



FIRST INDIA

RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 6 | ISSUE NO. 182 | PAGES 14 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan's own English Newspaper



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Rajasthan



RISING™ RAJASTHAN

9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR

REPLETE • RESPONSIBLE • READY



SHRI BHAJAN LAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister
will inaugurate the Summit

RAJASTHAN IS READY

Replete, responsible and ready... Rajasthan welcomes eminent guests – hon'ble political leaders and ambassadors, business leaders, speakers, exhibitors, startups – from across the world to Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit.

The Summit is a milestone event in the State's new journey towards rapid economic progress and employment generation.

Let us get together and recommit ourselves to an enduring partnership for sustainable development and shared prosperity.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 9 DEC Inauguration & Opportunity Showcase | 10 DEC Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave | 11 DEC MSME Conclave |
| All Days Rajasthan Global Business Expo | 32 Partner & Participating Countries | 21 Thematic & Country Sessions |

PARTNER COUNTRIES (17)



PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES (15)



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Department of Industries & Commerce,
Government of Rajasthan

Summit Industry Partner



Nodal Offices



These flag graphics are representative only.

Rajasthan Samwad



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An illuminated Rajasthan Assembly shines bright ahead of the Rising Rajasthan event in Jaipur on Saturday, beautifully captured by Senior Photojournalist Santosh Sharma.

Rajasthan poised for a powerful rise!

● PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 'Rising Rajasthan' Summit in Jaipur on December 9

● PM Modi will grace 'Rising Rajasthan' as chief guest, deliver inaugural address

● CM Bhajan Lal Sharma will deliver welcome address for PM Narendra Modi



First India Bureau
Jaipur

The 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024 will kick start with PM Narendra Modi inaugurating the Summit on December 9 in Jaipur. The PM, who will be attending the summit as the Chief Guest, will also deliver inaugural address and inaugurate Rajasthan Global Business Expo before the august gathering of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, members of the

State Cabinet, 5000+ investors, business leaders, officials, delegates and participants.

CM Sharma will deliver the welcome speech for PM and touch upon his Government's agenda and growth engines that will contribute towards realising the goal of doubling state's economy to \$350 billion in next 5 years. During inaugural session, some of the eminent industrialists will also share their views on Rajasthan, its transfor-

mation and business potential and key reforms being ushered in by the Government under leadership of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma. Ministers, Ambassadors and key Diplomats from the 32 countries will also join the inaugural event.

A total of 8 Country Sessions and roundtables will also be organised to promote partnership between participating countries & Rajasthan. Among 32 participating countries, the ones participat-

ing as 'Summit Partner Countries' include Denmark, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Malaysia, Spain, Cuba, Venezuela, Morocco, Argentina, Brazil, Nepal, Oman, Poland, Costa Rica and Thailand. Other countries participating in summit in different capacities are USA, UK, Germany, Australia, Indonesia, Egypt, Finland, Russia, Seychelles, Chad, Ecuador, Ghana, Iraq, Madagascar, Paraguay and Zimbabwe. **PI0**



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THREE-DAY SUMMIT

- The 3-day investment summit will see participation of 32 countries with 17 countries participating as partner countries
- A total of 8 Country Sessions and roundtables will also be organised in 3-day Summit to promote the partnership between the participating countries and Rajasthan
- Top industrialists, business leaders and diplomats attending the summit include Kumar Mangalam Birla, Anil Agarwal, Gautam Adani, Anand Mahindra, Sanjiv Puri, Ajay S. Shriram, Keiichi ONO, Ambassador of Japan & more
- The Summit will be organised at Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre (JECC); 5000+ eminent business leaders, investors, delegates & participants will attend
- Investment proposals worth over ₹30 lakh crore have already been signed in run-up to 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024
- The sessions will see inclusivity to foster economic growth and global competitiveness

IN BRIEF

Rajnath Singh will begin 3-day visit to Russia starting today



New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a 3-day trip to Russia today to witness commissioning of a stealth warship into Indian Navy and hold talks with Russian counterpart Belousov on bilateral cooperation in the co-production of Military hardware.

PMLA court grants bail to suspended Jharkhand IAS officer

Ranchi: A special PMLA court here on Saturday granted bail to suspended Jharkhand cadre IAS officer Pooja Singhal in a money laundering case. She was given bail on the condition of furnishing two bonds of ₹2 lakh each and depositing her passport. Singhal's lawyer said that she was granted bail after the court heard her bail petition for two days.

Rahul to participate in Leadership Sangam near Chomu today



Jaipur: Rahul Gandhi will participate in the Leadership Sangam training camp in Khe-dapati Balaji near Chomu today. Rahul Gandhi will be present at the training camp from 9 am to 3 pm. He will engage in various discussions with Cong workers for 6 hours.

Samajwadi Party decides to walk out of 'communal' MVA ...After Uddhav aide's remark on Babri demolition

First India Bureau
Mumbai

In a massive setback for the Opposition, the Samajwadi Party (SP) on Saturday announced to walk out of the Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra after Shiv Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray's close aide lauded the demolition of Babri Masjid. The Samajwadi Party has 2 MLAs in 288-membered State Assembly.

"The SP is willing to function alone in Maharashtra, but it will never tolerate becoming a part of the communal ideology of Shiv Sena UBT while remaining in the Maha Vikas Aghadi," SP Maharashtra unit chief Abu Azmi posted on X.



Maharashtra Samajwadi Party Chief Abu Azmi talks to media in Mumbai on Saturday.

Azmi attributed the reason behind massive move to an advertisement by Shiv Sena UBT in a newspaper "congratulating those who demolished Babri masjid". "His (Uddhav Thackeray) aide has also posted on X hailing the demolition of the mosque. We are quitting the MVA. I am speaking to (SP President) Akhilesh Yadav," he said.

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

WHAT WAS SHIV SENA POST THAT CREATED RIFT?

The SP's move came after Uddhav's close aide and Sena (UBT) MLC Milind Narvekar posted an image of the Babri Masjid demolition on X. The picture also showed Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray, Uddhav and his son Aaditya, along with a caption in Marathi that read: "Those who did this, I am proud of them." This was reportedly the remark made by late Bal Thackeray after the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

Dhaka ISKCON set ablaze, idols burnt in temple

First India Bureau
Dhaka

The ISKCON reported on Saturday that miscreants set fire to its Nambhatta Centre & temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Radharan Das, spokesperson for ISKCON Kolkata, condemned attack, stating that deities of Laxmi Narayan and other temple items were destroyed. He claimed the fire was started using petrol from the backdoors between 2 and 3 am. Das expressed deep pain, highlighting the ongoing atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh.



Saluting the valour!



PM Narendra Modi during the pinning of Armed Forces Flag by Kendriya Sainik Board Secretary Brigadier DS Basera on Armed Forces Flag Day in New Delhi on Saturday. On the occasion Modi took to X and posted: Armed Forces Flag Day is about saluting the valour, determination and sacrifices of our courageous soldiers. Their bravery inspires us, their sacrifices humble us and their dedication keeps us safe. Let's also contribute to the Armed Forces Flag Day fund.

COPS GET MESSAGE THREATENING PM MODI'S LIFE

Mumbai Police received a threat message targeting PM Narendra Modi, sent via WhatsApp to the traffic police helpline, on Saturday. The message, which mentioned 2 ISI agents and a bomb blast plot, was traced to a number in Ajmer. A police team was dispatched to apprehend the suspect. Authorities suspect the sender may be mentally disturbed or under the influence of alcohol, though the investigation is ongoing, according to an official. **P4**

NATIONAL PARADE TO MARK 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BSF IN JODHPUR

Shah to attend BSF event, unveil statue of Patel in Jodhpur today

First India Bureau
Jodhpur/Ahmedabad

Jodhpur is hosting a landmark event today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Border Security Force (BSF), with Union Home Minister Amit Shah presiding over the ceremony.

On late Saturday night, Union Home Minister Amit Shah was warmly welcomed at the Jodhpur Airport by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Minister Gajendra



UHM Amit Shah with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel attends the BAPS Karyakar Suvarna Mahotsav at Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Shah reached Jaipur from Ahmedabad.

Singh Shekhawat, Deputy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, and other senior BJP leaders. Shah stayed at the BSF Guest House

on Saturday, with Shekhawat and Bairwa joining him for the event today. The final preparations have been made



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma welcomed by Dr Prem Chand Bairwa and Madan Dilawat at Jodhpur Airport on late Saturday. CM Sharma reached Jodhpur to welcome Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

under the supervision of BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, and BSF Rajasthan Frontier Inspector General

ML Garg and his team are dedicated to ensuring everything runs smoothly. Over 800 soldiers will take part in the parade,

and more than 2,000 BSF officers and personnel from across India will attend. The event will feature live demonstrations showcasing BSF personnel's expertise in weaponry and emergency response. Amit Shah will also present medals to several BSF officers and soldiers in recognition of their exemplary service.

Amit Shah arrived in Jodhpur late on Saturday night after attending a major event at the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Ahmedabad.

CM SHARES GRATITUDE TO PM NARENDRA MODI FOR OKAYING NEW KVs

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed his gratitude to Modi for approving 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country. He said this historic decision by Centre will lead to establishment of 9 new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajasthan, thereby enhancing opportunities for quality education in Raj. CM said this extraordinary decision by the PM will strengthen the resolve of 'Shikshit Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.



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'MIGHTY' SHAH TO WITNESS BSF'S 'MIGHT' DURING RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS IN JODHPUR TODAY

Kartikey Dev Singh

Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrived in Jodhpur, a city located in the Thar Desert of northwest Rajasthan, late on Saturday and stayed overnight at the BSF Guest House. Amit Shah's visit is centered around attending the Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day celebrations today, where he will serve as the chief guest, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the BSF's formation. During the visit, Shah will also inaugurate a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Circuit House.

A grand parade will be held at the BSF's STC Training Centre, with over 800 BSF personnel participating. The parade will feature diverse contingents from across the country, including a historic first-ever women's contingent. A highlight of the rehearsal, conducted on Friday, was the impressive display of the BSF's canine team, which demonstrated their skills in rescue operations. Additionally, the Gajraj team amazed the audience with their technical prowess, successfully assembling and disassembling vehicles in less than three minutes.

The event will also serve as an occasion to honor the sacrifices made by BSF martyrs, with a tribute to those who lost their lives in service. Awards will be presented to those who have displayed exceptional bravery and dedication in safeguarding the nation's borders. Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Lok Sabha MP - Jodhpur, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Deputy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa will also attend the celebrations, joining the occasion to recognise the contributions of the BSF. Amit Shah's visit highlights the government's unwavering commitment to supporting the Border Security Force and acknowledging the crucial role it plays in protecting India's borders. The event emphasizes the significance of the BSF's service to the nation and reflects the importance of honoring the forces that safeguard national security.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Governor urges youth to become job creators, not job seekers

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Governor Haribhau Bagade said that young graduates from universities should strive to become job creators instead of chasing jobs. He said that universities

are centres of knowledge, and students should not only focus on textbook learning but also on enhancing their intellectual capacities and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. Governor was addressing the ninth con-

vocation ceremony of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule University on Saturday. He said that education is a continuous process, and the true value of education lies in its ability to guide individuals towards living a better life. Remembering Ma-

Discussing the country's NEP, he said that it aims to provide global-quality education to every section of society without any discrimination

hatma Jyotirao Phule's contribution to social service and women's education, he called him a visionary leader. He also highlighted the significant role of both the government and the private sector in promoting education.



