



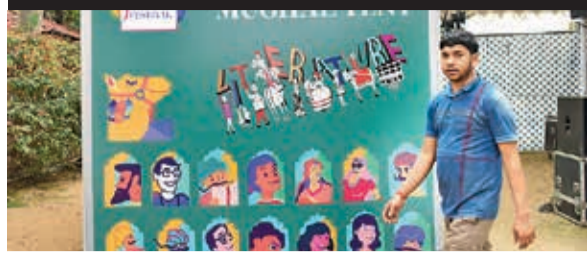
# FIRST INDIA

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## STAGE SET FOR 17TH EDITION OF JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL TODAY

The 17th Edition of Jaipur Literature Festival will get a kickstart from Thursday at Clarks Amer. The first day of the festival will begin with the inaugural ceremony, where Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari will be the Chief Guest. The grand literary extravaganza will see over 550 writers, speakers, and performers, and will represent 16 Indian and 8 international languages. P11



## PREZ LISTS ACHIEVEMENTS OF PM MODI'S GOVERNMENT

Ram Temple and economic reforms among Modi govt's main achievements

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the centuries-old desire to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya has now become reality as she listed the achievements of the Modi govt in last 10 years.

In her address to the members of both Houses of Parliament, Murmu also hailed the armed forces for giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism, an apparent reference to Pakistan and China.

In her maiden address in new Parliament building, Murmu listed out the economic reforms undertaken by the govt that has transformed India from the group of "fragile five" to the "top five" economies in the world.

Vice-Prez Jagdeep Dhankhar, PM Narendra Modi, his cabinet colleagues, LS Speaker Om Birla and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge besides others were present when the president delivered her address. More on P5



President Droupadi Murmu receives guard of honour on the first day of the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi are also seen. PTI

**This is the time for India to script the future for the coming centuries. Our ancestors have bequeathed us a legacy spanning thousands of years. Even today, we remember with pride the exceptional achievements of our ancestors. Today's generation should also build a lasting legacy that will be remembered for centuries.**

DROUPADI MURMU, PRESIDENT

### "AN ELECTION SPEECH": OPPOSITION CRITICISES PRESIDENT MURMU'S SPEECH

Responding to President Droupadi Murmu's address in the Parliament on Wednesday, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said that it was an election speech and was a one-sided narrative that leaves out several important omissions. "They have written an election speech for the President to deliver. They have not talked about the things which they have not done," Tharoor told ANI.

### EQUITY MARKETS SETTLE 1% HIGHER AHEAD OF BUDGET

Benchmark equity indices recovered their previous day's losses and closed nearly 1 per cent higher on Wednesday amid robust buying in HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. Investors are eyeing the two important events lined up ahead — the interim budget and the US Fed interest rate decision — to derive further cues from. Reclaiming all the early lost ground, the 30-share BSE Sensex.

## FinMin Sitharaman to present interim Union budget today

Interim Budget is going to be a vote on account in view of Lok Sabha polls

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will equal the record of former PM Morarji Desai as she presents her sixth straight budget on February 1. This year's budget arrives at a pivotal juncture as the Indian economy navigates global economic hurdles, striving for self-sufficiency and an 'Atmanirbhar' economy. Thus the interim budget is anticipated to outline the financial plan for the early months of the fiscal year, guaranteeing the seamless continuation of government activities until the formation of a new government post-election. Considering the provisional nature of the interim budget and its proximity to national elections, it is unlikely that the finance minister will unveil any significant policy shifts or financial reforms. As highlighted earlier by FM, the budget will predominantly focus on addressing immediate expenses rather than long-term economic strategies.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with MoS Pankaj Chaudhary and Bhagwat Karad and her team of officials a day before presentation of the Interim Budget 2024. PTI

### INTERIM BUDGET: MEASURES FOR ECO, SELECT SEGMENTS TO FEATURE IN NIRMALA SITHARAMAN'S 6TH STRAIGHT BUDGET

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will today present the Modi 2.0 government's last Budget before the general elections, which is likely to contain a mix of measures for the economy and electorally significant segments like farmers and women.
- Peppered with political innuendos, her sixth straight Budget may present a political document with a snapshot of the Modi government's triumphs over the last 10 years and pointers to how it wants to take the country forward.
- With pressure for populist measures off after recent emphatic wins in three states, she is expected to stick to being fiscally prudent while sprinkling sops on sectors like agriculture and engines of the economy that would create jobs.

### TRADITION OF NOT MAKING MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE INTERIM BUDGET WAS BROKEN BY PIYUSH GOYAL IN INTERIM BUDGET OF 2019

Income Tax relief was provided to people earning up to 5 lakh, with those in 2.50 lakh to 5 lakh slab seeing their tax of 5% with a rate of RS 12,500. The govt offered a full rebate on this. The standard deduction was increased from Rs 40,000 to 50,000. Interest on home loans up to Rs 2 lakh was made tax-free, and tax relief was also provided on contributions to the NPS. The announcement of the PM's Kisan Samman Yojana was made, proposing to provide farmers with 6,000 rupees annually in three installments.



### PERSPECTIVE P4

SENSEX	
BSE	NIFTY
71752.11	21725.70
▲ 612.21	▲ 203.60

### IN BRIEF

**BSF nabs 4 smugglers near Pakistan border**



**Chandigarh:** The BSF on Wednesday said it has apprehended four smugglers in Punjab and seized a significant quantity of narcotics as well as arms and ammunition in an intelligence-based operation along international border.

**J&K: Eight dead in Baramulla accident**

**Srinagar:** Eight people dead, and six others were injured after a passenger vehicle met an accident in J&K's Baramulla district on Wednesday, officials said. They said a passenger cab with at least 14 passengers was on its way to Laghama Bujithala.

## Varanasi court allows Hindus to worship in Gyanvapi's basement

Agencies  
Varanasi

A local court on Wednesday allowed Hindus to worship inside the sealed basement of the Gyanvapi mosque. The court has asked the district administration to make the necessary arrangements in the next seven days.

As per order, Hindu devotees can now offer prayers at Vyas Ka Tehkhana, a sealed area inside Gyanvapi mosque. Muslim side said it will appeal in the High Court.



Security personnel at the Gyanvapi mosque after a court order.

## 13 IPS officers shifted; Rajeev to head Anti-Corruption Bureau

Dr Rituraj Sharma & Shivendra Singh Parmar  
Jaipur

13 IPS officers including DG Law and order and 3 range IGs were transferred in State on Wednesday. DG Law & Order, RAC, and SDRF Rajeev Kumar Sharma was made the new DG of Anti-Corruption Bureau. Until now, additional charge of this post was with ADG (ACB) Hemant Priyadarshy.

With Rajeev getting at helm of ACB, there are strong chances that officiating DGP UR Sahoo is



made full time DGP. IG Law & Order Gaurav Srivastava was made IG CM security. Jodhpur Police Commissioner Ravi Dutt Gaur was transferred to Kota range IG and Rajendra Singh has replaced him as Jodhpur CP. HG Rahavendra Suhasa, who was IG Pali, was transferred to the post of IG Railways. IG Intelligence Hinglaj Dan was made IG Rules, Jodhpur range IG Janinarayan Sher is IG Intelligence. Rahul Prakash, Addl Commissioner (Traffic) Jaipur, shifted to Bharatpur range as IG. P8

## Hemant Soren arrested by ED; Champai elected new J'khand CM

PTI  
Ranchi

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday arrested JMM leader Hemant Soren after over seven hours of questioning on money laundering charges in an alleged land fraud case.

