



FIRST INDIA

Celebrating New Year's Eve!

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



Governor Kalraj Mishra, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Deputy CMs Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa along with the Council of Ministers (see box), after oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Saturday. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

'Bhajan' Council of Ministers expanded, trust on new faces more than experienced ones

Governor administered oath to 12 cabinet, 10 state ministers and five state ministers with Independent charge

In a surprise move, Surendra Pal Singh TT, BJP candidate from Karanpur, was also made a minister in the Bhajan Lal Cabinet

Aishwary Pradhan, Yogesh Sharma, Pankaj Soni, Naresh Sharma, Nirmal Tiwari, Dr Rituraj Sharma, Vinod Singh Chouhan, Shivendra Singh Parmar and Laxman Raghav

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Saturday undertook the first expansion of his Council of Ministers. Governor Kalraj Mishra administered the oath of office and secrecy to 12 cabinet and 10 state ministers (Independent charge) in a

ceremony held at Raj Bhavan. After a long brainstorming, CM surprised everyone by giving 17 MLAs a chance to become ministers for the 1st time. In most shocking decision, CM played a master stroke by making Surendra Pal Singh TT candidate from Karanpur, a minister. TT

REGIONAL BALANCE IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Regional balance has also been kept in mind in names included in Council of Ministers. The BJP has also tried to focus on giving representation to the LS seats. On analysing the Cabinet, one can see that 17 LS constituencies have been covered.

has been a minister earlier also but contrary to expectations, he has been

COMPLETE SOCIAL ENGINEERING

Social engineering has been kept in mind during the expansion. Under this, 3 MLAs from 3 tribes, 3 Rajputs, 4 Jats, 2 Brahmins, 3 SCs, 1 MLA each from Mali, Gurjar, Kumawat, Sikh, Rawat, Patel, Dhakad, Vishnoi, Devasi & Jain communities have been included.

included in Council of Ministers. There are now 25 members in Council

NOW TWO WOMEN IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Only one woman MLA — Manju Baghmar — could get a place in the expansion of the Council of Ministers on Saturday. Now there are two women in the Bhajan Cabinet. Dr Manju Baghmar is the most educated with a PhD and has been a professor.

of Ministers. According to rules, a maximum 30 mins can be made. **P3,8**

CABINET MINISTERS

- Kirodi Lal Meena
- Gajendra Singh Khimsar
- Rajyavardhan S Rathore
- Babulal Kharadi
- Madan Dilawar
- Jogaram Patel
- Suresh Singh Rawat
- Avinash Gehlot
- Joram Kumawat
- Hemant Meena
- Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary
- Sumit Godara

MINISTERS OF STATE

- Otaram Dewasi
- Manju Baghmar
- Vijay Singh Choudhary
- KK Bishnoi
- Jawahar Singh Bedam

MINISTERS OF STATE (Independent charge)

- Sanjay Sharma
- Gautam Kumar Dak
- Jhabar Singh Kharra
- Surendra Pal Singh TT
- Heeralal Nagar

TOTAL RECALL 2023



TOP-NOTCH FRONT PAGES!

IN BRIEF

Sudhansh Pant to be new CS of Rajasthan

Jaipur: The Centre on late Saturday issued order of repatriation of 1991 batch IAS officer Sudhansh Pant to Rajasthan. Ending all speculations, a consensus was made on Pant's name. Hence, it is confirmed, Pant will become new Rajasthan CS. **P3**

Consecration of Lord Ram idol, sign of India's rise, says HM Amit Shah



New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended Smriti Mahotsav at Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam (SAGVP), in Ahmedabad, Saturday. Addressing the event, Shah said that the consecration of Lord Ram idol, beginning of 'Amrit Kaal' not coincidence; sign of India's rise. **P5**

Putin's NY message to Prez Murmu & PM Modi

New Delhi: Russian President Vladimir Putin conveyed his New Year greetings to President Droupadi Murmu and PM Narendra Modi on Saturday. He emphasised that relationship between India and Russia has been progressing dynamically.

● TEMPLE TOWN GETS A NEW LOOK! ● PRELUDE TO PRAN PRATISHTHA ON JAN 22

'Vishwaguru' Modi on 'Ram Path'!

Moni Sharma and Dimple Sharma
Ayodhya

AYODHYA GETS MEGA FACELIFT...

- Redeveloped Ayodhya Railway Station inaugurated
- Modi throws open the Maharshi Valmiki Airport
- PM Modi flags off 2 Amrit Bharat, 6 Vande Bharat trains

With less than a month to go for the Ayodhya Ram Temple inauguration on January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the temple town on Saturday. PM Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than ₹15,700 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister, while expressing delight to be in Ayodhya Dham, noted the fervour and enthusiasm in the holy city during his roadshow. He said that "the world is eagerly waiting for 22nd January. I am a devotee of every particle and per-

son of India, I too am eager" for the day of Pran Pratishtha at the upcoming Ram Temple.

PM Modi noted the significance of 30th December as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose unfurled tricolour on this day in Andaman in 1943. "On such an auspicious day associated with the freedom movement, today we are carrying forward the resolve of the Amrit Kaal", he added.

FULL REPORT ON P5

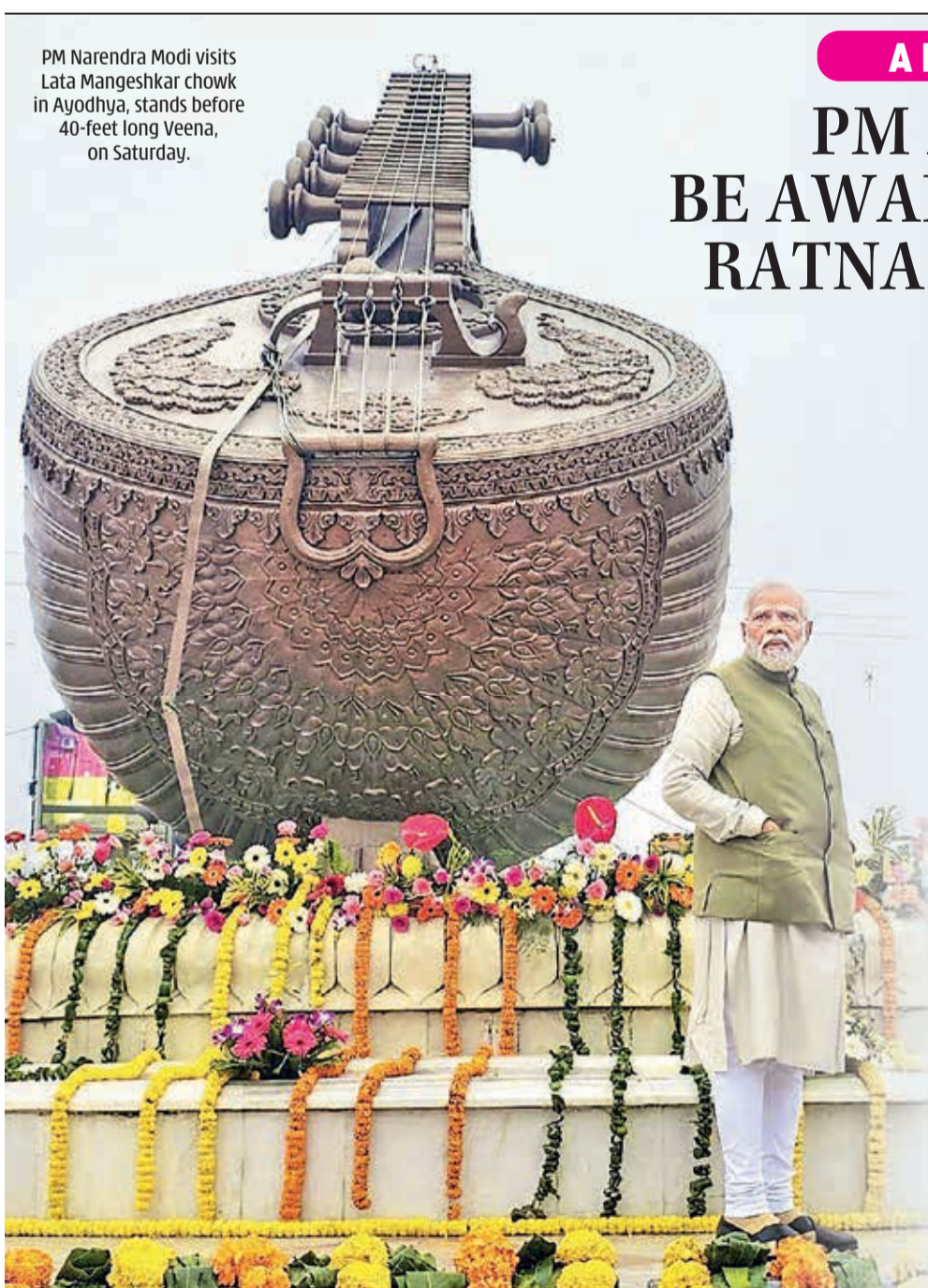
PM MODI'S HEARTWARMING DETOUR: TEA STOP AT UJJWALA BENEFICIARY'S HOME

PM Modi on Saturday visited the house of an Ujjwala scheme beneficiary and had tea at her residence during his Ayodhya visit. The woman is the 10 crore beneficiary of the PM Ujjwala Yojana, which provides free LPG connections to women from below-poverty-line households.

"I was overjoyed, never did I imagine that 'God' would visit my home like this. My happiness was beyond control."
BENEFICIARY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi relishes tea at house of a Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary in Ayodhya on Saturday.



PM Narendra Modi visits Lata Mangeshkar chowk in Ayodhya, stands before 40-foot long Veena, on Saturday.

A RAM MANDIR MIRACLE

PM MODI SHOULD BE AWARDED BHARAT RATNA: DR CHANDRA

Aditi Nagar
New Delhi

The dawn of 2024, just hours away, marks the dawn of completion of a 500-year-old dream of crores of Indians as the much-awaited 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya takes place on January 22, 2024.

At this historic moment, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO and Editor-in-Chief Bharat24, CMD First India News & First India, put forth his proposal that PM Narendra Modi should be awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award of India for Modi's leading and principal role in the completion of the dream of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. Under his stalwart leadership, the dispute, which was the cause of enmity among the 2 communities has come to an end and an era of solidarity and togetherness, not just in Ayodhya but in the entire nation, is now rising as we enter 2024.

Speaking on the completion of this 'dream' of the nation, Dr Chandra said that everyone in the nation is elated on the fulfillment of this dream and everyone should come together to build the nation and take it forward.

"Today, the entire nation is talking about the completion of this dream and Modi's relentless efforts in this direction. It was a dream for crores of Indians which Narendra Modi has fulfilled. In my opinion, Modi should be honoured with the highest civilian honour of the land — Bharat Ratna — as it would symbolise sentiments of the nation and the general public and would be a recognition of an individual who has served the nation to the epitome of service," Dr Chandra said.

