



**BHARAT24 PRESENTS "BHARAT BHAGYA NIRMATA - ROADMAP TO VIKSIT BHARAT" CONCLAVE IN NEW DELHI**

# PM Modi emphasises freedom from colonial mindset for Viksit Bharat: Mansukh Mandaviya

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S FACE DELIVERS THE HIGHEST TRP, SAYS Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA**



Delivering his welcome speech during the inaugural session of the conclave, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of Bharat24, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra said, "We extend a warm welcome to the chief guest of today's session and popular BJP leader, Anurag Thakur. What a pleasant coincidence it is that exactly three and a half years ago, this channel was also inaugurated by Anurag ji. And today, he is happy to see how far the channel has come in these three years." He further added, "We are the face of the government, apart from critical coverage. And most importantly, the channel's slogan—its core message—is the Vision of New India, which is the Prime Minister's vision document. This Narendra Modi-centric channel has reached a level of popularity where, in just three years, we have done 80 JC Shows. Every show was based on the Prime Minister's popular programmes and policies, and they have been watched by 380 million people on YouTube and Social media. This clearly shows that even today, Narendra Modi's face delivers the highest TRP—it sells the most, it works the most."

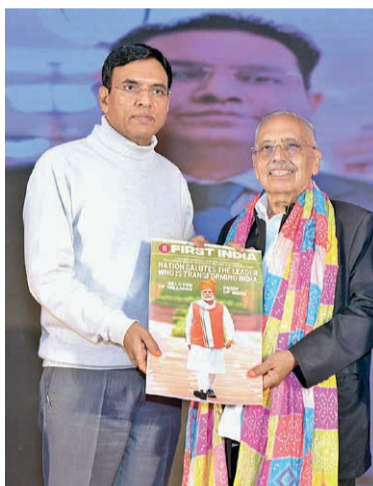
First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Bharat24 hosted 'Bharat Bhagya Nirmata - Roadmap to Viksit Bharat' conclave at Hotel Taj Palace, Man Singh Road, New Delhi, on Wednesday bringing together senior policymakers, national leaders and prominent voices to deliberate on India's roadmap towards becoming a developed nation to fulfil the dream and vision of PM Modi.

The event was graced by Santosh Gangwar, Governor of Jharkhand; Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports; Anurag Singh Thakur, BJP Leader & LS MP; Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Transport & IT, Delhi; Dr Syed Zafar Islam, BJP National Spokesperson - Political & Economic Affairs who were graciously welcomed by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO and Editor-in-Chief, Bharat24 as well as CBO and Strategic Consultant Manoj Jagyasi. P8



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra warmly welcomes Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar flanked by (L-R) Aditi Nagar, Amit Ojha, Dr Anita Hada, Manoj Jagyasi, Dr Basant Goel & Dr Piyushi Dwivedi, during "Bharat Bhagya Nirmata - Roadmap to Viksit Bharat" conclave at Hotel Taj Palace, in New Delhi, on Wednesday.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra presents the First India compilation of 90-Page jackets featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled 'NATION SALUTES THE LEADER WHO IS TRANSFORMING INDIA' to Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra presents the First India compilation to Anurag Thakur, also present is Manoj Jagyasi.



I congratulate Jagdeesh Chandra ji, who has made big contribution to public life, for choosing the right subject, right people and inviting them here. I am happy to see the youth, the future of nation sitting in front of me.  
**MANSUKH MANDAVIYA,**  
UNION MINISTER



After Modi gov't came to power there is peace in Kashmir. Since Aug 5, 2019, when Articles 370 and 35A were removed, six years have passed—and there has not been any stone-pelting incident at Lal Chowk or Kashmir at all.  
**ANURAG THAKUR,**  
FORMER UNION MINISTER



We are soldiers of PM Narendra Modi - who delivers what he promises. The health problems of Delhi's people will soon come to an end, as the hospital is already ready, & Delhi gov't will be taking strong action very soon.  
**DR PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH,**  
HEALTH MINISTER OF DELHI

**Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives thunderous applause after 37-min speech in Ethiopian Parliament**

## INDIA-ETHIOPIA POWERING GLOBAL SOUTH PARADIGM! Ethiopia feels like home as Gujarat too has lions: PM Modi

First India Bureau  
Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)

The Global South's rise is not aimed against anyone and envisions a world with access to technology, respect for sovereignty, shared prosperity and a global governance structure that reflects contemporary reality, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday while addressing a joint session of Ethiopia's Parliament.

In a lighter yet symbolic moment, PM Modi referred to Ethiopia as the "Land of Lions." He said that his home state of Gujarat is also home to lions, which made him feel instantly at home in the African nation. Extending greetings of friendship, goodwill, and brotherhood, he described the Ethiopian Parliament as a place where "the will of the people becomes the policy of the state."

"India's national song 'Vande Mataram' and Ethiopia's national anthem both refer to our land as the Mother. They inspire us to take pride in the heritage, culture, beauty and protect the motherland," he said. India and Ethiopia are "natural partners" in regional peace, security and connectivity, PM Modi said, asserting that the two countries work for a world that is "more just, more equal, and more peaceful". P7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives standing ovation as he interacts with Ministers and MPs of Ethiopia after his address at the Ethiopian Parliament, in Addis Ababa, on Wednesday.

**'EK PED MA KE NAAM' ETHIOPIA EDITION!**



PM Narendra Modi and Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed Ali planted saplings at Ethiopian Parliament in Addis Ababa on Wednesday. PM Modi said that the spirit behind India's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative resonates with the Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, reflecting a shared commitment to protecting the environment.

**PM MODI ARRIVES IN OMAN ON FINAL LEG OF 3-NATION TOUR**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday arrived in Muscat on 2-day visit to Oman, final leg of his three-nation tour, during which he will hold talks with the country's top leadership. Oman's Deputy PM for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, received Modi at the airport.



**BHAGWAT CALLS ON VP**

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday met VP CP Radhakrishnan in Delhi. VP's Secretariat shared a picture of the meeting in a social media post. "Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, met the Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, at Vice-President's Enclave," it posted. Radhakrishnan, who is from Tamil Nadu, shares his roots in the RSS.

**SC slams 'ad-hoc' norms for toxic Delhi air; directs to close nine toll plazas**

Function at 50% WFH or pay fine: Delhi gov't's mandate to all firms amid air crisis

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The SC on Wednesday continued hearing matters on Delhi's air pollution crisis, with air quality remaining 'severe' in parts of the NCR. The court orally observed that measures taken so far have been a "total failure" in curbing pollution. CJI Surya Kant said meaningful improvement needs long-term planning, not ad-hoc steps. The court also flagged congestion at Gurgaon's MCD toll and asked authorities to consider temporarily suspending nine toll plazas in a week. P6



**SC MODIFIES ORDER ON BAN OF OLDER VEHICLES**

Only vehicles with BS4 compliant engines and above will be exempted from action if they are found running in Delhi, SC said, modifying order banning 10-year-old diesel-run vehicles, 15-year-old petrol-run vehicles from today in view of the massive air pollution in Delhi.

**ACB SIT nabs five accused in JJM scam**

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

A SIT of ACB on Wednesday arrested 5 people in connection with the Jal Jeevan Mission scam. The accused Mahesh Kumar Mittal (Proprietor - Ganpati Tubewell), Hemant Mittal alias Golu (son of Mahesh Kumar Mittal), Umesh Kumar Sharma, Manager/Liaison Officer (Shyam Tubewell), Gopal Kumawat, former accounts officer, PHED, and Piyush Jain, son of Padam Chand Jain (Proprietor - Shyam Tubewell). Telephonic talks among the accused were recorded by ACB, providing evidence of collusion and illegal personal gain through bribery of departmental officers. P3

**BJP HOLDS WORKSHOP ON SIR**

## CM Bhajan Lal Sharma urges BLAs to work thoroughly on SIR

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Under a special comprehensive revision in Rajasthan, 4.185 million voter names have been removed. Along with the draft list, details of absent, shifted, deceased, and already enrolled voters were provided. With such a large number of names removed, political activity in Rajasthan has intensified. BJP held the workshop



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma

urged the BLAs to work thoroughly on this task. Jogaram Patel, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, stated in workshop that wherever gaps remain, they must be addressed, & pending work in BLAs must be prioritised. Key ministers, legislators, and BLA officials attended the workshop. Avinash Gehlot, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, also emphasised the importance of the SIR process during the workshop session.

**IN BRIEF**

**Govt asks Sonia Gandhi to return Nehru letters**  
New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday rejected the opposition's claims, clarified that papers related to India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru are not missing from the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML), responding to the Congress's demand for an apology over the issue.

**Pak extends air space ban on Indian airlines**  
Islamabad: Pakistan has extended its airspace ban for Indian aircraft by another month till January 23. Since Pahalgaon terror attack, India too has imposed a similar ban on Pakistan and is likely to reciprocate to fresh 'notice to airmen' (NOTAM) issued, on Wednesday.

## CONSTITUTION KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION-2025

# STUDENTS MUST SEE CONSTITUTION AS A WAY OF LIFE: VIRENDER CHOUDHARY



At a time when constitutional values face multiple challenges, organising Constitution-centric programmes for students has become increasingly important. Students should view the Constitution not merely as an examination subject, but as a guiding framework for their lives and conduct.

**VIRENDER CHOUDHARY,**  
FOUNDER, DR SAHDEV  
CHOUDHARY FOUNDATION &  
DIRECTOR, FIRST INDIA NEWS



Today's students are tomorrow's administrators, policymakers, and responsible citizens. He described such initiatives as essential for strengthening the foundations of democracy and appreciated the efforts of the organisers and participating institutions.

RAJAT, SDM, JAYAL

Students from more than 70 schools across Jayal tehsil take part in the Constitution Knowledge Competition-2025, an initiative focused on building awareness of the Constitutional values

**First India Bureau**  
Jayal (Nagaur)

The Constitution Knowledge Competition-2025, concluded in a grand, dignified, and highly successful manner at Jayal in Nagaur on Tuesday. The event proved to be much more than an academic competition; it emerged as a meaningful initiative to strengthen constitutional values, democratic awareness, and a sense of civic responsibility among the younger generation. Active participation by students, teachers, school representatives, and parents from across the Jayal tehsil added vibrancy and purpose to the event. Throughout the programme, an atmosphere of discipline, intellectual seriousness, and enthusiasm prevailed.

The programme was attended by Virender Choudhary, founder of Dr Sahdev Choudhary Foundation; Rajat, Sub-Divisional Officer, Jayal; Khemaram, Deputy Superintendent of Police; Vijay, Tehsildar; Radheshyam, Chief Block Education Officer; along with representatives, principals, and teachers from more than



Virender Choudhary, Mahipal Singh, SDM Rajat, DSP Khemaram Bijarniya, and others during awarding of First Prize Team of Shri Shiv Shakti Vidyapeeth Senior Secondary School, Chhapra with a trophy, medals, and a cheque of ₹21,000, in Jayal, Nagaur.

70 schools of Jayal tehsil. The event commenced as scheduled, with participants being introduced to the structure and objectives of the competition. The primary aim was to deepen students' understanding of the historical background of the Indian Constitution, the role of the Constituent Assembly, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy, Fundamental Duties, and the overall governance framework. During the various stages of the competition, students demonstrated strong preparation, logical reasoning, and a clear grasp of constitutional concepts.

Their knowledge was assessed through a written examination and question-answer-based activities, in which all participants took part with confidence and sincerity. Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, SDM Jayal, Rajat, emphasised that the Indian Constitution is not merely a book of laws, but a living document that safeguards the rights, duties, and dignity of every citizen. He highlighted the importance of constitutional awareness among youth. Presiding over the event, Virender Choudhary, Founder of Dr Sah-

dev Choudhary Foundation, remarked that knowledge of the Constitution reinforces the values of equality, justice, and fraternity in society. The evaluation process of the competition was conducted in a transparent, fair, and well-organised manner. Answer sheets were assessed in a time-bound process, and students and schools demonstrating outstanding performance were duly recognised. Prizes were awarded to top performers, while all participants were presented with certificates of participation. The sense of confidence and pride visible on

the faces of the students during the award ceremony stood as a true reflection of the programme's success. The contribution of teachers, the organising committee, the evaluation team, and volunteers was commendable. Their coordinated efforts and disciplined execution ensured the smooth and orderly conduct of the event. A strong sense of enthusiasm among students and educators at the local level underscored the growing relevance and acceptance of constitution-based educational initiatives in society. Overall, the Constitution Knowledge Competition-2025 conveyed a powerful message that when young minds are provided with the right platform, guidance, and direction, they grow not only as academically competent individuals, but also as constitutionally aware, ethically grounded, and democratically responsible citizens. The event marked an important step toward the preservation and promotion of democratic values and concluded by inspiring the organisation of similar initiatives on a broader scale in the future.



Omar Deen, Principal, welcoming Mahipal Singh, Director, First India News during the event in Jayal.



Khemaram Bijarniya, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Jayal addressing the audience



Virender Choudhary, Founder, Dr Sahdev Choudhary Foundation & Director, First India News



The audience and the students engrossed in the event in Jayal.

## Farmers' mahapanchayat called off; stir continues



Farmers gather against the proposed ethanol factory in Hanumangarh, on Wednesday.