Before his arrest, Soren tendered his resignation to Governor CP Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan and was then taken to the ED office here.

After Hemant Soren resigned as Jharkhand Chief Minister after more



ED officials arrive at the house of Hemant Soren for questioning in a money laundering case, in Ranchi, on Wednesday. PTI

than seven hours of questioning by ED in a money laundering case, senior JMM leader Champai Soren was named as his successor. An MLA from the Serikela constituency for more than three decades since 1991, Champai Soren is known to be a loyalist of JMM supremo Shibu Soren.

### CM'S MAIDEN SPEECH IN ASSEMBLY

## CM Sharma emerges as 'Star Speaker'

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's impressive speech in assembly on Tuesday left all including politicians and bureaucrats spellbound. With the two hour long speech, Sharma emerged as a star speaker.

Everyone listened to Bhajan Lal Sharma with surprise. No one expected such a remarkable speech from a first-time MLA



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's impressive speech in assembly on Tuesday left everyone spellbound.

but Sharma impressed everyone with his eloquence and speech style.

The BJP leaders sitting in Delhi also heard Bhajan Lal Sharma's speech and

in the eyes of BJP high command, this speech was the Chief Minister's first test. The high command also felt that the choice was correct.

A political observer commented, "There is no shortage of good 'Gudadi ke Lal' in India'. They should get a chance."

The speech of Bhajan Lal Sharma is also an important event in the internal politics of the BJP. His sentence 'Konsi Chakki ka Aata Khate ho' became a super hit among the general public. P8



Triumphing tourism Over 18 cr tourists visited Raj in 2023

# Rajasthan's spectacular 66% increase in tourists

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

The 'Desert State' becomes synonymous with tourism. Shattering all earlier records, the state witnessed more than 18 crore tourists in a single calendar year in 2023.

With this record number of visitors the Rajasthan tourism made its mark in the country as well as across the globe. Earlier, the number of tourists year 2022 was 10.87 crores. More than 7.13 crore tourists increased in just one year, with a 66 percent jump. Last year 17.90 crore domestic and 16.99 lakh foreign tourists visited Rajasthan, which incorporated 65 percent increase in arrival of indigenous tourists, 328 percent increase in for-



NAIM KHAN

foreign tourists. Rajasthan once again included in the top 3 tourism states in the country.

The travel and tourism

trade got back on track in terms of lost revenue due to Corona period. At present, the command of tourism is in the hands of

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. Under her leadership, a target of 20 crore tourists in the year 2024 has been set.

Inebriated kirana trader sets self & shop on fire, burns to death

First India Bureau  
Banswara

A man first argued with his wife, then poured gasoline on himself and set fire to the shop built in front of the house. Within a short time, the entire business caught fire. The young man was burned to ashes inside the shop. The incident occurred at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

According to family members, Subhash had an alcohol problem. Every day, he would return home intoxicated and beat his wife Geeta.

After the fire, no one in the area realized Subhash was inside. When the wife fled away screaming, the neighbors found out. People nearby arrived, but the fire could not be contained. Following this, the police were informed.

## 48th foundation day of Raj HC Jaipur Bench held



Kapil Prakash Mathur, Justice Indrajit Singh, Gajraj Singh Rajawat, Justice Pankaj Bhandari, Pawan Sharma and Prahlad Sharma at the event in Jaipur on Wednesday.

Kamalkant Sharma  
Jaipur

The 48th Foundation Day program of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur Bench was held on the front lawn of the High Court.

In the program, the chief guest was Justice Pankaj Bhandari, while the special guest was Justice Inderjit Singh in the High Court. About 50 senior advocates of the High Court were honoured on completion of 50 years of practice. The list of senior advo-

### NO MENTION OF CASTE AND RELIGION IN THE PETITIONS FILED IN RAJASTHAN HIGH COURT

Jodhpur: There will be no mention of caste and religion in any writ petitions filed in Rajasthan High Court. The Registrar General of Rajasthan High Court issued the order. There has been mention of caste and religion in the past. The order was issued in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court. From now onwards there will be no mention of the religion and caste of the petitioner in any writ petition. The protests had taken place many times before, but caste and religion were still being mentioned.

Shiv Prakash Purohit

icates included Advocate Abhay Bhandari. He was honoured by Justice Pankaj Bhandari with garlands and a shawl. Justice Bhandari said

that Senior Advocate Abhay Bhandari is my uncle as well as my guru, and there can't be a more fortunate moment than this for me.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association membership fee increased

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The fees of members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Rajasthan Branch) see an increase. The membership fees have not been increased for the last several years. In the meeting, the affiliate member fee of ordinary members increased from Rs 50 to Rs 500 per year.

The Life membership fee has been increased from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000. As per speaker Vasudev Devnani, the issue of fees was agreed upon by all members, and the members who have not yet paid should pay their membership fees as soon as possible.

In the case of dues not being cleared on time, as per Rule 4 of the Branch, the Commonwealth Parliamentary membership of such members will be terminated.

## 2 labourers get buried under safety tank, die

First India Bureau  
Alwar

Two labourers died of suffocation on Wednesday after they got trapped in a pit on a company premises in Rajasthan's Khairthal-Tijara district, police said.

The incident took place when the workers were digging a 10-foot deep pit in Bhiwadi industrial area of Phulbagh. Due to sudden collapse of the soil, the duo got buried and died due to suffocation, police said.

The victims were rushed to a hospital where the doctors declared both of them dead, they said. The deceased have been identified as Ramkishan and Vandana

### FATHER-SON RUN OVER BY A TRACTOR, DIE

Jaisalmer: A father and son riding the bike killed in an accident with a tractor. The tractor driver fled the scene after the crash. People drove both of them to Government Jawahir Hospital in private cars. The accident occurred while traveling from Nagga to Parevar village. The bodies of the deceased were kept in the mortuary. Family members and relatives of the deceased congregated outside the mortuary. Police are looking for the tractor and its driver.

both aged 25 and residents of MP. The bodies were handed over to the duo's relatives after post-mortem, the police said.

## Bangladeshi siblings living illegally in Ajmer held

Shubham Jain  
Ajmer

Police apprehended two Bangladeshi infiltrators who were living on rent by creating fake IDs. Both entered India using fraudulent means.

According to Inspector Narendra Singh of Dargah Police Station, both of them wrote their identities as Nahid Sheikh and Nadia Sheikh on the fake IDs. The girl's real name is Mahmood Akhtar (30), while the young man's real name is Nahid Hussain (21). Following interrogation, both were sent to Alwar's detention centre.

### PATWARI BOUND, THRASHED DURING MINING INSPECTION

Jhunjhunu: A Patwari went to examine mining in Lohargal was bound and thrashed by a group of people. Rajesh Kumar, president of Nawalgarh Patwar Association, was assaulted. He had gone to Lohargal to investigate illegal mining in the mountains. More than half a dozen people bound and thrashed Patwari inside a house. Rajesh filed a report against the individuals at Gothra police station. Patwari unleashed a brutal attack on the accused. A case has been brought for hindering government operations.