MODI SPEAKS

- "Light Shri Ram Jyoti" on Jan 22 in every household
- For security and logistics reasons, plan your visit to Ayodhya only after Jan 22
- There was a time Lord Ram was 'living under a tent', now he will get a concrete house like four crore poor people
- Celebrate the grand Ram temple with a huge campaign of cleanliness at pilgrimage sites across the country from January 14, Makar Sankranti

RAJASTHAN

COLD WAVE ALERT

There will be rain in 5 districts, while fog in 6 districts

Dense fog engulfs the State amid yellow alert, rain in 4 districts

 Ziauddin Khan
Jaipur

A yellow alert has been issued by the Meteorological Department in many parts of the state, as the entire state is wrapped in a blanket of fog. There will be rain in four districts, while fog will cause trouble in six districts. A fog alert has been issued in Bharatpur, Dholpur, Jhunjhunu, Karauli, Churu, and Nagaur. Alongside, the possibility of light to moderate rain in many parts of the state on Sunday is foreseen. There may be rain in many districts including Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Udaipur divisions. Cold may increase in the state due to falling mercury on the first day of January 2024.

The maximum temperature of Jaipur settled at 13 degrees Celsius on Saturday. In Bikaner, the maximum temperature stood at 12 degrees Celsius at 10:30 am on Saturday.

Apart from Rajasthan, the weather department has issued a "cold-day" alert and said "dense to very dense fog" is likely to be witnessed in Delhi-NCR for the next two days.



SANTOSH SHARMA & MUKESH KIRADOO



Visibility was severely impacted in several areas of the State as dense fog engulfed the Pink City in the early hours and maximum temperature was recorded at 13 degrees Celsius on Saturday.



SEVERAL FLIGHTS DELAYED FROM JAIPUR INT'L AIRPORT DUE TO DENSE FOG

Jaipur: Several flights were delayed from the Jaipur Airport on Saturday again due to dense fog. There has been shadow fog at Jaipur airport since last two days, with visibility on the runway falling to as low as 140 meters. Due to low visibility, the schedule of many flights got disturbed, while the departure of Vistara flight UK-566 Jaipur-Mumbai was delayed. The flight from Jaipur to Mumbai at 6:30 in the morning could not take off due to this.

Five miscreants of Mintu Modasia gang arrested


 Hukum Singh
Sikar

Rajasthan's Anti Gangster Task Force (AGTF) has carried out a major action in the Ranoli police station area of Sikar district. Five miscreants of Mintu Modasia gang operating in the border area of Haryana-Rajasthan have been caught with two illegal weapons and six cartridges. The team has also seized a Scorpio vehicle. The arrested criminals were Surendra Prajapat (26), Dinesh Jat (26), Mandeep Jat (27), Rajesh Jat (30) and Satpal Jat (31). Police received info that some miscreants of the Mintu Modasia gang were moving from Jaipur towards Sikar to commit a major crime.



Miscreants in police custody in Sikar on Saturday.

ACCUSED SEEKING RANSOM OF 1 CR HELD IN JPR

Jaipur: The Jaipur Police have arrested a miscreant for allegedly demanding a ransom of Rs 1 crore from a jeweller by posing as a member of Lawrence



Bishnoi's gang. Police informed the accused, identified as Devraj alias Devendra, called the victim from jail and threatened him with dire consequences if money was not paid. "A case was registered in Vidhyadhar Nagar Police Station and teams were formed to nab the accused. The accused was arrested from Ajmer jail and is being interrogated," police said.

BODY OF AUTO DRIVER FOUND ON RLY TRACK

Jaipur: On Friday afternoon, Amitabh, an auto driver, was discovered dead and severely disfigured on the Jaipur railway track. Amitabh received a threat at his residence from Rahul Rajvanshi. The deceased's family members demonstrated on Friday night by surrounding the Ramnagar police station.

CASE REGISTERED AGAINST TEACHER FOR FIRING GUNSHOTS

Hanumangarh: At the Bhuranpura teacher retirement celebration, there was an aerial fire. It is stated that the fire event occurred almost one month ago; yet, Tehsiladar Harish Kumar filed a case. A complaint was made against Hussain Khan, a teacher at 13 RWD. The incident occurred during the code of conduct one month ago. Section 144 violation and case filed under the Arms Act Talwara Lake Police Station.

PASSENGERS BEAT DRUNK ROADWAYS BUS CONDUCTOR IN BHILWARA

Bhilwara: After consuming alcohol, the bus conductor caused chaos. Twenty people were transported by the conductor from Beawar to Badnore without tickets. An inebriated conductor was beaten up by passengers. After a lengthy conversation with the police, the situation settled down, and the conductor was given instructions before departing for Bhilwara. The police were called to the scene when the situation did not improve.

YOUTH TAKEN INTO POLICE CUSTODY FOR RAPING MINOR

Jhunjhunu: Ajay Singh, the accused in the kidnapping and rape of a minor via deceit, has been taken into custody by the Jhunjhunu Sadar Police. The kidnapped girl has also been taken into custody by the police. According to police officer Dilip Singh, a resident of the police station area had complained on Dec 24 about his daughter's absence from home on Dec 23, claiming to be heading to school, but she never showed.

Pregnant woman & her twins die in Abu Road



Police investigate the matter on Saturday.

 First India Bureau
Abu Road

At the Akrabhatta Government Hospital on December 29, 23-year-old Sonia gave birth to twins. However, the mother passed away, and the baby too. The irate relatives charged Dr. PN Gupta and his assistants with being careless. They declined to move the body because they were

inert. It was the second doctor's appointment, according to Dr. PN Gupta. Since it was an emergency, he had checked the patient the following day in good faith. The deceased's relatives demanded that the medical board of district-level doctors inspect the body and that legal action be taken against those who killed the patient via negligence.

Gem, jewellery exports decline; export of coloured gems increase

There was a total decline of 4.52 per cent in the country in November

 Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

In a major setback, there is a decline witnessed in the export of gems and jewellery. Whereas, the trend of improvement in the export of coloured gems continues. There was a total decline of 4.52 per cent in the country in November. Despite this, exports of coloured gems increased by 7.50 per cent last month. The coloured gems worth Rs 186.03 crore were exported in November this year, whereas, coloured gems worth Rs 173.05 crore were exported in



Representational

November last year i.e. 2022. The country's majority of colourful gems are processed in Jaipur. At the national level, gems and jewellery were exported worth Rs 19018.18 crore in November.

In November 2022, exports worth Rs 19917.73 crore were recorded from the country.

A sharp decrease of 37 per cent is seen in silver jewellery exports compared to last year. Compared to Rs 2058.25 crore as of November 2022, the export of silver jewellery in November 2023 was Rs 1296.63 crore. There was also a decline of 9.65 per cent in the export of diamonds last month this year.

Body of MBBS student reaches Jhalawar

 First India Bureau
Jhalawar

A 22-year-old youth Anudit Gautam died due to a heart attack in Ukraine on 22 December. The young man was studying MBBS in Ukraine. He was about to return to India after completing his studies on January 11, but before that, he was struck by death. After the death of Anudit Gautam, who was studying in Ukraine, his body reached Jhalawar. It took 8 days for the body of the young doctor to complete the entire process and on 29 December, the body was brought to Jhalawar, where his last rites would be performed.

He was studying MBBS and lived in



Anudit Gautam

He was about to return from Ukraine after completing his studies on Jan 11

Chernivtsi city of Ukraine. Anudit's father works as an Accounts Officer in the Jhalawar Collectorate, while his mother Sanyogita Gautam is a teacher. Gautam's family lives in the Housing Board Colony of Jhalawar.

21-yr-old girl's body found hanging from tree in Dholpur

 First India Bureau
Dholpur

A twenty-year-old was discovered dead and hanging from a Neem tree in Salepur hamlet, within the boundaries of Sampau police station. The body is stored in the mortuary since it cannot be recognized. Officer Babul Meena and the police station supervisor When Harbhan Singh arrived at the scene, he reported that the girl's body was hanging from a tree branch.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bal Singh S/o Kallu Singh, Caste Rajput, R/o Buhana, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan), Army No. 2893707-P, Rank Havildar do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that in my Army Service Records my son's name is wrongly recorded as Pushpendra, whereas in education certificates his name is recorded as Pushpendar, which is true and correct. Therefore in my Army Service Records my son's name should be corrected as Pushpendar.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bal Singh S/o Kallu Singh, Caste Rajput, R/o Buhana, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan), Army No. 2893707-P, Rank Havildar do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that in my Army Service Records my daughter's name is wrongly recorded as Kumari Nidhi, whereas in Aadhar Card, Jan Aadhar Card, Ration Card and Education Documents her name is recorded as Nidhi, which is true and correct. Therefore in my Army Service Records my daughter's name should be corrected as Nidhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bal Singh S/o Kallu Singh, Caste Rajput, R/o Buhana, Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan), Aadhar No.: 421430401398, Army No.: 2893707-P, Rank Havildar do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that in my Army Service Records my name is recorded as Bal Singh Rajput, whereas in my identity documents my name is recorded as Bal Singh, which is true and correct. Therefore in my Army Service Records my name should be corrected as Bal Singh.

INCREASED TOURIST FOOTFALL

Wildlife tourism boom on New Year

 Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

This year, on New Year's Day, visitors preferred the forest over other destinations. Popular travel destinations include Jawai, Khin Sar, Amargarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur, Sariska, Jhalana, and Ranthambore. The Lion Safari, Elephant Village, and Nahargarh Biological Park are all packed. As of December 24th, the state's forests are full. Fifty percent of those who visited the



Popular travel destinations include Jawai, Amargarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur, Sariska, Jhalana, Ranthambore & others are all packed.

state for tourism said they favored wildlife tourism. Up until January 2, all of the nature resorts situated within and surrounding the woodland

will be fully booked. The capital's tourism sector is booming right now. Bookings for travel agencies

come in constantly. Intense hotel celebration preparations. A cocktail party, dance, and other activities are planned.

As of Dec 24, the state's forests are full. 50% of those who visited the state for tourism said they favored wildlife tourism. Up until Jan 2, all of the nature resorts will be fully booked. The capital's tourism sector is booming right now

Rajasthan's economy will reach 350 billion dollars, says Meghwal

 Sunil Sihag
Sri Ganganagar

Union Law Minister Arjunram Meghwal reached Sri Ganganagar on Saturday. During this, he addressed a press conference and said that after the formation of the BJP government, the development works in the state will accelerate. He also stated the target of taking the economy of Rajasthan to 350 billion dollars has been set.

"Now BJP government has been formed in Rajasthan. BJP government will fulfill its pledge



Arjun Ram Meghwal at Scheduled Caste conference at Sri Karanpur on Saturday.

given in Rajasthan. For the first time, the economy has been touched in the resolution letter. If the economy picks up, new

employment opportunities will open and Rajasthan will move forward rapidly on the path of progress," he said.

A GLITTERING OATH CEREMONY

New cabinet of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma took oath on Saturday at the Raj Bhavan, which was attended by several public representatives and members of bureaucracy



Chandrashekhar and Arun Singh



Vasudev Devnani



Diya Kumari greets CP Joshi.



Nauksham Chaudhary



Prem Chand Bairwa



Usha Sharma, Utkal Ranjan Sahoo and Mahaveer Prasad Sharma, Hemant Priyadarshi, Hemant Gera and Abhay Kumar.



Satish Poonia and Rajendra Rathore.



Kailash Choudhary & KK Bishnoi.



Biju George Joseph

SANTOSH SHARMA

IPS Utkal Ranjan Sahoo takes charge as acting DGP

Shivendra Singh Parmar
Jaipur

Senior IPS officer Utkal Ranjan Sahoo took charge as acting Director General of Police of Rajasthan at police HQ here on Saturday.