**First India Bureau**  
Hanumangarh

The farmers' mahapanchayat at Dhan Mandi, Hanumangarh Junction, was called off following talks with the district administration, even as protests against the proposed ethanol factory at Rathikheda in Tibbi continue. A 15-member farmer delegation held discussions with District Collector Khushal Yadav, Addi-

tional District Magistrate Ummadi Lal Meena, IG Hemant Sharma, and SP Harishankar. Farmers, who alleged the BJP government was harming land, air, and water in the name of development, said the agitation would continue until the factory proposal was withdrawn. The next mahapanchayat is scheduled for 7 January in Sangaria, where the movement's future strategy will be decided.

## Police bust illegal prostitution racket in Udaipur hotel; over 30 arrested



**First India Bureau**  
Udaipur

A major police operation uncovered an illegal prostitution racket operating from a hotel in the Sayra police station area of Udaipur district.

Acting on a tip-off, police detained over 30 men and more than half a dozen women, all reportedly from Madhya Pradesh. Objectionable materials, vehicles, mobile phones, and cash were seized.

The hotel operator was arrested, and a case has been registered under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act. Investigations are ongoing.

### OVER 1,000 KG OF POPPY HUSK SEIZED IN TWO MAJOR DRUG BUSTS IN PALI DISTRICT

In a joint operation, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Jalore and Sadri police recovered 460 kg of poppy husk from an abandoned Scorpio vehicle in the Desuri area. The suspects fled into the nearby forest. In a separate case, Pali police arrested Satpal Singh with over six quintals of poppy husk, seized from a truck on the Jodhpur bypass. Investigations are ongoing in both cases.



Seized bags filled with poppy husk.

### SIX ARRESTED IN AJMER FOR ALLEGEDLY FOLLOWING CRIMINALS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Six individuals were arrested in a police operation in the Arain area of Ajmer district for allegedly following criminal elements on social media. The arrested include Surendra Ghasal from Katsura, along with five others. Police said the group's actions were contributing to an atmosphere of fear. Arain police station in-charge Dinesh Kumawat confirmed that the accused were spreading fear through their social media activities and assured that such actions would continue as part of maintaining law and order.

### REVENUE PATWARI HELD WITH ₹5K BRIBE IN HANUMANGARH

A Revenue Patwari from Patwar Circle Longwala in Hanumangarh, was arrested red-handed by the Anti-



Accused Mamta

Corruption Bureau (ACB) Sri Ganganagar unit for accepting a Rs 5,000 bribe. The bribe was demanded for recording the mutation of land in the name of the complainant's mother. The accused, Mamta, had earlier taken Rs 5,000 and was demanding the remaining Rs 15,000. A case has been filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and further investigation is underway.

## DGP RAJEEV SHARMA REVIEWS SCRB OPERATIONS

# Study best practices from other states: DGP

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

DGP Rajeev Kumar Sharma chaired a high-level meeting to conduct a detailed review of the State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB) activities. The meeting was attended by ADG Crime Hawa Singh Ghumaria, IG Ajaypal Lamba, and DIG Shantanu Singh, among other senior officials. The in-charge of the SCRB presented a

comprehensive overview of its operations, which included a critical assessment of the Abhay Command and Control Centre.

A key focus of the review was the Emergency Response Support System (112 FRV), with attention given to its response times. In 2021, the average response time for the 112 FRV service was 18.24 minutes. However, significant improvements have been made, with the current



The DGP chaired the review meet at Police HQ, on Wednesday.

average response time reduced to 13.09 minutes in 2025. Notably, the average response time for 112, 100, and 1090 services

in November 2025 was recorded at just 9.21 minutes, marking a major achievement in emergency response.

DGP Sharma emphasised the need to study best practices from other states to further enhance efficiency. He also issued key directives aimed at strengthening smart policing initiatives across the state, underscoring the importance of continued progress in law enforcement and emergency services.

Rights violation: 19 rescued from illegal detention in Jaipur

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

A rescue operation in Gram Nangal Jaisa Bohra, Jaipur, led to the freeing of 19 individuals, including 11 women and 7 men, held illegally for eight months. The victims, brought from outside the state, were detained at Meri Pahal Sanstha. The operation revealed severe human rights violations, including forced labour and inhumane conditions. FIR registration and victim rehabilitation are underway.



## Minister Dilawar celebrates two years of State Govt; connects with MGNREGA women

On the occasion of the completion of two years of the Bhajan Lal Government, Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar visited women working under MGNREGA. He discussed various government schemes, including the Prime Minister's housing and free toilet construction programs. Dilawar inquired about free wheat distribution and checked on the progress of these schemes. Sitting with the women, he shared a meal of millet bread and potato-spinach curry. His down-to-earth demeanor, joking with the women and praising their cooking, won him admiration from the villagers.

## Dotasra & July an impactful duo

The Dotasra-July duo made a strong impact during the Congress protest on Wednesday, showcasing a more aggressive approach than in previous years. The leaders climbed onto party workers' shoulders, confronted the police, and even jumped over barricades together. Later, they were taken into custody side by side. Known for speeches and strategies, their direct involvement marks a new era in state Congress politics.

## RCA deploys bouncers amid Pali Team row

Amid the controversy surrounding the Pali team in the RCA Under-14 tournament, the RCA deployed bouncers on the matchground. The Pali district secretary's team was denied permission to play, and former selector Yunus Ali was appointed to oversee the match. Yunus stated that only the team whose payment had been made would be allowed to play, instructing players to address objections with the RCA.

## Controversy erupts over team selection in RCA Under-14 tournament in Jaipur

Controversy erupted in the RCA Under-14 tournament when two teams from Pali arrived to play in Jaipur. RCA ad-hoc committee convener DD Kumawat faced allegations of arbitrariness regarding team selection. Dharmaveer Singh of the Pali district association accused Kumawat of deliberately creating two teams from Pali, whereas there were no disputes in the Under-16, Under-19, and Under-23 teams, which had played with teams released under Dharmaveer Singh's signature. Suddenly, DD Kumawat went ahead and conducted his own selection for Pali's Under-14 team.

# SIT formed under ACB DG Gupta probes JJM scam

The accused were traced & arrested using technical surveillance



Mahesh Kumar Mittal

Hemant Mittal

Umesh Kumar Sharma

Gopal Kumawat

Piyush Jain

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In the arrest of five persons by ACB SIT in the Jal Jeevan Mission scam, Director General of ACB Govind Gupta said that an SIT was constituted under the supervision of SP Mahavir Singh Ranawat to swiftly investigate all JJM cases and arrest the accused for presentation in the court. The SIT includes ADSP Himanshu Kuldeep, Bhubendra, and Mahavir Prasad Sharma, who immediately analysed all tran-

## JJM CORRUPTION CASE: ACB INTENSIFIES PROBE, INTERROGATION UNDERWAY

The DG further said that previously, six individuals had been caught during surprise inspections under the ACB's Jal Jeevan Mission operations, and subsequent investigation had led to court charges. The remaining accused—Mahesh Kumar Mittal, Hemant Mittal, Umesh Kumar Sharma, Gopal Kumawat, and Piyush Jain—were involved in prior discussions with PHED officers and had exchanged Rs 2.2 lakh in bribes. Under the supervision of ADG ACB, Smita Srivastava, interrogations and further proceedings with the accused are ongoing. ACB has registered a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

scripts of conversations and technical evidence obtained from FSL.

Under the supervision of IG Police (1st) Dr

Rameshwar Singh and SP ACB Mahavir Singh Ranawat, the accused were traced and arrested from different locations

in Jaipur city by ADSP Bhubendra and team, using technical surveillance. The case, numbered 215/23, involves Shyam Tubwell, Padam Chand Jain, Mahesh Kumar Mittal (Proprietor), Maya Lal Saini, Executive Engineer, PHED; Rakesh Chauhan, Assistant Engineer, Sub-Division Neemrana; & Pradeep Kumar, Junior Engineer, Sub-Division Neemrana. They colluded to secure tenders No. 15/21-22 and 33/21-22 for the firms M/s Ganpati Tubewell and M/s Shyam Tubewell.

Dotasra calls voter verification a 'political conspiracy'

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Govind Dotasra on Tuesday alleged large-scale irregularities in the voter verification process, claiming that "SIR stands for Stealing India's Rights."

Addressing the media, Dotasra said that nearly 41.85 lakh votes had been removed from the electoral rolls in Rajasthan. He described the exercise as neither transparent nor legitimate, alleging it was a "political conspiracy" aimed at influencing election outcomes.

He questioned how votes that were valid two years ago suddenly became invalid. Dotasra asserted that if elections are held fairly, BJP's defeat is certain, and he urged the public to fight to protect their voting rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

# Congress protests against 'misuse' of central agencies



PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotasra, Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Jully, Congress MLA Rafeek Khan, Abhishek Choudhary & others led a foot march from the PCC office in Jaipur on Wednesday.

NAIM KHAN

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Congress party has intensified its protests across the country following the court's relief to the Gandhi family in the National Herald case.

Rajasthan Congress held a foot march from the PCC but police barricaded their way, preventing them from reaching the BJP office.

Subsequently, several Congress leaders, including Govind Singh Dotasra and Tikaram Jully, were detained.

The march led by PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotasra and Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Jully began at the PCC office. The opposition party's plan was to gherao

the BJP office but the police stopped them near Shaheed Smarak.

Dotasra said that the Enforcement Directorate had been fully exposed by the court's decision. He claimed that the investigation agencies had been misused to unnecessarily harass and intimidate the Gandhi family.

BJP MLA Kalu Ram, 2 guards hurt as car hits trailer in Kota

First India Bureau  
Kota

A BJP legislator and his two security personnel were injured in a road accident in Kota on Wednesday. The injured legislator has been identified as Kalu Ram Meghwal, MLA from Dug in Jhalawar district.

According to police, the accident occurred when Meghwal's car collided with a trailer while he was travelling from Jhalawar to Jaipur. Personnel from Nanta police station rushed to the spot after receiving information and shifted the legislator and his two gunmen to Kota Medical College Hospital.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Manish Sharma said Meghwal and his security personnel, identified as Manish and Suresh, were given medical treatment at the hospital.

## Courtesy Meet



Former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje met Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi in New Delhi on Wednesday.

# 2 yrs of Bhajan Lal govt: Ministers review water projects, action against corruption in PHED

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Public Health Engineering Minister Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary and Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat on Wednesday outlined the state government's achievements in the water sector while marking two years of the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led government. Addressing a joint press conference at Jal Bhawan, they said the government has accelerated tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission, expanded urban wa-



Public Health Engineering Minister Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary and Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat addressing a joint press conference at Jal Bhawan on Wednesday.

ter works under AMRUT 2.0, and taken strict action against corruption and il-

legal water connections. The ministers highlighted progress on major

drinking water and irrigation projects, including the modified Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project, Yamuna water supply to Shekhawati, and several lift irrigation schemes. They said long-pending projects have gained momentum with central support and assured that all commitments related to drinking water and irrigation will be completed within the stipulated time-frame. Rawat added that a CM-led Irrigation Task Force has been constituted to ensure timely completion of irrigation projects.

Digital push lifts Rajasthan revenue by ₹14,200 cr

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Under CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Rajasthan govt has recorded strong revenue growth through wide-ranging digital and structural reforms aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India and good governance initiatives. Enhanced use of technology across GST, stamp duty and registration, excise, mining, energy and transport has improved transparency, compliance and control over fake billing and illegal mining.

In FY 2024-25, total state revenue rose 12.60% year-on-year, with collections increasing by over Rs 14,200 crore. Data-driven monitoring strengthened GST and commercial tax compliance, including over 45 analytical reports, e-way bill reconciliation.

# Jaipur Metro phase-I gets five TOD corridors

Abhishek Shrivastava  
Jaipur

Jaipur Development Authority has identified five Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) corridors along the first phase of the Jaipur Metro project.

This development comes six days after the state government launched the TOD policy on December 10, as part of a central government initiative under the Spe-

JDA will now focus on identifying TOD nodes around key transit stations. These nodes will be within an 800-meter radius of transit hubs and are expected to undergo high-density

cial Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) program.

The identified TOD corridors span several important areas, including routes from Veer Tejaji Circle to Pandit TN Mishra Marg Junction, TN Mishra Junction to Bharat Ashram

Marg Junction, and from Janpath Junction to ESI Road Junction.

These corridors are intended to encourage increased population density and planned development along high-traffic transit routes such as metro corridors. The aim is to create well-

planned, sustainable communities where access to public transportation is prioritized.

The TOD policy is part of a broader urban reform agenda under the SASCI program, which is designed to enhance urban infrastructure. As part of this reform, the state government is set to receive Rs 60 crore from the central government, with Rs 10 crore specifically allocated for urban development.

# Assembly Ethics Panel issues notices to 3 MLAs

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Ethics Committee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly has issued notices to three legislators—BJP's Rewantaram Danga, Congress's Anita Jatav and Independent MLA Ritu Banawat—over alleged commission demands linked to the MLA fund. The MLAs have been asked to appear before the committee on

Dec 19 at 11 am to present their explanations.

The action follows a newspaper sting operation alleging their involvement in commission-seeking. The 12-member Ethics Committee, chaired by Kailash Verma, met at the BJP state headquarters under the guidance of Speaker Vasudev Devnani. After recording their statements, the committee will decide on further action.