### FRAUD ON PRETEXT OF GIVING MBBS DEGREE

A case of cheating worth lakhs in the pretext of an MBBS degree in Muhana Police Station area has come to light. A man named Sanwamal has accused one Vivek Mani of defrauding him of Rs 5 lakh 88 thousand in the pretext of getting his child an MBBS degree. A case was registered based on the complaint of the victim and an investigation has begun.

### GIRL THREATENED WITH ACID ATTACK

A teenager's ID was hacked and blackmailed at the Bhatta Basti police station area. The accused blackmailed a teenager and threatened to harm him with acid if he did not pay. A named complaint has been filed at the police station in response to family members' complaints about 3 minors. SHO Kailash Kumar is investigating the case.

### FATHER BOOKED FOR RAPING DAUGHTER

A woman has filed a case against her husband for raping her daughter at Shivaji Park police station. The girl in question is Minor. After receiving the complaint, Police took statement and had the minor girl medically examined.

### ANTI ENCROACHMENT SQUAD ATTACKED BY A GIRL IN UDAIPUR

Udaipur: Udaipur Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment squad was attacked by a female who smashed the glass of a JCB in the Bohra Ganesh neighborhood. The anti-encroachment team informed the Pratap Nagar police station about the attack, following which police force arrived at the scene. It is to be noted that an anti-encroachment drive has been going on in Udaipur and other key areas of the state since January 1. Today, encroachments were eliminated in the Bohra Ganesh region.

## Jaipur and surrounding areas witness refreshing downpour

Ziauddin Khan  
Jaipur

After a gap of 20 days, the rain started again in Rajasthan. On Thursday, there was light drizzle along with thunder in many areas of Bikaner, Hanumangarh, Churu, Sriganganagar, Sikar and Jhunjhunu. After 6 pm,

suddenly the weather changed in Alwar and Sikar with rain in Alwar, whereas after light rain in Sikar, the effect of cold also increased. The roads were flooded due to heavy rain in Alwar after it rained for about 15-20 minutes. In Jaipur, there was light drizzle in some areas in the afternoon.

According to the weather centre Jaipur and local reports, Lunkaransar of Bikaner received rain from early morning on Thursday. There was light fog after morning rain. Due to clouds and rain in Fatehpur of Sikar, the minimum temperature was recorded above 10 degrees Celsius.

### Jpr: Rape on the guise of marriage

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

A case of rape of a girl on the guise of marriage in the Kami Vihar police station area has come to light. A case has been registered in police station based on the victim's complaint. Puneet, a man from Delhi, has been accused of rape as well as creating obscene footage.

## JDA razes three illegal colonies on a private agricultural land

Abhishek Shrivastva  
Jaipur

Three new illegal colonies on 11 bighas of private agricultural land were completely demolished by the JDA in Zone-12. As per Chief Controller of Enforcement Dharmendra Kumar Yadav, in village



Mansharampura Chak Basdi (Jaipur), located in Zone-12, about 5

bighas of private agricultural land has been levelled. Similarly, in Mansharampura, four bighas of private agricultural land was also levelled, where a new illegal colony was under construction. Illegal colonies were demolished with help of JCB machines and labourers.

## UEM JAIPUR LIT FEST 2024

# Literature sparks the imagination and enables technology at VOICES!

Rachna Singh  
Jaipur

The University of Engineering & Management (UEM), Jaipur organized the "UEM Jaipur Lit Fest 2024" in collaboration with "VOICES" at the Rajasthan International Center. The day-long event sponsored by the First India Group was a first-of-its-kind collaborative event, where technology and literature came together to organize, 'Revisiting Voices' at the Rajasthan International

Center that brought together eminent literati and figures in the field of 'Interdisciplinary Critical Explorations.'

Literature & Engineering? How can the duo be connected was on everyone's mind. So, after the customary lamp lighting by the trio of inter-disciplinary fields - Prof. (Dr.) Biswajoy Chatterjee, Vice Chancellor, UEM Jaipur, Prof. Rajul Bhargava, Founder and Editor, VOICES, and Retd. IAS Pawan Arora, CEO of 'First India', the day kicked-started deliberations on the

inter-connections between language, be that prose, poetry or translation.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Arora elucidated coming together of First India with the event was a result of the tutelage of Prof. Rajul Bhargava which goes back a long way to 1986 when he was preparing for the civil services. "We launched VOICES in 2011. Since then, we have held five roundtables, brought out 14 journals, and run 30 issues," said Professor Rajul Bhargava. "Literature sparks the



Prof. Rajul Bhargava, Pawan Arora and Prof. (Dr.) Biswajoy Chatterjee inaugurate the UEM Jaipur Lit Fest 2024.

SUNIL SHARMA

imagination and enables technology. Take the instance of Steve Jobs a true

visionary whose imagination and relentless pursuit of perfection revolution-

ized the technology industry," said Prof. Anisur Rehman a bilingual poet in English and Urdu, translator, literary critic, & former professor of English at Jamia Millia Islamia.

In a session, "What Lies Between Mirrors: Poetry-Urdu-translation," chaired by Prof. Sudhi Rajji, Prof. Rehman shared his well-researched knowledge about the development of Urdu Poetry in India, the story of how Urdu developed from Persian and Hindi. He showcased a contrast of how Urdu

brought and borrowed diverse elements like Krishna Bhakti and Love. In the session on "Riverscapes and Cultural Memory," Prof. (Dr.) Lakshmi Kannan also known by her Tamil pen name 'Kaaveri,' in conversation with Prof. Sudha Rai spoke on her "Nadistuti" poems.

Other equally engaging sessions dwelled on 'Feminist Poetry from Colonial to Contemporary Times' with Prof. Sangeeta Sharma and Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta and Landscapes of Inner Selves: Fluidities

in Poetry with Prof. Malashri Lal & Gopal Lahiri in conversation with Prof. Mini Nanda. Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar in conversation with Dr. Rima Hooja deliberated on "Contextualizing Writers: Writers in Context" and the concluding session chaired by Prof. Rashmi Chaturvedi with Prof. Nilufer Bharucha spoke about 'Indian Diaspora Across Time & Space: Reflections in Literature & Cinema. The vote of thanks was given by Prof. Mukesh Yadav Coordinator, UEM Jaipur.



## Direct Jaipur-Ayodhya flight from today, four times a week

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma had spoken on phone with Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to start a flight. The expressed gratitude to Scindia on Wednesday.



Ziauddin Khan Jaipur

SpiceJet Airlines will start direct flights from Jaipur to Ayodhya from February 1. This flight

will operate four days a week. All 88 seats of the Ayodhya flight have been booked on the 1st day. This expansion in air travel aims to make it easier for devotees to

visit the city. The recent consecration ceremony at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple has significantly increased Ayodhya's spiritual & economic significance.

In addition, SpiceJet Airlines will run nine new flights between Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Pune. SpiceJet's flight to Ayodhya will depart from Jaipur at 7.15 a.m. and will arrive at 9 a.m. Similarly, the aircraft to Chennai departs at 9.30 a.m. and arrives at 11.55 a.m. every day. Every day, two flights from Jaipur to Ahmedabad will be operated six days a week. The flight from Jaipur to Pune departs six days a week at 8 a.m. and arrives in Pune at 11:35 a.m.