Governor Haribhau Bagade at the ninth convocation ceremony of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule University in Jaipur on Saturday.

Baran: BMC chit fund firm dupes people of ₹ 20 cr



Hanspal Yadav
Baran

Baran city has been shaken by a massive financial scam as the BMC Chit Fund Company reportedly disappeared with an estimated Rs 15-20 cr, leaving thousands of residents in financial distress. The company, led by its director Sonia Nama, lured people with promises of high returns through investment plans

promoted via an app. Investors, who deposited amounts ranging from Rs 2,200 to Rs 2 lakh, were also promised commissions for simple online tasks such as watching videos and following social media posts. However, suspicions arose when the promised payouts stopped last week. Furious investors gathered outside the BMC office in Shivaji Nagar on Thursday, broke open its locked doors, and seized office furniture and other belongings in protest.



BIKANER: SOG CRACKS PAPER LEAK CASE, NABS 3

Bikaner: The SOG has carried out yet another operation in Bikaner and arrested three persons including a govt employee in connection with a paper leak case. The SOG arrested Surjaram Jat, Vimla Vishnoi and Viplesh Kumar. The accused, Surjaram Jat, was taken into custody on Friday and transported to Jaipur. The case is linked to the EO RO examination, with allegations of him being an associate of cheating mafia Tulcharam Kaler. Surjaram Jat had been serving as a senior assistant in the office of the Additional Collector & Secy, Mandi Development Committee.

YOUTH SWINDLED OF ₹6.50L ON PRETEXT OF JOB IN NAVY

Sikar: A case of fraud involving Rs 6.50 lakh has come to light in Laxmangarh, where a Haryana resident allegedly duped a young man with the promise of a Navy job. Girdhari Singh, a local resident, lodged a complaint at the Laxmangarh police station after his grandson fell victim to the scam. The accused reportedly assured the victim of securing a position in the Navy and collected the substantial amount as an advance.

₹6 LAKH DODA CHURA SEIZED, TWO ARRESTED IN KOTA

Kota Rural police have arrested two individuals and seized 39.7 kilograms of doda chura worth Rs 6 lakh, during an operation by the Mandana police station. The accused, identified as Vikas Bishnoi and Jagdish Bishnoi, both residents of Bilara in Jodhpur, were transporting the contraband in a pickup truck. The police acted on a tip-off & apprehended the duo, furthering their crackdown on illegal drug trafficking in the region.

Lawrence denies charges, calls case false in court



Shivprakash Purohit
Jodhpur

Lawrence Bishnoi's statements were recorded in court via video conferencing from Sabarmati Jail in connection with a case involving extortion and attempted shooting. The proceedings took place before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate No. 7, Harshit Hada. Bishnoi, while responding to the

court's questions, vehemently denied the charges, calling the entire case false. He further alleged that the police had falsely implicated him by fabricating evidence. "I was in jail at the time, so it was impossible for me to make any threats over the phone," Bishnoi stated. The case revolves around accusations of extorting money from travel businessman Manish Jain, as

RAPE ACCUSED MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

Ajmer: In a case of rape and murder of a minor, the Ajmer POCSO court number 2 considered the accused as culprit. The youth calling himself Hindu befriended on social media. The youth forcefully kidnapped the girl outside her house and raped her after which he murdered her. The court sentenced the accused to life term and also imposed a penalty on the accused.

well as an unsuccessful attempt to shoot at Jain's office due to a malfunctioning revolver. Lawyer Sanjay Bishnoi said that Lawrence told the court that the police was implicating him.

Preps in full swing for 813th Khwaja Garib Nawaz Urs

First India Bureau
Ajmer

The 813th Urs of Hazrat Khwaja Garib Nawaz is scheduled to begin on Dec 28. District Collector Lok Bandhu and SP Vandita Rana, accompanied by SDM City and Municipal Corporation officials, inspected the arrangements at the Dargah Sharif. During the visit, they reviewed various facilities and conducted a detailed inspection of all entry and exit gates. The officials emphasized ensuring robust arrangements to accommodate the anticipated influx of devotees and maintain smooth proceedings throughout the event. During the fair, additional police personnel will be deployed at various places for security.

CBSE issues show-cause notices to 34 schools

Shubham Jain
Ajmer

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued show-cause notices to 34 schools across India, including three prominent institutions from Jaipur, Udaipur, and Alwar in Rajasthan, for their participation in sports events organized by a fake entity claiming to be CBSE. The fraudulent organization, operating under the name of CBSE, conducted events in which schools from Rajasthan and other regions took part. The schools have been given a 30-day period to respond to the show-cause notices.

Meghwal promises ongoing help for Valmiki community

Laxman Raghav
Bikaner

In Bikaner, Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal was warmly welcomed by members of the Valmiki community at the Circuit House. On this occasion, community leader Shivlal Teji stated, "The Valmiki community of Rajasthan is indebted to Arjun Meghwal. He has always raised his voice for the welfare of the community, and we will continue to receive his guidance in the future."

The Valmiki community also expressed their gratitude to First India News and publicly honored the channel. Community leaders remarked



Arjun Meghwal was warmly welcomed by members of the Valmiki community at the Circuit House in Bikaner on Saturday.

that the channel has played an important role in raising public interest issues.

Responding to questions about opposition concerns over EVMs in

Maharashtra, he said, "Manmohan Singh became Prime Minister twice using the same EVMs. Therefore, questioning the EVMs is not appropriate."

SCHOOL BOY FORCED TO PERFORM NAMAZ, PLAINT AGAINST FOUR

Udaipur: A disturbing incident of assault has been reported at Mahatma Gandhi Modern School in Sector 11. The victim's father lodged a complaint at the Surajpole police station, alleging that four students at the school coerced his son into performing Namaz and physically assaulted him.



HEROIN WORTH ₹1 CRORE SEIZED, ONE ARRESTED

Hanumangarh: Under the direction of SP Arshad Ali, a significant action has been taken against drug trafficking. The DST (Drug Special Task Force) seized heroin worth nearly Rs 1 crore during an operation in Gudia village, Tibbi. The police created a video of the drug sale by the informer. During the operation, Sikander Khan was arrested, and Ahmed Nawaz managed to escape. The Bashir police outpost was unaware of the operation.

ACB OFFICER DUPED OF ₹90K IN CYBER FRAUD IN JODHPUR

Jodhpur: A head constable serving in the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has become the latest victim of cybercrime. According to the complaint filed by the officer, an unidentified fraudster managed to misuse his credit card, making purchases worth approximately Rs 90,000. Following the report, the Udaipur police station has registered a case and launched an investigation to identify the perpetrator. The police will soon nab the accused.

Raj govt gears up for anniv celebrations

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The district-level exhibition will be held from December 12 to 15, marking one year of the state government's tenure. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has issued instructions for district in-charge ministers and the Chief Whip of the government.

As per the directions, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari will be present in Kekri on December 12 and in Ajmer on December 13. On December 14, she will par-

ticipate in the women's conference in Udaipur. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Baidrawa will attend the event in Pratapgarh on December 12 and in Chittorgarh on December 13. Dr. Kirori Lal Meena will join the event in Alwar on December 12 and the farmers' conference in Ajmer on December 13. On December 14, he will participate in the program in Khairthal-Tijara.

Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar will be present for the youth conference in Jodhpur on December 12.

AGRICULTURE THRIVES

Wheat sowing up by 3.75L hectares

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Wheat sowing in India has seen a significant boost this Rabi season, reflecting the positive impact of a good monsoon. As of Dec 6, wheat has been sown on 26.17 lakh hectares, marking an increase of 3.75 lakh hectares compared to 22.60 lakh hectares during the same period last year. This year's sowing has already achieved 82% of the 32 lakh-hectare target, outpacing last year's



total of 30.06 lakh hectares.

The sowing figures in the state have been released compared to the targets. The wheat sowing is at 82.00% of the

target. Barley sowing stands at 96.00% of the target. Mustard sowing is at 81.00% of the target. Taramira sowing is at 81.06% of the target. Chickpea (chana) sowing

is at 88.00% of the target. Overall, sowing so far is at 84% of the target. This year, the target set is 7 lakh hectares more. The target for this year is over 1.19 crore hectares.

Ajmer police arrest man for threat message to PM

First India Bureau
Ajmer

Under the leadership of Ajmer District Superintendent of Police (SP) Vandita Rana, the police achieved a significant breakthrough in a high-stakes case.

On Saturday, the Mumbai Police received a threatening message targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and mentioning a bomb explosion in Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Tracing the origin of the message to Ajmer, the Mumbai Police promptly alerted their Ajmer coun-



terparts. The Ajmer Police apprehended the accused, Mirza Mohammad Nadeem Baig.

After his arrest, he is set to be handed over to the Maharashtra Police for further investigation. Authorities continue to probe the incident to rule out additional threats.

Bairwa inaugurates annual Guldaodi flower show at RU



By CM Dr Premchand Bairwa, Jaipur MP Manju Sharma, MLA Gopal Sharma and Alpana Kateja during the ribbon cutting ceremony at Rajasthan University's annual Guldaodi exhibition in Jaipur.

Bharat Dixit
Jaipur

Rajasthan University is once again filled with the fragrance of Guldaodi (chrysanthemums) as the 38th annual exhibition began on Saturday. Deputy CM Premchand Bairwa, along with Jaipur MP Manju Sharma, MLA Gopal Sharma, and University Vice-Chancellor Alpana Kateja, inaugurated the exhibition, which showcases over 6,000 plants of 32 different varieties. This year, the exhibition has increased the price of each plant to Rs 150, compared to Rs 100 in previous years. Visitors can

SHARMA ADVOCATES FOR INDIAN HERITAGE IN UNIV GARDENS, CRITICIZES CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

MLA Gopal Sharma has raised questions about the Chrysanthemum exhibition, which has been held for four decades. He said, "Chrysanthemum is a plant from China. It lacks the fragrance of Indianness. I believe that in the future, the university will work towards showcasing gardens with the essence of Indian heritage." He further said, "This plant originated in China and was introduced by a university, starting a tradition that continues to this day. There are 20,000 varieties of chrysanthemums worldwide, but many other important initiatives need attention in the university. For instance, the impact of Rising Rajasthan is not visible in the university."

view the flowers for two days, with sales starting on December 9. Thousands of plants are expected to spread their fragrance in homes shortly after the sale begins. The chrysanthemums,

prepared in the university's nursery during July-August, will continue to bloom for the next three to four months. The exhibition is attracting large crowds eager to purchase their favorite plants.

Dr Kirodi thanks PM Modi for KV in Mahuwa

First India Bureau
Dausa

Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for the approval of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mahuwa. He also congratulated MLA Rajendra Meena on the establishment of the school and said, "This will lead to an improvement in the standard of



Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena



Gopal Sharma

education." The demand for the Kendriya Vidyalaya had been raised by MLA Rajendra Meena. Meanwhile, MLA

Gopal Sharma said, "Dr Kirodi Lal Meena is one of the prominent leaders of our state. His entire life has been spent

in struggle. Often, a person who has endured struggles tends to remain ready for conflict at all times. However, engaging in struggles selectively enhances their stature and strengthens their leadership." He further said, "Kirodi Lal's sole focus is ensuring justice for the poor. While it's admirable to fight for justice, constantly seeking struggle, even in independent India, is something to

reflect upon. For four decades, I've observed through media that he has always been relentless in his efforts. But even struggles demand a pause. No one has fought as much as he has." Gopal Sharma added, "We all respect him, but his life has become synonymous with struggle. The true fruits of his efforts will be visible the day we remember him. Every struggle seeks resolution and victory."