## MASSIVE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN SIRIYARI

# Women guiding nation's direction: Diya

First India Bureau  
Pali

In Siriyari village of Pali district, on the occasion of Acharya Shri Bhikshu's 300th birth anniversary, the All India Terapanth Women's Council organised a massive women's conference, which was attended today by Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. The organisers welcomed the Deputy Chief Minister in a traditional manner. The



Deputy CM Diya Kumari participated in All India Terapanth Women's Council in Siriyari village of Pali district on Wednesday.

conference saw a large gathering of women. Deputy Chief Minis-

ter Diya Kumari praised the event and extended her congratulations and

best wishes to the Women's Council. She said the conference is ex-

tremely important and that this land is one of spiritual practice and penance. She added that it is through values and traditions that women guide the nation's direction, and today the role of women has become more crucial than ever. She stated that women are making a significant mark in every field of society, and the present time presents a golden opportunity for them. She emphasised that collective effort is needed to help every woman progress.

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# Grand roadshow marks Poswal's first visit to Sawai Madhopur

First India Bureau  
Sawai Madhopur

BJP State General Secretary Sitaram Poswal received a massive public welcome during his first visit to his home district after his appointment. After offering prayers at Jaipur's Moti Dungri Ganesh Temple, Poswal travelled nearly 200 km to Sawai Madhopur with a convoy of around 300 vehicles. Thousands of supporters greeted him at multiple locations en route, including Boli, where a roadshow was held, and



BJP State General Secretary Sitaram Poswal received a massive public welcome during his first visit to Sawai Madhopur after his appointment.

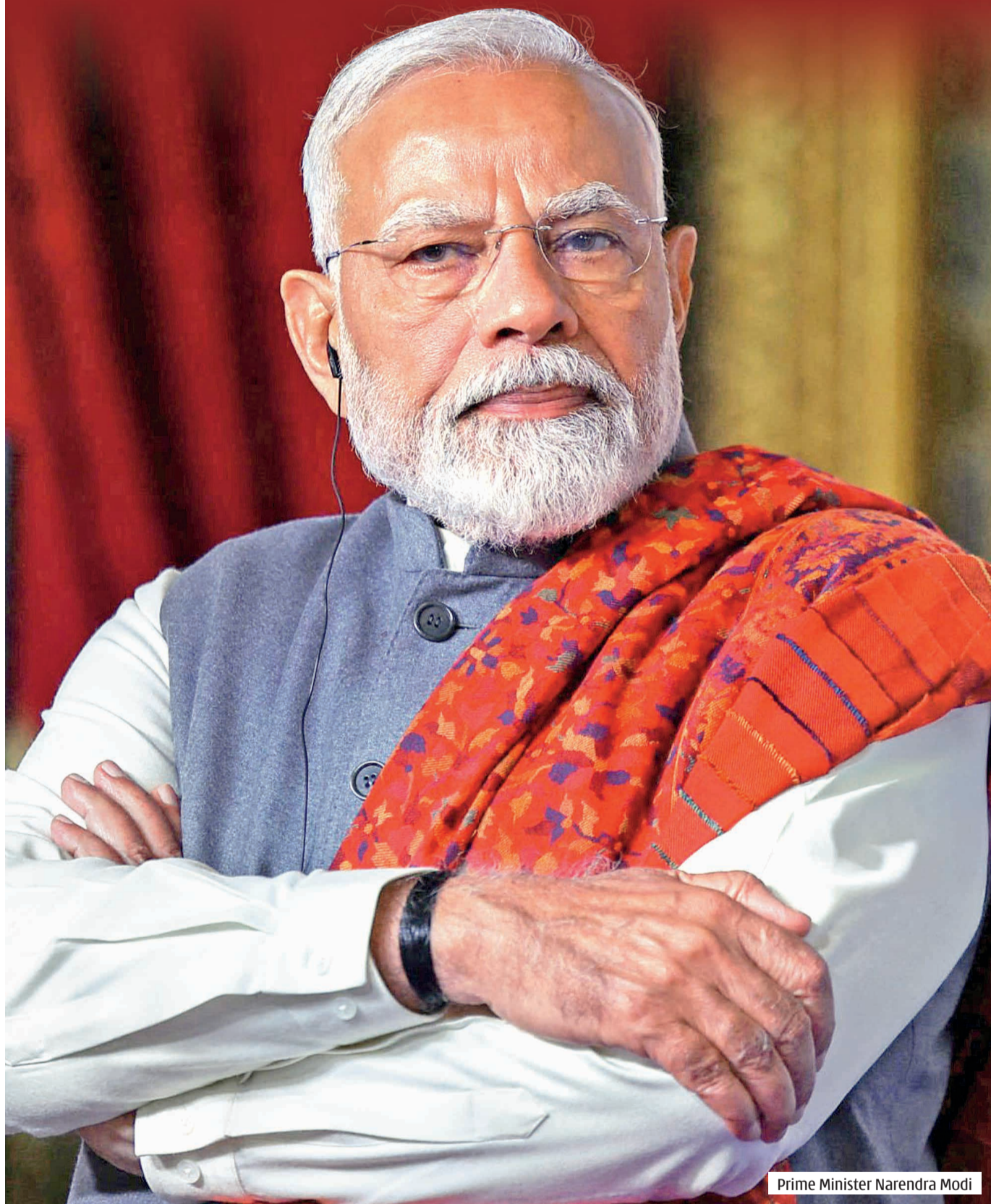
his native village Khirni. Addressing a large gathering in Sawai Madhopur, Poswal highlighted the development work being carried out under

the leadership of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reiterating the govt's commitment to a Developed Rajasthan.

## 'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 159

# PM MODI'S DIPLOMACY OF IDEAS CARRYING AMBEDKAR'S VISION ACROSS THE GLOBE

Narrators recall PM Narendra Modi's leadership as one that blends Dr BR Ambedkar's vision of social justice with a confident cultural diplomacy that carries India's ideas beyond its borders while projecting the country's artistic and intellectual strength on the world stage



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## Dr Ambedkar's ideas implemented by Narendra Modi in letter and spirit

**O**n the 70th Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the enduring relevance of his ideas is evident in the approach to governance adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr Ambedkar's lifelong commitment to social justice, equality and human dignity laid the foundation of modern India, and these principles continue to resonate in contemporary policies aimed at inclusive development. Prime Minister Modi's governance philosophy, articulated through the motto Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, reflects the same democratic spirit that guided Babasaheb's vision of a just and empowered society.

Dr Ambedkar believed that constitutional rights must translate into real improvements in the lives of the most vulnerable. Prime Minister Modi has often stated that nearly 25 crore people have emerged from poverty over the past decade, an outcome that aligns with Ambedkar's hope for an India where economic opportunity and social dignity reach the poorest. Governance, in this view, is not only about law and policy, but about enabling genuine social transformation.

This approach was visible even during Narendra Modi's tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat. Under the Social Justice and Empowerment Department, more than a hundred welfare and development schemes were launched, focusing on education, housing, sanitation and economic empowerment for marginalised communities. Steps were taken to institutionalise Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy and ideas through the foundation of Ambedkar Bhavan, the installation of statues honouring his contributions, and the launch of the Samvidhan Yatra from Surendranagar to spread constitutional awareness at the grassroots level.

In 2007, the Swachh Gujarat Maha Abhiyan was deliberately launched on Ambedkar Jayanti, symboli-



**Bipin Sikka,**  
Ex-deputy mayor, Ahmedabad



**Dinesh Makwana,**  
Lok Sabha MP, Gujarat



**Bhiku Ramji Idate,**  
Social worker (Padma awardee)



**Vijay Sampla,**  
Former MoS, social justice, GoI

cally linking cleanliness, civic responsibility and social equality with Babasaheb's values. Even before becoming Chief Minister, Narendra Modi had spoken about politics as a tool not merely to gain power, but to empower the marginalised. That philosophy found practical expression in governance initiatives focused on inclusion rather than symbolism alone.

As Prime Minister, Narendra Modi expanded this engagement to a national and global scale. The creation of Panchteerth brought together five key sites associated with Dr Ambedkar's life – his birth, education, spiritual transformation, Mahaparinirvan and cremation – into a unified journey of remembrance and reflection. The establishment of the Ambedkar Memorial in London, memorials in Delhi, and the Dr Ambedkar International Centre for Socio-Economic Transformation at Janpath ensured that Babasaheb's contributions received global recognition.

In 2015, Constitution Day was formally declared, reinforcing respect for the Constitution and for Dr Ambedkar's role as its chief architect. Prime Minister Modi has also consistently

highlighted Babasaheb Ambedkar as one of India's foremost economists. At the Dalit Entrepreneurs Conference in 2015, he referred to Ambedkar's economic writings as valuable guides for addressing modern challenges.

This understanding is reflected in initiatives such as the Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIIM), launched in 2020 to support innovation and entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste youth, and the PM AJAY scheme introduced in 2021 to improve socio-economic indicators within SC communities. Structural reforms, including the 127th Constitutional Amendment restoring states' authority over OBC classification, and the removal of Article 370 to extend equal constitutional opportunities to marginalised communities in Jammu and Kashmir, further reflect this approach.

Through remembrance, reform and inclusive development, Dr Ambedkar's vision continues to guide governance today. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Babasaheb's ideals have not remained confined to history; they continue to shape India's social and economic future.

## PM's diplomacy revolves around India's cultural richness

**P**rim Minister Narendra Modi's approach to diplomacy has consistently gone beyond formal agreements and strategic conversations, extending into the realm of knowledge, culture and literature. From proposing the translation of Indian literary works into the languages of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2019 to gifting the Bhagavad Gita in Russian to Russian President Vladimir Putin during his recent visit to India, these gestures reflect how India's intellectual and spiritual heritage forms an integral part of his global outreach. Through such initiatives, literature and time-

less wisdom become instruments of dialogue, understanding and connection between nations.

At the 2019 SCO Summit held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Prime Minister Modi put forward a significant cultural proposal. He suggested that ten modern Indian literary works be translated into the languages of SCO member nations, enabling readers across these countries to engage with Indian writing directly, without linguistic barriers. The idea was rooted in the belief that literature offers insight into a nation's social thought, creativity and values, and that such exchanges deepen mutual understanding beyond



**Dr K Sreenivasarao,**  
Former secretary, Sahitya Akademi

politics and economics.

Following this announcement, the initiative was taken forward through coordination between Indian ministries and Indian embassies in SCO countries. The trans-

lation process focused particularly on Russian, Chinese and English, languages with wide reach within the SCO framework. Linguistic scholars, translators and editorial experts were engaged to ensure that the translated works retained the spirit and depth of the original texts while being accessible to international audiences. When India assumed the SCO Chairmanship during the COVID period, the translated books were formally released, bringing the commitment made in Bishkek to its completion despite global disruptions.

Alongside modern literature, Prime Minister Modi has also highlighted the im-

portance of India's spiritual texts in international engagement. During the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India, the Prime Minister gifted him the



You read PART 158 on  
DECEMBER 11, 2025

Bhagavad Gita translated into Russian. This was more than a symbolic exchange; it was a way of sharing one of India's foundational philosophical texts with the world in a language that allows deeper understanding. The Gita, with its reflections on duty, ethics and human conduct, has universal relevance, and presenting it in Russian underscored how Indian spiritual thought continues to speak to global audiences.

Together, these initiatives illustrate a consistent thread in Prime Minister Modi's diplomacy: the belief that culture, ideas and knowledge create lasting bridges between nations. Whether through contemporary liter-

ary works translated for SCO readers or a classical spiritual text offered to a world leader, Indian thought is positioned as a living, dynamic contributor to global discourse.

By taking Indian literature and wisdom beyond borders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensures that India's voice is heard not only in international forums, but also in libraries, classrooms and homes across the world. Through the power of words, stories and philosophy, India's engagement with the world becomes deeper, more human and more enduring.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
SHASHIKANT SHARMA

# LS PASSES SHANTI BILL AMID OPPOSITION WALKOUT

Agencies  
New Delhi

The Lok Sabha passed the Sustainable Harnessing of Atomic Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, opening India's nuclear energy sector to private participation, amid sharp opposition protests. Several opposition MPs argued that allowing private companies into the nuclear sector would promote profiteering while offering little relief to consumers grappling with high electricity prices.

INDIA bloc members staged a walkout after their demand to refer the Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee or a Standing Committee was rejected. Leading the opposition, Congress MP Manish Tewari said the SHANTI Bill replaces two progressive legislations and weakens India's carefully built nuclear framework. Recalling that India's journey towards nuclear self-reliance was initiated under Jawaharlal Nehru, Tewari accused the BJP-led government of undermining energy independence and clean energy goals. He alleged that the Bill dilutes 2010 consensus on nuclear liability regime.



Lok Sabha passes SHANTI Bill, opposition MPs stage walkout protesting nuclear reforms.



Congress spent more than BJP on 'party propaganda', social media

PTI  
New Delhi

Congress spent more money than the BJP on "party propaganda" and social media campaigns in the Delhi assembly elections this year, but lagged on expenses on candidates, data shows.

BJP's total expenses were higher at Rs 57.65 crore for the elections than those of Congress at Rs 46.19 crore, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) of the election expenditure reports filed by the parties with the Election Commission of India.

In terms of total funds collected for the Delhi assembly elections 2025, the BJP was ahead at Rs 88.7 crore than Rs 64.3 crore of the Congress. In the election for a total of 70 assembly seats, the BJP came victorious with 48 seats, while the Congress could not win a single seat. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won 22 seats.

According to the ADR analysis, AAP declared expenses totalling Rs 12.12 crore on party propaganda.

## Opposition MPs protest in Parl premises over National Herald case



Congress MPs protest over National Herald case in Parliament, holding 'Satyamev Jayate' posters.