## Record Panchnamas hit mining mafia hard, Rs 350 crore seizures in 16 days

Nirmal Tiwari Jaipur

During the 16-day campaign against the mining mafia joint teams made panchnamas worth about Rs 350 crore and registered 2,455 cases. On average 153 cases, 33 FIRs, 15 arrests, and 15,000 tons of minerals were seized daily. In this campaign, three excavators, four JCBs, and 104 machines and vehicles were seized daily on average along with an average fine recovery of more than Rs 71 lakh per day. The campaign that started on January 15 broke the back of the mafia. The big question



arises how will the panchnama amount of Rs 400 crore be recovered? There were maximum panchnamas registered in Jaipur, Bharatpur, Neem, Jhunjhunu, Bharatpur, and Alwar.

3 excavators, 4 JCBs, & 104 machines and vehicles were seized daily on average along with an average fine recovery of more than Rs 71 lakh per day

## Akshita Thakur from Kota represents USA in UNO

Bhanwar S Charan Kota

Akshita Thakur, who hails from Kota, has represented America in the United Nations conference. Akshita presented her stand on the topic of climate change in the international United Nations conference held in Prague. The conference was held from 17-21 January. Indian-origin student Akshita Thakur got the opportunity to join and participate in an educational trip to Berlin. 16 students were selected from America, which included Akshita.



More than 400 student-delegates from across the world from classes 9 to 12 participated in the conference. Out of 400, the best 22 representatives got a chance to present their proposals.

Akshita presented her proposal in the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was passed with an overwhelming majority.

## ARD teams continue surprise inspections for 3rd day in Jpr

First India Bureau Jaipur

The government has now started taking strict action to improve the punctuality of employees and officers in government offices. After the surprise inspection of CS Sudhansh Pant, now the head of the Administrative Reforms Department (ARD) conducted a surprise inspection of different government offices in Jaipur.

On Wednesday, different teams of ARD inspected the Civil Lines Zone Office of Municipal Corporation Heritage



ARD teams checking attendance registers in govt offices.

along with Kavantiya Hospital, RTO located at Vidyadhar Nagar, Water Supply Department office and other offices. Meanwhile, the report of the surprise inspection

report of hospitals following CM's instructions has been sent to the to Chief Secretary. The inspection of 196 medical institutions was done from January 24 to 28.

## Cong leader Manvendra Singh shifted to Gurugram hosp

Rajeev Gaur Jodhpur



Manvendra Singh being admitted to a hospital in Gurugram on Wednesday.

Former MP Manvendra Singh, who was injured in a road accident on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway last evening, has been shifted to a private hospital in Gurugram from Alwar's Solanki Hospital along with his son and driver for further treatment, doctors on Wednesday said. The

former MP's wife Chitra Singh lost her life in the accident while his son Hamir and driver Narendra were also injured.

Manvendra Singh, who is the son of late BJP stalwart and former Union minister Jaswant Singh, and his family were on their way to Jaipur from Delhi when the accident took place.

Manvendra Singh, his

son and driver were shifted to a hospital in Gurugram through a green corridor late last night after their family members arrived in Alwar, a doctor said.

The mortal remains of Chitra Singh were brought to Jodhpur on Wednesday. The final viewing of her mortal remains will take place at their farm in Pabupura, near the airport.

## 'Nitish's jump to NDA to have no impact on INDIA bloc'

PTI Tonk

Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Wednesday said Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's move to join the NDA will have no impact on the opposition INDIA bloc.

He also said the BJP should contest elections on the basis of the Centre's 10-year report card instead of religious issues.

"Nitish Kumar has gone with the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) but it will have no impact on our alliance (INDIA). We will contest the Lok Sabha elections with full strength," Pilot told reporters in Tonk.

The Tonk MLA, who is also an All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary, was visiting his constituency to attend wedding functions.



Sachin Pilot pays tribute to Devlal Chandna during the condolence meeting at his residence in Bundi on Wednesday.

He said Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra is getting immense support. The issues he has raised have received support from the people and that has worried the BJP.

"The BJP should go to elections on the basis of the Centre's report card instead of religious is-

sues," he said. Pilot also said everyone is happy with the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and added that Lord Ram is present in every particle.

"Lord Ram does not belong to any party, community or leader. I consider it wrong to limit him," he said.

## Dilawar warns stern action against teachers for molesting girls

First India Bureau Jaipur

School Education minister Madan Dilawar on Wednesday said that stern action will be taken against teachers who molest girls in schools. He said that bulldozers will be run over the properties of such teachers after enquiry.

On the hijab issue, he said that students should follow the dress code in schools.

"This is not my order, but a govt order," he said

at a press conference. Speaking on the order of procuring swadeshi material, he said that swadeshi material is cheaper than the foreign products therefore the order was issued. He clarified that he will not sign orders of procurement of material other than swadeshi.

On the colour of cycles distributed to students, he said that Congress made the colour of the cycles black because the entire Congress is black.



Madan Dilawar conducts surprise inspection of the schools located at Sangaran and Chaksu on Wednesday.

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Description, Amount, and Remarks. It lists various seized items like excavators, JCBs, and vehicles, along with their respective values and locations.



## 'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 70

# PM MODI'S INNOVATIVE IDEAS ARE WAY AHEAD OF THEIR TIME!



Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the rituals during the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, in Ayodhya. **FILE**

## PM Modi's indelible role evident in every aspect of Ram Mandir

**P** rime Minister Narendra Modi didn't just inaugurate the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and participate in the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla, the temple has been close to his heart from the very beginning. All through the construction of the temple in the last three years, he gave his invaluable suggestions to make it the best in all aspects.

One of the major concerns was building the foundation of the temple. Since it was being built on the banks of the Saryu river, the soil was soft which could weaken the foundation in the long run. The problem was compounded because no iron was being used in the construction and a cement structure would not be able to sustain the projected longevity of the building.

The PM, as soon as he came to know of this peculiar problem, formed a committee of experts to find a solution to it. According to the suggestions of the panel, several layers of the underlying surface or plinth were first built ground-up. On top of them a strong granite surface was laid. The result of this innovation was that the foundation of the temple became so strong that it could stay rock solid for thousands of years.

Lord Ram belonged to the Suryavanshi clan. That Ram Lalla gets the blessings of the Sun god on Ram Navami was the PM's idea. CSIR was roped in and it devised such a way that every year on the auspicious day of Ram Navami, Ram Lalla will have Surya Tilak as envisaged by the PM.

Modi ji was also involved in finalising the shape and structure of the temple so that it adhered to Indian cultural history of temple design. He studied various temples in different parts of the country and adopted the Naagra style. The engineers working on the temple's design were surprised with the insight of the PM. So, ultimately, the style and structure of the temple came out to be such that every Indian could identify with it. It proved to be a culmination of all that is best in India's temple design heritage.