Leopard wanders into Vidyadhar Nagar; rescued by forest dept

Nirmal Tiwari and Jitendra
Jaipur



Forest department team preparing to capture the tranquilised leopard in Jaipur's Vidyadhar Nagar on Saturday.

A female leopard caused a stir in the city's Vidyadhar Nagar area just a day before the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit. At around 1 PM, the leopard was spotted near the Central Spine, in a government rest house's nursery.

Prompt action was taken by the Forest Department, led by DCF Jagdish Gupta and Senior Veterinarian Dr. Arvind Mathur. Despite local disturbances, the team managed to tranquilize the leopard after a 4-hour operation. After this, it was taken to Nahargarh Biological Park for medical checkup and was re-

leased in the forest late in the evening. The animal, believed to be 3-4 years old, had wandered into the city from nearby forest in search of food and water. Fortunately, it did not pose a significant danger to humans. The incident raised concerns about the increasing human-leopard conflict, urging the Forest Dept to

implement better management strategies to prevent future encounters. In this entire incident, one question arises again and again that there is a movement of about 150 leopards in the periphery of the Jaipur. Despite this, the prey base is so weak that leopards keep coming to the populated areas in search of food.

IN BRIEF

Rajasthan finance dept starts work on 2025-2026 Budget

Jaipur: Preparations for the state budget have commenced, with Department of Finance initiating the process. A meeting regarding this took place at Secretariat, led by ACS Finance, Akhil Arora. Discussions are focused on key points related to Union Budget 2025-26, including aspects of the state's share and funding for various schemes. Principal Secretaries and Secretaries from various departments attended the meeting.



Excise dept earns 54% revenue against target

Jaipur: The Excise Department has reported its revenue performance over the past 8 months. For the current financial year, the target has been set at Rs 17,100 cr. So far, revenue of Rs 9,228.67 cr has been collected from April to November. This revenue accounts for 54% of the total target.

Real Estate Regulatory Authority orders builder to pay interest for not giving possession on time

Jaipur: RERA Rajasthan has issued an order in a case regarding delayed possession of a property. The order was delivered by RERA member Sudhir Kumar Sharma in connection with the Genesis Sky Heights project in Bhiwadi. A petition had been filed over the failure to hand over apartment possession on time. The allottees had demanded interest from the originally agreed possession date. Following this, Sharma directed the firm, Swastik Home Build Pvt Ltd, to pay interest from the old possession date to the new date.

REMIT PAC MEETING

'Rajasthan must strengthen MoU follow-ups to build investor trust'



Former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and other PAC members join virtually during the second meeting on Saturday.

First India Bureau
Jaipur/New Delhi

We need to analyse the Investment MOUs of the past and current summits to see what worked and what did not. Such a lesson will help in grounding the investments into the real world, emphasised the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) of REMIT (Rajasthan Employment Manufacturing Investment and Trade) during its second meeting on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by Sunil Arora, former Chief Election Commissioner and former Chairman, RIICO Ltd.

Arora advocated for a detailed, structured approach to investment implementation. Breaking down major MOUs into sector-specific action plans, assigning dedicated personnel, and conducting regular reviews



Sunil Arora

The PAC of REMIT, chaired by Sunil Arora, emphasized structured MoU implementation, robust follow-ups, and continuous investment campaigns to boost State's industrial ecosystem

were identified as critical steps to ensure seamless progress. The meeting also opined that the concerned officers should be given firm tenure with clear performance targets to follow up on projects from A to Z.

It was noted, that while the government has introduced various policies and incentives ahead of the investment summit, a robust follow-up mechanism is equally vital.

Investors must be held accountable for delivering on MOUs, supported by effective support in

areas such as land, power tariffs, water availability, and road connectivity. These measures must cater to enterprises of all sizes, from micro to large industries. The PAC also stressed that Ease of Doing Business reforms, including regulatory guillotine framework, must be fully operationalised. It was noted with deep regret that the ease of business is still lacking.

"The investment campaign has to be a continuous process, not a four-to-six-month exer-

cise that disrupts the system," a PAC member noted. Strategic consistency in leadership, paired with rigorous monitoring and delivery, is the foundation for investor trust and the creation of a thriving industrial ecosystem, so that more jobs are created.

Arora also made the suggestion that there are many success stories which must be showcased at the Summit, which can help potential investors to move with confidence. In conclusion, Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International which is implementing the project said, "We will prepare a strategy to see how the investment campaign is able to deliver results and create new jobs". Among the members who participated included, Anil Khaitan, Surendra Bhandari Neeta Boochra, Rukmani Haldea and others.

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Rekha Kumar

The writer is a work-life balance and leadership skills facilitator rekhakumar@protonmail.com

PERSEVERANCE AND SUCCESS



IN-DEPTH

UGC MAKING EDU SYSTEM FLEXIBLE FOR STUDENTS

The University Grants Commission's (UGC) proposal to allow students from any stream in Class 12 to join any postgraduate programme is a transformative move for India's education system. This reform breaks away from the rigid boundaries of traditional academic pathways and promotes multidisciplinary learning, aligning with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Such flexibility allows students to pursue their passions and interests without being confined to their earlier academic choices. For instance, a student from a science background could explore postgraduate studies in social sciences, or a commerce student could venture into the arts. This will not only enrich individual learning experiences but also create a more diverse and innovative academic environment. However, the success of this reform hinges on the implementation of bridge courses or preparatory modules to help students adapt to different disciplines. Universities must also ensure adequate academic support to maintain the quality of education. This is a welcome stride towards a more inclusive, student-centric system.

TIES WITH BANGLADESH POINTING SOUTHWARD



The recent arrest of an ISKCON priest in Bangladesh, along with the detention of others who went to meet him in jail has exposed troubling fault lines in India-Bangladesh relations. The denial of legal support to the priest and Dhaka's summoning of his mission heads in Kolkata and Agartala—with no clarity on the duration—only adds to the growing unease. What compounds this scenario is Bangladesh's decision to waive security clearance for Pakistani visitors, a sharp contrast to the deteriorating atmosphere in its dealings with India. The move to remove the image of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from new currency notes confirms the fears. These moves suggest not just diplomatic signalling but also a potential recalibration of Dhaka's foreign policy priorities. India and Bangladesh have shared a complex yet robust relationship, strengthened under Sheikh Hasina's leadership. Cooperation in areas like border security, trade, and connectivity has been a hallmark of bilateral ties in recent years. However, growing friction—marked by incidents such as this—signals a southward trajectory. The handling of sensitive religious and diplomatic issues requires careful attention, particularly given Bangladesh's internal dynamics and its balancing act between neighbours like India, Pakistan, and China. For India, it is imperative to engage Dhaka diplomatically to address these irritants. A proactive approach, emphasising mutual respect and cooperation, is essential to safeguard this vital partnership. Bangladesh especially must act swiftly to prevent such issues from escalating into larger challenges that could jeopardise decades of progress. With Dhaka apparently cosying up to Pakistan the stakes, both regional and bilateral, are simply too high to ignore.

STEPS FOR SUCCESS

The first step for persevering is to set worthwhile and attainable goals. For our efforts to be successful, one needs clear goals, like a runner focusing one's mind on crossing the finish line in a race. The next step is to analyse how to go about reaching them. Successful people have a clear understanding of the relationship between cause and effect in their lives. They understand that if they want something, they have to do all the necessary things to get it. It will also make it easier to readjust if we suffer a setback. A third essential aspect of perseverance is consistent action. Moderation and consistency, with time, produces significant results. A disciplined approach and choosing a pace that one can realistically keep up, works. Since an organized person makes steady progress, he or she remains motivated and is less likely to quit or knocked out

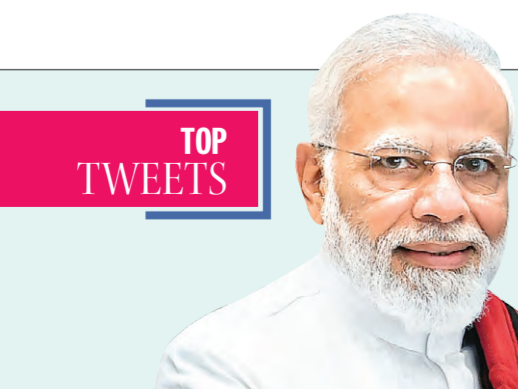
Two enterprising young men were methodically preparing a machine for a crucial test. Suddenly, a gust of wind grabbed the fragile apparatus, whirled it into the air, and brought it crashing down. Discouraged, the men stood in silence. Their meticulous hard work lay crumpled in a twisted pile of wood and metal.

Two enterprising young men were methodically preparing a machine for a crucial test. Suddenly, a gust of wind grabbed the fragile apparatus, whirled it into the air, and brought it crashing down. Discouraged, the men stood in silence. Their meticulous hard work lay crumpled in a twisted pile of wood and metal

little more money. There are stories about overnight successes and whiz-kid entrepreneurs making millions right out of school. "In a society obsessed with perception, it looks too easy... Looks like something anyone can do, if he just understood the trick, had the ability, or intercepted the bolt of lightning from God," wrote a columnist. Perseverance means to hold firmly and steadily to some purpose, state, or undertaking despite obstacles and setbacks. It implies continuing resolutely in the face of adversity, being tenacious, and not giving up. Rather than 'folding up' when encountering difficulty, the persevering individual 'gets up', 'keeps on,' and tries again. Many are unprepared for failures. Never having the will to persevere, they give up easily. Too many people react to failure in a self-damaging way by indulging in self-pity, blaming others and becoming bitter. One must remember that there is a reason to go through any ordeal, some

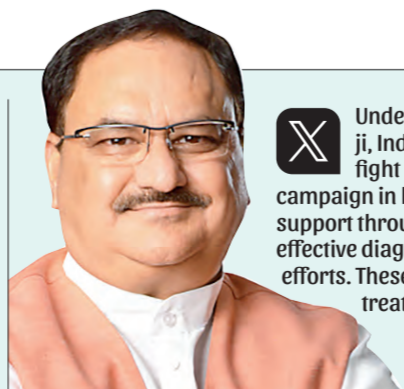
value is to be found in adversity. One learns that failure is not fatal, nor defeat eternal. One gains depth and becomes ready for every kind of toil. To get going again after a setback is not always easy. Sometimes, we are faced with challenges that may appear to defy all our efforts to overcome them. We may feel overwhelmed, incapable, and may, even, get depressed. The first step for persevering is to set worthwhile and attainable goals. For our efforts to be successful, one needs clear goals, like a runner focusing one's mind on crossing the finish line in a race. It is wise to reevaluate our strategies in life from time to time, asking ourselves where we are heading and what adjustments need to be made. It is vital to have clarity on what one wants to accomplish and why. We will be less inclined to give up if we keep a vision of our ultimate destination fixed in our mind. The next step is to analyse how to go about

reaching them. Successful people have a clear understanding of the relationship between cause and effect in their lives. They understand that if they want something, they have to do all the necessary things to get it. It will also make it easier to readjust if we suffer a setback. When problems occur, we can view them positively as a learning experience. By analysing the situation, discussing where we went wrong, we can correct the mistake or remedy the weakness. Naturally, with each effort, one develops more expertise and skill. A third essential aspect of perseverance is consistent action. Moderation and consistency, with time, produces significant results. A disciplined approach and choosing a pace that one can realistically keep up, works. Since an organized person makes steady progress, he or she remains motivated and is less likely to quit or knocked out. Success is not guaranteed by special abilities or talent only. It requires stick-to-itiveness, a determination to give oneself fully. All of us face setbacks of one kind or another in life. Often, it is health or family issues. Instead of being resigned to defeat, how beneficial it is, to be resolved not to give up! As a popular saying goes, "winners never quit, and quitters never win." THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



TOP TWEETS

Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. While this step will benefit a large number of students, it will also create many new employment opportunities. **Narendra Modi @narendramodi**



Under the leadership of PM Shri @narendramodi ji, India is making remarkable progress in the fight against TB. Initiatives like the 100-day campaign in high-burden districts, enhanced nutritional support through Nikshay Poshan Yojana, and faster, cost-effective diagnostic tools are accelerating the country's efforts. These steps have significantly increased treatment coverage and reduced TB incidence. **Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda**

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

If I speak in human or angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **BIBLE**

Gujarat Lok Seva Trust serving people's welfare for 35 yrs: Shah

ANI
Ahmedabad

Union Home Minister Amit Shah appreciated the work of Gujarat Lok Seva Trust and said that the trust has been serving people for 35 years.