ANI  
New Delhi

Several Opposition MPs on Wednesday protested in Parliament premises over the National Herald case. The Congress MPs hold posters bearing the slogan "Satyamev Jayate; Truth prevails!".

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor also took part in a protest against the government doing vendetta Politics in the National Herald.

Earlier today, Karnataka Congress leaders also staged protests near

the Gandhi statue at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi against the Central government over the National Herald case and the decision to rename the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as VB-G Ram G. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said the National Herald was closely linked to India's freedom movement. "The National Herald is the pride of the country, established by Jawaharlal Nehru during the freedom movement," he said.

### 43 OTT PLATFORMS BLOCKED FOR SHOWING OBSCENE CONTENT

New Delhi: Government has disabled access to 43 OTT platforms for displaying obscene content, Union Minister L Murugan said in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. In a written reply, the minister of state for information and broadcasting said OTT platforms are under obligation not to transmit any content prohibited by law. In response to a separate question, Murugan said the Central Board of Film Certification is a statutory authority established under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 to examine and certify cinematographic films for public exhibition. The minister said OTT content is regulated.

### AI-BASED DIGITAL TOLL COLLECTION TO BE IMPLEMENTED ACROSS COUNTRY



New Delhi: The multi-lane free flow (MLFF) toll system and AI-driven highway management will be completed across the country by 2026-end, and after implementation, these technologies will eliminate wait time at toll plazas for commuters, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Responding to supplementaries during the question hour, the road transport minister said the new technology will be AI-based. Commuters will not have to wait any longer at toll plazas, and this will help save fuel worth Rs 1,500 crore and add Rs 6,000 crore to the government revenue.

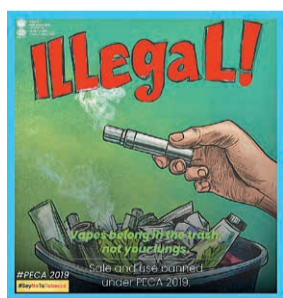
### RAJYA SABHA PASSES BILL ALLOWING 100% FDI INSURANCE

The Rajya Sabha on December 17 passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, paving the way for a 100 per cent FDI allowance in the insurance sector, up from the earlier 74 per cent limit. The legislation was cleared through a voice vote, a day after it was approved by the Lok Sabha. The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, had earlier received approval from the Union Cabinet. The move is expected to attract significant foreign investment, strengthen the insurance industry, and enhance consumer choice.

'E-cigarettes banned under law; no NCB cases of drug-laced vapes'

PTI  
New Delhi

Asserting that electronic cigarettes remain completely banned under Indian law, the government on Wednesday informed Parliament that no case related to the seizure of e-cigarettes and vape devices with narcotic substances has been investigated by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).



In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of electronic cigarettes are prohibited under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (PECA) Act, 2019.

The enforcement of the Act lies with the states and Union Territories through their law enforcement agencies. Replying to reports that vape devices seized in different states contained narcotic substances such as methamphetamine and ketamine, the minister said the NCB has not investigated any such case.

## Ban demolition work in NCR from Oct to Dec: Bhupender Yadav

PTI  
New Delhi

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on Wednesday said that demolition work should be prohibited in the National Capital Region (NCR) during the peak pollution period, i.e., October to December.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review action plans of the municipal bodies of Delhi and Sonapat, he also said that construction and demolition work should not be allowed in the region until construction and demolition waste handling and processing infrastructure is created and identified within a



Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

10 km radius of the site.

The minister asked all agencies to work in mission mode to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in the air quality index over the next one year. Stressing the importance of a "Whole-of-Government" and "Whole-of-Society" approach to effectively address air pollution, he said there is a need to improve the "global image of the national capital".

## Sources reveal process behind Nabin's appt as BJP Working Prez



On December 12, PM Modi convened meeting to discuss new national prez

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Sources reveal the process behind Nitin Nabin's appointment as BJP Working President. On December 12, the Prime Minister convened an online Parliamentary Board meeting, seeking members' suggestions on the

qualities needed for the new national president. Key points repeatedly highlighted included selecting a young, non-controversial leader fluent in Hindi, with experience in both the Sangh and the party, capable of maintaining coordination between the organisation and the party.

The meeting lasted 45-50 minutes, after which members were informed that the name of the Working President would be announced

within two days. During a programme in Lucknow, Arun Singh received a call from Amit Shah confirming the finalisation of Nitin Nabin's appointment and instructing that a letter announcing it be issued. Within an hour, the letter was circulated across the party and organisation.

Initially only the PM, Amit Shah, and BL Santhosh knew. Nitin Nabin was at a Bankipur programme who was called to Delhi immediately.

## Train passengers must pay for excess luggage: Rly Min

PTI  
New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that passengers need to pay charges for carrying luggage beyond the prescribed free allowance limits while travelling by train.

Vaishnaw was responding to questions raised by MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy who sought to know whether Railways would imple-

ment baggage regulations for train passengers on the lines of practice being followed at airports.

According to the information shared, a passenger travelling by Indian Railways in Second Class is allowed to carry 35 kg of luggage free of cost and up to 70 kg on a chargeable basis. For a Sleeper Class passenger, the railways free allowance is 40 kg with a maximum permissible limit of 80 kg.



Railway Min Vaishnaw explains excess luggage charges in LS.

## PRESIDENT HEADS SOUTH

# Prez Murmu begins winter sojourn in Hyderabad

PTI  
Hyderabad

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday arrived at the Rashtrapati Nilayam at Secunderabad here as part of her winter sojourn. Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Telangana ministers along with senior officials received the President at the Air Force Station, Hakimpet.

The President will stay at Rashtrapati Nilayam



President Droupadi Murmu

till December 22. On December 19, Murmu will inaugurate a national conference for the chairpersons of public service

commissions, being organised by the Telangana Public Service Commission here.

On December 20, the

### PREZ DROUPADI MURMU VISITS SRIPURAM GOLDEN TEMPLE, OFFERS PRAYERS

Vellore (Tamil Nadu): President Droupadi Murmu visited the Sripuram Golden Temple here on Wednesday and offered prayers during her brief visit to Tamil Nadu. She was received with full temple honours upon her arrival and was conducted around the Sri Lakshmi Narayani Golden Temple. The president inaugurated a meditation hall established at a cost of Rs 5 lakh, on the occasion. Earlier Upon her arrival at the Sripuram helipad, she was received by Governor R N Ravi and other officials.

President will address a conference on 'Timeless Wisdom of Bharat: Pathways of Peace and Progress', being organised in

Hyderabad by the Brahma Kumaris Shanti Sarovar to mark its 21st anniversary, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati

Bhavan had said. The President visits the Rashtrapati Nilayam at least once a year and conducts official business.

The 'The Retreat Building' in Shimla and the 'Rashtrapati Nilayam' in Hyderabad reflect their integrative role of the President's office in the country. These locations, one in north and another in south, symbolise the country's unity and the unity of diverse cultures and people. Rashtrapati building was taken over from the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Over 44 lakh Gujarat voters unmapped

PTI

Ahmedabad

Authorities on Wednesday said over 44 lakh voters could not be mapped in Gujarat, while 74 lakh enumeration forms were not submitted back by voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state.

The exercise of distributing and collecting enumeration forms ended on December 14 following an extension and the draft electoral rolls will be published on December 19 2025.

**Winter weather alert**

IMD warns of cold waves, dense fog, and snowfall across regions

## IMD sounds alert as winter grips India



A scooter rider navigates through dense fog, highlighting challenging visibility and hazardous winter road conditions.



A Delhi metro station shrouded in thick fog, amid reduced visibility and chilly winter conditions.



People gather around a roadside bonfire, warming their hands and seeking relief from the biting winter chill of North India.

**Agencies**

New Delhi

As winter tightens its grip across India, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued fresh alerts for cold wave conditions, dense fog and snowfall in several regions, cautioning residents and travellers about disruptions and falling temperatures.

Delhi remained wrapped in thick fog, severely affecting daily routines and air traffic. Poor visibility over the past two days led to multiple flight cancellations and delays, adding to commuter woes.

On Monday alone, nearly 300 flights across northern India were cancelled, while hundreds more departed behind schedule. Airlines released advisories urging

**SOON CARPOOLING APP TO CURB POLLUTION**

**NEW DELHI:** Delhi environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Wednesday announced that his government is planning to launch its own carpooling app to curb rising vehicular pollution in the national capital. Delhi government plans to launch its own carpooling app to curb vehicular pollution. Government is hiring a third-party agency to collect data on potholes, and to bring in monitoring system.

passengers to monitor flight status and plan journeys carefully.

IMD forecasts indicate that dense fog will persist in isolated pockets during early morning hours. The Northeast is likely to witness fog from December 17 to 21, while Punjab may experience simi-

**DELHI GOVT DIRECTS MAXIMUM 50 PC STAFF TO PHYSICALLY ATTEND PVT OFFICES**

**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi government has directed private offices in the national capital to operate with a maximum of 50 per cent staff physically present at workplaces, with the remaining employees required to work from home, in view of GRAP Stage IV restrictions due to severe air pollution. However, exemptions have been granted in certain areas including public and private health establishments, transport, sanitation and emergency services. According to an advisory issued by the Labour Department, the direction follows amendments made by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) after hearings and consultations held in November.

lar conditions between December 17 and 20. Fog is also expected over Uttarakhand, west Madhya Pradesh and Odisha on December 17 and 18.

On Wednesday, December 17, 2025, large parts of North India woke up to a sharper chill, signalling the arrival of peak

winter. Current weather patterns show cold wave conditions over the northern plains, accompanied by widespread fog advisories and the possibility of snowfall in mountainous regions. In Delhi NCR, cold day is expected, with shallow to moderate fog.

## Kavach system covers 2,000-km railway network: Vaishnaw

PTI  
New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that progress on the installation of the Kavach system was "very fast" and 2,000 km of the rail network had been brought under the system.

Replying during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, he said the Kavach is a complex system which has five major systems within, including laying down of optical fibre cable (OFC) all along the tracks and installation of telecom towers.

The Indian Railways has completed

laying 7,129 kilometres of OFC cables, installed 860 telecom towers, covered with data centres 767 stations, installed track-side equipment along 3,413 km, and installed 4,154 locomotives.

"Apart from that, the complete commissioning of the system is today more than 2,000 kilometres. The progress is very fast," he said. 'Kavach' is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. The minister added that 40,000 technicians and operators have been trained because this is a "very" complex and totally new system.



## Report: India's retail workforce set to double by 2030

Agencies  
New Delhi

India's retail sector is entering a phase of rapid transformation, set to nearly double in size over the next decade while fundamentally reshaping employment across the country, according to India's Retail Workforce: Entering a Decade of Disruption, a new report developed by V5 Global, a brand of FirstMeridian Business Services Limited.

The report projects India's retail market to expand from US\$1.18 trillion in 2025 to nearly US\$2 trillion by 2030, driven by formalization, technology adoption, and the accelerated growth of organized retail. Retail already employs 35 million people, making it



Retail workers adapt as India's retail sector rapidly reshape.

India's second-largest job creator, and is expected to add 25 million new jobs by the end of the decade.

As the sector scales, workforce capability is emerging as a defining differentiator. "India's retail story is no longer about store counts—it's about skill counts," said Manmeet Singh, CEO, FirstMeridian Global.

## Rewriting a corridor's story: From Empire to India's highest military honour

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Did you know Rashtrapati Bhavan once displayed portraits of British ADCs in these corridors? Today, the same space has been transformed into the Param Vir Dirgha, dedicated to all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees.

Inaugurated by President Smt Droupadi Murmu on Vijay Diwas (16 December 2025), the gallery honours extraordinary



British portraits replaced at Rashtrapati Bhavan now.

acts of valour and supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation. This transformation reflects a deeper shift, moving beyond colonial legacies to commemorate India's own heroes.



Rashtrapati Bhavan honors 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, replacing British portraits.

## Silver prices soar above ₹2 Lakh threshold

Agencies  
New Delhi

Silver prices reached unprecedented levels across domestic and international markets on Wednesday. Both spot and futures prices in India decisively breached the ₹2 lakh per kg threshold. Gold, meanwhile, also joined the rally, extending its own record-breaking run.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange



(MCX), silver futures for March delivery touched an all-time high of ₹2,06,111 per kg during Wednesday's session. The surge was mirrored overseas, where silver futures on the Comex climbed to a record \$66.65 per ounce.

## Officials struggle to recover ₹10K wrongly credited to men in Bihar

PTI  
Darbhanga/Patna

Bihar officials are struggling to recover Rs 10,000 mistakenly credited to male villagers under a women-only cash-transfer scheme in Darbhanga district. Some men have already spent the money on Chhath Puja, Diwali, or



purchased livestock and are now they are either unwilling or unable to return it. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, launched by PM Modi on September 26, aims to support 1.40 crore women entrepreneurs, but technical glitches in Ahiyari village caused the error.

## Goa nightclub fire: Luthra brothers remanded for five days

Agencies  
Panaji

A Goa court on Wednesday remanded Saurav Luthra and Gaurav Luthra to five days' police custody in connection with the deadly fire at an Arpora nightclub. The Luthra brothers own



Luthra brothers produced in court over nightclub fire.

After being brought back from Thailand, the brothers were produced before the Mapusa Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court; the court ordered both their custody

Birch by Romeo Lane, where the blaze tragically claimed 25 lives.

After being brought back from Thailand, the brothers were produced before the Mapusa Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) court.

