future. May they keep making us all proud! #INDvsAUS
Jagat Prakash Nadda
@JPNadda



CONSUMER IS THE KING! Under the leadership of PM@NarendraModi ji, India has ushered in a new era of 'Consumer Empowerment & Prosperity.' On this #NationalConsumerDay, Modi Govt. reaffirms its commitment to empowering consumers and safeguarding their rights. Let us together celebrate responsible consumption & the power of informed choices. #JagoGrahakJago
Piyush Goyal@PiyushGoyal

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Those who always practice this teaching of Mine, with faith and free from cavil, are freed from the bondage of Karma.

BHAGAVAD GITA



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LOKKHE KONTHE GITA PATH

About 1 lakh people chanted verses from Gita

Modi extends best wishes to Bhagavad Gita recitation event

PTI

Kolkata

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to the 'Lokkhe Konthe Gita Path' event in Kolkata on Sunday, expressing his belief that the recitation of the Bhagavad Gita by a huge gathering from diverse backgrounds will not only enhance social harmony but also infuse energy into nation's development journey.

Approximately 1 lakh people are set to collectively chant the Bhagavad Gita during the event at Brigade Parade grounds. In a message to the event organisers, Modi underscored the quintessential role of the pluralism of paths of-



Swami Sadananda Saraswati, Shankaracharya, Dwarka Sarada Peetham participates in 'Lokkhe Konthe Gita Path' event, at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, Sunday.

ferred by the Gita in Indian thoughts and culture. He stated, "The pluralism of paths that the Gita offers is quintessential to Indian thoughts and culture. In his message, Modi described the Srimad

Bhagavad Gita as a practical guide imparting immense wisdom and providing a path to lead a meaningful life.

He emphasised its role as a handbook for navigating life's challenges, stating, "It also

PM'S WORDS, PRAISE STRENGTHENED MY RESOLVE TO HELP OTHERS: WOMAN FARMER

Lucknow: Till a few days ago, Chanda Devi was just another farmer in a non-descript village in Uttar Pradesh. But one meeting has made her the inspiration for many. It was an interaction with the prime minister, and during it, a praise for her. It is a moment of a lifetime when one gets the opportunity to interact with a personality like him, said the 35-year-old as she recalled being commended by PM Narendra Modi for her oratory skills and confidence, and asked if she has ever thought of contesting elections. Devi was among several beneficiaries of government schemes who met Modi during his recent visit to his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi. "I had not even dreamt that I would one day meet the prime minister," said Devi, a resident of Rampur village.

serves as a handbook to navigate through the challenges of life."

Expressing confidence in the positive impact of the recitation, Modi remarked, "I am positive that the recitation of Srimad Bhagavad

Gita by such a huge gathering of people who have come together from different walks of life will not only boost social harmony but will also infuse energy into our nation's development journey."

Unemployment most burning issue in the country: Kharge

PTI

New Delhi

Unemployment is the most burning issue in the country, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Sunday.

In an apparent attack on the BJP-led Centre, Kharge said in a post on X in Hindi, "The youth of the country are asking where are the two crore jobs per year? Why is the process between recruitment exams and securing a job so complicated?"

"Unemployment is the most burning issue in the country," he said.

Quoting the PLFS data, the Congress president said rural unemployment in the country in the age group of 15-19 years stood at 8.3 per cent in the July 2022-June 2023 period, while urban unemployment for the same category in this period was higher at 13.8 pc.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge

'PRODUCTION ECONOMY' MODEL ENSURES GROWTH, DIGNITY OF LABOUR: RAHUL GANDHI

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that only a few close wealthy friends of the government were benefiting from India's economic growth. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "Economic growth without meaningful employment fosters inequality and undermines development. Presently, only a few close wealthy friends of the government are benefiting from India's economic growth, leaving common Indians grappling with unemployment and price rise." He said, "A democratic 'production economy' model ensures not just growth, but also high-quality jobs and dignity of labour, laying the foundation for sustainable economic development."



140 universities set up in India in last 5 years: MoE



PTI

New Delhi

A total of 140 private universities have been established across the country during the last five years with a maximum of them being set up in Gujarat followed by Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, according to the Ministry of Education statistics.

According to data accessed by PTI, 28 private universities have been established in Gujarat during the last five years while 15 universities were set up in Maharashtra.

Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka welcomed 14 and 10 universities respectively during the period. "Private University is established by an Act passed by the concerned state legislature and Notification issued by the concerned state government," a senior education ministry official said.

'Pro-active steps taken to control prices of food items'

PTI

New Delhi

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday noted that the Centre has taken many pro-active steps in last few years to control retail prices of food items and said the government will keep inflation under control while

ensuring country's economic growth.

He was addressing an event, organised by the ministry here, to celebrate National Consumers Day.

"Today, India has become the fastest growing large economy. Going forward, we will keep inflation under check and also ensure economic



Piyush Goyal

growth," Goyal said.

Retail inflation inched up to a three-month high

of 5.55 per cent in November driven by higher food prices, according to latest official data.

The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 4.87 per cent in October. Inflation had been declining since August when it touched 6.83 per cent.

On steps taken by the central government, Goyal highlighted that 140 new price monitoring centres have been set up to keep a close watch on wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities.

"Today, prices are being monitored at 550 (consuming) centres on a daily basis. This helps in insulating consumers from price rise," Goyal said.

Courtesy meet!



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav meets Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, in New Delhi, on Sunday.

PTI

Cabinet expansion in Madhya Pradesh today

First India Bureau

Bhopal

The first expansion of the Madhya Pradesh cabinet will take place on Monday. The swearing-in of ministers of CM Dr Mohan Yadav's Cabinet will take place today at 3:30 pm.

Official information about how many MLAs will be included in the cabinet has not been received, but the names of Praduman Singh Tomar, Edel Singh Kasana, Narayan Singh, Rakesh Shukla/Amrish Guddu, Pradeep Lariya, Rakesh Singh, Prahlad Patel, Kailash Vijayvargiya, Brijendra Pratap Singh, Riti Pathak, Uday Pratap



MP CM Dr Mohan Yadav

Singh, Manisha Singh, Archana Chitnis, Vicky, nephew of Dhruv Narayan, Vishwas Sarang, Rameshwaram Sharma, Krishna Gaur, Nagar Singh Chauhan and Nirmala Bhuria are doing the rounds. According to sources CM Yadav will meet the Governor today and hand him over the names of those who will take oath as ministers.

Cabinet reshuffle, two Ministers resign in Kerala

PTI

Thiruvananthapuram

Honouring the commitment made to all coalition partners, the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) on Sunday announced a cabinet reshuffle and said new ministers will take oath on December 29.