All the people and characters associated with the life of Lord Ram are a part of his life history and instrumental in shaping up his actions and character. That they should be adequately represented in the temple dedicated to Lord Ram was again PM Modi's idea. It was not just a symbolic representation but also representative of the harmony that Lord Ram stood for and felt in sync with. That is why, the temple was finally adorned with idols of the likes of Vishwamitra, Valmiki, Bharadwaj, Sabri, Nishad, to complete the life of Ram. Thus due to the PM's suggestion, the temple became an example of national integrity and unified identity of its people across the barriers of caste and creed.

It was with the same vision of national unity that PM Modi ensured everyone contributed to the Ram Mandir, be it poor or rich, and everyone's participation was acknowledged and appreciated.

The PM was also concerned about the convenience and ease of devotees and the sanctity and purity of the Garbha Griha. He was very clear, let us have a system, like the one we have at Somnath Mandir in Gujarat. There no one enters the 'Garbha Griha' except the designated pujaris (priests). I think the same should be emulated here. By this, the purity of the space is maintained. He also asked, what would be the arrangements for the physically challenged? How will they reach Ram Lalla?

When such questions come from his side, it only goes to show his concerns, his deep involvement and broad visions for the temple and also the welfare and convenience of his people.

It was all because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that today Ayodhya is growing into an international standard city. Three railway stations of world standard, a big international airport, spic and span roads, temple corridor, beautified ghats and gardens, there is



**Awanish Kumar Awasthi**  
IAS officer, Retd., Trustee, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra



**Anil Mishra**  
Trust Member, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra



**Champat Rai**  
General Secretary, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra



**Swami Vishwapasanna Tirtha**  
Trust Member, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra



**Swami Govind Dev Giri**  
Treasurer, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

no aspect that has remained untouched to make Ayodhya an ideal and enviable temple city. And in all this, the role of PM Modi remains indelible.

**COMPILED AND EDITED BY SHASHIKANT SHARMA**

## Concern for the last man in the row

**W** hen Raan Utsav took wings in Dhordo, camel riding became a popular tourist attraction and the need for a large number of camels arose. There were discussions to hire a permanent contractor to ensure adequate supply of the desert ship to cater to tourist influx. At this time, CM Modi said, how is that going to benefit the locals of the area? We need to ensure the local populace earns through tourism. He asked the banks to provide loans to those who apply and help them buy camels. Let them pay back in installments. This was a sure shot way to raise the income and living standards of the people of the nearby villages.



**Dhansukh Solanki**  
Journalist, Gujarat

Similarly, when the tent city concept became a success, there were talks of appointing

a permanent contractor as the tents got damaged every year after use and transportation. Here too then CM Narendra Modi said, if we hire a contractor, how will the poor locals benefit? Let us build traditional houses/huts alongside the houses of the locals here and promote them as a staying option for tourists which can be made available for a traditional experience to those who wish to pay for the same. This way the maintenance of the tents would be easy and it will also augment the income of the locals.

Such innovative ideas of Modi ji, which were ahead of time, surprised everyone and later became huge successes.



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## No one remembers disruptors: PM Modi's swipe at Oppn MPs

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Ahead of the budget session of the Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sounded a warning to the opposition urging them to not disrupt the proceedings. "I hope the MPs who are in the habit of ripping apart democratic values will self-introspect on what they did in their term as members of Parliament," he said.

Modi also took an aim at opposition MPs for frequently disrupting Parliamentary proceedings, saying those habituated to creating a ruckus and disrobing democratic values should introspect as they meet in the last session before the polls.

If these MPs enquire in even their own Parliamentary constituencies, they will find that no one remembers those behind such ruckus and disrupt-



PM Narendra Modi being greeted by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Union Ministers of State V. Muraleedharan, Arjun Ram Meghwal & Jitendra Singh as he arrives to address the media on the first day of the Budget Session at New Parliament House in New Delhi on Wednesday.

tions, Modi said.

But those who benefited Parliament with their superb ideas, even if they were sharply critical in their views, are remembered by a very big section of people, he said. Their words will become a part of history, he added.

### DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY TO CONTINUE: PM MODI

New Delhi: Ahead of Parliament's last session before the Lok Sabha polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Wednesday that the country is touching new heights of progress and its journey of "all-inclusive and all-round" development will continue with people's blessings. In his customary remarks to journalists before the Budget Session's start, Modi greeted them with "Ram Ram" (an invocation of Lord Ram) and noted that there is a tradition of not presenting a full budget before the polls.

So, it is the BJP which has indulged in 'cheerharan' (disrobing) of Parliament, and not the Opposition. Democracy is in danger: Courtesy BJP. Pradhan Mantri ji made a statement outside the Parliament. We want to remind him how his government is responsible for corroding Parliamentary democracy. In the last session of Parliament, as many as 14 Bills were passed in just three days, by suspending an unprecedented 146 MPs from both Houses. The current Lok Sabha will finish its five-year term without a Deputy Speaker, a position conventionally reserved for an opposition member. This shows how an autocratic Modi Government is violating the Constitution.

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, CONGRESS PRESIDENT

## Will remain in NDA fold 'forever' now, says Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday said that now he will stay in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) forever and will continue to work for the people of his state.

The Janata Dal (United) supremo's remarks came days after he dumped the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance) and the INDIA bloc to form a new government with the support of the BJP in Bihar.

Hitting out at the opposition's grouping, which has vowed to take on the BJP at the Centre in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, Mr Kumar said that the alliance's name --INDIA-- was christened even after his requests to choose another one.

"I was urging them to choose another name for the alliance. But they had already finalized it. I was trying so hard. They did not do even one thing. Till today they haven't decided which party will contest how many seats," Kumar told reporters here.

### "RAHUL'S CLAIM NONSENSICAL"

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi's claim that the caste survey in the state was held under the Congress' pressure was 'nonsensical'. Talking to reporters 3 days after he dumped the 'Mahagathbandhan' and returned to the NDA, Kumar claimed that he did not like the nomenclature of the opposition bloc INDIA.

### NITISH DEMANDED 'ANOTHER NAME'

Patna: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Wednesday said he had urged the Congress and other members of the Opposition's alliance to not name the political group 'Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance or INDIA'. Justifying his move, he accused the alliance of inaction regarding finalising seat-sharing agreements for the LS elections.



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar during the inauguration of a 'control room' at Patel Bhawan, in Patna, Wednesday.

## Kejri holds constitutional post, Sandhu, Gupta & Maliwal take oath in Rajya Sabha

PTI  
New Delhi

The BJP on Wednesday said CM Arvind Kejriwal should appear before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in the Delhi excise policy-related money laundering case as he holds a constitutional post.

However, it remains to be seen if the AAP will once again announce a travel plan of the chief minister for the



date of questioning, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued a fresh and the fifth summons to Kejriwal

for questioning in the Delhi excise policy-linked money laundering case, according to official sources.

While it is understood that the fresh summons was for February 2, an official confirmation was awaited.

Kejriwal, also the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), had skipped four earlier summonses issued by the federal agency over the last four months.

PTI  
New Delhi

Three new members -- Satnam Singh Sandhu, Narain Dass Gupta and Swati Maliwal -- on Wednesday took oath as Rajya Sabha MPs.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar welcomed the new members after the oath-taking.

Sandhu, a nominated

member, was the first to take oath in the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman said.

"You have created history. You are the first person to have taken oath in the new building of Parliament," the Chairman told Sandhu.