"In 35 years, the Lok Seva Trust has helped over 5 lakh people in various ways. The trust has assisted over 5 lakh people in times of trouble, registering them with government schemes," Shah said, addressing the annual function of Gujarat Lok Seva Trust in Ahmedabad.

He further praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's regime and said that he dedicated his government to the welfare of the people.

"Before 2014, the whole government worked in pieces, there used to be talk of freebies but after PM Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, the government started talking about the



Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah with a disabled person during a programme organised to celebrate 35 years of Gujarat Lok Seva Trust, in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

welfare of the poor. He dedicated his government to the welfare of the people," he added.

Gujarat Lokseva Trust is an NGO founded in 1990 by veteran Congressman Rajkumar Gupta.

The home minister further said that in the last 10 years, more than 25 crore people have come out of the poverty line, adding that the

"country is developing." Meanwhile, Amit Shah and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel will attend the BAPS Karyakar Suvarna Mahotsav scheduled to be held at Narendra Modi Stadium on December 7.

The 'mahotsav' will be held to give a heartfelt tribute to Pramukh Swami Maharaj on his birth anniversary, celebrating

his pioneering efforts in fostering a global community of selfless volunteers, according to an official press release.

The Karyakar Suvarna Mahotsav celebrates and pays tribute to 50 years of selfless and dedicated social and spiritual service by thousands of BAPS karyakars (volunteers), young and old, male and female.

SHAH PRAISES PM MODI'S VISION

Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a heartfelt message to Adish C Aggarwala, former Chief of the Supreme Court Bar Association, lauded the newly published book "Modi's Niti Shashtra: The World's His Oyster," highlighting the transformative leadership of PM Narendra Modi. The book, written by Aggarwala, delves into PM Modi's vision.

SHAH TO ATTEND 'BASTAR OLYMPICS'

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma announced that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Jagdalpur on December 15. Sharma further revealed that Home Minister Shah will attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar Olympics and will dine with commanders instrumental in anti-Naxal operations.

BKU seeks GST exemptions, doubling PM Kisan benefits

ANI
New Delhi

Bharatiya Kisan Union (apolitical) has made several demands ahead of the Union Budget 2025-26, at a consultation meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday.

National spokesperson Dharmendra Malik participated in the meeting with the minister, where he demanded, on behalf of the farmers, that agricultural equipments, animal and poultry feed, fertilizers, seeds, medicines be excluded from the ambit of GST. The farmers body in their memorandum to the government argued that even when there was a sales tax system in the states, farmers were free from taxes.

Bharatiya Kisan Union expressed its gratitude to the minister for the pre-budget consultation. BKU noted that the agriculture sector generates maximum employment but still has been a victim of neglect for a long time. Among other de-



CENTRE TO FIX MSP AT OVER 50% : CHOUHAN

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday Chouhan assured that the government will not only fix the Minimum Support Price (MSP) at more than 50% of the production cost but also procure the produce from farmers. While addressing the Rajya Sabha Chouhan stated that the Central Government will continue to purchase crops from farmers at the MSP, reaffirming the government's commitment to farmers' welfare.

mands, BKU sought the formula for setting MSP on agri produce be reformed. All possible risks, expenses and losses in post-harvest operations such as cleaning expenses, grading expenses, packaging ex-

penses, transportation expenses, risk of price fall due to government selling its agricultural products in the open market, natural disaster risk, risk of export ban, should also be included while deciding the MSP.

Naxalites kill woman on police informer suspicion



ANI
Bijapur

A woman was strangled to death by Naxalites in Chattisgarh's Bijapur district on the suspicion of being a police informer, police officials said on Saturday.

The woman, identified as Laxmi Padam, was an Aganwadi worker. Her body was thrown into the courtyard, according to the police.

A pamphlet issued by the banned organization, the Communist Party of India Marxist's Madayi Area Committee, was found at the spot in which they accused the woman of being a police inform-

The deceased woman, was identified as Laxmi Padam, an Aganwadi worker from Bijapur

er, the police added. An investigation is underway to apprehend the assailants.

Earlier, a head constable of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) lost his life during an encounter with the Naxalites in the forest of Abujhmarh, Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh, the police said.

According to the police, the deceased head constable has been identified as Birendra Kumar Sori.

UP CM Yogi reviews Mahakumbh 2025 preps

The Kumbh tent city will provide accommodations in four categories

ANI
Prayagraj

Ahead of the Mahakumbh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a meeting with the officials to review the preparations for the Mahakumbh 2025 at Circuit House Prayagraj.

The Mahakumbh will begin with the Paush Purnima Snan, which is on 13 January 2025. The Kumbh festival will conclude with the final bath on 26 February 2025, the day of Mahashivratri.

Focusing on providing better facilities to devotees during Mahakumbh 2025, the authorities are constructing a special type of floating jetty at Sangam that will allow devotees to take comfortable baths and the facility



UP CM Yogi Adityanath after inaugurating public accommodation during visit to review Maha Kumbh preparations.

to change clothes. Meanwhile, a large number of specialist

doctors are also being deployed to ensure the health of everyone, in-

cluding devotees and saints. As part of this initiative, a 100-bed hospital has been nearly completed at the Parade Ground in Mahakumbh Nagar.

The other facilities natural huts and tents with modern facilities will also be built in Prayagraj to provide comfortable accommodations for the devotees who will be visiting for Mahakumbh 2025.

These tents will be constructed to world-

class standards, offering five-star hotel-like facilities. The tent city will provide accommodations in four categories: Villa, Maharaja, Swiss Cottage, and Dormitory, with prices ranging from Rs 1,500 to Rs 35,000 per day.

Additional charges of Rs 4,000 to Rs 8,000 will apply for extra guests (excluding dormitories). This ambitious project aims to cater to the expected 45 crore visitors from 75 countries.

PMO lauds Koovakad's elevation



"It is a matter of immense pride for India that Archbishop George Koovakad will be created as a Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis. The Government of India sent a delegation led by Union Minister Shri George Kurian to witness this Ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, the Indian delegation also called on His Holiness Pope Francis," PMO wrote on X.

Rays Green Energy Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd. receives LOI from MP govt

...to Establish a Renewable Energy Integrated Giga Factory

First India Bureau
Narmadapuram

Rays Green Energy Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Rays Power Infra Ltd. got into a strategic partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh following the receipt of a Letter of Intent



(LOI) from MPCM Mohan Yadav at the Regional Industry Conclave 2024 held in Narmadapuram. This groundbreaking collaboration

will see the establishment of a Renewable Energy Integrated Giga Factory with an anticipated total investment of Rs 1,400 crore.

CHAIRMAN NRIPENDRA MISHRA SPEAKS

'Ram temple construction to be completed by June 2025'

ANI
Ayodhya

Nripendra Mishra, Chairman of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple Construction Committee, said that the temple construction is expected to be completed by June 2025.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Mishra said, "It is going to be one year since Pran Pratishtha. When it comes to construction, it is underway, we assume that by June 2025, expect auditorium construction, rest will be complete."

Mishra earlier said the delay was due to the decrease in number of workers amid the inclement weather conditions.

"Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has been instructed to increase the number of workers. The pace of construction has slowed down in the past three months due to a significant decrease in the number of workers due to weather. If 200 to 250 more workers are not added, it will be difficult to complete the work by December. The current progress is two months behind schedule,"



he added. The 'Pran Pratishtha' of Shri Ram Lalla at Ayodhya's historic temple

was held on January 22, with PM Modi performing the Vedic rituals, led by a group of priests.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir is constructed in traditional Nagara style. Its length (east-west) is 380 feet; width is 250 feet and height is 161 feet; and is supported by a total of 392 pillars and 44 doors.

The pillars and walls of the temple showcase intricately sculpted depictions of Hindu deities, Gods, and Goddesses. In the main sanctum sanctorum on the ground floor, the childhood form of Bhagwan Shri Ram (the idol of Shri Ramlalla) has been placed.

Lakhs of devotees have been flocking to Ayodhya following the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Lord Ram Lalla. Many visitors are going to the Hanumangarhi Ram Temple daily, and the number of visitors is increasing rapidly.

According to the Ministry of Tourism data, last year, 8.5 crore tourists visited Varanasi (Kashi), around 4.5 crore people visited Prayagraj and more than 1.5 crore people have visited the Ayodhya Ram temple since the consecration ceremony.

Mahadev betting: ED attaches ₹388-cr assets

Agencies
Raipur

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached fresh assets worth about Rs 388 crore in its ongoing money laundering probe into the Mahadev online betting case. The investigation has uncovered alleged links to high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats from Chhattisgarh.

The attached properties include both movable and immovable assets. Among these are investments made by Mauritius-based M/s



Tano Investment Opportunities Fund, linked to Dubai-based "hawala operator" Hari Shankar Tibrewal through Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the federal agency said in a statement.

Middle East Crisis Attacks continue in Gaza; neighbours close their borders

Israeli strikes kill more than 25 Palestinians at Gaza hosp

Agencies
Jerusalem

Palestinian officials say at least 29 people were killed, including four medical staff, when Israeli strikes pummeled the area around one of the last remaining hospitals in northern Gaza.

The situation in and around the Kamal Adwan hospital is "catastrophic," according to Dr. Husam Abu Safia, the director of the hospital.

Elsewhere in the region, Lebanon said it is closing all its land border crossings with Syria except for a main one that links Beirut with the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Friday's decision came hours after an Israeli airstrike damaged a border crossing in northern Lebanon just days after it was reopened. Jordan also closed a border crossing with Syria because of the security situation on the Syrian side.



People carry bottles of butane gas, as they cross the destroyed crossing border point between Lebanon and Syria which was hit by an Israeli airstrike, in Arida, north Lebanon.