LDF convener EP Jayarajan told the media that Transport minister, Antony Raju of the Democratic Kerala Congress and Ports Minister Ahammad Devarkovil of the Indian National League have tendered their resignations.

New ministers will take oath on Dec 29.

Convicted in bank scam, Sunil Kedar disqualified from Maha Assembly

PTI

Mumbai

Sunil Kedar, a senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister, has been barred from serving in the state legislature after being convicted of theft of funds at the Nagpur District Central Cooperative Bank (NDCCB), stated a report in PTI.

According to a gazette notice issued on Saturday by the state assembly secretariat, Kedar is disqualified as an MLA as of the date of his conviction on December 22 under Article 19 (1) (e) of the Indian Constitution and Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the report added.

The order establishes that Kedar's Nagpur district constituency of Saoner has become vacant as of the date of his conviction.

According to the report, Kedar and five others were sentenced to five years in prison by a Nagpur magistrate's court for misappropriating cash at the NDCCB.



Sunil Kedar

PATWARI HOLDS MEETING WITH CONG WORKERS

Bhopal: Newly-appointed Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) President Jitu Patwari has started streamlining the state's cadre. In the process, Patwari has called a series of meetings with different segments of party workers. For the next three days, he would communicate with workers at party headquarters in Bhopal. Before it, Patwari after taking charge as State Congress president, met senior leaders of the party to seek their support. On Sunday, he met former Union Minister Suresh Pachouri.

MIMICRY ROW

I am sufferer...enduring insults: Vice Prez days after parody row

PTI

New Delhi

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday described himself as a "sufferer" and asserted that despite taking all affronts and insult, one must never deviate from the path of service.

"I am a sufferer. A sufferer knows how to withstand from inside. Take all affronts, all insults with one direction — we are in the service of Bharat Mata. You will have to show integrity and high standards," he said.



VC Jagdeep Dhankhar with Yogi Adityanath during the convocation ceremony of GBU, in Greater Noida, Sunday.

UTTAR PRADESH IS ROLE MODEL OF ROLE MODELS: VICE PRESIDENT DHANKHAR

Noida: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday heaped lavish praise on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for transformation of Uttar Pradesh in terms of investments, law and order. "I was amazed when Yogi Adityanath became the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh because law and order and development were both a major concern for the state," Dhankhar said. He said there was frustration among people then because those in power were not ready to deliberate on issues.

राजस्थान सरकार का उपक्रम

6 विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में
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कुल भूखण्ड 16

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2 राजसमन्द	4 मंडौर
2 जयपुर (ग्रामीण)	2 जयपुर (दक्षिण)

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Nation logs 656 new Covid-19 infections; active cases rise to 3,742

ANI
New Delhi

A total of 656 cases of Covid-19 sub-variant JN.1 and one death have been reported in the country for the past 24 hours, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Sunday. The total number of active cases of Covid-19 in the country was recorded at 3742.

Earlier on Saturday, a multifold spurt in fresh COVID cases was noted in India, with Kerala contributing the majority of those. A total of 423 cases were reported, of which 266 were from Kerala and 70 from neighbouring Karnataka, Union health ministry data showed.

Former AIIMS director and senior pulmonologist, Dr Randeep Guleria said that the new sub-



Hospitals make arrangements while taking precautionary measures in view of new COVID-19 sub-variant JN.1, in Samba.

variant of COVID is not causing severe infections and hospitalisation.

"It is more transmissible, it is spreading more rapidly, and it is gradually becoming a dominant variant. It is causing more infections but the data also suggests that it is not causing severe infections or hospitalisations. Most of the symptoms are predominantly in the upper airways," Dr Guleria said.

MAHA HEALTH OFFICIALS ASKED TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF VENTILATORS, O₂ CYLINDERS

In light of the emergence of the JN.1 Covid variant, Maharashtra Minister Sanjay Bansode instructed health officials to ensure the availability of ventilators, oxygen cylinders and other necessary equipment at government hospitals. In a meeting in Latur on Saturday, the minister said the health department must take precautionary measures and ensure the availability of necessary equipment and medicines at all government-run facilities. Collector Varsha Thakur-Ghugre, CEO Anmol Sagar, SP Somay Munde, municipal commissioner Babasaheb Manohare and other senior officials attended the meeting.

OTHER COVID HIGHLIGHTS

- Citizens, tourism industry need not panic: Union Minister Shripad Naik
- Surge in COVID cases prompts increased testing; samples sent for genome sequencing: Health expert
- Kerala records 128 new COVID-19 cases, one death
- Devotees offer special prayer at church in Ujjain to save people from new variant

TAMIL NADU RAINS

To support the flood-hit state

PMO takes stock of relief, rehabilitation efforts in TN

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The Prime Minister's Office on Sunday held a high-level meeting to take stock of the post-flood situation in Tamil Nadu and deliberated on various measures to support the state.

PMO officials have interacted with Tamil Nadu government functionaries to discuss relief and rehabilitation measures in the state, official sources said.

The deployment of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as well as help from armed forces, including helicopters, in case of need was also discussed.

Intense rains & heavy inundation, unseen in the recent times, have hit parts of the southern state. CM M K Stalin had met PM Narendra Modi to discuss relief initiatives.



A portion of a house collapsed in Mukkani village following incessant rainfall, in Thoothukudi. ANI

TAMIL NADU VILLAGE IN NILGIRIS TURNS ICELAND

Nilgiris: As North India shivered in the prevailing biting cold, a village deep down south saw the mercury drop below zero degrees Celsius. Thalakkundha village in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu reported a minimum temperature of zero degrees Celsius on Sunday. The freezing cold in the village, situated in the upper reaches of Tamil Nadu, sent the locals, unaccustomed to such extremely low temperatures, scrambling for the warmer indoors while throwing life out of gear.



WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Cold weather conditions prevail in most parts of Punjab, Haryana
- Minimum temperature at 7.6 Degrees Celsius in Delhi, AQI in 'severe' category
- Manimathar Dam reaches capacity, 1000 cubic feet water released into Thamirabarani River
- Drinking water pipelines washed away in floods in Tirunelveli: T.N. Chief Secy

Religion is not a method of worship but form of morality: Yogi

PTI
Noida

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said religion is not a method of worship, but a coordinated form of morality, moral values & duty.

Addressing the convocation ceremony of Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida, Adityanath invoked the teachings of Gautam Buddha, saying his life is not only inspirational but also shows a new path to the country and the world.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Adityanath said that Gautam Buddha's teachings inspire people to accept problems first in order to be able to find solutions and also to work as a team, adding that working under a single leader is more rewarding.

"Buddha gives the message of following the path of religion with wisdom and discretion and acquiring knowledge," he said.