The 1988-batch IPS officer, who is currently the director general of Rajasthan home guards, took additional charge after DGP Umesh Mishra took voluntary retirement on Saturday.

After assuming the charge, Sahoo said that based on instructions and priorities of the state government, the police force would work towards preventing crime against women, gang war and cyber crimes.

The acting DGP said



Utkal Ranjan Sahoo speaking with the media along with Rajeev Sharma and Ravi Mehrada. (Inset) Utkal Ranjan Sahoo assuming office.



effective action will be taken against gangsters, those involved in cyber-crimes and crimes against women.

Senior police officers, including Director General (Law and Order) Rajeev Sharma, Director

General (Cyber Security) Ravi Mehrada, Additional Directors General Sanjay Agarwal, Govind Gupta, Anil Paliwal, Sanjib Narzary, Vishal Bansal and VK Singh were present at police headquarters to welcome Sahoo.

LS Speaker Om Birla on Kota visit

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

In the midst of his parliamentary constituency tour, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met with members of the public at the camp office in Shaktinagar. Birla's top priority is to learn about the hopes and dreams of the people and work towards realizing them. Birla also took part in the Developed India Sankalp Yatra in Ajanda.

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

Piyush Goyal engages with villagers, stresses on Govt schemes



Piyush Goyal, interacting with public in Udaipur on Saturday.

Ravi Sharma & Gopal Lodha
Udaipur/Gogunda

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Industry and Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, visited Gogunda on Saturday. He reached the coronation site of Maharana Pratap in Gogunda and paid floral tributes at the statue and paid homage to him. Goyal also reached Morwal village located in hilly area of Gogunda.

Administrative Change CM to get a permanent Principal Secretary soon

First India Bureau
Jaipur

There may soon be a permanent appointment to the post of Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma. At present, T Ravikanth, Principal Secretary of the Medical Education Department, has been given a temporary charge of the post.

The names of IAS officers Naresh Pal Gangwar and Siddharth Mahajan, who are on deputation in Delhi, are doing the rounds for the post while the name of Alok Gupta is at the forefront among the IAS officers present in Rajasthan. Gangwar



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

of 1994 batch is Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Forest and Environment and Siddharth Mahajan of 2003 batch is Joint Secretary in the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Alok Gupta has the responsibility of Principal Secretary of Administrative Reforms Department of Rajasthan.

Legal reshuffle: Raj HC may get a new judge from Jharkhand

Kamal Kant
Jaipur

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the transfer of Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, acting CJ of Jharkhand HC, to Rajasthan HC. The file has been sent to the Central Government.



Justice Chandrashekhar was born on May 25, 1965 and did LLB from Campus Law Centre, Delhi University in 1993.

He was appointed Additional judge in Jharkhand High Court on 17 January 2013 and became permanent judge on 27 June 2014.

SUSPENSE ENDS OVER NEXT CS OF RAJASTHAN!

Sudhansh Pant will be the new CS

Manoj Mathur
Jaipur

After the formation of the new government, now it is the turn of Rajasthan's bureaucracy to get a new head.

Names of half a dozen senior IAS officers were in the race for the new Chief Secretary. The Centre, however, ended suspense late Saturday by issuing order of repatriation of 1991 batch IAS Sudhansh Pant to Rajasthan.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabi-

Pant likely to join on Monday morning



Sudhansh Pant

Names of half a dozen senior IAS officers were in the race for the new CS. Centre late on Saturday issued order of repatriation of 1991 batch IAS Sudhansh Pant to Rajasthan

net has approved repatriation of Shri Sudhansh Pant, IAS (RJ:91), Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to his parent

cadre on the request of Government of Rajasthan," read the order.

The official sources said that the order to appoint him the new Chief Secretary of Rajasthan were likely to be re-

leased late Saturday night.

The tenure of current Chief Secretary Usha Sharma is to end on December 31. On Saturday, a day before her retirement, Usha Sharma, as Chief Secretary, completed an important program like expansion of the State Council of Ministers.

Earlier, the names of senior IAS V Srinivasan, Rohit Kumar Singh, Sanjay Malhotra, Shubhra Singh and Rajeshwar Singh were also doing the rounds for the post.

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#Yeh Pucca Hai

RECENT WARS AND INFERENCES FOR INDIA



Col Anupam Jaitly (R)

The writer is defence expert, motivational speaker and corporate trainer



IN-DEPTH

CONFLICTS, RESILIENCE, TRANSFORMATION MARKED THE YEAR 2023

Conflicts and disruptions marked the year that's waving us good-bye. Gaza has seen thousands being felled by bullets and bombs. The Ukraine war has resulted in human casualties besides supply disruptions throwing several economies out of gear.

Reflecting on 2023 unveils a tapestry woven with significant events and transformative moments. Not only conflicts, the global community navigated the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, witnessing strides in vaccination campaigns and continued adaptation to the evolving landscape of health and safety.

Nationally, political landscapes shifted, with elections and policy changes shaping the trajectory of governance. Economic recoveries, environmental initiatives, and technological advancements like artificial intelligence marked pivotal strides towards a future that balances progress with sustainability. Cultural milestones were achieved, and diverse voices found resonance in conversations around social justice and inclusion.

As we await 2024, these collective experiences offer both lessons and inspirations for the journey that lies ahead. Tomorrow is always looked towards with hope of peace, happiness and fulfillment. So it is with 2024!

RELIGION PLUS PROGRESS A PERFECT POLL PITCH



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has revealed a transformed Ayodhya, presenting a sight unfamiliar to many long-time residents and visitors. The old structure has given way to a revamped railway station adorned with captivating murals, aligning with the newfound grandeur characterizing other parts of the sacred city, including the majestic Ram temple. Notably, the skillfully designed Maharishi Valmiki Airport now graces the landscape, a testament to the commitment of the Modi and Yogi Adityanath administrations to enhance infrastructure. The once narrow and dusty roads of Ayodhya Dham have been expansively widened, aligning with the government's vision to facilitate smoother movement for both people and vehicles. Undoubtedly, this development will significantly boost religious tourism.

The Prime Minister consistently keeps South India in focus, boasting some of India's most splendid temples like Tirupati and Meenakshi. The intricately designed doors of the Ram temple and the idol of Ram are being crafted by skilled artisans in the southern region, utilizing locally sourced wood. In Varanasi, the Kashi-Tamil Samagam stole the spotlight. While some may attribute this attention to the BJP's effort to bridge the political north-south gap, it's undeniable that South Indians, alongside Bengalis and Gujaratis, constitute a significant portion of religious tourists. Modi's dual emphasis on religious and infrastructure development is poised to resonate more than the Hum Taiyar Hain slogan. The political dynamics are likely to shift further in favour of the BJP after the formal opening of the Ram temple on January 22. The Opposition should also take note of Modi's relatable meeting with an Ujjwala beneficiary over a casual cup of tea.

4-PRONGED STRATEGY

We need to restructure and review our command-and-control system to amalgamate the hybrid war into it? As on today, India lacks the ability to merge and mix hybrid elements with conventional forces. We need to identify all elements of national resources that can be leveraged to fight future wars under one platform of military command.

Drone warfare and counter-drone capabilities are two sides of the same coin. We not only need capabilities of state-of-the-art armed drones; we also need to build upon counter drone capabilities to protect various assets on ground.

To secure communications during war and peace time we must develop our own semiconductors Industry. Or else, the systems will remain vulnerable to foreign influences when we need them the most.

Israel war demonstrates that an astounding 1 is to 4 death ratio between soldiers and officers is needed to lead and win a war if unempowered, poorly trained and not so motivated group of Agniveers (conscripts) is to be taken to war.

NO

two wars are identical. My observations of the three wars of 2020s (Azerbaijan and Armenia, Ukraine War continuing for over 22 months and Israel - Palestine conflict since October 23) reveal insights into the changing nature of warfare, the impact of new technologies influencing it and the new dimensions of strategies adopted by the military and political leadership to prolong the war if an immediate solution for victory is not imminent.

The war of Europe and Middle East have broken many mistaken beliefs. An anti-thesis to common myth that there is no place for sustained and extended wars in a world of economic interdependency has established itself into the domain of new and emerging concepts of strategies and mindset about future conflicts.

War in Europe has shown unique and new dimension of multi-domain warfare. While on one side, super power Russia pressed into action its conventional fire power along with the tools of hybrid war, on the other side, Ukraine has very sagaciously responded to Russian onslaught by integrating its conventional forces, special forces and irregular forces with innovations to suit the battlefield conditions. Though, the ground operations are restricted to Ukrainian soil yet, a numerically weaker and technologically inferior Ukraine has held on for over 650 days.

In my opinion, all military conflicts reach a water-



In my opinion, all military conflicts reach a watershed moment where crucial turning points decide a shift during combat. Russia faced it on 13th September 23, when Ukraine struck Sevastopol, the home to the Black Sea fleet of Russia. Ukraine's perfect and bold audacity of striking Russian fleet by missiles and speed boats rattled Russian leadership to shift base to Novorossiysk

shed moment where crucial turning points decide a shift during combat. Russia faced it on 13th September 23, when Ukraine struck Sevastopol, the home to the Black Sea fleet of Russia. Ukraine's perfect and bold audacity of striking Russian fleet by missiles and speed boats rattled Russian leadership to shift base to Novorossiysk. The so-called super power's Black Sea fleet was pushed into a retreat by a small country that hardly had a navy in existence.

Now, reading the war in middle East, Israel the superior side, depended only on technology in the initial period and disregarded the boots on ground. Without acknowledging that technology can never substitute HUMINT when fight is against terrorism. Had Israel integrated human and technological intelligence, it wouldn't have failed to know about Hamas's preparations for war.

Consequently, if we talk of India, our all wars were dependent upon imported equipment and arsenal. Can this system continue in the

present where a shift in the geopolitical landscape is forcing the world for such futuristic battle zones which will be less dominated by conventional ammunition and more contingent with Advanced Digital Technologies.

So, the question arises, what India needs to do to dominate its enemies on the Western, Northern & North Eastern borders? As an analyst of military affairs, I would suggest a four-pronged strategy to ensure a win win situation. Firstly, we need to restructure and review our command-and-control system to amalgamate the hybrid war into it? As on today, India lacks the ability to merge and mix hybrid elements with conventional forces. We need to identify all elements of national resources that can be leveraged to fight future wars under one platform of military command.

Secondly, Drone warfare and counter-drone capabilities are two sides of the same coin. We not only need capabilities of state-of-the-art armed drones; we also need to build upon

counter drone capabilities to protect various assets on ground. Drone and counter drone formations should be made an integral part of our military Command structure.

Thirdly, to secure communications during war and peace time we must develop our own semiconductors Industry. Or else, the systems will remain vulnerable to foreign influences when we need them the most. Also, time has arrived for India to have its servers on home land instead of allowing vital data migration to a foreign dominance.

Lastly but not the least, the Israel war demonstrates that an astounding 1 is to 4 death ratio between soldiers and officers is needed to lead and win a war if unempowered, poorly trained and not so motivated group of Agniveers (conscripts) is to be taken to war. Therefore, the authorities that may be should ensure a very high degree of motivation, dedication and patriotism amongst officer cadre and consider every change critically before breaking the time-tested traditions and customs of armed forces.