Maliwal had to take oath again as her first oath was not considered by the Chairman, who



RS Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar greets Satnam Singh Sandhu (L) & Swati Maliwal (R) during Budget session.

again called her name. She had used some words which were not part of the oath.



While Sandhu is a nominated member, Gupta and Maliwal were elected unopposed

from Delhi. Gupta was renominated as Rajya Sabha member by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), while Maliwal was nominated by the AAP in place of Sushil Gupta.

Chandigarh University founder-chancellor Sandhu was on Tuesday nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu.

## Guj gov transfers 50 IAS officers ahead of LS polls

PTI  
Ahmedabad

Ahead of the Lok Sabha polls due in a few months, the Gujarat government has transferred 50 IAS officers, including various collectors and district development officers (DDOs).

As per the notification, Jamnagar district collector B A Shah has been transferred as the new collector of Vadodara district.

AB Gor, currently serving as the Vadodara collector, has been appointed in the Chief Minister's Office in Gandhinagar as Officer on Special Duty (OSD). Surat



collector Aayush Oak has been transferred as the new collector of Valsad. Sourabh Pardhi, currently serving as the managing director of the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd, has been appointed as the new collector of Surat.

## C'garh mayoral polls: Cong, AAP hold protest against tampering with ballots

PTI  
Chandigarh

The Congress and the AAP on Wednesday jointly held a protest here, a day after the BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

The councillors of the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress shouted slogans against the BJP, claiming "murder of democracy" during the mayoral polls which took place on Tuesday.

The protesters gathered near the Sector 17 police station here to lodge a police complaint in connection with the mayoral polls.

Heavy police force

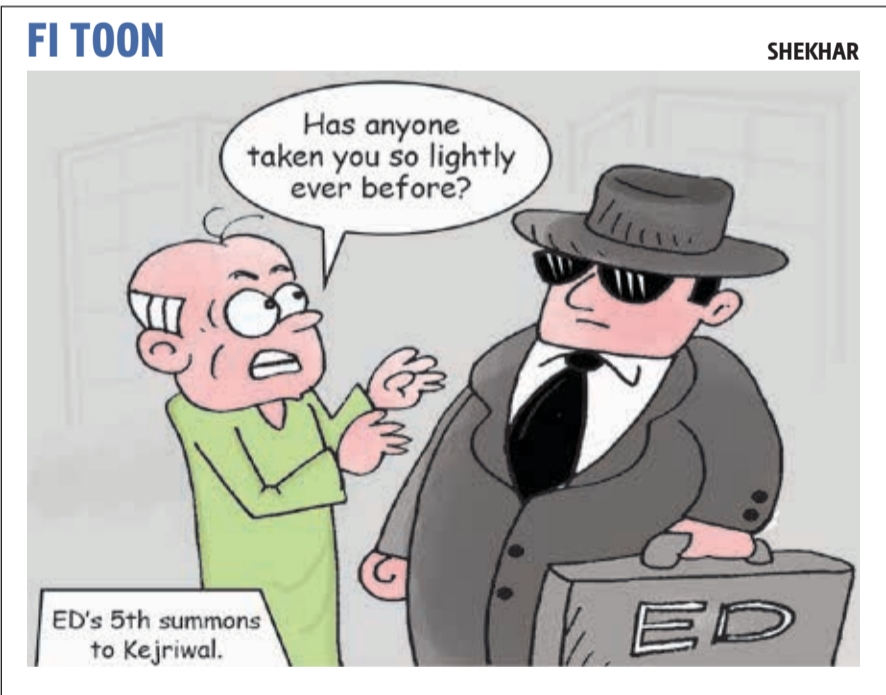


Security personnel stand guard after AAP & Congress councillors stage a protest following the Chandigarh mayoral polls result.

was deployed and barricades were erected near the police station.

The protesters demanded action against presiding officer Anil Masih, accusing him of tampering with some bal-

lot papers during the polls which led to declaration of eight votes as invalid. "If there is any threat to democracy in the country, it is from the BJP," said AAP leader S S Ahluwalia.



## PRESIDENT ADDRESSES JOINT SITTING OF 2 HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

### "India now leading voice in world against terrorism"

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The scope of India's foreign policy has gone far beyond the "constraints of the past" and New Delhi firmly placed the country's interests before the world even in this era of global disputes and conflicts, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday.

In her address at a joint sitting of the two houses of Parliament, Murmu said the successful hosting of the historic G-20

Summit strengthened India's global standing and that the country's efforts in making the African Union a permanent member of the bloc was widely appreciated.

The President said, today India is a leading voice in the world against terrorism.

In the backdrop of various conflicts and global turmoil, the government has established India as a 'Vishwa-Mitra' (friend of the world) in these difficult times, she said.

"Even in this era of global disputes and con-



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the joint session of Parliament on the opening day of the Budget session, in New Delhi, Wednesday.

licts, my government has firmly placed India's interests before the world. The scope of India's foreign policy today

has gone far beyond the constraints of the past," she said in her first address at the new Parliament building.

### PREZ LAUDS STRIDES MADE IN HEALTH SECTOR

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu hailed the strides made in the health sector in the country in the last 10 years, noting that the number of MBBS seats has more than doubled, while 16 new AIIMS and 315 medical colleges have been established. She said 157 nursing colleges are also being established as she lauded the work done by the government. She said the Centre is providing free treatment in various hospitals which has helped citizens save nearly Rs 3.5 lakh crore.

### "INDIA GIVING BEFITTING RESPONSE TO TERROR"

New Delhi: Be it terrorism or expansionism, the Indian security forces are giving a befitting response, President Droupadi Murmu said here on Wednesday, while asserting that the Modi government's efforts to strengthen internal security are visible to everyone. "Today, my government is building modern infrastructure along the entire border. This work should have been done long ago on a priority basis. Be it terrorism or expansionism, our forces are giving a befitting response," she said.

## Will sit on dharna from Feb 2 if govt does not clear dues: Didi

PTI  
Malda (WB)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said she would stage a demonstration in Kolkata from February 2 if the BJP-led Union government does not clear the state's dues by February 1.

Speaking at a public meeting, Banerjee urged party workers and those affected by the non-payment of funds to participate in the dharna, which would be staged at the BR Ambedkar statue in Red Road area in the eastern metropolis.



WB CM Mamata Banerjee in Murshidabad district of West Bengal, Wednesday.

"I have given them an ultimatum till February 1 to clear all dues of the state, failing which I will stage a dharna from February 2. If the dues are not cleared, I know how to get it through a movement," she said.



# 8.3L women helped through one stop centres: WCD Min

These centres have been established in over 700 districts to help the women, says Smriti Irani

PTI  
New Delhi

About 8.3 lakh women have been helped through the one stop centres, which have been established to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday said.

Speaking at the 32nd



Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.

foundation day of the National Commission for Women (NCW), Irani highlighted various steps taken by the government to ensure the safety and security of women. She said one stop centres

have been established in over 700 districts to help the women and added that more than 8.3 lakh women have received help through these centres. The aim of the one stop centres (OSCs) is to

provide aid and assistance to the women. They are required to have a centre administrator, case workers, medical personnel, police facilitation officer, psycho-social counsellor, legal counsellor, security guard, IT staff and multi-purpose workers.