Army pays tributes to fallen soldiers as search ops on



Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi lays a wreath over the mortal remains of the four army personnel who lost their lives in the recent Rajouri terrorist attack, on Sunday. ANI

First India Bureau
New Delhi

CENTRE NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE OF TERRORISM IN J&K: FAROOQ ABDULLAH

Jammu: Terrorism is alive in Jammu and Kashmir and it cannot be finished by the use of military or police, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said on Sunday, urging the Centre to find ways to address the root cause of the menace. The former CM said the common people should also understand the futility of the continued bloodshed as innocents are losing their lives to terrorism. Abdullah slammed the BJP over its claims of normalcy in J&K.



ern Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi led the wreath-laying ceremony of Naik Birender Singh, Naik Karan Kumar, rifle-

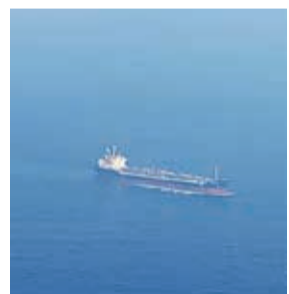
man Gautam Kumar and rifleman Chandan Kumar at a military camp where their mortal remains were shifted.

Navy begins probe into attack on merchant vessel

PTI
New Delhi

The Indian Navy has launched an investigation into a suspected drone strike on a Mangalore-bound cargo vessel off India's west coast in the Arabian sea even as the merchant ship is on its way to Mumbai, officials familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The Navy and the Indian Coast Guard swung into action by deploying their assets including a warship and maritime patrol aircraft soon after the



Indian Coast Guard Ship Vikram escorting MV Chem Pluto in Arabian Sea.

UK Maritime Trade Operations, or UKMTO, reported the drone "attack" on MV Chem Pluto that has around 20 Indian crew members.

Man sets sister-in-law on fire in MP's Ratlam; held

PTI
Ratlam

A 33-year-old woman was set on fire allegedly by her brother-in-law in broad daylight in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh, police said on Sunday.

The police have arrested the accused, Suresh (40), for the murder that occurred at Dhodhar village of Ratlam district on Saturday, an official said. The victim was killed on the spot, SP Rahul Kumar Lodha said.

Merry Christmas



Sumit Singh Gandhi, Founder of the NGO Sounds of Silence Foundation, dressed as Santa Claus, distributes gifts among the children during the celebration on Christmas eve, in Mumbai on Sunday. ANI



MARKET FLUCTUATIONS ARE NORMAL

Recession in stock market a natural process & investors should not panic



Vimal Kothari

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

The boom that has been going on in the Indian stock markets for the last seven weeks has finally stopped once again. The pressure in the market increased due to the rising figures of Corona and the international fear arising from it. In a single day, the stock market took a dive of about 1,000 points, defusing the notion of a long bullish trend. Experts are reconsidering their opinion regarding bullishness in the market based on their data, but I clearly believe that bullishness and recession are natural processes, and investors should not

panic, nor should one take any decision under stress.

Even on technical grounds, some improvement in market is being considered, which once again indicates that 2024 will prove a good year for stock market, provided the market continues to get the protection of government policies.

Among those who left this market as soon as the bullish environment changed, name of foreign institutional investors, i.e., FIIs, is on top. FIIs, who were buying in Indian markets, started selling again last week and sold shares worth Rs 9093.99 crore, while do-



mestic institutional investors, i.e., DIIs, responded to selling by FIIs by buying shares worth Rs 12276.19 crore.

There was a declining trend in the week ending December 22, and biggest reason is the fear of Corona spreading again and the all-around increase in prices due to FIIs selling and excessive

buying in the market.

But, certainly, only DII is not needed to respond to FII sales, because Indian investors are still the basis of the rise of the Indian stock market, whose crores of rupees are invested in the market every month through Systematic Investment Plans i.e. SIPs. Thus it is clear that there is bullishness

ahead in the market, even if the pace slows down for some time. Technical experts are also expecting a further rise in the market but, it is also estimated that if there is a slight decline in the market then it will widen the base of new rise.

According to the data, last week there was a decline of 376.79 points in BSE index and BSE index slipped from 71483.75 points to close at 71106.96 points, while NSE index declined by 107.25 points and NSE Nifty index declined from 21456.65 points to 21349.40. Similarly, there was a slight decline

in midcap and smallcap indices. Another special thing was that BSE and NSE index again broke their highest levels and also reached new records.

Traders say that there is an improving trend in the market, which will continue with some ups and downs. This week, there is also the monthly cut of the futures market on December 28, and so there are fewer chances of any particular bullishness. At present, traders should invest in IDFC, IDFC First Bank, IBERIAL, HFCL, Jain Irrigation, SW Solar, Chambal Fertilizers etc. There is an improving trend in the

shares of selected companies, but even considered good shares may fall.

This week, the IPO of Innova Cptab Limited will be available on the main board, while on the SME platform, IPOs of six companies including Jaipur's AIK Pipes and Polymers will be available. Among the new IPO applications coming to SEBI this week, three companies have presented their new draft herring prospectus-DRHP.

(This is the personal opinion of the author. The author, his family members and acquaintances may have investments in the companies mentioned in the article.)

India Women vs Australia Women Test With a historic eight-wicket win over Australia in Mumbai

India record 1st Women's Test win

First India Bureau
Mumbai

It was a befitting end to India Women's first 'home season' of Test cricket in 28 years as they recorded a historic maiden victory over a venerable Australia in the one-off Test here on Sunday.

On the final day, India produced their best both with the ball and bat to thwart a spirited Australian resurgence, first sparking a collapse in the visitors' ranks to snaffle the remaining five wickets for 28 and then knocking off a meagre target of 75 without much ado to script an eight-wicket win.



India players Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana.



Indian players pose with the trophy after winning the one-off Test cricket match against Australia, in Mumbai on Sunday.



India Women's skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and players celebrate after winning the Only Test match by 8 wickets against Australia Women, at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday.

"TEST MATCHES GIVE A DIFFERENT VIBE....": INDIA'S SNEH RANA

Mumbai: The Indian all-rounder Sneh Rana said that the Test matches give a different vibe to the team and the love and support Indian team has received over last 15 days is amazing and will attract a lot of young women to the game. "It feels amazing, standing here receiving this award, a fantastic win by our team. No one called me night-watchman because I can bat. First time batting with Smriti and we were enjoying each others' company. Catch drops are part of the match. Everyone wants to contribute. Even I can drop catches, so I do not feel bad. I try to come back harder. Test matches are taking place in India after a long time, Test match gives a different vibe," said Sneh.



HARMANPREET 2ND AFTER MITHALI RAJ

With a historic 8-wicket win over Australia, Harmanpreet Kaur also became just the second Indian woman after Mithali Raj to win multiple Tests as captain. IPL team Rajasthan Royals took to social media to pay a special tribute to Harmanpreet Kaur and Co following the huge achievement. RR posted a picture of the win with the caption - "Toota hai Australia ka ghamand (Australia's pride is broken)".