In future-gazing, India needs to focus on technology as the main element to shape our capabilities of influencing the character of future battles. Greater investments in Make in India will make the armed forces future-ready and the domestic production of weapons will ensure uninterrupted supply of war resources in a prolonged and sustainable war.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



Modi's dual emphasis on religious and infrastructure development is poised to resonate more than the Hum Taiyar Hain slogan. The political dynamics are likely to shift further in favour of the BJP after the formal opening of the Ram temple on January 22. The Opposition should also take note of Modi's relatable meeting with an Ujjwala beneficiary over a casual cup of tea

TOP TWEETS

The contribution of Veer Surendra Sai, Udanth Sai, Dhruv Sai, Ujjag Sai, Prithil Sai, Jaijag Sai, Medini Sai, Kolabira Zamindar Karunakar Singh Naik, Madho Singh, Kunjal Singh, Ari Singh, Beri Singh and Hate Singh of the Ghos Zamindar family for the protection of the motherland is extraordinary. Because of the sacrifice of these fighters, today our country India has emerged as a superpower and is moving forward on the path of developed India.

Dharmendra Pradhan@dpradhanbjp

14 crores in five decades. 18 crores in a decade! And out of these 18 crore gas connections, more than 10 crore connections were given free of cost to the poor under the Ujjwala scheme! Today, PM Shri @narendramodiji has strengthened his family relationship by drinking tea at the house of the 10 croreth beneficiary of #PMUY in Ayodhya.

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

What we are today comes from our thoughts of yesterday, and our present thoughts build our life of tomorrow: Our life is the creation of our mind.

BUDDHA



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AYODHYA 2.0 Prime Minister unveils new look temple town Vikas and Virasat would take India forward: Modi



PM Narendra Modi with UP Governor Anandiben Patel, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Jyotiraditya Scindia, UP CM Yogi Adityanath and others during a public meeting, in Ayodhya, on Saturday. PTI

Dimple Sharma
Ayodhya

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday that the strength of vikas (development) and virasat (heritage) would take India forward.

Modi arrived in this temple town to unveil a new look old city with an airport, a revamped train station and projects worth Rs 15,700 crore ahead of consecration of Ram temple next month, his day an artful blend of heritage, culture and development.

Addressing the meeting after inaugurating the Maharshi Valmiki airport and the redeveloped station

CONSECRATION OF LORD RAM IDOL, BEGINNING OF AMRIT KAAL NOT COINCIDENCE: AMIT SHAH

Ahmedabad: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the consecration of Lord Ram's idol on January 22 and the beginning of India's Amrit Kaal are not a mere coincidence but a sign that the country will rise to prominence on the world stage in the next 25 years. Amrit Kaal, which roughly translates to golden era, refers to the 25-year period from 75 years to 100 years of India's independence. About the grand event in Ayodhya next month, Shah said for several years, the country was unable to reconstruct the "holy place where Lord Ram was born and was destroyed 550 years ago". Over the years, Shah said, many saints performed various kinds of penances and offered prayers for this country to awaken itself and return to its "age-old, eternal culture", but it was not happening.



GOVT'S CALENDAR FOR 2024 UNVEILED

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday unveiled govt's calendar for 2024 that features development of pilgrimage centres including Ayodhya where Ram temple is coming.



named Ayodhya Dham from where he flagged off two Amrit Bharat and six

Vande Bharat trains, some virtually, Modi said the strength of vikas (devel-

opment) and virasat (heritage) would take India forward.

India reports 743 new COVID-19 cases, including 7 fatalities in 24 hrs



Agencies
New Delhi

In past 24 hours, India recorded 743 new COVID-19 cases, while current number of active cases stands at 3,997. The country had recorded 865 new cases on May 19. As of now, the total number of coronavirus cases in India, since the outbreak in January 2020, has reached 4,50,12,484. The death toll related to COVID-19 cases in India has risen to 5,33,358. There were seven new fatalities reported in last 24 hours.

Property tax: Good news for all taxpayer citizens of Mumbai

First India Bureau
Mumbai

In a good news for Mumbai's taxpayer citizens, the BMC has decided not to hike the property tax for the current financial year.

Regarding the issue of property tax due to BMC for the financial year 2023-24, from taxpayer citizens, although no hard copy of bills addressed to tax payers till date have been issued, however in light of Supreme Court's recent order with respect to property taxation and consequent legal opinion obtained by property tax department, BMC terms "bill payable" and "bill amount" were used on BMC website which has created certain amount of confusion in the minds of tax payer citizens in



BMC Commissioner Iqbal Chahal

general and many stake holders in particular.

So, it has been decided that in order to avoid any confusion in the minds of taxpayers citizens, actual property tax bills shall be raised mentioning only the payable amount.

"This payable amount shall be exactly equal to amount payable for the financial year 2022-23, thereby ensuring no property tax increase in current financial year for all taxpayers citizens of Mumbai, BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said.

Youth shot dead by Kuki militants in Manipur

Agencies
Imphal

A Meitei youth was shot dead by suspected Kuki militants here on Saturday. Villagers of Kadamgband, Imphal West said they were repeatedly fired upon from the nearby hill areas by Kuki militants and youths of the area were guarding the village.

A youth identified as James was hit by a bullet and he succumbed to injuries.

People came out to protest the killing and repeated attacks from nearby hill areas. They said security personnel deployed in the hill areas were not taking action against those who were openly going around with sophisticated weapons.

Postal stamp to commemorate 200 yrs of Indian origin Tamils in SL

ANI
New Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president JP Nadda on Saturday released a postage stamp commemorating 200 years of Indian origin Tamils in Sri Lanka and said it is an occasion to look positive but also remember history.

The BJP further chief said it is a matter of happiness for him that "we are remembering the year 1823 and commemorating it with the stamp of Indian-origin Tamils, who had gone to Sri Lanka 200 years ago".

Nadda said that in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Sri Lanka's Jaffna.



Reference books on new criminal laws released

PTI
New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday released 12 reference books related to the recently enacted criminal justice laws and said the books have lucidly brought out changes made in the laws in a concise and simple manner.

Hailing publishers for these reference books, Shah said the books also give case law commentaries for easy understanding.

The three new laws — the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act — got Parliament's approval last week and the president gave her assent on December 25.

The laws will replace colonial era IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.



HM Amit Shah, Surendra Malik (Director) and Bhumika Indulia (Sr Associate Editor) of Eastern Book Company, at the launch of books on newly promulgated criminal justice laws. PTI

OUR VISION WAS NOT BHARAT-CENTRIC AFTER INDEPENDENCE TILL PM MODI CHANGED IT: SHAH

Ahmedabad: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that after Independence, those who loved the country felt bad that its vision was not "Bharat-centric" till the time that then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. "After independence, those who loved the country and had knowledge about it and had respect for the word 'Bharat', felt bad that though the country is free, its vision was not Bharat-centric but on something else. This was in the minds of many for several years," Shah said on Saturday while attending the Puja Purani Swami Smriti Mahotsav organised by Swaminarayan Gurukul Vishwavidya Pratishthanam in Ahmedabad.

Phogat returns Khel Ratna & Arjuna Awards, leaves them at Kartavya Path

PTI
New Delhi

Multiple World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat on Saturday returned her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award, keeping the two awards lying in the middle of national capital's Kartavya Path

after Delhi Police stopped her from reaching the prime minister's office.

On Tuesday, the Asian Games gold medallist grappler had decided to return her Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award to the government, saying such honours have become meaningless at a time

when wrestlers are struggling to get justice.

Phogat had announced her decision in a letter to PM Narendra Modi.

On Saturday, she attempted to reach the prime minister's office to return her awards but the police prevented her from reaching the PMO.



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EXECUTION OF GST CASES

CBIC gives relief to GST officials

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

Two days later, the Central Govt has decided to provide some relief to the GST officials who are struggling to clear the pending cases of the GST law. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, on the recommendation of the GST Council, has decided to once again extend the deadline for the financial year 2018-19 and financial year 2019-20.

Now non-fraud cases



pending under GST law can be resolved by 30.04.2024 and 31.08.2024 respectively. However, this order will not have any impact on the fixed deadline for the financial year 2017-18 and in the cases of pending GST cases of the financial year 2017-18, the GST officers will have to issue

orders only till 31.12.2023.

As per the notification number 56/2023-Central Tax issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes-CBIC on Thursday night, such cases of GST law for the financial year 2018-19 and financial year 2019-20 were recovered from the assessing officers under Section 73 of the GST Act. In cases of non-payment or underpayment of GST or wrong availing or utilization of input tax credit, the due date has been extended to 30.04.2024 for the financial year 2018-

19 and 31.08.2024 for the financial year 2019-20.

This order of CBIC will have a direct impact on those officers who worked day and night in these cases without taking their regular leave, considering the deadline of December 31, 2023 as the basis.

Commenting on CBIC order, Jaipur's Chief GST Advisor Pankaj Ghiya said that this order issued by the Board will not have any impact on the pending GST cases of the financial year 2017-18, but will have an impact on the subsequent financial years.



Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL



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

KHARGE HAS DIFFERENT OPINION ON RAHUL'S 'BHARAT NYAY YATRA'

Rahul Gandhi is gearing up for his 'Bharat Jodo Yatra Part Two' from January 14 and the party has named this yatra as 'Bharat Nyay Yatra'. This journey, starting from the North-East and passing through 85 districts of 14 states of the country i.e. a total journey of 6200 kilometers, will end in Mumbai on March 20, 2024. If sources associated with Congress are to be believed, party president Kharge's opinion regarding Rahul's visit is slightly different. Team Kharge's argument is that Rs 250 to 300 crores are to be spent on Rahul's Nyay Yatra and while general elections are also to be held in May this year, the party does not have enough resources to manage both the yatra and the elections. Anyway, this time both the states of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have gone out from the hands of Congress. In Rahul's last Bharat Jodo Yatra, the then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel had spent money with both hands. But this time a new state like Telangana is in the lap of Congress. Now the CM there, Revanth Reddy, will



have to be a little more efficient in raising funds. If sources are to be believed, Kharge has bluntly told Rahul that 'You are the face of the party, your entire focus should be on the upcoming general elections.' In return, Rahul told Kharge, 'I am alone creating the atmosphere for the elections. You should pay attention to the preparations to contest the elections.' If the war between Rahul and Kharge gets fueled in the party on this issue, then the Congress will be in trouble in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

THIS IS HOW THE BJP TOP LEADERSHIP 'MANAGED' NITISH KUMAR

BJP's desire is to set new records in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. If sources are to be believed, BJP wants to break Rajiv Gandhi's record of seats in 1984 in these elections, when, in the wave of sympathy of Indira Gandhi, Congress under the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi, won 425 seats. So, this time BJP strategists are also trying to win each and every Lok Sabha seat. When Nitish Kumar could not get a post of his choice like coordinator in the I.N.D.I. alliance, he was heartbroken. When the BJP top leadership came to know about this, they immediately called Nitish. It is said that they talked for about one and a half hour wherein Nitish also made his same three old demands in a roundabout way. His first demand was that



Bihar assembly elections should also be conducted along with Lok Sabha elections. Demand number two was that JDU will contest elections on 20 seats and BJP will have to leave only 20 seats from its share for its allies like Lok Jan Shakti Party. And demand number three was that when elections are held, Nitish Kumar will be the CM face. It is said that the top leadership has accepted all the conditions of Nitish and advised him to join the central government at this time. After this, Nitish again became the President of JDU and Rajiv Ranjan alias Lallan Singh was sidelined saying that 'he has been kept free for the elections.' In fact, Lallan Singh was the only JDU MP who was against BJP. He was always vocal, so to silence him, Nitish has started practicing speaking in a new language these days.