NCW chairperson Reha Sharma said the Commission is making efforts to improve the status of women of all sections of society, with the aim on one hand to address their grievances & on the other hand to create favourable conditions for them to participate in social, economic and political activities.

RBI: PPBL can't offer services, including wallet after Feb 29

PTI  
New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday barred Paytm Payments Bank Ltd from accepting credit transactions, or top-ups, in customer accounts or prepaid instruments - such as wallets and FASTags - linked to those accounts, after February 29.

Customers can, however, continue to utilise balances from their accounts, including savings and current "without restriction (and) up to their available" limit. It is understood this order does not affect Paytm's Unified Payment Interface, or UPI, arm.

# India will provide many skilled people to world one day: Bedi

PTI  
New Delhi

India will provide a lot of skilled people to the world one day, especially to countries with ageing populations, Kiran Bedi, the former Lt-Governor of Puducherry, said on Wednesday, asserting that the country has "educated, skilled and literate youths".

Bedi, a former IPS officer, made the comments at the Asia Business Conclave 2024, which is being held in Singapore. "One day, India will be providing a lot of skilled people to the world, especially countries with ageing populations," said the Magsaysay awardee who runs the Navjyoti India Foundation, an



The exchange programmes can be on a massive scale with a focus on internships and skilling youths.

KIRAN BEDI, FORMER LT-GOVERNOR OF PUDUCHERRY

NGO started in the 1980s when she served as a deputy police commissioner in Delhi.

"India has educated, skilled and literate youths both with experiences in urban and rural economies. These are English-speaking aspirational youths - that is a big advantage," said Bedi, who works with youths from all communities. She noted that Indian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have increased their focus on

skills as part of training at their education centres and called for more collaborations among universities, institutions, skill development centres, professional institutions and NGOs.

Former IPS Bedi further asserted that foreign countries seeking skilled people from India should collaborate with Indian schools, skill institutions and other such bodies, for there is no dearth of Indian youth with aspirations.

# Bill to tackle exam malpractices likely in Parliament on Monday

PTI  
New Delhi

The government is likely to introduce a new bill in Parliament next week to deal sternly with malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations, with provisions for a maximum jail term of 10 years and a fine up to Rs 1 crore.

Sources said the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024 may be introduced on Monday but a final call is yet to be taken. The bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet recently.

The sources said students will not be a target of the proposed law. It



will act against organised gangs, mafia elements and those indulging in malpractices and will not even spare government officials found in collusion with them.

The move comes against the backdrop of cancellation of a series of competitive tests such as the teacher recruitment exam in Rajasthan, Common Eligibility Test (CET) for Group-D posts in Haryana, recruitment exam for junior clerks in

Gujarat and constable recruitment examination in Bihar following question paper leaks. The bill also proposes a high-level national technical committee on public exams that will make recommendations to make the computerised examination process more secure.

Bill primarily aims to deter such nefarious elements and bring in greater transparency, fairness & credibility to public examination systems.

Santiniketan land: Court sets aside Univ's eviction order against Sen

PTI  
Suri (WB)

A court in West Bengal's Birbhum district on Wednesday set aside an order of eviction issued by Visva-Bharati on Nobel laureate Amartya Sen from a plot of land in Santiniketan.

The court district judge Sudeshna De (Chatterjee) held that Sen, who had appealed against the order of eviction issued by the estate officer of the university, and his father, late Asutosh Sen, had been in continuous possession of the entire 1.38 acres of land since the grant of lease in 1943.

# Snowfall paints Shimla white!



Tourists ride on horses during snowfall at Kufri, in Shimla, Wednesday. About 15-cm deep snow has been recorded in the higher reaches of Shimla district since Tuesday night, MeT reported.

PTI

# Teacher gets 5 years jail for sexually assaulting minor girls

PTI  
Mumbai

A special court in Mumbai has sentenced a 28-year-old school teacher here to five years' rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting minor girl students. A teacher is expected to act as a protector and such heinous acts by the accused have left a lifelong "psychological and emotional impact" on the victims, special judge Seema Jadhav said in the order.

# BOY, 17, HELD FOR RAPE & MURDER OF 6-YR-OLD GIRL

The Assam police have apprehended a minor boy for his involvement in rape & murder of a 6-year-old girl in Barpeta district of Assam on January 30. The cops said that the 17-year-old boy had allegedly murdered the minor girl at Bagbar Mouripam on January 29. The victim's corpse was found inside a sack at a house in the village. Barpeta district nabbed the culprit during the probe into the matter.

# From Lucknow to Ayodhya: 350 Muslims march for six days to offer prayers at Ram Temple

PTI  
Ayodhya

Completing a six-day foot march from Lucknow, 350 Muslim devotees reached Ayodhya and paid obeisance at the Ram temple.

Led by Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM), an RSS-backed Muslim organisation, the group started their journey from Lucknow on January 25, Shahid Saeed, media in-charge of MRM, said on



Muslim devotees stand in queue to visit the Ram Mandir, in Ayodhya.

FILE

Wednesday. Chanting 'Jai Shri Ram', the group of 350 Muslim devotees, reached Ayodhya on Tuesday after covering

around 150 km on foot amid the biting cold, he said.

They stopped every 25 kms for rest at night and

continued their journey next morning, he added.

After six days, the devotees with worn-out shoes and weary feet reached Ayodhya and paid their obeisance to the newly consecrated Ram Lalla idol, Saeed said. "The devotees considered this dignified darshan of Imam-e-Hind Ram as a cherished memory," he said, adding that this act by Muslim worshippers conveyed a message of unity.

# Bharat Papers Case: ED raids J&K, Punjab & Uttar Pradesh

PTI  
Jammu

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday raided locations in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in a Rs 200 crore alleged bank loan fraud case linked to the Bharat Papers Ltd. (BPL), official sources said.

At least 9 premises in the regions are being searched by central agency under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

# LOKAYUKTA RAIDS 10 K'TAKA GOVT OFFICIALS

Bengaluru: Lokayukta sleuths in Karnataka carried out raids at 40 places against 10 govt officials in connection with a disproportionate assets case. The raids were carried out in various districts barring Bengaluru, Lokayukta IG of Police Dr A Subramanyeswara Rao said, "The raids are going on against officials in Chamara Nagar, Mysuru, Hassan, Mandya, Tumakuru, Koppal & Mangaluru."

## BOLSTERING DIPLOMATIC TIES

# Nepali parl delegation meets LS Speaker Om Birla

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

A high-level parliamentary delegation from Nepal, headed by Raj Kishor Yadav, Chairman of the Committee on International Relations & Tourism, met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the Parliament House on Wednesday. The delegation's visit aims to bolster diplomatic ties and explore avenues for increased collaboration in the tourism sector between the two nations.

Among those who visited India are Speaker Yadav and Parliamentarians Sunita Baral, Chhiring

Bahadur Lhamu Lama Tamang, Eakaman Thapaliya, Yogesh Gauchan, Hari Upreti, Shishir Khanal, and Gangaram Chaudhary.