The event marked a historic moment as it featured 3 power games, showcasing the prowess of athletes from Rajasthan.

Desert Cup: Lakhan is overall champion

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Ajmer's Padam Lakhan emerged as the overall champion in the recently concluded Desert Cup, a bodybuilding extravaganza held in Jaipur.

In the competitive bodybuilding category, Ajmer's dominance was evident with Padam Lakhan clinching the top spot as the overall champion. Aniket Tank from Ajmer secured the runner-up position, while

Saurabh of Jodhpur claimed the third spot.

The awards ceremony witnessed the presence of Rajasthan Body Building Association President Naveen Yadav and Organizing Secretary Sanjesh Agrawal. Atul of Ajmer triumphed in the 60 kg category & Naushad of Hanumangarh secured second place.

In the 70 kg category, Saurabh from Jodhpur emerged victorious, with Mahfooz from Jaipur as the runner-up.

Jaismine, Arundhati ease into quarters at Nat'l Boxing C'ships



Jaismine in action at the Women's National Boxing Championships.

PTI
Greater Noida

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Jaismine (60kg) and former youth world champion Arundhati Choudhary (66kg) notched up identical 5-0 wins to progress to the quarterfinals of the Women's National Boxing Championships here on Sunday.

Representing SSCB, Jaismine showcased her experience in securing a

commanding 5-0 victory over Thongam Kunjarani Devi of Manipur in the round of 16 bout to set up a clash with Poonam Kaithwas of Maharashtra in the quarterfinals.

Arundhati, on the other hand, went head to head against Amita of All India Police. She displayed her skillset and power-packed punches to secure a 5-0 victory. The boxer now will be up against Komalpreet Kaur of Punjab in the quarterfinals.

"We are trained to move on quickly from heartbreaks"

PTI
Centurion

A professional sports person is immune to heartbreaks and is trained to move on quickly towards the impending challenge, India head coach Rahul Dravid on Sunday de-

tailed how Rohit Sharma's men coped with the heartbreaking World Cup final defeat to Australia.

Since being part of that fateful November 19, KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Shreyas Iyer had appeared in a few white ball games, but the rest will

be playing an international match for the first time in five weeks.

"It was heartbreaking but you have to move on quickly in international cricket as we now have another important series coming up and all these series count towards try-

ing to qualify for another ICC event in 2025," he spoke about focusing on the new challenge.

The Wall' knew that it was a huge heartbreak but he was equally aware that carrying the baggage of that defeat for too long could be problematic.



Israel Bombs Northern Gaza

Palestinians say 166 killed in 24 hours



Palestinians look at the destruction after an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip on Sunday.



ANI

Agencies
Jerusalem

Israel bombed areas of Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip overnight,

with fighting throughout Sunday morning, residents and Palestinian media said, as Gaza health authorities and the Israeli military both announced

mounting death tolls. Israel says it has achieved almost complete operational control over northern Gaza and is preparing to expand a ground

offensive against Hamas militants to other areas. A Gaza health ministry spokesman said on Sunday 166 Palestinians had been killed in the past 24

hours, taking the total Palestinian death toll to 20,424. Tens of thousands have been wounded, with many bodies believed trapped under rubble.

CRUCIAL READ

Nepal to send special souvenirs for Ram Mandir inauguration

Kathmandu: Nepal will send special souvenirs consisting of various types of jewellery, utensils, clothes and sweets for the Ram Mandir's inauguration ceremony in Ayodhya next month. A Janakpurdharm-Ayodhyadharm journey will be carried out to deliver the souvenirs, as per media.

12 dead, 39 injured in Indonesia's nickel-processing plant

Jakarta: At least 12 people were killed and 39 injured in eastern Indonesia on Sunday after an explosion at a Chinese-funded nickel-processing plant, an industrial park official said. "The current number of victims is 51 people. 12 people died in the incident," spokesperson said.

"Indian organisations at high risk of cyber attacks"

PTI
New Delhi

Cyber risks are cited as the biggest threat faced by Indian organisations with 38 per cent of respondents feeling highly or extremely exposed to it, says a survey.

With this, cybersecurity has jumped two spots from number three to number one on the risk radar when compared to the 2022 Global Risk Survey, the PwC's 2023 Global Risk Survey- India edition stated. PwC said the final results of the survey are based on 3,910 survey responses from Business and Risk Management leaders (CEO, board, risk management, operations, technology, finance, audit) across 67 territories



providing their views on the status and direction of risk in their organisation. To address the challenges, Indian organisations are making bold investments in cybersecurity with over half of the respondents planning to invest in cybersecurity tools (55%) and AI, machine learning and automation technologies (55 per cent) in the next 1-3 years.

TO BACK THESE INVESTMENTS

71% of Indian organisations are gathering and analysing cybersecurity and IT data for risk management and opportunity identification. Globally 61% of the organisations are doing the same. The survey also showed that 99% of Indian business leaders are confident their organisation can balance growth with managing risk effectively.

Minors on plane grounded in France apply for asylum: Report

Agencies
New Delhi

Ten Indian passengers, including unaccompanied minors, who are among the 303 people on a Nicaragua-bound plane that was grounded in France have applied for asylum, a source close to the matter said.

The plane, Romania-based Legend Airlines, has been held at Vetry airport, around 150 kilometres east of Paris, since Thursday after it arrived in Dubai. The flight was grounded after officials received an anonymous tip-off that it was carrying potential victims of human trafficking.

There were 11 unaccompanied minors on board the Airbus A340



This photograph taken on December 23, 2023, shows the Airbus A340 which was grounded over suspected "human trafficking" at Vetry airport, north-eastern France.

jet, the Paris prosecutor's office said. Six of them have shown interest in applying for asylum, Aureore Opyrchal, a lawyer appointed to represent some of the passengers said. In the meantime, the Paris prosecutor's office is actively investigating a suspected case of human trafficking.

FRENCH JUDGE TO DECIDE ON EXTENDING STAY OF 303 PASSENGERS OF GROUNDED FLIGHT

The 303 passengers, mostly Indians, of a plane once suspected "human trafficking", are set to appear before a judge on December 24 at the airport to decide on their continued detention. Hearings before a judge of freedoms and detention will begin this Sunday to decide whether or not to keep in the waiting area of the airport the passengers of the flight, BFM TV, a French news reported. Vetry airport, in Marne, 150 km east of Paris, is preparing to become a courtroom. The airport mostly serves budget airlines.

British home secy under fire for making joke on date rape drug

London: British Home Secretary James Cleverly was under fire Sunday for joking about date rape just hours after announcing plans to crack down on what he had dubbed a "perverse" offence. The drug, colloquially known as a roofie makes the subject drowsy.