WHAT WILL SHIVRAJ DO NOW?

Recently, when Shivraj Singh Chouhan came to Delhi and met JP Nadda, a lot of efforts were made to remove the grievances. This meeting lasted for more than an hour. If sources are to be believed, Shivraj got an offer from the party to work in the organization. He was also offered the post of National Vice President and along with this there was talk of being given charge of more than two South Indian states, but Shivraj says that at present he is not ready to leave the state. He has also expressed his desire to contest the next Lok Sabha elections from Vidisha. The party has already made up its mind to field a relatively new woman leader from Vidisha and thus, has proposed to Shivraj that he should contest elections from Chhindwara against Kamal Nath.

...AND FINALLY

A review meeting of Congress was called regarding the defeat of Chhattisgarh. If sources are to be believed, as soon as the meeting started, Rahul Gandhi directly attacked Baghel, saying — 'We lost despite winning because the image of your government has become that of a 'corrupt' government.' On hearing this, Baghel got upset and said - 'If my

image was corrupt then how did we win 68 seats in the last election? We bore the entire expense of your Bharat Jodo Yatra.' On this the leaders present there pacified Baghel. Then a proposal was put before Baghel that the party wanted to make him in-charge of UP, but Baghel rejected this proposal and said that for the time being he would like to remain in Chhattisgarh for 5 years.

War Day 84 "Totally Exhausted": Gazans call for peace as Israel offensive continues

Israel advances into Gaza, destroy Hamas tunnel; 200 die in 24 hours

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Fierce Israeli tank fire and aerial bombing struck Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip on late Friday, residents said, after nearly 200 people were reported killed in 24 hours in Israel's campaign against Hamas militants.

Planes also carried out a series of air strikes on the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, as per reports. Israeli warplanes struck two urban refugee camps in central Gaza on Saturday, as the Biden administration approved a new emergency weapons sale to Israel despite persistent international cease-fire calls over mounting civilian deaths, hunger and mass displacement in the enclave.

Even a brief halt in fighting seems out of reach. A senior Hamas official said.



Displaced Palestinians, who fled their homes due to Israeli strikes, take shelter in camps, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Rafah on Saturday.



Palestinians gather outside a damaged house in the aftermath of an Israeli raid, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Saturday.



Israeli soldiers operate in the Gaza Strip amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas in Rafah on Saturday.

WAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Israel Defence Forces destroy tunnels of Hamas general headquarters in northern Gaza Strip
- Israel rejects "blood libel" spread by South Africa and application to International Court of Justice
- Airstrikes hit camps in central Gaza as Biden administration approves new weapons sales to Israel

Moscow accuses Kyiv of shelling Russian border city

Agencies
Moscow

Russian officials on Saturday accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the Russian border city of Belgorod, a day after an 18-hour aerial Russian barrage across Ukraine killed at least 39 civilians.

Shelling in the centre of the Russian border city of Belgorod killed 14 people, including 2 children, and injured 108 others, Russia said.

Russian officials ac-



A shopping mall heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Dnipro on Friday.

cusced Kyiv of carrying out the attack, which took place the day after an 18-

hour aerial bombardment across Ukraine killed at least 39 civilians.

US: Indian-origin couple, daughter found dead

Agencies
New York

Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife Teena, 54, and their 18-year-old daughter Ariana were found dead, Norfolk District Attorney (DA) Michael Morrissey said. Authorities say that a preliminary investigation points to a "deadly incident of domestic violence" with no outside involvement.

The New York Post said the Kamals appeared to have faced financial



Rakesh Kamal, his daughter Ariana & wife Teena Kamal.

problems. The mansion they were living in went into foreclosure, meaning the mortgagor took possession of the property — and was sold to the Massachusetts-based Wilson-dale Associates LLC for \$3 million.

Punia to Sports Ministry: Resume wrestling activities

Agencies
New Delhi

Olympic medallist **Bajrang Punia** emphasized on Saturday the need for the Sports Ministry to resume wrestling activities, as 7 months remaining for Paris Games. He expressed concern that the preparations for the quadrennial event seemed to lack seriousness.

Dense fog covers Delhi, trains running late, over 80 flights delayed

First India Bureau
New Delhi

A dense layer of fog has engulfed various states across the country on Saturday. Over 80 flights were delayed due to fog and low visibility in the national capital. "We are going to Gangtok, Sikkim to celebrate New Year but our flight is delayed by 2 hours. If it gets delayed further, we will complain," a passenger said.

Besides flights, some trains were also running late today due to low visibility in Delhi caused by dense fog. "I am going to Mata Vaishno Devi and our train is late by more than two hours. Our train was supposed to arrive at 5.30 but it hasn't arrived yet..." a passenger said.

MK STALIN ANNOUNCES ₹1K CR RELIEF PACKAGE FOR RAIN-HIT DISTRICTS OF TN

Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday announced a Rs 1,000 crore relief package including housing facilities and loans for MSMEs and Self-Help Groups for the rain-ravaged districts in the state. He directed the officials to repair partially damaged houses and rebuild completely damaged ones in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts. "The chief minister has ordered to provide Rs 4 lakh for fully damaged houses and upto Rs 2 lakh for partially damaged houses. The Rural Development Department will implement the scheme in Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu districts," an official release here said.



Passengers rest at railway station in Patna after many trains got delayed due to low visibility caused by dense fog, on Saturday.

INDIA WOMEN VS AUSTRALIA WOMEN 2ND ODI

Australia take unassailable 2-0 lead with win

PTI
Mumbai

Richa Ghosh's career-best 96 and Deepti Sharma's 5/38 went in vain as Australia Women clinched a thrilling three-run win to take an unassailable 2-0 lead against India in their 3-match ODI series on Saturday.

Chasing 259, Ghosh led India's reply with a fine 117-ball 96 featuring 13 fours but the hosts stuttered in the death overs to suffer their ninth consecutive defeat to



Australian players celebrate their win over India during the second ODI match between India Women and Australia Women, at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, on Saturday.

Australia at home. India managed 255/8 in their 50 overs with Deepti (24

not out off 36 balls, 1x4s) and Shreyanka Patil (5 not out) at the crease

bat, India also had their vice-captain Smriti Mandhana providing early fireworks with a 38-ball 34 (3x4s, 1x6s).

Jemimah (44 off 55 balls) and Ghosh laid the foundation with an 88-run third wicket stand but could not deny Australia from maintaining their record in India of never losing a series.

Earlier, off-spinner Deepti Sharma stymied Australia's surge with a stellar 5-wicket haul but 7 dropped catches by India allowed them to post a challenging 258 for 8.

On JANUARY 19, India's population surpassed 1.428 billion, slightly higher than China's 1.425 billion.



On MARCH 14, India wins two Oscars. Song 'Naatu Naatu' from RRR wins 'Best Original Song' award, while 'Elephant Whisperers' gets 'Best Documentary Short Film' award.



On AUGUST 24, India makes history by landing Chandrayaan-3 near Moon's south pole successfully.



Year 2023 saw PM Narendra Modi once again emerge as the Vishwa Guru and the most popular global leader, with Australian PM calling PM Modi, The Boss, on May 24, to the US President seeking his autograph and the PM of Papua New Guinea touching his feet!

India kicked off the two-day G20 summit in the national capital on SEPT 9-10, with a galaxy of world leaders gathering at the sprawling Bharat Mandapam for the mega conclave.



COVETED COVERS!

Memorable news events mean memorable newspaper covers! First India curates the most noteworthy front pages, with headlines that became the talking point, offering a comprehensive view of 2023's defining occurrences

Rains wreaked havoc on several parts of India on July 11, killing over 100 people in floods and landslides. Several vehicles were also washed away, and roads and bridges collapsed as the water levels rose.



With the aim to curb poaching and illegal wildlife trade, PM Narendra Modi on APRIL 10 launched the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) in Mysuru.



'STAR' MODI SHINES IN 3 STATES! BHAJPA KA 'RAJ!'
BJP upgrades 2 more states to double engine, Congress left with just Telangana win

TOTAL 199
Target: 180

State	2018	2023
RAJASTHAN	115	69
MADHYA PRADESH	163	116
CHHATTISGARH	54	19
TELANGANA	64	19

PROMINENT WINNING FACES

Anshu Gehlot (Gujarat)	WIN MARGIN: 26,396
Vasudeva Raje (Madhya Pradesh)	WIN MARGIN: 53,193
Dipa Kumari (Uttar Pradesh)	WIN MARGIN: 71,368
Sachin Pilot (Rajasthan)	WIN MARGIN: 29,475
Shanti Dharwal (Chhattisgarh)	WIN MARGIN: 2,486
Baba Balak Nath (Telangana)	WIN MARGIN: 6,173

PROMINENT LOSING FACES

Dr CP Joshi (Madhya Pradesh)	LOSS MARGIN: 7,504
Pratap Singh (Chhattisgarh)	LOSS MARGIN: 28,329
Satish Poonia (Telangana)	LOSS MARGIN: 9,092
Rajendra Bahure (Chhattisgarh)	LOSS MARGIN: 10,345
Dr B K Kalia (Madhya Pradesh)	LOSS MARGIN: 20,194
Narpat S Rajpi (Chhattisgarh)	LOSS MARGIN: 78,533

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"It is a matter of pride for every BJP worker that we have won in three states. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid a strong foundation for good governance and development."

"On behalf of Raj BJP Family, I express my gratitude to Shri Narendra Modi for his leadership and vision. We will continue to work together for the development of our state."

"Counting of votes for 199 assembly constituencies had already begun in the state. 112 MPs were put on duty for counting. Polling stations were closed at 7 PM."

GOVERNOR ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF CM GEHLOT, URGES HIM TO WORK TILL FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

Modi face makes Lotus bloom in 3 states

Shah and party's national president JP Nadda were reminding the public that for a strong nation, Modi government has set the example again in 2024 and will have to be given the opportunity to govern.

gave the BJP the mandate to form the government with a clear majority. The public also respected the good work of the Gehlot government and its schemes, as a result of which around 70 seats were won by the party.

As the Congress faced defeat in Rajasthan, the going CM Anshu Gehlot on Sunday said the poll results were unexpected and he would be "available for everything".

Rajasthan voted on November 25 to elect members of a new Assembly on 199 out of 200 Assembly constituencies, of these a total of 1,862 candidates were in the fray.



Rajasthan created a record by 74.13 percent polling as fate of candidates was sealed in EVMs. On NOVEMBER 26 PM Modi took a sortie on indigenously built light combat fighter aircraft, Tejas, in Bengaluru.



A devastating crash involving three trains in the eastern state of Odisha killed nearly 300 people on JUNE 4.



Nine hours apart and with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.5 on the Richter scale, the multiple earthquakes rocked Turkey and Syria and were the region's strongest in nearly a century on FEBRUARY 7.