The court ordered both their custody to enable

police to question them regarding the circumstances of the fire, including alleged safety violations and lapses at the club. Investigators are examining the cause of the incident and whether negligence contributed to the scale of the tragedy.

## GURUDEV AT THE UNITED NATIONS

### 'Meditation: Once forbidden, now global'

On the occasion of the International Day of Meditation, declared by the United Nations General Assembly, meditation has emerged as a powerful global movement for peace and mental well-being. Last year, over 8.5 million people worldwide came together to meditate simultaneously, creating a historic symbol of unity across borders, cultures and conflict zones.

Speaking at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, global spiritual leader and humanitarian



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar speaking at UN.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar called for the wider adoption of meditation to address the growing unrest, anxiety and emotional suffering in today's world. Delivering a special address on "Meditation for World Peace", he stressed that meditation is no longer limited to personal wellness but is essential for societies facing stress, uncertainty, burn-out and loneliness.

"Meditation is no longer a luxury," Gurudev said, noting that nearly half the global population faces mental health challenges. The event was organised by India's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, in collaboration with The Art of Living. India's Permanent Representative Arindam Bagchi highlighted meditation's role in building empathy and bridging distrust in a conflict-ridden world.

Once marginalised in the West, meditation has today gained global recognition, thanks in large

part to Gurudev's work across 182 countries, spanning education, conflict resolution, prisons, youth leadership and community rebuilding. He thanked the 192 nations that supported the UN resolution, calling it a rare global acknowledgement of an inner practice. Building on this momentum, Gurudev will address the UN in New York on 19 December, with millions expected to join another global meditation on 21 December, reaffirming that in a restless world, peace begins within.

## FI TOON



SHEKHAR

## PM MODI LAYS A WREATH AT ADWA VICTORY MONUMENT

PTI

Addis Ababa

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid wreath at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, paying tribute to Ethiopia's historic victory in the 1896 Battle of Adwa, which symbolised African resistance to colonialism and safeguarded the country's independence.

The Adwa Victory Monument is a contemporary complex commemorating Ethiopia's triumph over Italian forces. It houses a museum featuring artefacts, weapons and historical dioramas, along with conference halls, an amphitheatre and a library, and serves as a cultural, research and tourism centre highlighting Ethiopia's heritage and the global struggle against colonialism.

PM Modi also visited the Adwa Museum, where officials briefed him on Ethiopia's history and the significance of the Battle of Adwa.

Highlighting the visit, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X, "PM Narendra Modi laid a wreath at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, honouring Ethiopia's enduring spirit of resistance and sovereignty. A tribute to the heroes of Adwa and a salute to Africa's proud legacy of freedom, dignity and resilience. PM Narendra Modi also visited Adwa Museum, a living testament to Ethiopia's bravery, unity and pursuit of self-determination."

The Prime Minister also addressed a joint session of the Ethiopian Parlia-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays a wreath at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, on Wednesday.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by members of the Indian community upon his arrival at a hotel, in Muscat, Oman, on Wednesday evening.

ment on Wednesday. Ethiopian lawmakers gave a standing ovation and cheered as PM Modi began his address. This marked the 18th national Parliament worldwide to be addressed by PM Modi.

PM Modi arrived in Ethiopia on Tuesday on a two-day visit at the invitation of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, marking a key leg of

his official tour and underscoring the growing strategic partnership between the two countries.

In a notable gesture, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed personally received PM Modi at the airport and drove him to the hotel, also showing him the Science Museum and Friendship Park, which were not part of the original itinerary.

### PM plays drum



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to the Adwa Victory Memorial and Museum, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### Rahul Gandhi visits BMW factory in Germany

## Praises Indian flag; calls for boosting production in India

PTI

Berlin

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited a BMW factory in Germany on Wednesday, where he discussed India's manufacturing sector and highlighted the country's need to boost production.

Gandhi's remarks come during his five-day visit to the European nation, wherein he will engage with Indian Overseas Congress representatives and the Indian diaspora in Berlin.

Speaking after his tour of the BMW factory, Gandhi said, "We went to the BMW factory - a fantastic experience - and I was particularly excited to see that they have a 450 CC bike, the TVS, and I think that's going to do well. Good to see that the In-



Congress leader and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi tests a bike at BMW World in Munich, Germany.

**Rahul said manufacturing is the backbone of strong economies. Sadly, in India, manufacturing is declining. For us to accelerate growth, we need to produce more, build meaningful manufacturing ecosystems, and create high-quality jobs at scale**

dian flag is flying here."

The former Congress President emphasised the importance of manufacturing for India's economic success, saying,

"India needs to start producing. Production is the key to the success of any country. Our manufacturing is declining; it should actually be growing up".

## Lt Gen Manjinder Singh visits Sri Ganganagar Military Station

First India Bureau

Sri Ganganagar

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander of Sapta Shakti Command, on Wednesday visited the Sri Ganganagar Military Station to review the operational preparedness, readiness, and security of formations deployed in the sector. The visit focused on assessing the operational effectiveness of the forces, ongoing capability enhancements, and key infrastructure projects.

The Army Commander was briefed on the current operational situation, including innovations in training, the Drone Centre



An officer briefs Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh on operational situation at Sri Ganganagar Military Station, on Wednesday.

of Excellence, and the surveillance grid. He also reviewed ongoing initiatives to enhance surveillance systems and response mechanisms.

During his visit, General Singh interacted with personnel and

praised their professionalism and vigilance in safeguarding the nation's borders, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high operational standards and continuous preparedness to ensure national security.

## Trump halts citizenship process for 7 more countries

Agencies

Washington DC

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced a complete ban on people from seven additional countries entering the United States. Restrictions have also been imposed on Palestinians. The decision followed an incident last month in which an Afghan refugee opened fire on National Guard personnel near the White House.

In addition, the US



Trump signs declaration to halt citizenship process.

has placed partial restrictions on 15 other countries, limiting access to permanent resi-

dency. President Trump signed a proclamation to this effect on Tuesday, taking the total

### DONALD TRUMP ORDERS NAVAL BLOCKADE OF SANCTIONED VENEZUELAN OIL TANKERS

Donald Trump on Tuesday announced a blockade of what he described as "sanctioned oil vessels" travelling to and from Venezuela, sharply escalating Washington's pressure on the government of President Nicolás Maduro and intensifying tensions in the Caribbean region. The announcement comes amid a significant US military buildup in the Caribbean, officially aimed at combating drug trafficking in Latin America but increasingly focused on Venezuela. Caracas has accused Washington of using the operation as a pretext to gain control over the country's vast oil resources.

number of countries facing full or partial US travel bans to 39. Travel restrictions

were already in force for 19 countries. Of these, Laos and Sierra Leone, which earlier faced par-

tial limits, have now been placed under full travel bans, raising the total number of fully banned countries to seven.

The administration said the move was necessary due to national security and public safety concerns, weak screening and vetting systems, and high rates of visa overstays. The new restrictions will come into effect from January 1.

The proclamation includes exemptions for US permanent residents, diplomats and athletes.

## Newly selected RAS dies in S Madhopur accident

First India Bureau

Sawai Madhopur

A tragic road accident claimed the life of Nirmal Raigar, a newly selected RAS officer, on the Bhadoti Mathura Highway in Sawai Madhopur.

The family suspects foul play and has refused to claim the body until a thorough investigation is conducted.

Relatives and villagers blocked traffic in protest, demanding a government



Relatives and villagers stage protest, demanding a govt job for a family member and Rs 50 lakh compensation.

job for a family member and compensation of Rs 50 lakh. The post-mortem will be supervised by a medical board.

### Smogged out!



India's captain Suryakumar Yadav and team members prepare ahead of the fourth T20I, which was abandoned due to hazardous smog in Lucknow. With no reserve day scheduled, both teams will head to Ahmedabad for the fifth and final T20I on Friday, with India leading the series 2-1.

## 'MAHA ABHIYAN' AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING

### Progress made, but recovery struggles continue

Nirmal Tiwari

Jaipur

The Rajasthan Government's "Maha Abhiyan" against illegal mining, transportation, and storage, launched on April 2 under Chief Minister and Mines Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, has achieved significant results. During the campaign, 6,422 cases have been filed, 97.76 lakh tonnes of minerals seized, and fines totaling over Rs 613 crore imposed.

ZONE-WISE ACTION BREAKDOWN		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BIKANER ZONE:</b> 345 cases, 4.33 lakh tonnes of minerals seized, 13.55 crore rupees in fines, 2.06 crore rupees recovered, 7 FIRs, 312 vehicles, 19 machines seized</li> <li><b>JAIPUR ZONE:</b> 1265 cases, 3.66 lakh tonnes seized, 20.59 crore rupees in fines, 5.38 crore rupees recovered, 67 FIRs, 12 arrests, 1153 vehicles, 47 machines seized</li> <li><b>AJMER ZONE:</b> 655 cases, 12.97 lakh tonnes seized, 191.60 crore rupees in fines, 4.12 crore rupees recovered, 165 FIRs, 75 arrests, 576 vehicles, 46 machines seized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>JODHPUR ZONE:</b> 896 cases, 2.19 lakh tonnes seized, 24.94 crore rupees in fines, 4.32 crore rupees recovered, 240 FIRs, 228 arrests, 861 vehicles, 47 machines seized</li> <li><b>KOTA ZONE:</b> 485 cases, 6.72 lakh tonnes seized, 77.97 crore rupees in fines, 5.29 crore rupees recovered, 36 FIRs, 25 arrests, 417 vehicles, 36 machines seized</li> <li><b>BHARATPUR ZONE:</b> 935 cases, 64.93 lakh tonnes seized, 234.76 crore rupees in fines, 6.83 crore rupees recovered, 61 FIRs, 7 arrests, 872 vehicles, 37 machines seized</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UDAIPUR ZONE:</b> 492 cases, 74,190 tonnes seized, 7.68 crore rupees in fines, 3.98 crore rupees recovered, 73 FIRs, 228 arrests, 433 vehicles, 44 machines seized</li> <li><b>BHILWARA ZONE:</b> 815 cases, 30,523 tonnes seized, 14.50 crore rupees in fines, 7.20 crore rupees recovered, 63 FIRs, 6 arrests, 794 vehicles, 51 machines seized</li> <li><b>RAJSAMAND ZONE:</b> 147 cases, 1.77 lakh tonnes seized, 23.89 crore rupees in fines, 1.33 crore rupees recovered, 16 FIRs, 6 arrests, 122 vehicles, 12 machines seized</li> </ul>

The crackdown, led by Principal Secretary T Ravikanth and Mining Director MP Meena, has

also resulted in 759 FIRs, 444 arrests, and the seizure of 5,903 vehicles and 356 machines.

Despite these efforts, recovery of fines remains low, and illegal mining continues with mafias

using night operations and remote storage. Authorities are now deploying drones, GPS track-

ing, and mobile surveillance to strengthen monitoring and curb organised mining activities.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Unity strengthens purpose beyond individual power.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

## Viksit Bharat guarantee mirrors PM Modi's vision: Thakur

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Bharat24 hosted its national conclave "Bharat Bhagya Nirmata - Roadmap to Viksit Bharat" at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, on Wednesday. Bharat24 CEO and Editor-in-Chief Dr Jagdeesh Chandra welcomed the guests and said the conclave reflects the channel's commitment to informed national discourse and nation-building, aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a strong, self-reliant, and developed India.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra presents the First India compilation of 90 page jacket featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi titled 'Nation Salutes the Leader who is transforming India - Beloved of Millions- Pride of India,' to Governor of Jharkhand Santosh Gangwar during the Bharat 24's National Conclave 'Bharat Bhagya Nirmata - Roadmap to Viksit Bharat' at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi on Wednesday. Also seen are Manoj Jagyasi, Anita Hada and Amit Ojha.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Manoj Jagyasi present a memento to Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya during the gala event.

With this conclave, Bharat24 reaffirms its commitment to fostering informed discourse and creating impactful platforms that drive nation-building, reflecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a strong, self-reliant, and developed India.

DR JAGDEESH CHANDRA,  
CEO AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,  
BHARAT24



The SIR exercise is crucial, as some non-citizens are residing in the country using fake Aadhaar cards. Removing them is vital to maintain an accurate voter list and prevent fraudulent voting. Mamata Banerjee opposes the SIR exercise, reportedly because she knows a significant number of illegal immigrants in Bengal, primarily from Afghanistan, form part of her vote bank.

DR SYED ZAFAR ISLAM,  
BJP NAT'L SPOKESPERSON-  
POLITICAL & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

भारत 24  
Vision of New India

Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya praised Dr Chandra's contribution to public life, stating that empowering youth and labour remains central to achieving Viksit Bharat under PM Modi's leadership.

In a conversation with Poornima Mishra, Anurag Thakur elaborated on the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Employment and Livelihood Mission, saying it reflects the Modi government's focus on empowering the poor through expanded



BJP MP Anurag Thakur and Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Dharendra, Ajay Tiwari, Anjani Singh, Shrishti Pandey, Pooja Yadav, Poornima Mishra, Akanksha Tomar, Manoj Jagyasi, Bhim Negi, Atul Verma & Radhika Sidana during the National Conclave held in New Delhi.

rural employment, higher wages, stronger infrastructure, and faster di-

rect benefit transfers. He underlined the impact of transparent governance,

poverty reduction, free foodgrain distribution, and the abrogation of Ar-



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra welcomes BJP MP Anurag Thakur during the Bharat 24's National Conclave in New Delhi.

inclusive growth and a developed future.