Philippines: 2 killed as military truck rams into shoppers

Manila: Two people were killed and three others injured after a man took control of a parked military truck and rammed into shoppers outside a market in Davao City in the southern Philippines on Sunday, police said. The suspect has been held & is in custody and injured ones are undergoing treatment.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A Merry Christmas to all of us! May your holidays and your life sparkle with joy and laughter!
DR JACDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

New Cabinet soon, to have young and seasoned faces

Rajasthan, which has 200 assembly seats, can have a max 30 ministers

First India Bureau
Jaipur

After the Cabinet formation in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the first Cabinet expansion in Rajasthan is expected to take place in a couple of days and the inductees will be a mix of young and experienced leaders.

According to sources in the BJP, the swearing-in ceremony is likely to be held on December 27, but there is no official confirmation about it yet. New ministers of the Bhajan Lal government will take oath at the Raj



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being felicitated by the 10-member delegation of Sanyukt Valmiki & Sanitation Workers' Union at OTS in Jaipur on Sunday. They also demanded the recruitment of sanitation workers from the CM.

Bhavan. Swearing-in ceremony of more than a dozen ministers will take place. The Raj Bhavan has started preparations for the swearing-in ceremony.

First-time MLA

Bhajan Lal Sharma was sworn-in as the Chief Minister earlier this month along with Deputy CMs Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa. Rajasthan, which has 200 assembly seats, can

MINS WILL BE FROM DIFF PARTS OF RAJ

CM BL Sharma recently met BJP Prez JP Nadda, Union Home Min Amit Shah & others in Delhi, & it is believed that he discussed Cabinet expansion. Since CM & his 2 deputies were elected as MLAs from constituencies in Jaipur dist, it is expected that Mins will be from other parts of Raj. Sharma represents Sanganeer in Assembly, Diya Kumar and Bairwa are MLAs from Vidhyadhar Nagar & Dudu, respectively.

have a maximum of 30 ministers, including the CM. "The first expansion of the Cabinet is expected in a few days and around 15 MLAs are likely to be inducted," said a BJP leader.

DGP: Police to act sternly against those making fake mark-sheets

Shivendra Parmar
Jaipur

Following instructions of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, DGP Umesh Mishra has given orders to take strict action against all the persons associated with the gang making fake degrees and mark-sheets. DGP Mishra said that the police headquarters is keeping a strict vigil on the people associated with these gangs. Additional DGP Crime Dinesh MN will monitor it. This team will keep an eye on the



universities and educational institutions making fake degrees and mark-sheets in the state and outside. He has instructed all police officers to probe the complaints and take prompt action. Mishra said that recently, Jodhpur West District Police arrested Naresh Prajapat, son of Ashok Kumar, the mastermind of the gang, who gave fake mark-sheets of different courses of various universities from Jodhpur. A report was lodged against the accused by AK Gupta, the director of a school located at Kudi Bhagatasani police station.

CM at Radha Soami Satsang Beas



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma attended the 'Satsang' of Radha Soami Beas Dera chief Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon and sought his blessings at Radha Soami Satsang Beas located at Bilwa in Jaipur on Sunday. Both the leaders discussed various topics including spirituality, social values, evils prevalent in the society etc during the meeting. MP Ramcharan Bohra and other public representatives were also present on the occasion.

LS Polls 2024: Two-day training programme for DEO/RO held in Delhi

Training is being given at IIIDEM located at the premises of ECI

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In a run-up to the Lok Sabha General Election-2024, two-day training of all DEO/RO was held in Delhi. The training programme continues in three phases. Training is being given at India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management.



The first phase was completed on December 21-22 and the next phase will take place on December 26-27. The third and final phase will be held on December 28-29.

PRAVEEN GUPTA, CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said officers are being provided training in three different phases.

Country has established new dimensions of progress under PM Modi's leadership: Diya

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Deputy Chief Minister, Diya Kumari participated in the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra in her assembly constituency, Vidhyadhar Nagar. These yatras were organised at 'Sun and Moon' and 'Dadi Ka Phatak' on Sikar Road. She distributed approved loan cheques to the beneficiaries of 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana.'



Diya Kumari visits stalls during the Bharat Sankalp Yatra at Sun & Moon Tower and also Benar Road in Vidhyadhar Nagar area of Jaipur on Sunday.

She said that through the development journey of last 9 years, the country has achieved new dimensions of progress. It is a moment of pride for all of us that together we are moving forward on the path of developed India through Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra. She also visited 'Kshatriya Pratibha Samman' ceremony organised at Civil Lines, & SS Jain Subodh School for science brainstorming session.

MLA 'misbehaves' with woman SDM, RAS Assn writes to CM

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Irrked over misbehaviour with a female SDM by an MLA of the ruling party, the RAS Association has written a letter to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. Association President Gaurav Bajad has written a letter to the CM objecting to the alleged indecent behavior of BJP MLA Lalaram Bairwa with SDM Banera, Shahpura Neha Chhipa. "Shahpura MLA mis-

behaved while threatening SDM (Sub-Divisional Magistrate). This type of behavior with women officers is indecent. You should provide proper instructions regarding the behaviour done with SDM so that this type of incident does not recur in the future. All the officers working in the field should work while feeling safe," the letter mentioned.

A video of the incident had gone viral on social media.

BJP will soon form a small Cabinet taking all sections along, says BJP State Prez Joshi

Sunil Sihag
Sri Ganganagar

BJP State President CP Joshi was on a tour to Sri Ganganagar on Sunday for the Sri Karanpur Assembly election on Sunday and left for BJP meetings in Padampur and other nearby areas.

"BJP is a disciplined party. CM was sworn in. A Cabinet will also be formed soon. A small Cabinet will be formed and then there will be



CP Joshi during a public meeting in support of BJP candidate, Surendrapal TT at Kesrisinghpur in Sri Karanpur on Sunday. Nihal Chand Meghwal, CR Chaudhary, Jaideep Biyani, Gunveer Singh Barad, Vishwanath Meghwal, Vijendra Poonia, Priyanka Balan, Sharanpal Singh & others were present.

expansion. BJP will form the Cabinet by taking every section along,"

he said. Joshi said that every election is important for

the party. "Congress adopted many tactics in the elections. In 2018, an attempt was made to mislead the public. You can fool the people once, or twice, but you can't fool them all the time. People believed in Modi's guarantee instead of their guarantee," he said.

Joshi will address the booth conference today & would leave for Jaipur after addressing the 'Kisan Samvad' programme in Padampur.

Courtesy Meet



Rajendra Rathore called upon Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the latter's residence in New Delhi on Sunday. Rathore was accompanied by his son, Parakram Rathore, and Churu MLA Harlal Saharan. It was their courtesy meeting with the Defence Minister. The leaders discussed the political developments in Rajasthan.