The Women's Reservation Bill or the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', guaranteeing 33% quota for women in legislative bodies, was passed in the Special Parliament Session on SEPTEMBER 22.



President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Droupadi Murmu took a sortie in an Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft at the Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam on APRIL 9.



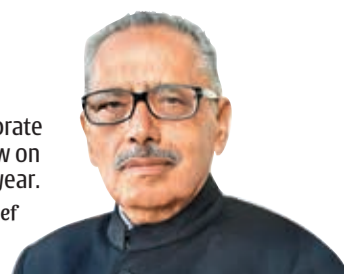
Yeti Airlines ATR-72 crashed on January 16 while heading from Kathmandu to Pokhara. The massive crash claimed 72 lives, including that of 5 Indians and 4 crew members who were onboard.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

As the numerical year turns over a new page, celebrate yourself as you are even as you look within to draw on reserves for some positive changes in the coming year.

Dr JADEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

17 out of 22 become ministers for first time

BJP has made its candidate Surendra Pal Singh TT a minister from Sri Karanpur seat, where election is to be held on January 5, however this is first such case in Rajasthan. Interestingly, Kalicharan Saraf became MLA from Malviya Nagar seat for the 8th time and Pratap Singh Singhvi of BJP from Chhabra became MLA for the 7th time but they are still out of the race of ministership

CABINET MINISTERS



KIRODI LAL MEENA
A powerful tribal leader of Eastern Rajasthan. Presently MLA from Sawai Madhopur seat, Meena has been MLA 5 times before. Elected LS MP twice and Rajya Sabha MP once. He contested current polls as Rajya Sabha MP.

VICTORY MARGIN: 22,510 VOTES



GAJENDRA S KHIMSAR
MLA from Lohawat seat of Jodhpur, Khimsar was a cabinet minister twice in the Vasundhara government. He took responsibility of important departments like industry and energy. He has become MLA for the fourth time.

VICTORY MARGIN: 10,549 VOTES



RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE
While being an MP from Jaipur Rural, Rathore became MLA from Jhotwara seat of Jaipur. He came into politics after taking VRS from rank of Army Colonel. He is Olympic medalist, Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee.

VICTORY MARGIN: 50,167 VOTES



BABULAL KHARADI
Fourth time MLA from Jhadol, Udaipur district, Kharadi is a very honest and spotless face of BJP in the tribal areas. Last time he was elected the best MLA of Rajasthan Assembly. He became minister for first time.

VICTORY MARGIN: 6,488 VOTES



MADAN DILAWAR
MLA from Ramganj Mandi of Kota, Dilawar reached the Assembly for sixth time. He carries the image of Dalit Hindu leader and is close to RSS. He was a minister in the govts of Bhairon Singh and Vasundhara Raju.

VICTORY MARGIN: 18,422 VOTES



SANTOSH SHARMA
MLA from Alwar city seat remained very strong as a Brahmin face. He has been the District President of BJP thrice. Sharma has been elected MLA from Alwar city assembly of Alwar district for the second consecutive time.

VICTORY MARGIN: 9,087 VOTES



SURESH SINGH RAWAT
MLA from Pushkar seat of Ajmer district for third consecutive terms. A Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's face, Rawat has a good influence in the society and has also been a former parliamentary secretary.

VICTORY MARGIN: 13,869 VOTES



AVINASH GEHLOT
MLA from Jaitaran seat of Pali district, Gehlot comes from Mali society. He is considered to have a good grip in this society. MLA for two consecutive terms, is considered a good speaker.

VICTORY MARGIN: 13,526 VOTES



JORARAM KUMAWAT
MLA from Sumerpur seat of Pali, Kumawat has been MLA for two consecutive terms. He has a good hold on the Kumawat community which is considered to be the core voter of the saffron party, Bhartiya Janata Party.

VICTORY MARGIN: 27,382 VOTES



HEMANT MEENA
Elected MLA for the first time from Pratagarh seat, Meena is tribal leader of Udaipur division & is handling legacy of Nandlal Meena, a veteran leader. Long experience of politics. Very strong hold in tribal region.

VICTORY MARGIN: 25,109 VOTES



KANHAIYALAL CHAUDHARY
MLA from Malpura seat of Tonk district. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) loyal face of Bhartiya Janata Party. MLA for three consecutive terms. Hindutva and considered leaders with sharp attitude.

VICTORY MARGIN: 16,189 VOTES



SUMIT GODARA
MLA from Lunakaranar seat of Bikaner. A familiar face among the Jats. MLA twice. He is considered close to Union Minister Arjunram Meghwal. Established leader among the Jats of the area.

VICTORY MARGIN: 8,869 VOTES

MoS (IND CHARGE)



SANJAY SHARMA
MLA from Alwar city seat remained very strong as a Brahmin face. He has been the District President of BJP thrice. Sharma has been elected MLA from Alwar city assembly of Alwar district for the second consecutive time.

VICTORY MARGIN: 9,087 VOTES



GAUTAM KUMAR DAK
Won from Badi Sadri assembly seat of Chittorgarh district for the second time. Gautam Kumar Dak is considered close to the State President of BJP, CP Joshi. He has good hold in Jain community of Mewar.

VICTORY MARGIN: 11,832 VOTES



JHABAR SINGH KHARRA
MLA for the second time from Srimadhopur seat of Sikar. He comes from a Jat family established in the politics of Shekhawati. Father Harlal Singh Kharra has also been a minister. Has been MLA twice.

VICTORY MARGIN: 14,459 VOTES



SURENDRA PAL SINGH TT
BJP's MLA candidates from Sri Karanpur. He has been MLA from here twice. Established face of BJP in Sikh society. The party has expressed confidence by making him a minister without becoming an MLA. He has also been a minister in Raju govt.



HEERA LAL NAGAR
Two-time MLA from Sangod seat of Kota district, Heera Lal Nagar is leader with strong grassroots. He comes from Dhakad caste and he is counted among the leaders, who are close to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

VICTORY MARGIN: 25,586 VOTES

MINISTERS OF STATE



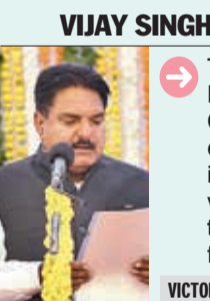
OTARAM DEWASI
He has been MLA from Sirohi seat thrice. Religious leader of Dewasi community. He has been the minister of Devasthan and Cow Husbandry Department in the Raju govt.

VICTORY MARGIN: 35,805 VOTES



MANJU BAGHMAR
Second time MLA from Jayal seat of Nagaur, Baghmar has been professor at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. She has been BJP candidate for four consecutive terms.

VICTORY MARGIN: 1,565 VOTES



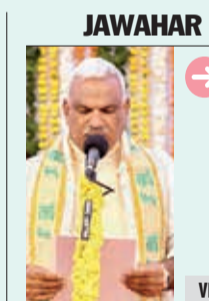
VIJAY SINGH CHAUDHARY
Twice MLA from Nagaur's Nawan seat, Chaudhary is considered to have a good influence among Jat voters. He has held all the important positions from Pradhan to MLA.

VICTORY MARGIN: 23,948 VOTES



KK VISHNOI
He has won from Gudhamalani seat. After a long time, Bishnoi has breached this stronghold of Cong. Before this, his father had also once been MLA from this seat.

VICTORY MARGIN: 15,217 VOTES



JAWAHAR SINGH BEDHAM
First time MLA from Bharatpur city seat. He is the only face of Gurjar community in Bhajan Lal cabinet. Social engineering was taken care of as he has good hold in the society.

VICTORY MARGIN: 1,531 VOTES

Educated, young 'team Bhajan' with RSS imprint

Pankaj Soni
Jaipur

A fortnight after becoming the Chief Minister, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma announced his 22-member team. It was already predicted that names of educated, young people included in RSS-branded 'Team Bhajan' would be surprising and that is exactly what happened. In the formation of team, every effort has been made to maintain a clean image and caste equations along with Lok Sabha equations of Mission-25. 12 OBC MLAs were given place.

In this, the original OBCs, who are considered the traditional vote of BJP, have also been given participation. Currently, five places have been kept vacant to rectify some shortcomings. The Council of Ministers was kept away from the influence of former CM Vasundhara Raju. No MLA, who was among her special supporters, was given a place in the team. Surendra Pal TT was a surprising name in the team and his inclu-



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma inviting Governor Kalraj Mishra for the oath ceremony of the ministers.

sion has surprised even Cong. With regards to Karanpur poll, this is being considered as a master stroke of BJP to reduce sympathy factor in polls.

Veteran and experienced faces like Jogeshwar Garg, Kalicharan Saraf, Pushpendra Singh, Pratap Singhvi, Srichand Kripalani, Ajay Kilak & Anita Bhadel were kept away from the Council of Ministers. At the same time, famous faces Vishvaraj Mewar, Balaknath, Mahant Pratappuri (who have won for first time) Siddhikumari (who has won elections for 3 consecutive times) and youth leader Deepthi Maheshwari (who became MLA for

SURESH S RAWAT IS YOUNGEST WHILE KIRODI LAL MEENA IS OLDEST MINISTER IN CABINET

'Team Bhajan's average age is 55 years six months. 40 year old Suresh Rawat is the youngest minister. Whereas 72 year old Kirodi Lal Meena is the oldest minister in the cabinet. Six ministers are below 50 years of age. The age of 12 ministers is between 51 to 59 years. At the same time, there are seven ministers whose age is more than 60 years. Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa and Manju Baghmar are the most educated ministers in the team. Both have done PhD. The least educated minister is Zoram Kumawat. Jora Ram is fifth pass. Whereas, Minister Babulal Kharadi is 10th pass while Gautam Kumar is 12th pass. Seven ministers have graduate degrees. Two ministers have postgraduate degrees.

second time) could not get a place. But even after this, 'Team Bhajan' seems to be completely energetic and to the liking of central leadership.

Sushma Arora gets NCDFI eMarket Award from Amit Shah

First India Bureau
Gandhinagar

Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, handed over the NCDFI eMarket Award 2022-23 to Sushma Arora, IAS Managing Director Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited, at the National Forensic Science University in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on Saturday.

The award recognises the Rajasthan Coopera-



Sushma Arora receiving award from Amit Shah in Gandhinagar on Saturday. Guj CM Patel is also seen.

tive Dairy Federation Limited's (RCDF) outstanding performance in the dairy sector and unwavering support as a valued member of the dairy sector, contributing significantly to fostering a spirit of cooperation.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was also present at the ceremony. Representatives of cooperative and private dairies from across the country were also present on this occasion.

Meal in Field!



Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, along with other leaders, relishes Punjab's special food on a cold, foggy morning in Bathinda on Saturday. His absence was felt at the Cabinet swearing-in, in Jaipur on Saturday.

'Scorpions' missing amid representation from 11 zodiac signs in newly formed State cabinet

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

There has been a representation of 11 zodiac signs in the state cabinet, but Scorpio could not get a place in the cabinet. The Sagittarius zodiac sign CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has got the prime seat in the cabinet, but maximum 6 ministers have been made from Aquarius zodiac sign i.e. Gajendra Singh Khimsar, Surendra Pal Singh TT, Gautam Ku-

mar, Sanjay Sharma, Sumit Godara and Suresh Rawat. Meanwhile, the zodiacs of Gemini and Capricorn have three ministers each. Dr Kirodi Lal Meena, Kanhaiyalal Chaudhary and KK Vishnoi are Geminines while Jawahar Singh Bedham, Joram Kumawat and Jogaram Patel are of Capricorn zodiac sign. Whereas Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari and Jhabar Singh Kharra are Pisceans.