Thakur praised Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, saying his enthusiasm, youthful energy, and speeches leave everyone impressed, joking his name should move from 'Kaatil' to 'Qaayal.' Sessions by Dr Pankaj Singh with Pooja Yadav on long-term pollution solutions and Preeti Negi with Dr Syed Zafar Islam were appreciated. With "Bharat Bhagya Nirmata - Roadmap to Viksit Bharat," Bharat24 reaffirmed the drive for informed discourse and a Viksit Bharat.

restored peace in Kashmir and strengthened na-

tional unity. Thakur added that these reforms are steering India towards

## Two years dedicated to public welfare & Raj's devp, says CM

● CM Bhajan Lal Sharma meets soldiers, distributes scooters to differently-abled beneficiaries ● Ahore MLA Chhagan S Rajpurohit lauds devp initiatives by state govt

First India Bureau  
Jaipore

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said the past two years have been dedicated to public welfare and Rajasthan's development, fulfilling aspirations across all sectors with commitment. In Jaipore, he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for works worth Rs 338 crore, including government colleges, a 33/11 KV substation, and solar power plants under PM-KUSUM.

He highlighted em-



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurates development works worth Rs 338 crore during the 'Grammen evam Shehari Samasya Samadhan Shivir' in Ahore (Jaipore) on Wednesday. State Minister KK Vishnoi, Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg, Ahore MLA Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit & others were present.

ployment generation, water projects, energy self-reliance, and farmer and women welfare schemes. Over 92,000 appointments were made, and over Rs 10,432 crore

transferred to farmers. Rising Rajasthan Summit MoUs worth Rs 35 lakh crore have led to projects worth Rs 8 lakh crore. Crime and corrup-

tion control measures

have improved law and order, with significant declines in crimes. Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg & Ahore MLA Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit lauded govt's work.

In Jaipore, our government is committed to developing every constituency, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for colleges, roads, substations, and solar projects worth Rs 338 crore.

**BHAJAN LAL SHARMA,**  
CHIEF MINISTER  
**In two years, the state govt has achieved remarkable work & will continue at a fast pace; the CM has met public aspirations and fully funded devp across sectors.**

**JOGESHWAR GARG,**  
CHIEF WHIP

Senior IAS officer Mahajan returns from Delhi, state posting likely soon

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Senior IAS officer Siddharth Mahajan is set to return to Rajasthan and will report at the Department of Personnel in Jaipur on Thursday. The 2003-batch officer's return after four years has triggered curiosity about his next assignment under the government.

Notably, the state had sought his repatriation from the Centre, indicating a role. There is speculation that he may be posted as JDC, CMO, or as Financial Secretary in the Revenue Department.



## Birla: IIT Kota should be developed on IIT lines



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hold a meeting at Parliament House, New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss the overall development of higher and school education in the Kota-Bundi region.

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

A key meeting at Parliament House, New Delhi, between Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan focused on higher and school education in Kota-Bundi. Om Birla

stressed developing IIT Kota on IIT lines and enhancing school education through the 'Know Your Constitution' programme & student visits to Parliament. Pradhan proposed increasing IIT Kota's capacity to 25,000 in 10 years with centres of excellence, AI, green energy, and futuristic courses.

## CS SETS THE TONE IN FIRST COS MEETING

### Early to the table, straight to the point: A different COS meet under Srinivas

Not just faster files, better files: Chief Secretary's message to bureaucracy

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

Chief Secretary V. Srinivas on Tuesday held the first meeting of the Committee of Secretaries (COS) during his tenure. The meeting, which lasted a total of 50 minutes, was conducted in a direct, focused and informal atmosphere. After the meeting concluded, officers appeared relaxed and visibly pleased.

During the meeting, the CS shared his views and issued directions on several issues. He emphasised that rather than merely ensuring quick disposal of files, it is far more important that officers at every level make a meaningful contribution to them. He observed that in many cases, once a UDC or Section Officer records a note on a file, it is forwarded directly to the CM. He stated that Joint Secretaries and Secretaries must also apply their minds and record their own observations on files. He expressed surprise over an entry on the

portal indicating that the Bhilwara Collector had disposed of an average of 1,600 files. Instead of increasing time averages, officers should carefully read files and forward them only after adding their own comments. Speedy disposal of files should not be the sole objective. The CS directed all Secretaries to personally visit their respective departments or sections and examine the conditions in which staff are seated and working, and how files and records are being maintained. He instructed that unnecessary furniture, files, registers



Chief Secretary V Srinivas

and related items should be immediately removed.

In the COS meeting, the CS also directed that pending Departmental Promotion Committee meetings be conducted immediately and that in future these should be held regularly and com-

pleted on time. Srinivas said it has been observed that even though December end is approaching, not even half of the earmarked budget expenditure has been achieved in many departments. He stressed that immediate corrective measures must be taken in depts and that there is a strong need to increase the speed of work.

When one Secretary suggested that a biometric system should be implemented in the Secretariat to record attendance and working hours, the CS responded that a broad consensus would need to be

built first. Implementing such a system without preparation would not be practical. One interesting aspect of the meeting was that the CS arrived in the meeting room at 10.15 am, 15 minutes before the scheduled time of 10.30 am. When some Secretaries who arrived before 10.30 am expressed regret for being late, the CS smiled and said, "No, you are not late; I have arrived early." The COS meeting was conducted objectively, without stress, and concluded in just 50 minutes—described as unusual, first of its kind, impressing all Secretaries.

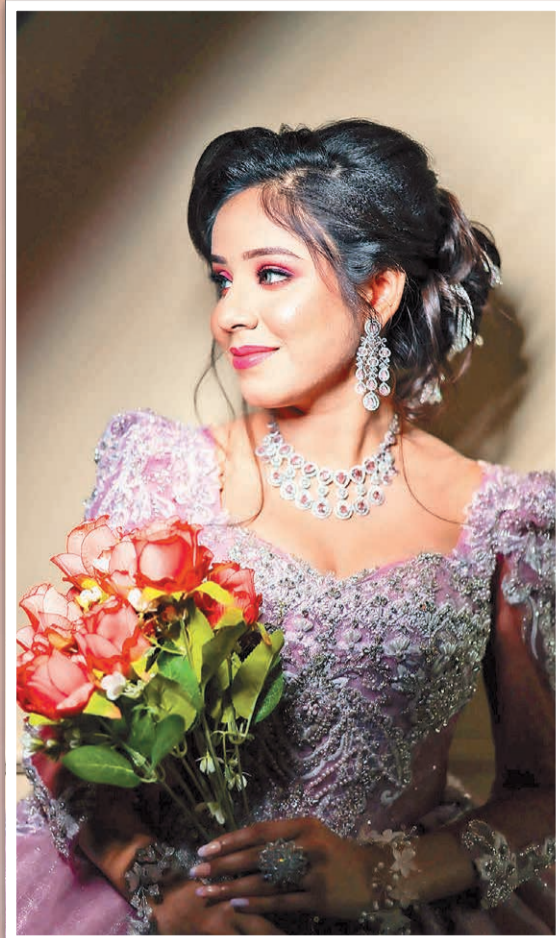
## CHIEF SECY V SRINIVAS MARKS 1 MONTH IN OFFICE

One month of V. Srinivas's tenure as Chief Secretary was completed on Wednesday. During this one-month period, the CS has established a distinct identity for himself within the administrative framework. He is being recognised as a hardworking officer known for taking swift decisions, demonstrating sensitivity, and maintaining effective coordination between field-level administration and the Secretariat. In the same month, major events such as Pravasi Rajasthan Diwas and the programme marking two years of the state government were organised successfully. Several important initiatives were undertaken during this period, including meetings of the Group of Secretaries, Open House interactions, the implementation of time-bound promotions for officers, cleanliness campaigns, and reviews of key digital platforms such as the Jan Sampark Portal and the Rajkaj Portal. Reviews related to the targets under the Viksit Rajasthan 2047 vision were also conducted during this time. The Chief Secretary's practice of reaching the office by 8.30 am and continuing work until late hours has become a topic of discussion across the bureaucracy. There is also a prevailing sense of satisfaction among officers regarding his approach of conducting meetings that are brief yet meaningful.



# City First

JAIPUR, THURSDAY | DECEMBER 18, 2025



# POISED TO SHINE

**Palak Kansal: A Rising Voice of Grace, Grit and Modern Indian Expression**

Tracing the journey, style and achievements of rising model Palak Kansal, City First captures striking glimpses from her photoshoots, reflecting confidence, elegance and the spirit of modern Indian fashion.



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in



**H**ailing from Bharatpur, Rajasthan, Palak Kansal emerged as a promising new face in the fashion and lifestyle space, seamlessly balancing her academic pursuits with a growing presence in modelling and content creation. Born and raised in a culturally rich environment, Palak was pursuing her graduation alongside BSTC, a journey that reflected her discipline and determination to build a well-rounded future.

Creativity and self-expression had always been at the core of her personality. What began as a natural comfort in front of the camera gradually evolved into a serious pursuit, encouraged by constant appreciation for her screen presence and confidence. Her journey into modelling unfolded organically, guided by intuition, courage and consistent self-belief, and under the mentorship of Pawan Tank, Founder and Director of Miss and Mrs Glam India. "Fashion, for me, was never just about clothes. It was about storytelling, power and personality," she once shared.

Deeply rooted in Indian values, Palak's heritage influenced both her outlook and style. The blend of tradition and modernity reflected in her persona gave her an edge in an industry that was rapidly embracing authenticity and inclusivity. She believed the evolving fashion world rewarded originality over stereotypes, a space where young voices could finally be heard.

Like many newcomers, Palak faced moments of self-doubt and comparison. However, she overcame

these challenges with patience, learning and an unwavering focus on personal growth. Her family remained her strongest pillar of support, grounding her through every high and low.

A defining highlight in her journey was her photoshoot with First India Newspaper, an experience she described as transformative. "The energy, the team and the respect made me feel truly seen as an artist," she said, calling it a significant step forward in her career.

As a style muse for young girls, Palak often emphasized simplicity and confidence. Her fashion advice included choosing outfits that complemented one's body type, prioritising comfort, keeping makeup balanced, and letting confidence be the strongest accessory. "When you feel good in

what you wear, it shows instantly," she believed.

With quiet confidence and evolving vision, Palak Kansal continued carving her space as a rising model, representing the new-age Indian woman...grounded, expressive and unapologetically authentic.



**DO NOT CHOOSE DEATH—CHOOSE LIFE, AND LIVE IT WITH PRIDE**



Pawan Arora with (L-R) Kajal Marwari, Shivanya, Ritika Singh, Noor Shekhawat, Yashwanti Patidaar, Vartika Jain, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Shweta Mishra Awasthi and Poonam Sharma Solanki

**AGALE JANAM MOHE KINNAR NA KIJO**

# Rising in Silence

## A TRANSGENDER TRIBUTE



**Vartika Jain**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**F**irst India Plus, the premium OTT platform presented by First India, stands as a distinctive five-in-one media destination, seamlessly blending meaningful journalism, thought-provoking storytelling, and socially conscious content. With a commitment to amplifying unheard voices and addressing pressing societal realities, the platform continues to curate narratives that go beyond entertainment to

inspire reflection and dialogue.

One of its most compelling offerings, Diaries by Vartika, presented under the guidance of Pawan Arora, CEO & Managing Editor of First India News, recently delivered a profoundly impactful special episode dedicated to Transgender Remembrance Day. Observed globally, this day serves as a solemn reminder of transgender lives lost to hatred, violence, and systemic discrimination, while also confronting society's persistent inability to accept those who are born different.

The episode courageously raised questions that are often avoided yet urgently necessary. Despite legal recognition of transgender persons as the third gender, why do they continue to face rejection from families, exclusion from education and employment, and alienation from social life? Why are so many pushed toward begging as a means of survival instead of being offered dignity, respect, and equal opportunity? Most



Gender is God-given; no one chooses their gender. Therefore, neglecting, depriving, or marginalising transgenders and excluding them from the social mainstream is deeply unjust. This episode seeks to highlight their struggles, awaken sensitivity in people's hearts, and raise a collective voice before both society and the government—urging them to prioritise transgender welfare and ensure they receive the dignity, care, and opportunities they rightfully deserve.

**Pawan Arora,**  
**CEO & Managing Editor of First India News**

importantly, if gender identity is not a choice, then who bears responsibility for the pain, marginalization, and injustice endured by the transgender community?

Through heartfelt narratives and uncompromising truths, this special episode challenged



societal apathy and called for introspection, compassion, and accountability. It served not only as a tribute to those lost but also as a powerful appeal for change—urging viewers to move beyond symbolic recognition toward genuine inclusion, acceptance, and humanity.

During the shoot, Pawan Arora felicitated the transgender guests in the channel studio, acknowledging their achievements and reinforcing a strong message of inclusion, respect, and equality.

At this moment, the episode

delivered its strongest message.

“Agale janam mohe kinnar na kiyo?” Or should this very life be lived with dignity, empathy, and pride?

Do not choose death. Choose life—and live it with complete pride.

Because living with pride is not a favor; it is a right.

The episode featured inspiring voices from the transgender community—Yashwanti Patidaar, India's first transgender activist and rights crusader; Noor Shekhawat, Youth Icon recognised by the Election Commission of India; Ritika Singh, India's first transgender gold medalist athlete; Shivanya, a transgender model; and Kajal Marwari, a renowned transgender folk dancer. They shared powerful accounts of family rejection, social discrimination, and professional struggle across education, sports, modeling, dance, and activism, while standing today as role models for the entire transgender community.