UNION MINISTER IN JAISALMER

Shekhawat attends Bharat Sankalp Yatra, inaugurates schemes worth ₹ 16.52 crore

Rajendra Soni
Ramdevra

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Sunday, organised an event in the Chowk of Ramdevra. He participated in the one-day programme of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra and inaugurated schemes worth Rs 16 crore 52 lakh.

Hundreds of BJP workers and officials from many places including Ramdevra, Pokaran, Nachana, and Phalsund



GS Shekhawat offers prayers at the 'samadhi' of local deity Baba Ramdev at the famous Runicha Dham at Ramdevra in Jaisalmer district on Sunday.

participated in the programme organised at the Gram Panchayat, Chowk. Many public representa-

tives and officials, including Pokaran MLA Mahant Pratap Puri Maharaj, participated in the

programme. In his address, Shekhawat expressed gratitude to the villagers for helping the BJP form government in Rajasthan with an overwhelming majority. "Villagers should get the benefits of government schemes. This is the aim of BJP," he said

programme. In his address, Shekhawat expressed gratitude to the villagers for helping

ing the BJP form government in Rajasthan with an overwhelming majority. "Villagers should get the benefits of government schemes. This is the aim of BJP," he said, giving information about various schemes of the Central government.

Four vehicles deployed for garbage collection under Ramdevra Gram Panchayat Dara Sanitation Scheme, were flagged off by Shekhawat. He expressed his gratitude for the work of Ramdevra Sarpanch, Samander Singh Tanwar.

'Conman' Satish Katta held by Jaipur police, evaded arrest for 6 years

Katta had been evading arrest for six years. There were six standing warrants against him

Satyanarayan Sharma
Jaipur

In a breakthrough, Jaipur police have arrested notorious conman Satish Katta (68).

He was apprehended by Jawahar Circle SHO Dalbir Singh. Katta had been evading arrest for six years. There were six standing warrants against him.

His record includes



Satish Katta

Satish Katta was apprehended by Jawahar Circle SHO Dalbir Singh. His record includes cases of cheating and fraud in various police stations in the city. Cops are currently investigating the allegations against Satish Katta.

cases of cheating and fraud in various police stations in the city.

The relentless pursuit by the police finally paid off as they successfully located and arrested Katta. The arrest follows extensive efforts by Jawa-

har Circle police station incharge Dalbir Singh, who had been working tirelessly to nab the accused. The Jawahar Circle police station is currently investigating the allegations against Satish Katta.



BLISSFUL CELEBRATIONS!

The festive season of Christmas, make the most of your time at home by delving into the world of novels. Embrace the warmth of the season by curling up with a captivating book, allowing the magic of storytelling. P11



Light UP
THE Night

Merry Christmas

In the tapestry of life, Christmas emerges as a vibrant thread, weaving together moments of joy, love, and cherished traditions. City First wishes you a Merry Christmas as we all embrace the magic of giving, the warmth of togetherness, and the beauty of shared moments.



Tripti Mahawar

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As the holiday season descends upon us, it's time to deck the halls and your wardrobe for the most wonderful time of the year. Christmas is not just about festive decor and delectable treats; it's an occasion to don your most fabulous outfits and celebrate in style with friends. Start with a timeless Christmas sweater, a cozy yet chic option. Opt for a modern twist with subtle embellishments, playful patterns, or even a touch of metallic thread. Pair it with slim-fit jeans or a stylish skirt for a casual yet sophisticated look.

sequins take center stage. Accessorize thoughtfully to complete your festive look. Statement earrings, a bold clutch, or a festive scarf can add a playful touch to your outfit. Consider incorporating accessories with holiday motifs like snowflakes or holly for an extra festive vibe. Opt for footwear that strikes the right balance between comfort and style. Ankle boots, stylish loafers, or embellished flats are perfect for a casual get-together with friends. If you're feeling a bit more glam, a pair of heeled boots or velvet pumps can add that extra flair.



Velvet exudes luxury and warmth, making it an ideal fabric for the festive season. A velvet dress or blazer adds a touch of opulence to your ensemble. Choose rich, jewel-toned colors like emerald green, burgundy, or deep blue for

This Christmas, let your style shine as brightly as the holiday lights. Whether you're attending a festive brunch or an evening soiree, these outfit ideas will have you looking fabulous while spreading the joy of the season with your nearest and dearest. Cheers to a stylish and memorable Christmas celebration!



JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets Navya Singh Shekhawat & Khushi Vijay

by MUKESH KIRADOO



Tanu, Mansha, Samikhsha, Gaurav Gaur, Naina, Alfridoush, Pihu, Rishika, Malhari and Kavita

In an extravagant affair, supermodels Khushi Vijay and Navya Singh Shekhawat celebrated their grand birthdays at El Dorado, Jaipur on Saturday. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra added a touch of congratulatory grace as he extended his wishes for abundant joy and success to the birthday girls. The occasion was further adorned by the attendance of Gaurav Gaur, Director Elite Miss

Rajasthan, who contributed to making the evening even more remarkable. The celebration, attended by friends and fellow supermodels from the pageant industry, unfolded with a delightful cake-cutting ceremony followed by a harmonious blend of music and jubilation.



Birthday beauties Navya Singh Shekhawat & Khushi Vijay

FROZEN FANTASIA!

La Venezia Mansarovar's latest sensation unfolded on Saturday as the rooftop hosted a breathtaking frozen runway fashion show, featuring the artistic creations of renowned designers Kush, Studio Surbhi, and Poroh. The event, impeccably curated by the esteemed fashion director Abhimanyu Singh Tomar, turned the night into a dazzling spectacle. Against the picturesque aqua and European backdrop of La Venezia, attendees, including business magnates, fashionistas, designers, and influencers, witnessed a fusion of exquisite fashion, delectable cuisine, and classy cocktails. The vibrant atmosphere was further amplified by the energetic tunes of celebrity DJ Saahil Arya, transforming the night into a lively celebration. Amidst the laughter, fun, and indulgence, attendees forged ever-lasting memories, solidifying La Venezia Mansarovar as the go-to destination for glamour and entertainment.