ISRAELI STRIKES: 20 KILLED IN GAZA

Cairo: Israeli strikes in Gaza killed at least 20 Palestinians on Saturday, local health officials said, as Qatar voiced hope of fresh momentum in efforts to reach a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the reported strikes in Gaza City and Rafah.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Israel's war against Hamas has destroyed vast areas of Gaza and displaced 90% of the population.
- Donald Trump said that the US should avoid engaging militarily in Syria amid an insurgent offensive that has reached the suburbs of the capital, declaring in a social media post, "THIS IS NOT OUR FIGHT."



Dual transportation system for Rising Raj

The transportation arrangements for the upcoming Rising Rajasthan event have been finalized, with 165 Innova vehicles being arranged by the General Administration Department (GAD) for state guests. Additionally, a dual transportation system has been established for non-state guests attending the event. Those who do not hold the state guest status will need to book their transportation independently, although online booking is available via the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) website. For this purpose, CII has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kalra Bus Operators to facilitate bookings. Kalra has arranged approximately 250 luxury vehicles, including 50 Etios cars that have already been made available to VIPs. Furthermore, starting from the 8th, 80 Innova Crista vehicles will be provided for the guests. The Transport Department is acting as the nodal agency to coordinate arrangements.

Several dept still slated for relocation

The shifting of several departments from the Secretariat once again has become a topic of discussion, as preparations are underway to relocate 20 departments to other locations. Personnel Secretary KK Pathak has written a letter to the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) regarding this move. Among the departments slated for relocation, significant ones such as the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), the State Election Commission, and the Elections Department are included. The shifting of DIPR's large government machinery presents a unique challenge, and it will require careful planning and execution.

Avoid all travel to Syria: MEA's advisory

Agencies
New Delhi

Concerned about the deteriorating situation in Syria, the Government of India put out a late-night advisory to all Indian nationals to completely "avoid all travel to Syria until further notice".

In the statement, which shared an emergency helpline number and an email

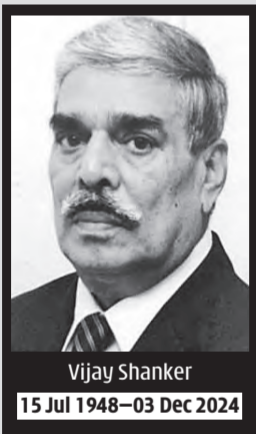


ID, the Ministry of External Affairs appealed to all Indians in Syria to "remain in touch with the Indian Embassy in Damascus". New Delhi's urgent notification also stated that "Those who can, are advised to leave (Syria) by the earliest available commercial flights."

For those who cannot, the advisory asked them to "observe utmost precaution about their safety and restrict their movements to the minimum."

The emergency helpline number shared is +963 993385973.

Ex-CEC Sunil Arora pays a heartfelt tribute to former CBI Director Vijay Shanker



Vijay Shanker
15 Jul 1948-03 Dec 2024

First India Bureau
New Delhi

A prayer meeting was held on Saturday in remembrance of former CBI director Vijay Shanker, who breathed his last on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. He was 76.

Shanker was admitted to a private hospital in Noida for some time. His mortal remains have been donated to AIIMS as per his last wish, his family informed.

A 1969-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre; his IPS allotted batch was 1969 though he joined in 1973, he was given this seniority as he joined on the lateral shift from the army serving the nation in the Defence, from 1969 to 1973.

Shanker headed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008. During his tenure as CBI director, the agency took over the infamous Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case.

As additional director of CBI, he supervised the extradition

of gangster Abu Salem and actor Monika Bedi from Portugal. He also supervised the investigation into the Telgi scam. Before being appointed CBI director, Shanker headed the National Disaster Response Force, and Civil Defence and Home Guards. He served as inspector general in the BSF and was posted in Jammu and Kashmir at the peak of militancy in the 1990s.

Vijay Shanker was a highly respected officer among his colleagues as well as seniors and junior officers.

A recipient of the coveted President's police medal for distinguished and meritorious service, Shanker also served in Uttar Pradesh Police and Moscow under the Ministry of External Affairs. He is deeply mourned by his wife Priti Shanker and family.

On learning of the demise of Vijay Shanker, former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora sent the following message to his daughter Srishti Shanker, paying tribute to her father. "Your respected father's demise is an irreparable loss to the country and to the Civil Services as a Class. He was an Institution and an Icon in his own right! I am saying this because when an evil Cabal tried to ring-fence me at one point when I was in service, He, after ascertaining the true facts in his own way, including from



Sunil Arora

two very upright friends of media, stood like the virtual Rock of Gibraltar and did not bow to any extraneous pressure. Sh. DC Jain, who recently retired as Special Director CBI and who is a ramrod straight Officer in his own right have very fond memories of working during his tenure as Director CBI. I shall of course be there in the Prayer Meeting. Sincere Condolences to you all. Regards to your respected Mother," wrote Arora.

Former CBI director Anil Sinha also condoled Shanker's demise. "It is sad and unfortunate. We have lost a fine gentleman. An upright and courageous officer whom we knew for his sharp intellect and principled conduct. We deeply mourn his sad demise," he said.

The prayer meeting was attended by officers from the 1952 batches of IPS seniority. Mr O P Galhotra, IPS, former DGP, Rajasthan and Shri Rajiv Sharma, IPS, DGP, BPR&D, besides Shri Sunil Arora and Shri D C Jain from Rajasthan cadre, were also present in the prayer meeting.

10th edition of ML Mehta Memorial Oration highlights commitment to 'Serving the Unserved'

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In memory of M.L. Mehta, former Chief Secretary of the Rajasthan Government, the prestigious M.L. Mehta Foundation jointly in collaboration with HCMRIPA successfully organized the 10th edition of M.L. Mehta Memorial Oration.

The oration was organised at the B.S. Mehta Auditorium. The event centred on the theme "Serving the Unserved" brought together prominent personalities, thought leaders, and change-makers dedicated to creating a meaningful impact in the lives of underserved communities.

The grand event was graced by Chief Guest, Dr. Brij Mohan Bhardwaj, Founder, Apna Ghar



(L-R) Indrajit Khanna, PN Bhandari, Kishan Lal, B.M Bhardwaj, Kuldeep Ranka and Rakesh Mehta

Ashram, Bharatpur along with Mr Kuldeep Ranka, ACS, Dept. of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of Rajasthan.

Known for his unparalleled commitment to providing care and shelter to the abandoned and destitute, Dr. Brij Mohan Bhardwaj, Founder, Apna Ghar Ashram delivered an inspiring keynote address, emphasizing the importance of collective respon-

sibility and compassion in addressing the needs of society's most vulnerable members. He further shared, "Today is the 10th death anniversary of M.L. Mehta. The topic today is 'Serving the unserved. People who are in trouble and do not have resources, how can they be served, how can they be helped? Actually, people should see service through various mediums. When peo-

ple do seva, they say that we require resources for it. But I believe that there is no need for any resources for doing seva. All you require is love and compassion. All the resources for service will be sent by Thakur ji. Thakur ji has left 33 crore gods and goddesses for seva, so that if someone is serving helpless and sick people on earth, then resources can be sent to them.

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Road accident in Ivory Coast leaves 26 dead, 28 injured

Agencies
Ivory Coast

A fiery crash involving two minibuses in the Ivory Coast on Friday killed at least 26 people and injured 28 more, authorities said.

The two vehicles collided in Brokoua, a village in the centre west of the country, the transportation ministry said in a statement without providing further details. However, the statement said an investigation had been launched.

Ten of the 26 killed died in a fire that followed the collision, according to the ministry. Videos from the scene from local media outlets showed the two vehicles in flames.

STOCK MARKET

Markets: Once again on path of recovery



Vimal Kothari

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

After the end of the tug-of-war over the Chief Minister's name in Maharashtra and the decision by the Reserve Bank of India to reduce the CRR, there was an expectation of increased liquidity in the market, and

the Indian stock market surged last week. The return of bullishness in the Indian markets was also significantly contributed by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). Out of the five trading days of last week, FIIs remained buyers in the market for three days, which helped sustain the market's upward movement.

According to available data, FIIs sold on Monday and Friday, but the selling on Monday was very minimal, and in December, FIIs made a net purchase of ₹11,933.59 crore. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also made a net purchase of ₹1,792.47 crore last week in the month of December, on a weekly basis. This week, predictions about the market's

direction are being made, as GDP figures from the U.S., U.K., and Japan will be announced, which are expected to show improvement and may further boost the Indian markets based on FII activities.

Traders believe that the market will experience fluctuations in December, and in such a scenario, investors are advised to focus on companies with strong fundamentals and not miss partial investment opportunities when they arise. In the current situation, cautious investment in the market will provide opportunities for investors to make profits.

On Friday, the surge in the market helped the Indian stock market remain in the correction phase

on a weekly basis. At the end of the previous week, the BSE index saw a correction of 1,906.33 points (2.38%), closing at 81,707.12 points, while the NSE Nifty index rose by 546.70 points (2.27%) and closed at 24,677.80 points. The correction in the market was also reflected in the Midcap and Smallcap indices.

Interestingly, both of these indices have shown more than a 4% increase compared to the main index, which indicates a bullish trend in the market. In such a situation, the highest expectations are still from selective Midcap and Largecap stocks. If we talk about the bullion market, due to weakness in international markets this week,

there was a decline in gold and a rise in silver due to demand.

Last week, in Jaipur's Sarafa market, the price of 24-carat gold fell by ₹500 per 10 grams, dropping to ₹78,200 per 10 grams from the previous Saturday's ₹78,700 per 10 grams. On the other hand, the price of silver saw a rise of ₹1,100 per kilogram, improving from ₹92,000 per kilogram to ₹93,100 per kilogram.

Due to potential instability in international markets and weak demand, it is expected that gold and silver prices will continue to weaken this week. Regarding this week's trend, traders are expecting fluctuations in the market.

These are the authors' personal views

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The key to a well-balanced life is to be happy with what we have and be enthusiastic about what we strive for.

Dr JACDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



10

Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL

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

WILL CONGRESS BET ON KISHORI LAL SHARMA IN UP?

The Congress leadership has made an important decision regarding Uttar Pradesh. All committees of UP Congress have been dissolved, and plans have been made to create new committees for preparation for the 2027 UP Legislative Assembly elections. However, UP Congress President Ajay Rai has been given temporary relief. Speculation is rife that a new leader will soon replace Ajay Rai. According to Congress sources, KL Sharma, a very trusted member of the Gandhi family and MP from Amethi, may be appointed as the new UP Congress President. KL Sharma has been handling Amethi's affairs for the Gandhi family since 1984-85, giving him a deep

understanding of UP Congress. Additionally, he has set up an office on Mahadev Road in New Delhi, where complainants from UP Congress often visit. Sharma works to convey their problems to Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, and Priyanka Gandhi. The Congress' weakened grassroots in Uttar Pradesh, out of power for 35 years, faced a major shake-up as nearly 15,000 officials were impacted by a recent decision. Triggered by poor turnout during Rahul Gandhi's 'Sambhal Chalo' yatra at the Ghazipur border, Ajay Rai was blamed for prioritizing Varanasi and Purvanchal over statewide mobilization. The move aims to address internal challenges and reinvigorate the party's base across UP.