Meanwhile, the cabinet has two members each from Aries, Leo, Taurus and Cancer zodiac signs with Avinash Gehlot and Oatram Dewasi from Aries zodiac sign, Madan Dilawar and Dr. Manju Baghmar from Leo zodiac sign and Babulal Kharadi and Vijay Singh being Taurians. Additionally, Hirral Nagar and Hemant Meena are Cancerians while Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is represented in the cabinet by Libra sign.



City First

JAIPUR, SUNDAY | DECEMBER 31, 2023



SLAYING IN STYLE!

From shimmering runways to heartfelt moments of triumph, these pageants showcased more than just physical beauty; they were showcases of inner strength, intelligence, and the pursuit of excellence. P10-11



Countdown In Comfort!

Whether you're counting down the seconds with a special someone, dancing the night away with friends, or sharing laughter with family, the key to a memorable New Year's look is confidence. So, slip into your shimmery attire, raise a glass and welcome 2024 in style. City First brings to you ideas for a year filled with love, laughter and of course, fabulous fashion!



As the year draws to a close, it's time to bid adieu in style and usher in the new year with a bang. Whether you're planning a romantic date, a lively night out with friends, or a cozy family gathering, the key to slaying your New Year's party look lies in the perfect blend of glamour and comfort. And what better way to do that than with pretty shimmery attire that adds a touch of sparkle to your celebrations?



Mitali Dusad

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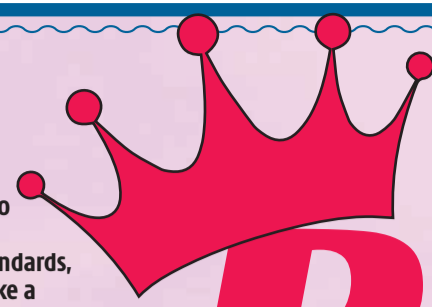
dreamy ambiance. Pair it with strappy heels and minimalistic accessories to let the dress take center stage. Consider a sleek updo or loose waves to complete your enchanting look.

For a night of revelry with friends, go all out with bold and vibrant shimmery pieces. A sequined jumpsuit or a metallic mini dress will ensure you stand out in the crowd. Experiment with rich jewel tones like emerald green, sapphire blue, or ruby red for an extra dose of drama. Complement the look with statement earrings and killer heels. Opt for loose waves or a playful ponytail to keep the vibe fun and carefree.

If your New Year's plans involve a cozy family gathering, you can still slay in shimmery attire while keeping it comfortable. Choose a subtle sequined sweater paired with tailored trousers or a metallic pleated skirt. This chic yet cozy ensemble strikes the right balance between festive and relaxed. Add ankle boots or stylish flats for a laid-back vibe. Keep your makeup soft and natural to maintain a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere.

If you're stepping out for a romantic evening, opt for an outfit that strikes the right balance between elegance and allure. A sequined slip dress in a soft pastel shade is a timeless choice. The gentle shimmer will catch the candlelight, creating a





THE REMARKABLE RISE OF **FROM TIARA TO TRIUMPH**

Pageant Queens

MISS UNIVERSE 2023

In a glittering spectacle that captivated the Miss Universe 2023 pageant unfolded, the 72nd edition of the pageant showcased not only the outer beauty of contestants but also their intelligence, charisma, and commitment to social causes. This year's event transcended traditional beauty standards, emphasizing the importance of empowering women to make a positive impact on the world. Contestants from around the globe converged on the stage, representing their nations with elegance and pride. The pageant, held at Gimnasio Nacional José Adolfo Pineda, San Salvador, El Salvador, captivated audiences worldwide as the contestants competed in various categories, from the stunning evening gowns to the intellectually challenging question-and-answer segment.



MISS ASIA 2023

The Miss Asian Global Pageant captivates audiences with a kaleidoscope of beauty, intelligence, and cultural richness. The 38th Annual Miss Asian Global Pageant, held at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, brought together a diverse and accomplished group of 22 delegates from various corners of the world. Each delegate illuminated their heritage with their unique strengths and talents. Kylie Chang, an 18-year-old from Cupertino, CA, emerged as Miss Asian Global, also clinching the titles of Miss Asian Best in Cultural Attire and Miss Imagine Talks. As contestants from diverse Asian backgrounds grace the stage, they not only showcase their charm but also embody the tapestry of traditions that define the continent. The pageant is a vibrant mosaic, highlighting the unique stories and talents of these exceptional women.



As the curtains draw close on another remarkable year, City First proudly reminisces on the dazzling array of beauty pageants that graced both national and international stages throughout 2023. Celebrating beauty, grace and resilience, these events stood as beacons of empowerment for women worldwide. In collaboration with First India and Bharat24 - Vision of New India, we uphold the belief in empowering women, fostering a platform where their aspirations and dreams take flight. Together, we embark on a retrospective journey, revisiting the moments when remarkable women were crowned, not merely as queens but as ambassadors of change, leaving an indelible legacy that continues to inspire countless aspiring models and young minds. From shimmering runways to heartfelt moments of triumph, these pageants showcased more than just physical beauty; they were showcases of inner strength, intelligence, and the pursuit of excellence.

ELITE MISS RAJASTHAN

Elite Miss Rajasthan, a dazzling spectacle of elegance and charisma, unfolds as a prestigious platform that celebrates the beauty and grace of Rajasthan's finest. The pageant Elite Miss Rajasthan-2023 season-10 was announced at Hotel Shakun, 26 girls were selected for the finale and the pageant was organised by director Gaurav Gaur. This pageant goes beyond the superficial to highlight the intelligence, talent, and societal contributions of its participants, embodying the rich cultural tapestry of the state. As contestants grace the stage with regal poise, Elite Miss Rajasthan becomes a beacon of empowerment, showcasing not only the external allure but also the inner strength and convictions of these exceptional women.



MISS EARTH 2023

Miss Earth 2023 was the 23rd Miss Earth pageant held at Vin Phúc City in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 22 December 2023. Drita Ziri of Albania won and was crowned by Mina Sue Choi of South Korea. It is the first time Albania has won the pageant, and its first crown in the Big Four international beauty pageants. At 18, Ziri became the youngest winner of Miss Earth. Crowned in the same event are Ylliana Aduana of the Philippines as Miss Earth-Air, Thi Lan Anh of Vietnam as Miss Earth-Water, and Cora Bliault of Thailand as Miss Earth-Fire. Contestants from eighty-five countries and territories participated, which was hosted by James Deakin for the seventh consecutive time, along with Huïnh Thi Thuy Dung, Barbadian singer Shontelle, and Vietnamese singers Jaykii, MONO, and Sara Luu also performed. The competition also featured the debut of the Long Beach Pearl crown, which is made of gold and eighty-seven pearls and gemstones.



MISS NETHERLAND 2023

The pageant Miss Netherland Rikkie Valerie Kollie has made history by becoming the first transgender model to win the prestigious title of 'Miss Netherlands'. The 22-year-old Dutch-Moroccan model and actress from Breda triumphed over other contestants and secured her spot as the representative from the Netherlands for the highly anticipated 72nd 'Miss Universe 2023' pageant. The announcement was made during a glitzy ceremony held in Amsterdam, where Rikkie was crowned 'Miss Netherlands 2023' by the reigning queen. The event showcased the beauty, talent, and intelligence of the contestants, with Rikkie shining as an exemplary role model.



MISS INTERNATIONAL 2023

Miss International 2023 was the 61st Miss International pageant, held at the Yoyogi National Gymnasium in Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan on 26 October 2023. Jasmin Selberg of Germany crowned Andrea Rubio of Venezuela as her successor at the end of the event, marking the ninth time that Venezuela won the competition the most wins in the pageant's history. The Miss International Organization announced that the pageant will take place at the Yoyogi Gymnasium No. 2 in Shibuya, Tokyo, Japan, instead of the usual Tokyo Dome City Hall, on 26 October 2023. According to Stephen Diaz, head director of the International Cultural Association, the non-profit organization that organizes the pageant, the organization has set the limit of the number of contestants competing to eighty.



MISS TEEN INDIA 2023

The Miss Teen International 2023 pageant marks a global celebration of youthful elegance, intellect, and cultural diversity. Teen contestants from various corners of the world converge to showcase their talents, poise, and commitment to positive change. Against the backdrop of international camaraderie, these young ambassadors embody the spirit of unity and shared aspirations. The pageant not only crowns a deserving winner but fosters cross-cultural understanding and empowers the next generation of leaders who, through their grace and charisma, leave an indelible mark on the global stage. Sweezy Furtado, an 18-year-old Indian teenager has made all Indians proud by clinching the coveted title of 'Miss Teen International Princess' at the recently concluded Miss Teen Universal 2023 pageant held in Peru, South America.



MISS SUPRANATIONAL 2023

The Miss Supranational 2023 pageant unfolds as a dazzling spectacle of global allure, where extraordinary women from across the world converge to compete for the prestigious title. The 14th edition of the Miss Supranational pageant was held on 14 July 2023 at Strzelecki Park Amphitheater, Nowy Sącz, Małopolska, Poland. Lalela Mswane of South Africa crowned her successor, Andrea Aguilera of Ecuador, at the end of the event. This edition marks the first time in history that Ecuador won the Miss Supranational pageant, the second South American country and the third Latin American



country to do so. The Miss Supranational Organization had raised its age limit from 28 to 33, citing a survey conducted among the pageant's national license holders. This esteemed

MISS PUNE 2023

The vibrant city of Pune recently set the stage for the highly anticipated Miss Pune 2023 event, marking a milestone with its 5th edition. Showcasing a harmonious collaboration between Sandeep Dharmas Runway House and Deepak Chopra of DC World Studios, this spectacular pageant unfolded as a true celebration of beauty, grace, and style. Phoenix MarketCity Pune, in association with Red FM India, added its esteemed support to create an unforgettable evening that mesmerized attendees. On the grand night of June 10, 2023, all eyes were on the magnificent Drome Arena as it played host to the crème de la crème of Pune city.



MISS DIVA INDIA 2023

The Miss Diva Pageant 2023, a dazzling spectacle of beauty, grace, and empowerment, unfolded with grandeur as aspiring contestants from across the nation showcased their charisma on the coveted stage. The 11th edition of the Miss Diva beauty pageant was held on 27 August 2023. At the end of the event, Divita Rai crowned her successor Shweta Sharda while Pragnya Ayyagari crowned her successor Sonal Kukreja. Sharda represented India at Miss Universe 2023 in El Salvador on 18 November 2023, where she finished in the top 20 and Sonal Kukreja will represent India at Miss Supranational 2024 in Poland on 17 July 2024. The event, a celebration of diversity and poise, saw these remarkable women competing not only in glamour but also in intelligence and talent.