(L-R) Hema Harchandani, Neetika Godha, Suruchi Singhal, Yashika Gupta, Neeta, Abhimanyu Tomar, Ruchi Prabhakar, Meha Mahna and Shalini



A still from the stunning fashion sequence



(L-R) Rohit Kamra, Abhimanyu Tomar, Jennifer Ephraim and Ishan Ubroi

by SANTOSH SHARMA

The air was filled with excitement as Hidden Treasures and Envelop came together to present a mesmerizing celebration of Christmas spirit at the highly anticipated Winter Flea Festival at Diggi Palace. On its day one, the meticulously curated event lived up to everything it promised- to immerse visitors in a world of joy, wonder, and the true essence of vocal for local. On Saturday, Jaipurites came together with friends and family to revel in the magic of the holiday season, with over 100 pop-ups and a remarkable lineup of artists. Everyone was enchanted by the ethereal moments of the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The infectious energy of the resident DJ Indomafia translated to unapologetic dancing feet of everyone present. And the most awaited, soul-stirring melodies of The Yellow Diary, filled the air with pure joy and holiday cheer.

Magical haven at winter flea!



But that was not all! The Winter Flea Festival also featured the breathtaking performance of one of the world's most famous ballets - The Nutcracker.

SPARKLING TRIUMPH

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Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS), the largest of its kind in Jaipur, is set to conclude on Monday evening after a successful three-day run at the Novotel Jaipur Convention Center. The event attracted not only a significant local audience but also successfully connected jewellers from other cities, witnessing substantial participation from foreign buyers. The Pink Club, dedicated to business inquiries, reported satisfactory engagement, reinforcing the event's success. Approximately 15 thousand visitors were expected on Sunday, marking a day significant for wedding jewellery enthusiasts. The positive business outcomes prompted participants to express their desire to join future JJS shows. The current edition saw around 39 thousand entries, with over 500 being NRIs. Special efforts were made to include Indian jewellers, leading to increased participation from cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Amritsar. Despite global economic challenges, the gem and jewellery industry showcased resilience, with the demand for gems and jewellery in the Indian market compensating for export

shortfalls. The organizers reported positive footfall, projecting business success in line with expectations. The theme of this year's JJS, 'Emerald... Your Stone, Your Story,' focused on promoting emeralds, contributing to an anticipated 20 percent increase in emerald sales compared to the previous year. The Pink Club, initiated last year to boost business, expanded to 80 booths this year, indicating a move towards B-2-B interactions in future editions. The event's success was further underscored by a waiting list of around 300 booths, emphasizing the enduring appeal and business potential of JJS.

by MUKESH KIRADOO



Gopal Kumar, Gemfields India Head receiving memento from JJS Brand Ambassador, Pooja Batra, as others applaud



Beautiful necklace with PM Narendra Modi's pendant



Rose Quartz Flamingos



Panchmukhi Ruby Shivaling



Lord Ganesha's idol in green aventurine stone



Ram Temple silver replica shining at JJS



Ho, ho, ho, it's Christmas!

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

The king of irony narrates to us the chronicle of Jim and Della who sacrifice their greatest treasures to buy the other one a gift. In the end, even though the gifts cease to have any material worth, it symbolises unconditional love.

O. Henry



Home alone? Looking for things to do? Bookworms and movie buffs, it's time to shine. City First offers you the best reasons to never leave the couch this winter...



Mitali Dusad

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THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN



Packed with memorable characters, magic and mischief, the narrator rediscovers himself and a very special loved one James while on his way to Los Angeles to meet his girlfriend for Christmas.

David Baldacci

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

An obstinate hoarder Ebenezer Scrooge, when visited by his old companion Jacob Marley embarks upon a journey, wherein he encounters the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present, and Christmas yet to come. These fictional characters transcend to emerge as embodiments of charity, hope and the spirit of Christmas.



Charles Dickens

During the festive season of Christmas, make the most of your time at home by delving into the world of novels. Embrace the warmth of the season by curling up with a captivating book, allowing the magic of storytelling to transport you to different realms. Elevate the experience by involving friends and family in a communal reading session. Whether it's the crackling fireplace or twinkling lights, a good book can enhance joy of togetherness, turning your holiday into a special occasion filled with shared tales & laughter.

CHRISTMAS LETTERS

While Katherine O'Connor romanticises Christmas through her letters, Dr. Wynn Jeffries treats Christmas as a farce. As they argue with each other, they understand the true meaning of Christmas.

Debbie Macomber



DID YOU KNOW?

The word Christmas comes from "Cristes Maesse", an early English phrase that means "Mass of Christ".

Alabama was the first state to recognise Christmas as an official holiday. The tradition began in 1836.

After A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens wrote several other Christmas stories, one each year, but none was as successful as the original.

During the ancient 12-day Christmas celebration, the log burned was called the "Yule log". Sometimes, a piece of the Yule log would be kept to kindle the fire the following winter, to ensure that good luck was carried on from year to year. The Yule log custom was handed down from the Druids.



SKIPPING CHRISTMAS



As Luther and Nora decide to set sail for a Caribbean Cruise and abandon the idea of doing anything mainstream, little do they realise that skipping Christmas may not be half as easy as it seems.

John Grisham

LITTLE WOMEN

Set in the backdrop of 19th century England and the UTILE WOMEN World War, this is a captivating story of four March sisters, who face the banalities of life with grace. During Christmas, Jo, Beth, Amy and Meg learn to find solace not in expensive gifts, but in each other's company.

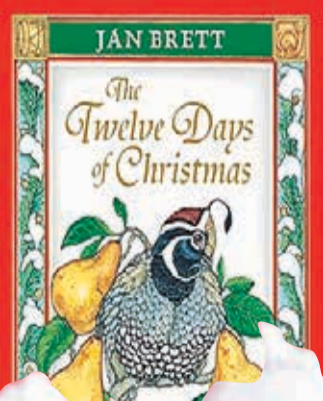
Louisa May Alcott



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

A close inspection of the novel will ensure an insight into not the expensive gifts exchanged but the various emotions expressing the unconditional love that is the spirit of Christmas.

Jan Brett



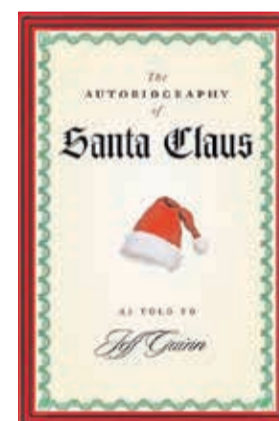
THE CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE CHRISTMAS SOUL

The Chicken Soup is an exciting collection of 121 short stories which rekindle our lost innocence. With various stories of baby Jesus, the holiday spirit, and holiday traditions, the book urges us to believe in the triumph of good over evil in a world so plagued with avarice and cynicism.

Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Amy Newmark



THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SANTA CLAUS



An enthralling holiday tale, it presents a definite amalgamation of the sound historical knowledge and the legend and who better for it than Saint Nicholas himself? The stories entail a journey through 17 centuries of X-mas.

Jeff Guin

ON STRIKE FOR CHRISTMAS

The story opens with Joy and Laura and the rest of their knitting group forsaking the tremendous work that preparing for Christmas includes, leaving their husbands and families to execute the same. However, as more women join the cause, they slowly confront larger questions regarding their marriage and ignites the Christmas spirit which binds one and all.