FARMERS' DIFFERENT DEMANDS IN NOIDA

The farmers' movement is once again becoming a cause of concern for the central government. However, the demands of farmers from Noida and Greater Noida are different from those of farmers from Haryana and Punjab. Farmers in Noida and Greater Noida are frustrated because they have no land left for farming, and so they are questioning how they can demand a minimum support price (MSP). Ten farmer organizations have started protests against the Noida Authority, Greater Noida Authority, and Yamuna Development Authority. Their main demand is that the affected farmers should receive 10% land allotment and 64.7% increased compensation under the old land acquisition law. They are also demanding a fourfold increase in compensation based on market rates for land acquired after January 1, 2014, and a 20% allotment of land.



DK'S INFLUENCE IN JHARKHAND

Many Congress members were surprised when Shilpi Neha Tirkey was appointed as a minister in newly formed Jharkhand govt under Cong quota, as her name was not even in the running for a ministerial position. Shilpi's father, Bandhu Tirkey, is considered one of the key leaders. Shilpi's political journey began when her father was charged with disproportionate assets and disqualified in 2022 in a money laundering case. Following this, Shilpi contested a bypoll from her father's traditional Mander seat on a Cong ticket & won. Shilpi completed her BBA degree from Christ College, Bangalore. In 2024 elections, Cong fielded her again from Mander, and she emerged victorious. Interestingly, Shilpi's father, Bandhu Tirkey, is an old friend of Karnataka's Deputy CM DK Shivakumar. It is believed that Shilpi was appointed as the current Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Cooperation.

TENSION IN SP-CONGRESS ALLIANCE

Tension signals between the newly formed alliance of the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress have already started to emerge. In the recent elections, SP and Congress had announced their partnership under the slogan "UP Ko Yeh Saath Pasand Hai". However, their priorities in Parliament seem to be different. Rahul Gandhi wants to highlight the Adani issue in the House, it is being discussed that Akhilesh Yadav wants to distance himself from Adani, as a female journalist had brokered a deal between Adani and Akhilesh. Rahul Gandhi remains adamant about addressing this issue directly and, despite being stopped at the Ghazipur border with Priyanka, succeeded in conveying to Muslims that Congress is their biggest ally. This stance does not sit well with Akhilesh.

WHAT WILL EKNATH SHINDE DO NEXT?

The formation of the new Maha-Yuti govt in Maharashtra was a grand affair. Since taking the oath as Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis has appeared in a new avatar. He has contacted senior leaders of Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar's parties, telling them, "Our political commitments may be different, but our connection is old. So, if you need any assistance, feel free to call me directly." On the other hand, former Chief Minister and current Deputy CM Eknath Shinde had hoped for the Home Department but was disappointed when Fadnavis stated that the state Home Minister must always maintain coordination with the Union Home Minister. Previously, when Shinde was in charge of the state under the Maha-Yuti govt, he had prioritized his own party's MLAs over BJP MLAs in the allocation of funds.

CM inspects final preps at JECC for Rising Rajasthan

Guests to be welcomed in Rajasthani style



RISING RAJASTHAN
9-10-11 DEC 2024 • JAIPUR

Aishwary Pradhan & Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma visited Jaipur JECC located at Sitapura in Jaipur on Saturday evening and reviewed the preparations for 'Rising Rajasthan'. Meanwhile Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph reviewed preps and inspected security arrangements, considering VVIP movement from airport to JECC.

The summit will be attended by prominent personalities from India and abroad. VVIP movement will take place at Jaipur International Airport for four days starting from Sunday. Approximately



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Minister KK Vishnoi and senior officials including Ajitabh Sharma and others at the JECC on Saturday.



Ajitabh Sharma explaining about the ODOP stall to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and BJP leader Madan Rathore in JECC on Saturday.

CM SHARMA TAKES 10TH RESOLUTION

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma is taking new pledge each day for 10 days for Rising Rajasthan. As part of this, he took his tenth pledge on Saturday and said that the summit will not only accelerate economic growth of state but also create employment opportunities. He said that thousands of individuals from Rajasthan's significant workforce will participate in this summit.

'HEAVY ENTHUSIASM AMONG INVESTORS'

BJP State Prez Madan Rathore, speaking about the success of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit, said that there is a noticeable excitement among both the people of Rajasthan and entrepreneurs, making the summit poised to be magnificent and unparalleled. The efforts made by the BJP government for the development of Rajasthan are positive, and these efforts will benefit people.

11 DELEGATES TO MISS OUT SUMMIT

The final list of state guests for Rising Rajasthan has been released. Initially, a total of 188 delegates had been prepared. However, 11 delegates have expressed their inability to attend. Now, a total of 177 delegates (state guests) will attend Rising Rajasthan. The state guest delegates will stay at ITC Rajputana, Marriott, and Amer Clarks.

SUSTAINABLE PANEL SESSION ON DEC 10

There will be a panel session on sustainable finance. Fin Min Nirmla Sitharaman & Diya Kumari have formed an 8-member panel for this session. The panel will include Pankaj Ojha, Director at Deutsche Bank, USA. Dr. Rambabu, an advisor from World Bank, will moderate. The panel will also feature the Chairmen of Bank of Baroda, AU Small Finance, and HUDCO. The session will take place at JECC from 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM.

300 VVIP guests will arrive at airport, with over 25 guests coming by special chartered flights and most others arriving on routine flights. Guests

will be welcomed in the traditional Rajasthani style. A counter will be set up by BIP at arrival gate, and protocol officers will receive the guests.

Oppn tactics expose their frustration: Shekhawat

Rajeev Gaur
Jodhpur

Union Minister for Culture & Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, once again targeted opposition parties questioning the electoral process. He said that the opposition's face is different and their character is different, and this is once again becoming evident to the people of the country.

Speaking to the media at the airport on Saturday during his visit to his parliamentary constituency, Shekhawat said, "Those who have been rejected by the people in this democratic system are now expressing their frustration in this manner. However, the people of the country have recognized their tactics. Today, India's democracy is over



Union Min Gajendra S Shekhawat taking stock of preps for statue unveiling event of Sardar Patel, scheduled for Sunday in Jodhpur.

75 years old. The very Constitution that they protest against or vow to protect, is the same one whose procedures for running the democratic system they reject and deny." Regarding Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to the Border Security Force (BSF) Foundation Day event, he said, "It is a matter of great pride for us that the

Home Minister himself is attending the BSF Foundation Day event here. Earlier, this event used to be held only in Delhi, but after formation of Modi's government, inspired by the Prime Minister, it was decided to host these events in different locations. This event was held in Jaisalmer two years ago, and this time it is being hosted in Jodhpur."



Diya Kumari addressing the session on Type-1 diabetes during an event in a private hotel in Jaipur on Saturday.

Diya attends National conclave on diabetes

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari took part in the two-day National Conclave for Type 1 Diabetes on Saturday. She encouraged the doctors present at the event and expressed her gratitude for their efforts to raise awareness in society for the prevention of Type 1 Diabetes.

Diya Kumari called to

join the Type 1 competition programme and participated in this event to promote awareness and prevention of Type 1 Diabetes in society. The conference was held at a hotel. The theme of the conclave was 'Disparity to Similarity'. Type 1 diabetes happens when the body has little or no insulin. It is usually diagnosed in children and young adults, although it can occur at any age.

SPREADING WARMTH

Birla inaugurates the Blanket Fund Project

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Relatives of patients coming to Kota for treatment from distant and rural areas will no longer have to struggle with the cold and shivering. The Blanket Fund Service Project, which has been operational in Kota for over fifteen years, will now be available at the city's two major hospitals, the Medical College and MBS, starting Satur-



Om Birla during Jansunwai at his Kota office on Saturday.

day. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the project by distributing quilts and blankets to caregivers at the Medical College campus.

BIRLA ON A RELIGIOUS TOUR TO ASIND TODAY

LS Speaker Om Birla is set to visit Asind in Bhilwara district on Sunday as part of a special religious event. He will visit the sacred site of Malaseri Dungri to pay homage to Lord Devanarayana, a revered figure in the region. Birla will be accompanied by several senior officials from BJP.

Speaker Birla said that through the Blanket Fund, blankets and quilts would

be provided free of charge to the caregivers of patients admitted to the hospitals to protect them from the cold. Our aim is to ensure that no person is deprived of treatment due to lack of money. In the future, we will set up a center at both hospitals so that no one feels absence of family.

Shelters to be built at both hospitals Birla said that shelters and canteens would be constructed within the hospital premises for the caregivers.

Union minister Yadav emphasises pride in Hindi, education reforms

Ashvini Yadav
Alwar

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav's at annual function of Takshashila School in Behror on Saturday said that in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, there used to be Takshashila. Chanakya studied in Takshashila and educated Chandragupta Maurya.

To private schools, he said that parents should speak to their children in Hindi. He said teach them English, but make sure the child takes pride in



Union Min Bhupender Yadav in Behror on Saturday.

their own language. He said that only knowledge is worshipped, so pursue education. This is the period of NDA in India. Acharya Chanakya laid foundation of the great

Mauryan Empire. "We have witnessed India's growth over the past 10 years. We have seen the end of symbols of slavery and construction of the Ram temple. We introduced the new education policy; education should become a public movement. The PM has introduced many new dimensions in education. In Alwar, we are organizing a sports festival for MPs. "By registering, one can participate in any sport. We will conduct sports camps during summer."



CULTURAL INSIGHTS!

The sixth day of the 15-day Global Leadership Programme 'LEAD-I' at Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, Jaipur began with a refreshing yoga session led by Shashi Kumar Yadav on Saturday. P14

Winter fashion is all about blending comfort with style and cardigans paired with dresses are perfect for the season. City First brings you a selection of chunky cardigans that can be effortlessly styled with cozy dresses.



Seasonal Style



Tripti Mahawar

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

As the temperatures drop, it's time to embrace the warmth and style that winter fashion offers. One wardrobe staple that's perfect for layering during the colder months is the cardigan. A versatile and cozy piece, cardigans not only provide warmth but also add a touch of sophistication to any outfit. Whether you're running errands or attending a holiday gathering, a well-chosen cardigan can elevate your look effortlessly.

When it comes to dresses, winter fashion is all about mixing comfort with style. Long-sleeve dresses in thick fabrics like wool or knit provide both coziness and elegance. Floral or geometric patterns add interest to otherwise plain winter outfits. Pair your dress with tights or leggings to protect against the chill, and top it off with knee-high boots for an added layer of warmth. A chunky scarf or a beret can complete the outfit for a cozy, yet chic look.

For this winter, consider opting for oversized or chunky cardigans that are both comfortable and fashionable. These styles pair beautifully with form-fitting outfits like leggings or slim jeans, creating a balanced silhouette.

Another popular winter look is the sweater dress. This versatile piece can be styled with ankle boots or knee-high boots for a sleek, stylish appearance. The key to wearing sweater dresses is layering. Throw on a long, knitted cardigan or a tailored coat to maintain warmth without compromising style.

For a more polished look, a tailored cardigan in neutral tones, like camel or grey, can be worn over a classic dress or blouse,

adding a chic layer of warmth. This winter, embrace cardigans and dresses that allow you to stay warm, look stylish, and express your personal fashion. The right pieces can transform your winter wardrobe into a collection of cozy, chic outfits perfect for any occasion.