Vartika Jain in conversation with (L-R) Kajal Marwari, Shivanya, Ritika Singh, Noor Shekhawat and Yashwanti Patidaar during the “Diaries by Vartika” show



My life was like a coin—one side was something else, the other entirely different. Despite being full of colours, my childhood remained colourless. I always felt like a girl, but I was treated like a boy. This inner conflict caused deep emotional pain, and some people from my own family subjected me to mental and physical harassment—trauma that, even today, I have not been able to fully come out of.

**Shivanya,**  
**Transgender Model**



No one supported me in my journey. Living and surviving within society is not easy for a transgender person. I am preparing for police examinations because I want to join the police services—so that I can serve, protect, and support my community from within the system.

**Yashwanti Patidaar,**  
**India's First Transgender Activist & Rights Crusader**



My journey began with the beat of the dholak and the sound of ghungroos. First, the world made me dance—later, the same dance gave me my identity.

**Kajal Marwari,**  
**Transgender Folk Dancer**



I turned society's taunts into my strength. My family stood by me like a backbone, and the transgender community supported me like blood flowing through my body. This support gave me the courage to win—not just medals, but my identity and self-belief.

**Ritika Singh,**  
**India's First Transgender Gold Medalist Athlete**



No, we will not clap—we will make society clap for us. Transgender identity and discrimination go hand in hand; stigma walks beside us every step of the way. This constant prejudice and rejection often pushes transgender persons towards depression and, at times, even suicide.

**Noor Shekhawat,**  
**Youth Icon, Election Commission of India**

**CHILDREN BRING HERITAGE ALIVE**



A still from the show

Day 2 of the Creare Heritage Show at Jawahar Kala Kendra on Tuesday saw children take the stage, bringing Indian heritage alive. Through performances like Chidiya Tera Ghosla, sensitive issues such as deforestation and endangered birds were highlighted, moving the audience. Twelve diverse themes, a puppet show, and folk performances by international artist Manju Sopera added vibrancy. Highlights included the launch of young author Anay Saxena's new book and discussions on slum education. The show concluded as a colourful confluence of art, culture, and confidence.

**MUKESH KIRADOO**



**'RANG-E-RAJASTHAN' FASHION SHOW**



Apex University's Apex School of Fashion & Design recently hosted its annual student fashion showcase, 'Rang-e-Rajasthan', at Patrika Gate, Jaipur. The event celebrated Rajasthan's vibrant heritage through creative and contemporary designs by students, blending traditional artistry with modern silhouettes. The collections highlighted the students' talent, vision, and craftsmanship, offering an evening where fashion, culture, and creativity converged, marking a memorable celebration of Rajasthan's art and emerging design excellence.

**MUKESH KIRADOO**

**TEAM JAIPUR TRIUMPHS IN POLO MATCH**

The Rao Raja Hanut Singh Cup League Polo Match, held on Wednesday, witnessed an electrifying contest between Team Bedla Chunda and Team Jaipur. Displaying skill, strategy and seamless coordination, Team Jaipur dominated the match and secured a convincing victory by scoring 9 goals, while Team Bedla Chunda delivered a spirited performance, finishing with 4 goals. The match kept spectators engaged throughout, with swift chukkas, precise strikes and strong teamwork from both sides. The encounter highlighted the competitive spirit and growing popularity of polo in the region, making the league a memorable sporting spectacle for polo enthusiasts.



Padmanabh Singh and Himmat Singh Bedla during the polo match

**RAJASTHAN'S FOLK SHOWCASE**



The third day of the state-level exhibition at Jawahar Kala Kendra witnessed a vibrant cultural evening celebrating Rajasthan's rich folk traditions on Wednesday. Organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations, the event featured captivating Bhangra performances by Yusuf Khan and group, energetic Chang drumming by Shyam Mitra Mandal of Churu, melodious flute music, and an engaging puppet show by Raju Bhat depicting Maharaja Amarsingh's tale. Earlier, RAS officer Shipra Sharma presented a folk story, followed by a panel discussion with RJ Priyadarshini Mishra, Nidhish Goyal, and Sumit. Artists were later felicitated.

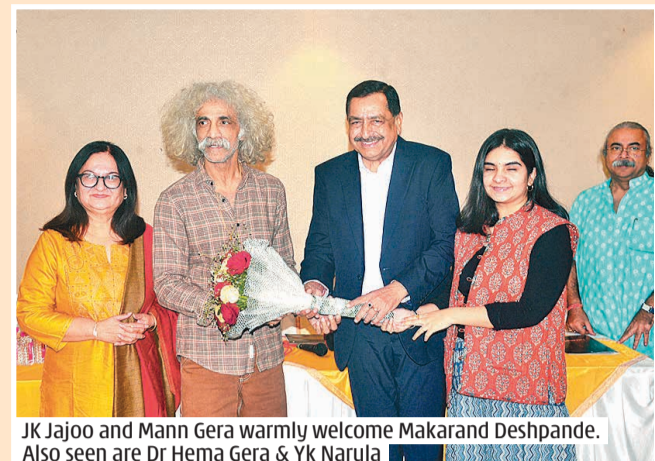
**RIFF 2026 REVEALED SECOND LIST**



The 12th Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF 2026) has unveiled its second list of official selections, featuring 15 films, including Bengali, Malayalam, Rajasthani, and international entries. Notable films include Binodini Ekti Natir Upakhyan, The Man Who Hurls News, Ru Ba Ru, and Bairan. Scheduled from January 31 to February 4 at Miraj Cinemas, Jodhpur, the festival is supported by Rajasthan Tourism and celebrates a decade of cinematic excellence.

**FOUR-DAY JAIRANGAM FESTIVAL BEGINS IN JAIPUR TODAY**

**Global Theatre Showcase**



JK Jajoo and Mann Gera warmly welcome Makarand Deshpande. Also seen are Dr Hema Gera & YK Narula



(L-R) Sanjay Harpavat, Dr Hema Gera, Makarand Deshpande, Mann Gera, JK Jajoo and YK Narula

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The 14th edition of **Jairangam** (Jaipur Theatre Festival) begins today and will continue till December 21 at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, offering a vibrant confluence of theatre, art,

culture, music and dialogue. Organised jointly by 3M Dot Bands Theatre Family Society, the Department of Art and Culture, Rajasthan, and Jawahar Kala Kendra, the festival holds special significance this year with several firsts, including the presentation of a theatre production from New Zealand for the first time in India. The festival was formally announced at a press conference addressed by renowned actor Makarand Deshpande and Festival Director Mann Gera. JK Jajoo, Chairman and founder of Shubhashish Homes, Sanjay Harpavat, Dr Hema Gera and YK Narula were also present. Addressing the event, Makarand Deshpande reflected on the golden journey of Jairangam,

crediting Deepak Gera's visionary approach for shaping the festival into a nationally acclaimed platform. He praised Jaipur's discerning audience for sustaining theatre culture and appreciated this year's emphasis on amplifying women's voices. Mann Gera shared that the festival has been thoughtfully curated with women-centric narra-

tives, seamlessly blending theatre with art and cultural dialogue. This year, Jairangam will showcase 11 productions over four days, including six plays under the Spotlight segment, with participation from eminent national and international artists, including Filmfare OTT Awards 2025 winner Zahan Kapoor.

**MUKESH KIRADOO**

**Rajasthan Boosts AYUSH Healthcare**

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The Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been promoting Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AYUSH) to provide comprehensive healthcare to the public. In Rajasthan, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy Chief Minister & AYUSH Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa are supporting 2019 AYUSH establishments, accelerating the development of the system. The Ministry sanctioned ₹348 crore for the National AYUSH Mission Rajasthan (SAAP 2025-26), supplemented by the state government for AYUSH development. A two-day refresher training for Community Health Officers and Ayurvedic doctors was organised by the



Dr Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Dr Anshuman Chaturvedi and participants during the event



Subir Kumar during the lamp-lighting ceremony

National AYUSH Mission, Rajasthan, and Department of Ayurveda, Rajasthan, chaired by Principal Secretary Subir Kumar, at RTDC Gangaur Hotel, Jaipur. Doctors from Churu and Jhunjhunu districts participated.

Experts shared best practices and new guidelines, while participants exchanged experiences to enhance technical knowledge and service quality. Officials present included Dr Dinesh Kumar Sharma, Dr Gajendra Prasad Sharma, Dr Anshuman Chaturvedi, Dr Ashok Mittal, Dr Shweta Chaurasia, and Shantanu Kumar Soni. Assistant Nodal Officer Dr Nitin Kumar Goyal highlighted the program's importance in strengthening AYUSH systems for public welfare.

**SANTOSH SHARMA**

**MEDICAL AND BLOOD DONATION CAMP**



Under the aegis of Aangan Foundation, Govind Sharan Patodia organised a grand medical consultation and blood donation camp on Monday at Hanuman Vatika Resort, Sanganer, in memory of his late mother, Bidam Devi. Specialist doctors from Ashish Orthopedic Centre and Jeevan Rekha Hospital provided free consultations to 218 patients, while 264 blood units were collected. The event, supported by SMS, SDMH, Navjeevan, and HIDA Blood Bank, highlighted health and social awareness.

**JAIPUR MUSIC STAGE RETURNS**



Soumik Datta Travellers

Vasu Dixit Collective

The Jaipur Music Stage (JMS), held alongside the Jaipur Literature Festival, will return from January 15 to 17, 2026, at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur, featuring a vibrant line-up of leading contemporary and independent musicians from across India. The festival opens with Soumik Datta Travellers and the Vasu Dixit Collective, followed by performances by Parvaaz, Raman Negi and Jaipur-based folk-fusion band Yugm. The finale will feature Thakkudam Bridge and Gauley Bhai. Festival Producer Avik Roy said JMS celebrates the diversity and strength of India's independent music scene.



**GRAND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**



A vibrant Christmas celebration was recently organised at Swarna Cosmetics & Aesthetics, with the clinic beautifully decorated to create a festive atmosphere. Guests enjoyed the event enthusiastically, which featured expert insights on skincare from Dr Jitendra and Dr Kriti Awasthi, highlighting healthy skin routines and advanced treatments. Hosted by Dipti Saini, the celebration also saw participation from city influencers. The event included cake cutting, photography, and interactive sessions, making it a memorable festive gathering that promoted beauty care and skin awareness.

**ROTARY CLUB INITIATIVE**



Rotary Club Jaipur Royal recently implemented its 'Magic Cupboard - Mini Library Project' at Mahatma Gandhi School, Vidhyadhar Nagar, to promote reading habits among students. Under the initiative, the club donated 150 books to set up a mini-library. Club President Poonam Bagadia said the project aims to expand children's knowledge and imagination beyond textbooks. Secretary Ramesh Chandra Goyal and Rotarians Vijay Rajoria, Ajay Ahuja, Pawan Jain, BL Kotriwala, Harlal Verma, and Ganga Sharan Gupta were present. The school staff thanked the club for the inspiring initiative.

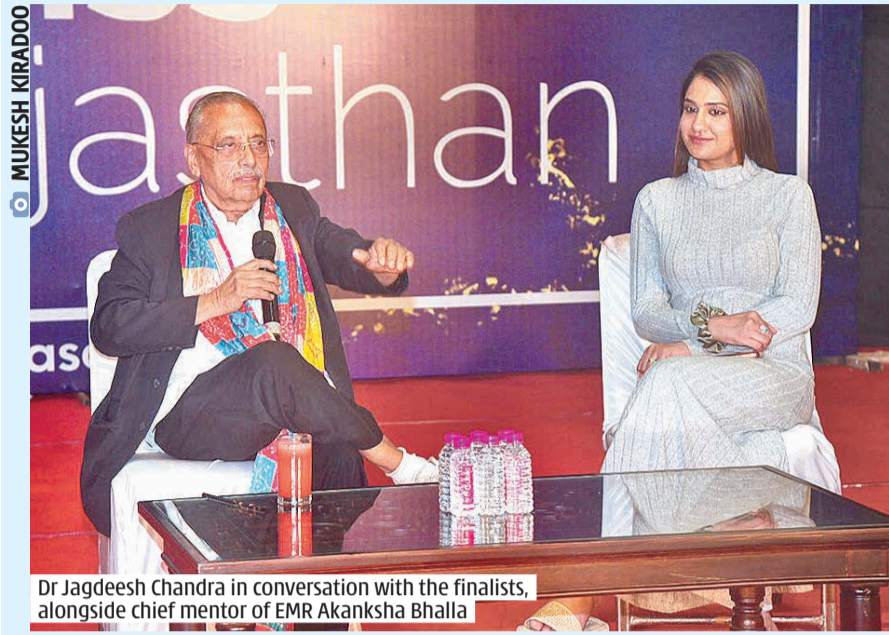
**JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**