Sheila Roberts

Merry Christmas

DURING THE DAY!



MUKESH KIRADOO

Experience the magic of the season at the newly opened Fairfield by Marriott, Jaipur, featuring the town's largest Jingle Bell-shaped Christmas Tree, soaring to 23 feet! Revel in the holiday spirit as the tree graces the hotel, transforming it into a winter wonderland. Join the joyful celebration at the rooftop Twenty One Bar and Cafe, nestled against the scenic Aravalli Hills. Capture the enchanting moment and enjoy a 15% discount at the restaurant by sharing your tree snapshot on Instagram.

MUKESH KIRADOO



In a picturesque celebration, Haryana BJP MLA Bhavya Bishnoi and IAS officer Pari Bishnoi were warmly received in Pushkar on Saturday. The newlyweds, who recently tied the knot in Udaipur, hosted a reception at Sand Art Park, where attendees captured memories through photographs. Meanwhile, Bhavya's parents, Kuldeep and Renuka Bishnoi, offered prayers at Pushkar Sarovar's ghat. The grandeur of the event attracted a large crowd, setting the stage for upcoming receptions in Delhi and Adampur. The couple's engagement and wedding festivities have garnered widespread attention and social media acclaim. Renowned sand artist Ajay Rawat will welcome them with special sand art at Sand Arts Porc.



The Winter Carnival 2023 at British International School in Jaipur was a resounding success, captivating attendees with a plethora of activities. The event featured brain-teasing quizzes, an art corner, bouncy castle, and games for children, complemented by scrumptious delicacies from a master chef. Santa Claus and Mickey Mouse added a festive touch, while a lively DJ and musical artists elevated the cultural experience. The enthusiastic participation of parents marked the day as memorable, leaving attendees with smiles and dreamy eyes. The school's efforts were praised for encouraging students to explore new horizons and connect with a vibrant community. The management expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants.



In a mesmerizing celebration of 'Maharashtra Day' at Udaipur's Shilpgram Festival, artists from India and abroad showcased Maharashtra's vibrant culture. The 'Lok Jhankar' segment featured captivating Marathi folk dances, including the enchanting 'Lavani' and a presentation on 'Shivaji Maharaj.' Thousands of spectators were enthralled, deepening their appreciation for Maharashtra's cultural heritage. The event, held on Saturday evening, not only mesmerized the audience but also fostered cultural awareness among diverse attendees from the Mewar region and beyond.

Miles of Smiles!



(L-R) Balvinder Valia, Yogesh Mishra, Raghuveer Singh Shekhawat & Pt Suresh Mishra flagging off the marathon

City First
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In a vibrant display of youthful energy, over three thousand children took to the streets of Jaipur for the 10th Kids Marathon, a prelude to the upcoming AU Jaipur Marathon on February 4, 2024. Organised by AU Jaipur Marathon and Ryan International School, the event saw children from various age groups participating enthusiastically in four categories, covering distances from 1 km to 4 km.

Mukesh Mishra, CEO of AU Jaipur Marathon,



Enthusiastic children during the event

highlighted the collaboration with NGOs and schools, offering free entry to Kids Marathon participants in the upcoming major marathon. The event was graced by prominent figures, including Ryan International

Group Chairman Dr Augustine Francis Pinto and Managing Director Dr Grace Pinto. Pandit Suresh Mishra and Yogesh Mishra, Director Miss Rajasthan were also present to make the occasion more memorable.

GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Abhishek Srivastava of the First India family, as he reached the former's residence to seek blessings on the occasion of his birthday on Saturday.

CELEBRATIONS!



MAIM KHAN

In a splendid display of festive grandeur, ITC Rajputana played host to a magical Christmas celebration on Saturday. The highlight of this year's festivities was the exquisite Christmas tree adorned with meticulously handcrafted, eco-friendly decorations. Showcasing an array of clay-crafted gift boxes, toys, flowers, ribbons, and eco-conscious decorative lights, the tree epitomized a perfect harmony. During this, Jai Shree Periwal School students' vibrant paintings adorned the ITC gallery, providing a platform for local talent. GM Deependra Rana actively engaged in heartwarming interactions with the NGO children, embodying the true spirit of this Christmas season with heartfelt Merry Christmas wishes to all.

SUMIT SARASWAT



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Under the starlit canopy of Christmas Eve, the Shoolbred Memorial Church in Beawar emerged as a radiant beacon, adorned with a resplendent illumination that captivated the soul. A symbol of timeless grace and spiritual heritage, this architectural gem stands as the inaugural 'Mother Church' of Rajasthan, a testament to its historical significance since its establishment in 1859. As the night unfolded, the gentle glow invited the townsfolk to partake in a moment of enchantment, capturing the festive spirit.

Empowering Research

City First
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Jaipur National University (JNU) recently hosted a festive gathering to extend warm wishes to the people of Rajasthan. Dr Sandeep Bakshi, the Chancellor, emphasized the importance of self-reflection for progress. An interactive session aimed at boosting research activities in the upcoming session was organized, with a focus on making JNU Hospital facilities accessible to the public. Dr Bakshi highlighted



the need for research addressing societal issues, urging faculty members to publish internationally. He announced a grant of Rs 25 lakhs to enhance research facilities. The Chancellor also called for collaboration with the state government to make medical facilities available within a 100-200 km radius. New Year greetings were extended to the 3,500 faculty members, concluding with a group photograph. JNU Pro-chancellor Prof. HN Verma, Vice Chancellor Prof. RL Raina, and Executive Director Preeti Bakshi were present.

MUKESH KIRADOO



Green Feet Sports Run orchestrated a virtual 21km marathon in Jaipur, rallying participants to champion environmental consciousness. The event pulsated with fervour as attendees conveyed a resounding message about ecological mindfulness. Onlookers captured the spirited ambiance, documenting the colorful display on their phones. CEO Manoj Soni felicitated Vishnu Tank, the victor, underscoring the city's robust engagement. Participants initiated the race via GPS on the Green Feet Sports Run app, adorned in themed attire and brandishing banners advocating environmental preservation.

MUKESH KIRADOO



Biker Buddy Season 2, organised by Steelwing Garage and Club in Jaipur on January 7, promises an exciting lineup. The official poster launch held recently unveiled cash prizes for winners and highlighted attractions like a traditional outfit ride, Motocross stunt, live musical night, and performances by world record holder kids. Talents of India and Biker Buddy Award Season 2 will honour bikers promoting social reform and harmony. Club founders Tahir and Kahnvi shared that participants will be selected nationwide through voting, emphasizing the pride this award brings to the riding community. Today marks the last day for registration.