REBOOTING RAJASTHAN: TAPPING THE PRAVASIS



Sundeep Bhutoria

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The Rising Rajasthan 2024 investment summit, to be held in Jaipur from 9 to 11 December

2024, will hold a Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave on the 10th of December 2024. The aim of the three-day summit, which has started creating a buzz in many cities, is to bring the Rajasthani diaspora from across the globe, foster a sense of community & collaboration and also explore investment & philanthropic opportunities while actively contributing to the state's development.

The Summit is being held at a time when India is ranked as the fifth-largest economy in the world and also one of the fastest-growing big economies globally. It is well on its way to becoming the third-largest economy. Global investors, as a part of their policy to de-couple from China, are looking at India to invest. Many state governments are competing hard to garner a chunk of the investment pie by doling out incentives and framing suitable policies.

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Bhajanlal Sharma, has already visited Japan and South Korea where he invited the investor's communities & entrepreneurs to make investments and highlighted the steps to create a business-friendly environment in the state. Meanwhile, senior teams of the state government have worked out a road map to visit other Indian cities, including Kolkata.

However, as far as foreign direct investment (FDI) is concerned, Rajasthan, which ranked ninth with Rs 2,195 crore FDI inflow in the last fiscal (2023-24) as per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data, has a lot to catch up. Maharashtra, for instance, had topped FDI investment in India with Rs 125,101 crore inflow during the same period.

I recall a similar initiative Resurgent Rajasthan was launched in late 2015 by the then chief minister, Vasundhara Raje Scindia, and I had received a request to act as the resource person for Resurgent Rajasthan in Kolkata. I re-

member the then Industry Minister and the Principal Secretary of the Rajasthan Government had visited many Indian cities along with the chief minister who had also made it a point to visit Japan.

Earlier too, a lot of planning and efforts were made to attract the Pravasi or Non-Resident Rajasthanis (NRRs) to invest in Rajasthan. In fact, it had all started in the year 2000 when the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, hosted the Pravasi Rajasthani Sammelan which later gave shape to the formation of Rajasthan Foundation - which is currently working as an autonomous body under the Department of Industries. I attended the Pravasi Rajasthani Sammelan 2000 as the youngest invitee by the Chief Minister.

This time I also received an invitation from the present Chief Minister, Bhajan Lal Sharma, to attend Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave on 10th December 2024 at the Rising Rajasthan 2024 summit as a guest of honour.

I remember at the first such Sammelan in 2000, L N Mittal and Rahul Bajaj had clearly said that emotion and industry are two different things and that business and industry could not be run on the basis of emotion alone.

I also recall at that time when Ashok Gehlot, as the Chief Minister, had led a delegation of cabinet ministers and senior bureaucrats to the USA to attend functions and meetings organised by the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) which is accredited to the Rajasthan Foundation. Before leaving for the United States, Ashok Gehlot had told the press that his trip was not only for inviting investments for the industry but also to develop and create an emotional bond between Rajasthan and Non-Resident Rajasthanis.

Our current Government is very clear about what they want and are working towards it.

It is ironical that Rajasthan - a state that produces top industrialists - is itself not so developed industrially.

Why so? Well, this question has bothered me a lot. Some of my industrialist friends from Rajasthan have an easy answer. "Rajasthan does not have proper infrastructure," they say. I am not convinced by their reasoning and have my own perspective on the matter.

Rajasthanis, or the Marwari community, have panned out all over the world and established very successful businesses and conglomerates. The Rajasthanis are mainly into cement, power, tea and trade. Sadly, these are the areas in which Rajasthan neither has a good infrastructure nor a



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma engaged with top investors and industrialists at the Jaipur Rising Rajasthan summit on Nov 9, 2024



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma meets Vikram Doraiswami during the 'Rising Rajasthan' UK visit on October 17, 2024

friendly industrial atmosphere to attract its own community members to set up big projects. On the other hand, the tourism and hotel industry - the mainstay of Rajasthan's business - are areas or domains in which traditional Rajasthani businessmen are hardly present. In fact, the top five hotel groups in India are managed by non-Rajasthanis.

Rajasthan has excellent locales for shooting films. Here again, with only a couple of notable exceptions, it is the South Indians and Maharashtrians who are the major players in the film industry. This is one area where the otherwise ubiquitous Marwari businessmen are conspicuous by their absence.

So Rajasthan has opportunities in areas where the local business communities are not involved, and the areas in which the Non-Resident Rajasthanis (NRRs) are involved, the state does not have anything substantial to offer. They seem to be out of sync.

As a member and office bearer of various Rajasthani and NRR organisations, I have had the privilege to be with many of the state delegations with senior state ministers to develop tourism, trade and industry. But I can tell from my experience that these visits, apart from some memorandum of understandings (MoUs), have not achieved much. It is my observation that for the most part, whatever the reasons, the senior ministers and bureaucrats of the state do not have the requisite powers to clear projects while on their promotional tours.

The state's efforts have centred solely on attracting the NRRs who are not interested in the type of business opportunities offered.

I cannot recall any major initiative taken by any of the regimes in Rajasthan to attract investors from communities other than Rajasthanis in the potentially high-growth areas of business. Also, the state is yet to develop



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa meet KAI Group officials during their Japan visit on September 11, 2024

the areas where the NRRs can invest and catapult the state industry to a higher growth trajectory.

I feel the state government must immediately take steps to ameliorate this neglect and set in motion the process of creating a smart investment climate for NRRs and reaching out to investors from other communities.

I have often heard that there is a marked difference in the attitude of the ministers from Rajasthan when they meet NRRs in their cities and when the NRRs come to meet them in Rajasthan. Many people have alleged that the ministers hardly have time for those who are visiting the state. If

this is true, then why such a waste of time, energy and resources sending out delegates to woo NRRs?

I sincerely feel the whole approach of the state's industrial policy needs a revamp and fresh thinking which our Chief Minister is capable of. So why not do some re-surgery before going ahead with Rising Rajasthan?

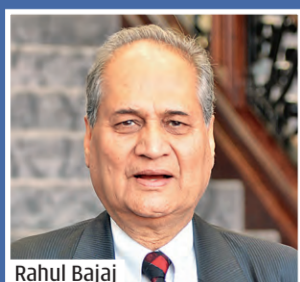
I strongly feel in the forthcoming Summit on Rajasthan Rising 2024 there must be some thought-provoking sessions on emotional bonds to attract NRRs and about their social investments or what their forefathers have contributed. Generations have lost touch

with their native land and schools and hospitals which were established at that time and are now ruined. Same with their houses. The entire Shekhawati area, lanes after lanes are desolate. Efforts should be made through this conclave to address the issue with the help of the Pravasi Rajasthanis.

Also, there is a compelling need to re-focus on the investment trends and the newer areas of growth, the rise of artificial intelligence, the evolution of alternative energy resources, the search for smart solutions and the ever-growing needs of the Indian defence sector are some of the areas that merits top priority.



Former CM Ashok Gehlot



Rahul Bajaj



RAJASTHAN CONCLAVE

Rajasthan Conclave 2000 - a landmark event that led to the establishment of the Rajasthan Foundation, fostering deeper connections between Rajasthan and its non-resident community. (In the picture: writer Sundeep Bhutoria, then Chief Minister of Rajasthan Ashok Gehlot with his wife Sunita, Anshuman Singh, Nawal Kishore Sharma, Pandit Jasraj, LM Singhvi, LN Mittal, Priyamvada Birra, Rahul Bajaj and other prominent Non-Resident Rajasthanis).



Former CM Vasundhara Raje

RESURGENT RAJASTHAN!

Initiative Resurgent Rajasthan was launched in late 2015 by the then chief minister, Vasundhara Raje Scindia, and I had received a request to act as the resource person for Resurgent Rajasthan in Kolkata. I remember the then Industry Minister and the Principal Secretary of the Rajasthan Government had visited many Indian cities along with the chief minister who had also made it a point to visit Japan.

Seasonal Festive Cheer



GM Rahul Bhagat with (L-R) Radhika, Manisha, Sunita, Nitin, Satish, Mahendra, Ritesh, Mohkam, Prakash, Naveen, Girraj and Mayank



A beautifully decorated Christmas tree

City First

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Hilton Jaipur celebrated its 10th anniversary with a spectacular Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday. The event brought together guests, dignitaries and the community, marking a decade of excellence in hospitality. The highlight of the celebration was a sustainable Christmas tree, created from waste wood by the hotel's talented engineering team, reflecting Hilton Jaipur's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. The evening began with carol singing by the children of Sanskar School, setting a festive tone.



Carol singing by the children of Sanskar School

The ceremony also introduced an exciting lineup of festive events, including the Sufi Safar on December 14, a grand Christmas Eve Gala Dinner and Bash, a Christmas Day Brunch, and the First Brunch of 2025 on January 1. The New Year's celebrations will be held at various hotel venues like Aurum, Turquoise, Chaandi and Nebulae. Prominent personalities like Jagdeep Singh, Tusharika Singh and Sunita Shekhawat attended, while General Manager Rahul Bhagat expressed heartfelt gratitude and excitement for the season ahead.

EVENTS!

The 18-day protest by Krida Bharti at Sadul Sports School concluded successfully on Friday following constructive discussions with Education Minister Madan Dilawar. The government promptly approved Rs 80 lakh for the repair of hostels and toilets and assured further improvements. Former players Danveer Singh Bhati and Bhairu Ratan Ojha, who played key roles in the negotiations, celebrated the government's commitment to the school's development. Bhati emphasized the school's transformation into an international-level institution.



The sixth massive voluntary blood donation camp, organised by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Seva Samiti, Bindayaka, marked the 69th Mahaparinirvan Day of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar. Held at Baba Ramdevji Temple, 52 units of blood were collected by SMS Hospital & Mahila Chikitsalaya's blood bank. Distinguished guests honoured donors, government job achievers, NEET qualifiers, and sports medalists. President Mukesh Atolia thanked the participants for their enthusiasm. The event showcased community spirit and honoured Baba Saheb's legacy of social service. Sudhir, Harphool & Chhitramal Jalutharia were also present.

Asian Games Gold Medalist and Arjuna Awardee Divyakriti Singh from Jaipur recently impressed at the International Dressage Competition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, competing against Olympic riders. She won an Individual Silver medal in the Freestyle event, defeating a European rider ranked 4th in the Paris Olympics, and secured a Bronze in the Prix St George, missing the silver by just 0.05 points. Divyakriti, currently training for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, is the first Indian rider to qualify for the Asian Championship.



IN THE CITY!

SUNIL SHARMA



Guv Haribhau Bagade with Manoj Soni, MP Rajendra Gehlot, Nirmal Panwar & Devendra Kachhawa

The 9th convocation of Mahatma Jyoti Rao Phule University, Jaipur, concluded with a grand ceremony at Achrol Campus on Saturday. Governor Haribhau Bagade, the chief guest, conferred degrees to over 1,000 students and urged them to become job creators rather than seekers. Four Padma Shri awardees received honorary PhDs. The ceremony recognized 59 gold medalists, 55 silver medalists and 15 Chairperson's Award recipients. University Chairperson Nirmal Panwar expressed gratitude, highlighting the importance of such events in boosting students' confidence and achievements.