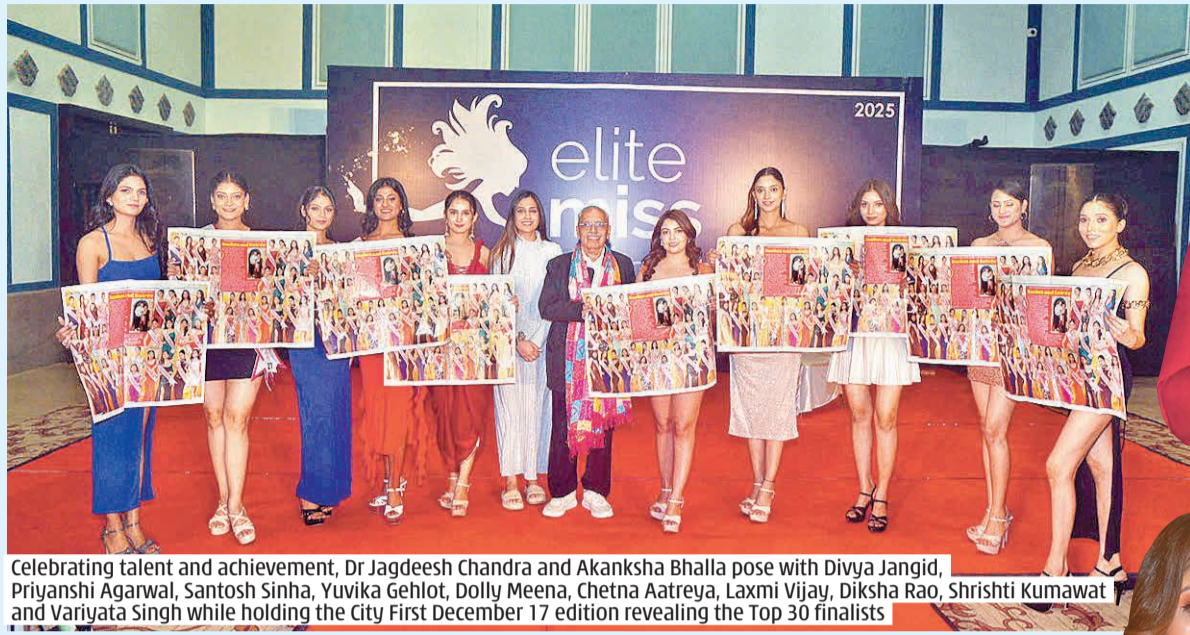
The two-day West Zone-1 Regional Judicial Conference concluded in Jaisalmer, focusing on strengthening India's judiciary against future technological challenges. Supreme Court Senior Justice Vikram Nath, chief guest, highlighted AI, digital monitoring, and blockchain in judicial work, emphasizing that technology must serve justice, not replace it. Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma stressed inclusivity, ethics, and constitutional values in tech adoption. Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati, President of Rajasthan State Judicial Academy, thanked judges, participants, and institutions for their contributions to the successful conference.

**MOTIVATIONAL SESSION INSPIRES FINALISTS AHEAD OF ELITE MISS RAJASTHAN SEASON 12 GRAND FINALE**

# PREPARING TO SHINE



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in conversation with the finalists, alongside chief mentor of EMR Akanksha Bhalla



Celebrating talent and achievement, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Akanksha Bhalla pose with Divya Jangid, Priyanshi Agarwal, Santosh Sinha, Yuvika Gehlot, Dolly Meena, Chetna Aatreya, Laxmi Vijay, Diksha Rao, Shrishti Kumawat and Varyata Singh while holding the City First December 17 edition revealing the Top 30 finalists



Top: Gaurav Gaur addressing the audience  
 Bottom: Sarita Rao in conversation with Dr Jagdeesh Chandra during an insightful interaction

**City First**  
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**A**head of the grand finale of Elite Miss Rajasthan, Season 12, scheduled to be held on December 22 at Ananta Mahal, Mansarovar, a special motivational and interactive session was organised for the 30 finalist contestants on Wednesday at Ananta Mahal. The session was specially addressed by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra who motivated the aspiring titleholders with his insightful

guidance. Addressing the finalists, Dr Chandra emphasised that discipline, clarity of purpose and time management are the cornerstones of success. He encouraged the contestants to define their goals clearly, remain focused and make optimum use of every opportunity available to them. Sharing real-life experiences, he highlighted the importance of consistency, self-belief and perseverance in achieving long-term success. His inspiring address left the participants energised and mentally prepared for the com-



Captivated finalists of Elite Miss Rajasthan Season 12 during the motivational session

petitive journey ahead.

The interactive session also featured Akanksha Bhalla, Chief Mentor of Elite Miss Rajasthan and a renowned

supermodel, who shared her professional experiences from the fashion and pageant industry. She offered valuable insights on confidence-build-

ing, stage presence, grooming and personal growth, encouraging the finalists to embrace their individuality while staying grounded.

The contestants actively participated in the session, engaging in meaningful interactions with both mentors and seeking guidance on life, discipline, success and career growth within the modelling and pageant ecosystem.

Expressing his views, Gaurav Gaur, Founder and Director of Elite Miss Rajasthan, stated that such motivational initiatives are integral to the platform, as they

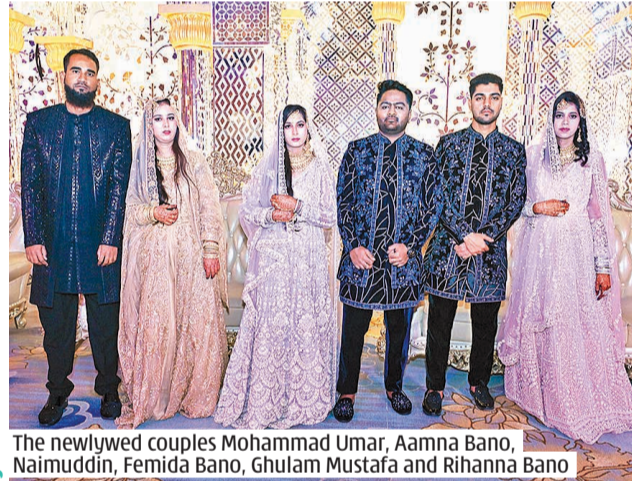
nurture not just beauty and talent, but also mindset and character. He added that mentorship plays a crucial role in shaping confident, responsible and future-ready individuals. The session concluded on a high note, leaving the finalists inspired, confident and fully prepared to shine with grace, intelligence and purpose at the upcoming grand finale.

**MEET AND GREET!**

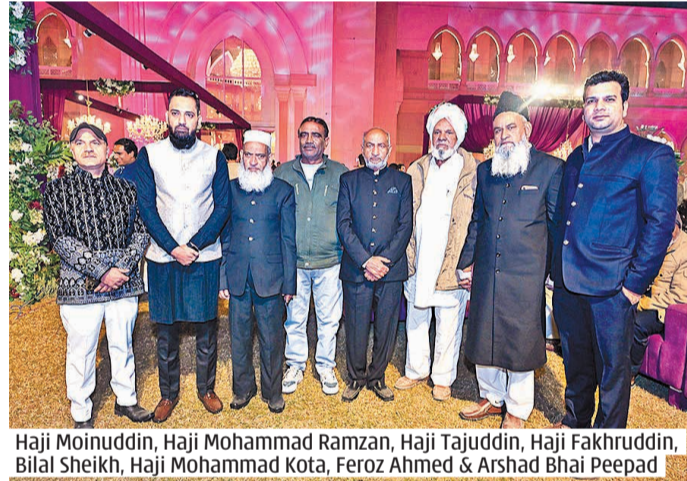


Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in conversation with Dr Gulab Kothari, Editor-in-Chief and Chairman, Rajasthan Patrika during a chance meeting on Wednesday at New Delhi Airport where the Rajasthan Patrika Chairman was on his way to Orissa whereas Dr Chandra was returning to Jaipur after the Bharat24 conclave.

**JOYOUS WEDDING RECEPTION**



The newlywed couples Mohammad Umar, Aamna Bano, Naimuddin, Femida Bano, Ghulam Mustafa and Rihanna Bano



Haji Moinuddin, Haji Mohammad Ramzan, Haji Tajuddin, Haji Fakhruddin, Bilal Sheikh, Haji Mohammad Kota, Feroz Ahmed & Arshad Bhai Peepad

The wedding reception of the grandsons of late Abdul Ghani Shaikh was celebrated with grandeur on Monday at VYOM - Luxurious Wedding Venue, Kukas, Jaipur. The occasion marked the unions of Mohammad Umar, son of Haji Tajuddin Shaikh, with Aamna Bano, daughter of Manjoor Shaikh; Mohammad Farukh, son of Haji Barkat Ali Shaikh, with Muskan Bano, daughter of late Iqbal Shaikh; Naimuddin, son of Haji Moinuddin Shaikh, with Femida Bano, daughter of Manjoor Shaikh; and Ghulam Mustafa, son of Haji Fakhruddin Shaikh, with Rihanna Bano, daughter of Asgar Shaikh. Family members, relatives, and guests gathered to bless the newlyweds. **NAIM KHAN**

**RANGOLI GARDEN RWA ELECTIONS**



Team Parivartan achieved a historic victory in the Rangoli Garden RWA elections, held under the supervision of Jaipur Development Commissioner. After five years, residents of society participated enthusiastically, giving a clear mandate. The team won all seven seats, with office bearers including President Ripudaman Kaushik, Vice President Ashok Ajmera, Secretary Chitra Singh Shekhawat, Treasurer Rahul Godara and Members Manish Sharma, CA Pawan Jangid & Richa Sonkhiya.

**SPIRITUAL AWARENESS DRIVE**

Gupt Vrindavan Dham, Jaipur, organized a special initiative by distributing copies of the Bhagavad Gita at the district jail to promote spiritual awareness and moral values. The program, held under the Hare Krishna Movement, aimed at character development and rehabilitation of prisoners. Devotees explained the importance of the Gita's teachings and encouraged Hari Nama Sankirtan. The initiative was conducted under the Srila Prabhupada Book Marathon.



**GEMS GO GRAND!**



Jaipur Jewellery Show (JJS) 2025, themed 'Coloured Gemstones', will be held from December 19 to 22 at the Novotel Jaipur Convention Centre (JCC), Sitapura. The organising committee reviewed preparations and expressed satisfaction with the progress. JJS Honorary Secretary Rajiv Jain stated that the show will feature a record 1,227 booths, with nearly 65% designer booths, highlighting creativity and innovation. With 660 exhibitors, including gold jewellery, loose gemstones, silver jewellery and allied machinery, JJS becomes its largest edition ever. Dinesh Khatoria and Ajay Kala emphasised meticulous planning and Jaipur's growing global leadership. The inauguration will be held on December 19 at 11 am by Pritesh Patel, President and CEO, GIA.

**SIXTH BRITISH POLO DAY CONCLUDES**



(L-R) Siddhant Sharma, Padmanabh Singh, Digvijay Singh, Tom Hudson, Peter Prentice, Narendra Singh, Vikramaditya Singh Barkana & Col VS Kahlon  
 The Sixth British Polo Day was held on Tuesday at the Rajasthan Polo Club Ground, featuring two exciting matches. Team Jaipur I defeated BPD I 6-4, with Padmanabh Singh scoring 3 goals, Vikramaditya Singh Barkana 2, and Siddhant Sharma 1. BPD I's Nick Clarke scored 3 goals. Earlier, Team Jaipur II drew 4-4 with BPD II. The event marked the return of British Polo Day to Jaipur after a COVID-19 hiatus since 2019, showcasing thrilling polo action and sportsmanship. **NAIM KHAN**

**DOCTORAL DEGREE CONFERRED**



The University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, recently awarded a PhD degree to Renu Kumari for her research titled "The Role of Scheduled Castes in Electoral Politics of Rajasthan: A Study with Special Reference to Jhunjhunu District." The study offers an in-depth analysis of political participation and representation of the Scheduled Castes in the region. Renu Kumari completed her doctoral research under the supervision and guidance of Dr PC Jat. The university authorities congratulated the scholar and her guide for this academic achievement.

**MOUNTAIN MOVES' TREK PROMOTES WOMEN WELLNESS**



Womanaari (WNI Forum) organised the 'Mountain Moves' trekking event to promote health, fitness, and well-being among women. The trek was guided by Nagendra Shekhawat, Founder of Infinity Yoga, and Dinesh Lalwani, who shared yoga practices for women above 40. Jyoti Sharma energised participants with dynamic movements, while Nidhi Sharma, Mrs Rajasthan 2025, spoke on hydration. Dr Surinder Kaur discussed the benefits. Led by Neelam Saxena and organised under Monica Karwasra, the event saw enthusiastic participation from several members.

**QUEEN OF INDIA S-4 FINALE**

The grand finale of the National Level Beauty Pageant Queen of India 2025 Season 4 was held today at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur. Organised by Kalyan Sons & Production with First India News as media partner, the event featured the top 30 finalists showcasing designer collections on the ramp. Bollywood actress Zareen Khan judged the talent of the contestants, while Tejendra Singh Rajawat attended as VIP Chief Guest. National Director Monnu Verma and Show Organiser Yuvraj Singh announced that the winner will receive a trip to Dubai along with other attractive prizes.



**JAIPUR GOES GLOBAL!**



Jaipur's Ekta Jain has been appointed as the Director of the prestigious Miss Ocean World beauty pageant, one of the world's top ten international beauty competitions. The grand event is scheduled to be held in August in Jaipur, marking a significant milestone for the city on the global pageantry map. Speaking about the upcoming edition, Ekta Jain stated that the pageant will be organised around the powerful theme of "Save Water", aiming to spread awareness about ocean conservation and sustainable living. Alongside the environmental message, the event will strongly focus on promoting India's rich traditions, culture and heritage, with Jaipur's architectural beauty and royal legacy showcased to an international audience. More than 30 countries are expected to participate, with delegates arriving in Jaipur to represent their nations, making the event a vibrant celebration of global beauty, culture and social responsibility.