GLAMANAND SUPERMODEL INDIA 2023

The Glamanand Supermodel India 2023 showcased a dazzling fusion of beauty and talent, with contestants gracing the runway in a mesmerizing display of style and grace. This national beauty pageant in India annually selects a representative to compete in Miss Grand International. The pageant also selects representatives for Miss Multinational, an International pageant organised by the Glamanand group. Nikhil Anand, the founder and CEO of Glamanand Group, serves as one of the National Directors. The reigning Glamanand Supermodel India 2023 (Miss Grand India) is Arshina Sumbul, who was crowned by the outgoing titleholder Praachi Nagpal. The competition not only celebrated the physical allure of the participants but also emphasized their intelligence and commitment to societal causes.



MISS EUROPE 2023

Miss Europe is a beauty pageant for women from all over Europe. It was established in February 1927 by Fanamet, the European distributor of Paramount, as a one-off event where the winner was to star in a film directed by Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau. After the initial twelve-person jury couldn't decide between 10 contestants, a runoff election was held where Murnau chose the winner. Murnau ended up choosing Itelica Vidali of Yugoslavia as the winner and the first-ever Miss Europe. Miss Europe was later re-established in December 1928 by French journalist Maurice de Waleffe (1874-1946), who also created, in 1920, what by 1927 had become the Miss France pageant. Miss Europe, under de Waleffe, was first held at the Paris Opera with participants from 18 countries. The first contest under de Waleffe did not occur until February 1929.



MISS HARYANA 2023

Ruchi Gujjar, the esteemed winner of Miss Haryana 2023, adds another feather to her cap as she receives the prestigious National Dynamic Awards (NDA) under the esteemed category of Best Actress given by actor Sunil Shetty. The NDA ceremony, presented by Mind Blowing Film Promotion, took place on 9th June 2023 at the grand venue, The Palace, Jaipur. Ruchi Gujjar's remarkable talent and undeniable charm have earned her recognition and accolades in the entertainment industry. Winning the National Dynamic Award for Best Actress is a testament to her exceptional skills and dedication to her craft. Her captivating performances have resonated with audiences, making her a deserving recipient of this esteemed honour.

MISS MAHARASHTRA 2023

Ketki Raut clinches the Miss Maharashtra 2023 title, with Akshata Madane as the first runner-up and Priyanshi Kashyap as the second runner-up, as three exceptional women were crowned in a dazzling finale held at St. Andrews Auditorium. The event showcased the poise and elegance of the contestants through two captivating walk rounds and a final question round, where their overall conduct and performance determined the winners. The show was impeccably hosted by the charismatic Simran Ahuja, creating an engaging atmosphere for both contestants and the enthusiastic audience. Adding to the allure of the evening, Marathi superstar Amruta Khanvilkar graced the jury panel and delivered a captivating performance on the stage, mesmerizing the audience with the soulful Chandra Song.



UNVEILING LITERARY GEMS

City First
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Irshad Khan Sikandar, a prominent poet and author, showcased his artistic brilliance at the 'Lafz' program held at ITC Rajputana, Jaipur. The event took place under the joint collaboration of Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Rekhta Foundation. It is an initiative to promote Urdu, Arabic and Persian languages. Lafz is supported under the CSR initiative of Shree Cement. It's hospitality partner is ITC Rajputana and it's supported by Ehsaas Women of Jaipur.

The program commenced with



Irshad Khan & Bakul Dev during the conversation



Kulsum Malik greets Irshad Khan

welcome remarks by Apra Kuchhal, the Honorary Convenor Rajasthan and Central India Affairs. Irshad Khan Sikandar, through his recitations, captivated the audience, earning their



Apra Kuchhal addressing the audience

appreciation. Sharing insights into his journey, Sikandar expressed, "If I would not have written poetry, I would have committed suicide. I didn't want to commit suicide, so I chose poetry instead." He also said, "Due to poetry, I faced a lot of criticism and people in my village ridiculed me



(L-R) Vinod Bharadwaj, Kamla Poddar, Tilak Gital

suggesting me to do some actual meaningful work. These taunts made me more determent to opt for poetry as my profession." Towards

the end Kulsum Malik, Ehsaas Women of Jaipur presented the author with a memento. Bakul Dev, a noted poet was in conversation with the poet.

SIMPLICITY PERSONIFIED!

City First
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Renowned supermodel Deepika Singh recently graced an event, embodying elegance and highlighting the timeless beauty of simplicity. Devesh Ahuja, the visionary behind Ahuja's Production, emphasized the profound impact of simplicity as the ultimate attire to showcase authentic beauty. In a world often drawn to bold fashion choices, Ahuja advocates for the enduring charm of simplicity, especially through the cultural lens of India. Ahuja's Production has consistently championed cultural values, aiming to inspire the younger generation to embrace and preserve the rich heritage of our sanskriti.

Carrying forward the cultural narrative, Deepika Singh exemplified the grace and allure of sarees during the event. The traditional Indian attire, the saree, epitomizes cultural richness and sophistication. Deepika's choice to embrace this iconic garment not only pays homage to tradition but also reflects the versatility and timelessness of sarees in enhancing one's beauty. Ahuja's Production, through such showcases, aims to instill an appreciation for traditional attire, encouraging individuals to gracefully carry the legacy of sarees in contemporary times.



Deepika Singh

CONDOLENCES!

MUKESH KIRADOO



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra extended heartfelt condolences to Vikas Sharma of the First India family, during his visit to the Sharma family's residence on Saturday. His presence was to offer solace and support following the deeply saddening loss of their beloved son, Advik Sharma, who departed from this world at the tender age of nearly 2 years on Friday. Dr Chandra honoured the memory of the departed soul and provided comfort to the bereaved family in their time of sorrow.

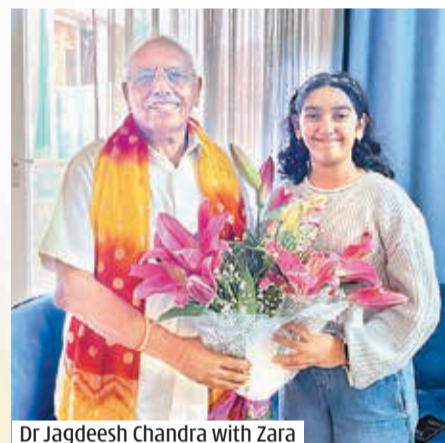
MEET & GREET!

MUKESH KIRADOO



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Ramawatar Soni, Aditya, Neeru, Suman, Radha, Parikshit and Lalit

Renowned figure Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was warmly received by Lalit Soni, Director of 64facets House and his family during a gracious invitation for a meet and greet event held on Saturday. The atmosphere was one of hospitality as Dr Chandra was embraced with open arms, marking a memorable and engaging exchange between the guest and the Soni family. The event, filled with warmth provided a platform for insightful conversations and connections, leaving a lasting impression on all.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Zara

MINE DIRECTORATE!



In a concerted effort to prioritize the safety well minors across the nation the 37th Mine Safety Week was held on Friday. The event was organised under the auspices of the Mine Safety Directorate in Ajmer. This annual event, hosted by the Directorate of Mine Safety, Ajmer, aims to ensure the quality of work, adherence to regulations, and overall safety in mines. During this, Golchha Group's Ghevariya Soapstone & Dolomite Mines received the 2nd award in the Overall category in the B1 classification of Mechanized Metal Mines. Apart from this, the Chief Guest for the event was RT Mandekar, Deputy Director-General of DGMS North Zone Udaipur.

CAMPAIGN!



Gokul Maheshwari, Director of Shakun Group, assumed the role of National Vice President at CAT. Recognized for his advertising expertise, Maheshwari's appointment marked a significant leap for CAT's initiatives nationwide. CAT Rajasthan Chairman, Suresh Patodiya, expressed gratitude for Maheshwari's inclusion, foreseeing a transformative impact. Aiming to amplify the consecration of Lord Shri Ram's temple in Ayodhya, CAT launches a massive public relations campaign from January 1, mobilizing a 'Har Shahaar Ayodhya-Ghar Ghar Ayodhya' drive and trade fairs until January 22, celebrating Diwali nationwide on the temple's inauguration day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



The West Zone Cultural Center's Shilpgram Festival in Udaipur concluded on a high note, celebrating the triumph of Lord Rama's devotion through the artistic brilliance of a dance drama. The mesmerizing portrayal of 'Ram ki Shakti Puja', based on Nirala's poem, captured the essence of Rama's struggle against Ravana's deceitful tactics in a poignant performance directed by renowned dancer Sangeeta Sharma. The festival's crescendo saw Punjab's lively Gidda, Kashmir's elegant Rouf and a diverse array of folk dances enhancing the cultural mosaic. The grand finale, 'Dharti Dhoran Ri...', orchestrated by 250 artists under Rajeev Bharti's direction, left the audience spellbound. In a heartfelt farewell, Kiran Soni Gupta, the director of the West Zone Cultural Center and other dignitaries honoured the artists for their exceptional contributions to the festival's success, presenting them with portfolios and shawls. The event not only showcased artistic excellence but also celebrated the rich heritage and spirituality embedded in the tale of Lord Rama's triumph.

JOY & CELEBRATIONS!



A still from the joyful family dance



Jayant Sinha with the adorable baby



Aaysha shares a moment of joy with Aayra



Ranjeet Kumar, Aaysha and Baby Aayra

Witnessing an outpouring of joy and unity, friends and family joined in jubilation for the naming ceremony of baby Amyra, the granddaughter of the Late Ram Chandra Prasad and Kamla Devi and daughter of Ranjeet and Aaysha. The heartwarming event took place on Friday at the AAIO (Airport Authority of India Officer's Institute) Delhi Flying Club in New Delhi. Marking this special occasion, the ceremony was adorned with moments of pure happiness, heartfelt exchanges of thoughtful gifts and the harmonious laughter that filled the air as family and friends showered their loved ones with tokens of affection. Various dignitaries including Jayant Sinha, MP Loksabha, Hazaribagh were also present to bless the baby.

HARMONY IN MOTION



Chhavi Khemani, Diksha Khemani and Janvi Khemani



Surbhi Khandelwal, Gunjan Patodia, Megha Gupta, Suchita Manak Bohra and Aditi Khandelwal



Anushree Khandelwal, Megha Gupta, Ritika Jain, Neeti Baid and Pratibha Sharma

In a distinctive farewell to 2023, Fit Body and Soul (FBS) enthusiasts celebrated their departure with a unique event. The Cavallo Horse Riding and Polo Club hosted an activity supervised by skilled riders, featuring horsebuck riding and quality time with adorable puppies from Paws. FBS Founder Megha Gupta highlighted the holistic benefits of horse riding, emphasizing its full-body workout targeting the back, legs, abs, and strength. FBS regularly introduces novel activities, and this winter focused on fitness through expert-led sessions. Polo Player Shравan Singh Chauhan shared valuable tips, engaging members like Advaya Kansal, Kiaan Kansal, and others in this memorable event.



Amidst joyous cheer and heartfelt well-wishes, Pradeep Kumar Tolani, the Managing Director of Vanshdeep Builders Pvt Ltd, commemorated a significant milestone as he celebrated his birthday. The auspicious occasion was graced by the presence of prominent figures including Rajendra, Vishal, Abhishek along with Saurav Pradhan, Mahesh, Ajay and a host of others. The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and warm felicitations as friends, family and associates came together to extend their heartfelt greetings to Tolani on this special day.