Rajasthan University and Shubh Vichar Sansthan, a leading NGO, have recently signed an MoU to promote moral values, Indian culture and arts among students. The collaboration will organise activities in music, drama, literature and environmental conservation across campuses including Maharani Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja College and Commerce College. Vice Chancellor Prof Alpina Kateja and Shubh Vichar founder Jitendra Sharma emphasised the importance of holistic student development. The initiative will offer training in Indian arts, and organise stage performances & literary festivals.



Emerging ghazal singer Madhu Nair recently enthralled the audience at Nettheat's song-ghazal program with her velvety voice, performing renowned ghazals. She began with Nasir Kazmi's "Na Mila Kar Udas Logon Se" and continued with compositions by Shamim Jaipuri, Tasleem Fazli, Agha Bismil and Masroor Anwar. Tabla artist Parmeshwar Lal Kathak, harmonium player Rajendra Jadeja and guitarist Sunil Kumar accompanied her, making the evening memorable. The artists were honoured with mementoes by Naval Dangri and Manish Agarwal.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Jaipur's rising actor Priyanshu Bhargava's second Rajasthani song, Chirmi Mhari, has been recently released under the banner of K Series Production House. The song features Priyanshu and Riddhirazada, with lyrics reflecting a blend of Rajasthani tradition and modernity. Shot in Sirsi village to capture its authenticity, the song has resonated with young audiences. Directed by Abhishek Sharma and produced by Sanjana Sharma, Chirmi Mhari has garnered positive reactions. Priyanshu, known for roles in Khadi Neem Ke Niche and Ghar Ek Mandir, continues to make his mark.



Manipal University Jaipur (MUJ) will host the Grand Finale of the 'Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024' under the Ministry of Education and AICTE. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the participants on December 11, inspiring young innovators. The five-day event will feature 156 students, including 100 males and 56 females, along with 35 mentors from reputed institutions across India. The government has allocated Rs 21.74 lakh for the event. Teams will tackle 68 hardware problem statements from various ministries, with top teams like 'Tech Normies' and 'Vidyadhaar' competing.



Dr Nitu Bhatnagar & Puneet Sharma

Rotary Club Jaipur Crown and Rotary Club Jaipur Udaan are set to make Jaipur's winter unforgettable with the Surmala 'Awarā Hoon' program on December 14 & 15, honouring Bollywood legend Raj Kapoor on his 100th birth anniversary. The event will feature over 425 of his memorable songs, spanning 30 hours. Indian idol finalist Piyush Panwar and 150 singers from Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Gwalior and Delhi will perform, aiming for a world record. Dignitaries like MP Manju Sharma, MLA Kalicharan Saraf, and others will grace the event.



A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



'Tenet' Film Poster



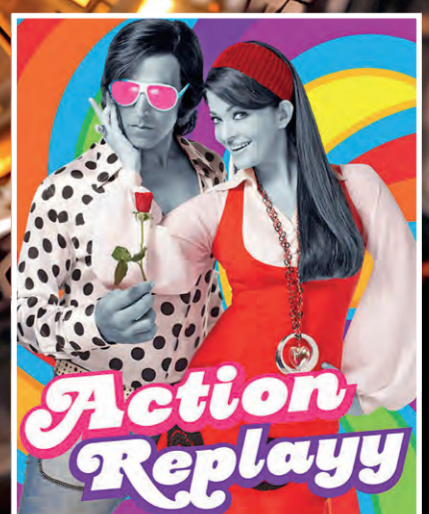
'The Terminator' Film Poster

Bhavika Khunteta
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Today marks Pretend to Be a Time Traveler Day, a delightful occasion that invites you to transcend the boundaries of time. Step into the past, future, or an alternate timeline, and let the magic of iconic Bollywood and Hollywood films inspire your adventure. Bollywood offers its take on time travel wonder. Akshay Kumar's Action Replay humorously sends to the 1970s, blending vibrant retro charm with heartfelt family drama. Tollywood also has its time travel gem with 24, where actor Suriya plays the lead role in a gripping tale of science fiction and family drama. Suriya's portrayal of a scientist battling against time through a unique watch brings an exciting dimension to the genre. Hollywood's fascination with time travel has given us cinematic masterpieces. The Back to the Future series takes viewers on electrifying rides across decades in the legendary DeLorean, combining thrills with timeless nostalgia. Christopher Nolan's Tenet pushes the boundaries of storytelling with its intricate play on reversed time, while The Terminator franchise raises the stakes, intertwining past and future in a gripping battle that redefines the consequences of altering history. Embrace your inner time traveller by recreating these cinematic moments. Dress in the flamboyant styles of the '70s, like in Action Replay, or channel futuristic vibes inspired by Tenet. Walk the streets as though you've arrived from another century, dropping cryptic phrases or marvelling at the "modern" world around you. Let this whimsical day transport you through the corridors of time, blending creativity, imagination, and the timeless magic of movies.



'24' Film Poster



'Action Replayy' Film Poster

SESSION!



Anand-ICE, in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council, recently organised a hybrid lecture series under the theme "Bridging Industry & Academia" for B.Tech CS/AI students. The session, titled "Career Advice and Future Technologies for Computer Science Aspirants," featured Vivek Mishra, Associate Software Engineer at JPMorgan Chase & Co, Wilmington, US, as the keynote speaker. Mishra shared insights on future technologies and career navigation. Vice Chairperson Monika Mittal Agarwal, Principal Prof (Dr) Vijay Kumar Sharma and Vice Principal Prof (Dr) Praveen Agarwal were also present.

PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVE

City First
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Jaipur National University (JNU), Jaipur, under its commitment to social responsibility, organised an outreach programme titled "Empowering Young Learners, Fostering Hope" at Government Upper Primary School, Udaipur Gailariya, Jaipur, on Saturday. This initiative, part of JNU's ongoing philanthropic efforts, aims to uplift students from weaker sections of society by enhancing their educational environment.

The school received essential resources, including furniture, books, stationery, and study materials, significantly improving the learning atmosphere. Chancellor Dr Sandeep Bakshi delivered an inspiring address, emphasizing the importance of creative time management, perseverance, and high aspirations.

Dr Bakshi motivated students to embrace challenges, learn from setbacks, and strive for excellence with a positive mindset. The students enthusiastically interacted with university officials, expressing joy as the new infrastructure was unveiled.



BLEND OF LEARNING, CULTURE & GROWTH

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(L-R) Anjana Handoo, Sonia Ahuja, Vaishnavi Beniwal, Mamta Vashisht, Diana Rose, Cherry Goyal & Dr Priyanka Sharma



Dr Latika Nath & Archana S Mankotia

City First
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The sixth day of the 15-day Global Leadership Programme 'LEAD-I' at Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls' School, Jaipur began with a refreshing yoga session led by Shashi Kumar Yadav on Saturday. The session, conducted at the Open Air Stage, which set against the serene morning atmosphere, energized participants and set a positive tone for the day.

During this, students experienced Jaipur's vibrant culture through a Heritage Walk and Bazaar Walk, immersing them-



Student during an interactive session

selves in the city's traditions and architectural grandeur.

The day concluded with 'Ties That Bind', a bonding activity aimed at

strengthening group connections and fostering camaraderie among participants. By seamlessly integrating intellectual exploration, cultural appre-

ciation, and personal development, the sixth day of LEAD-I continued to shape participants into confident, globally aware future leaders.

Series of insightful sessions

'Dharti Dhora Ri': This discussion delved into Rajasthan's rich cultural heritage, celebrating the state's vibrant history and traditions.

'Nature Protection and Wildlife Conservation in India': A session by guest speaker Dr Latika Nath, India's renowned "Tiger Princess" and wildlife conservationist, emphasized biodiversity preservation. Dr Nath inspired participants with her call to action for young leaders to protect natural habitats and ensure environmental sustainability.

'Fractals as a Design Language': This creative workshop, facilitated by experts, encouraged students to explore the intersection of mathematics and art, fostering innovative thinking.



(L-R) Lalit, Sudhir Mathur, Surendra Golcha & Pradeep Jain during the poster launch

SPORTING LEGACY

City First
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The Raghu Sinha ITF 200 Tennis Tournament 2024 will be held at Jaipur Club from December 10-15. Organised by the Raghu Sinha Mala Mathur Charity

Trust under the International Tennis Federation (ITF), the event has attracted 125 players from India and abroad, including several with notable ITF rankings. The competition will feature 110 male participants in categories ranging from

+45 to +75 and 15 female players in the +35 and +45 categories.

The event, which commemorated the legacy of the late Raghu Sinha, was introduced with the unveiling of its poster on Saturday. Surendra Golcha, Chairman of the organizing committee and Sudhir Mathur, Trustee of the Trust, shared details during the press conference. The tournament boasts a Rs 2,00,000 prize pool, along with trophies and mementoes for the winners and runners-up.

BRAVE STEPS!



The BIB Expo cum cultural event for the Honour Run was inaugurated recently at Gandiv Stadium, Jaipur Military Station. Chief Guest Shri Madan Dilawar, Education and Panchayati Raj Minister joined Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command and Barinderjeet Kaur, Regional President of AWWA, along with dignitaries. Army personnel showcased martial arts like Kalaripayattu, Gatka, a paramotor show, and trick riding by the 61 Cavalry, enthralled attendees. Inspirational talks by Paralympian Dr Deepa Malik and other champions uplifted the audience. The Honour Run, themed "A Run for Veterans," today will feature multiple race categories and salute Army veterans.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT!



A 50-member team of MSc (Chemistry) students from Subodh Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Rambagh, visited Ajmer Food Products Pvt. Ltd. (Parle Group) and Kaleda Krishna Gopal Ayurveda Pharmacy in Parbatpura's industrial area on Tuesday. Guided by experts, including Parle's coordinator Yatish Kumar and Kaleda Pharmacy's Dinesh Chand Sharma, students explored the chemical aspects of food, confectionery and medicines, along with manufacturing, packing, and marketing processes. The visit was flagged off by Principal Dr Renu Joshi and Vice Principal Dr Indu Sharma.

DOUBLE DELIGHT!

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cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Amit Mittal, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) of Bharat 24, marked a double celebration on Friday, commemorating his 50th birthday and 25th wedding anniversary in the presence of the Bharat 24 team. The joyous occasion was celebrated with laughter, heartfelt moments and a vibrant atmosphere, reflecting the deep camaraderie shared within the organisation. The event was attended by notable team members, including News Director Syed Umar, Amit Ojha, Shaan,



Amit Mittal greeted by Syed Umar, Amit Ojha, Shaan, Akram, Raj, Anu Sridhar, Poornima Mishra and others during the celebration

Akram, Raj, Anu Sridhar, Poornima Mishra and others, who came together to honour Amit

Mittal's exceptional contributions to Bharat 24. The Bharat 24 family extended their warm wishes, expressing hope for continued success and happiness for him in the years to come.



Brahma Kumaris Rajapark Seva Kendra hosted a grand spiritual program at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium Indoor in Jaipur, guided by Jaipur Subzone Incharge BK Poonam on Saturday. The event featured renowned spiritual speaker Brahma Kumari Shivani. The event began with Prabhu Smriti and lamp lighting, with Neeraj Kumar Pawan Ji (Chairman of Rajasthan Youth Board) also in attendance. BK Shivani shared profound spiritual teachings, emphasizing the importance of purity in actions and thoughts. The program concluded with a meditation session, leaving attendees with a sense of peace, love and joy.

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