The visit, extended in response to an invitation from India's corresponding Parliamentary Committee, commenced with a warm welcome at Delhi Airport. Prior to their meeting with Speaker Birla, the Nepal Embassy in India hosted the delegation, where discussions primarily revolved around economic and social relations between the two neighbouring nations. The talks underscored the shared commitment to fostering stronger ties.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with the delegation of International Relations and Tourism Committee of the House of Representatives, led by its Chairperson Raj Kishor Yadav.

The parliamentary team, comprising members from the Committee on International Relations & Tourism will be in India till February 6. During their visit, the Nepali Em-

bassy has provided strategic suggestions to the delegation, focusing on key areas for engagement with the Indian side.

Among the highlighted issues are the facilitation

of easy access to SIM cards for Nepali citizens, advocacy for fair fees in educational institutes for Nepali students on par with their Indian counterparts, and addressing the

persistent challenge of human trafficking.

These discussions aim to enhance cooperation and address shared concerns for the mutual benefit of both nations.

As the delegation continues its diplomatic mission, it is expected that the outcomes of these talks will contribute to the further strengthening of ties and collaboration between Nepal and India, marking a significant step forward in the bilateral relationship. The team will observe the Indian Parliament's new building and also share experiences with members of Lok Sabha's International Committee.

# Govt sells 71L tonnes wheat so far in open mkt to control prices

PTI  
New Delhi

The government on Wednesday said 71.01 lakh tonnes of wheat and 1.62 lakh tonnes of rice have been sold through auction so far in the open market to keep prices under control.

"In order to increase the availability of wheat and rice in the open market and to control the prices of wheat and rice, the Government has been offloading wheat and rice in the market through weekly e-auction from June 28, 2023," an official statement said.

A total of 101.5 lakh

tonnes of wheat and 25 lakh tonnes of rice have been allocated by the central government for offloading under the Open Market Sale Scheme. Wheat is being offered at a reserve price of Rs 2,150 per quintal for Fair and Average Quality (FAQ) and Rs 2125 per quintal for Under Relaxed Specifications (URS). The reserve price of rice is being kept at Rs 2,900 per quintal.

Till January 24, 2024, 71.01 LMT wheat has been sold under OMSS.

The first e-auction of rice under OMSS for 2023-24 was held on July 5, 2023.



## IN BRIEF

**India's disability sector can contribute USD1 tn to economy**

Washington: India's specially-abled population can actively contribute USD 1 trillion to the country's economy by 2047, as per Pranav Desai who is a prominent Indian-American leader in the sector & the founder of the Voice of Specially Aabled People.

**British-Indian couple jailed for 33 years after cocaine haul**

London: An Indian-origin couple has been sentenced to 33 years in prison each after exporting more than half a tonne of cocaine to Australia. Arti Dhir, 59, and Kavajitsinh Raijada, 35 were convicted of 12 counts of exportation and 18 counts of money laundering.

**15 killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan**

Karachi: Heavily armed terrorists launched 3 coordinated attacks, including one on a high-security prison, in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, leaving four law enforcement personnel and two civilians dead.

**UN launches \$1.6 bn humanitarian plan for Somalia amid crises**

United Nations: The United Nations has launched the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, seeking 1.6 billion U.S. dollars to aid 5.2 million Somalis in need. The world body made the effort together with partners & the Federal & State Governments of Somalia.

**Norway prepares for biggest storm in 30 years**

Copenhagen: Norway's central Atlantic coast battered down Wednesday as authorities warned that the country could see its most powerful storm in 3 decades and urged people to stay indoors. Hurricane-force winds were expected to hit the region, as per air traffic companies.

**India beat Egypt 6-4 to finish fifth at FIH Hockey5s World Cup**

Muscat: The Indian team clinched an exciting 6-4 triumph over Egypt to finish in place at the FIH Hockey5s Men's World Cup here on Wednesday. India dominated from the outset, with Mohammed Raheel and Pawan Rajbhar scoring to establish a 2-0 lead.

**For PM Modi's community event and temple opening in Abu Dhabi**

# Indian officials on overdrive as preps gather momentum

PTI  
Dubai

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 13-14 visit to the UAE for an Indian community event and a dedication ceremony for a Hindu temple, officials from the Indian Embassy and the Consulate have gone on an overdrive as preparations gather momentum.

PM Modi is scheduled to address the Indian community summit, Ahlan Modi (Hello Modi), at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed stadium on February 13 and is scheduled to attend on February 14 a dedication ceremony at the BAPS Hindu temple getting the finishing touches at the UAE capital.

Regarding the Ahlan Modi event, India's ambassador to the UAE, Sunjay Sudhir, said they are expecting tens of thousands of people to throng the site of the reception.

Prime Minister Modi along with then US President Donald Trump addressed a massive community event called 'Howdy, Modi!' in Houston, Texas on September 22, 2019.

A registration portal has been set up to



Devotees walk in a queue towards Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple to offer prayers, in Ayodhya on Tuesday. ANI

smoothen the process and transport is being arranged from all emirates for participants to reach the venue. The event is being organized collaboratively by 150 Indian community organisations in the UAE.

A cultural programme involving 400 local talents has been put together to add colour to the show.

During the last 3 years, over 2,000 artisans from Rajasthan and Gujarat have carved the 402 white marble pillars for the temple.

**2024 MARKED BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR 1.2 BILLION HINDUS ACROSS WORLD: CANADIAN MP**

Ottawa [Canada]: Lauding the 'Pran Pratishtha' Ceremony of Shri Ram Lala in Ayodhya, India-origin Canadian member of Parliament Chandra Arya has said that it marked the beginning of a new era for 1.2 billion Hindus across the world including one million Hindus in Canada. In his statement in the Canadian Parliament on Ram Mandir on Wednesday, Arya said that he also witnessed the live coverage of the auspicious ceremony of this "emotional moment" at the Ottawa Hindu Temple. "In the history of the oldest religion in the world, January 22, 2024 marked the beginning of a new era for 1.2 billion Hindus across the world including one million Hindus in Canada," Arya said. "After centuries of anticipation and immense sacrifices, the divine temple at Ayodhya was inaugurated with Bhagwan Shri Ram's Pran Pratishtha, an act which transforms an idol into a deity. Like Hindus across Canada in about 115 temples and events, I witnessed the live coverage of this emotional moment at the Ottawa Hindu Temple," he said.

## 150 people are killed in Gaza in 24 hours, says Health Ministry

Agencies  
Gaza

Gaza's Health Ministry says 150 people have been killed in the territory in the last 24 hours and another 313 were wounded as Israeli forces continue to battle militants, even in the northern part of the territory.

The north, where entire neighborhoods have been flattened, was the initial target of Israel's ground offensive in late October.

Israel's military said Wednesday that its forces killed more than 15 Hamas militants in northern Gaza over the past day and targeted militant infrastructure in a school.

The latest deaths bring the Palestinian death toll from Israel's offensive to 26,900, as per govt data.



Smoke rises following an Israeli bombardment in the Gaza Strip, as seen from southern Israel, Tuesday. PTI

**HEZBOLLAH COULD ATTACK ISRAELI CITY OF HAIFA: ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER**

Tel Aviv: Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, widely considered a hawk in the Israeli war cabinet, has said that terror group Hezbollah could attack the northern Israeli city of Haifa. In a statement on Tuesday, Gallant said that this could lead to a war and called upon for more comprehensive preparations. He added that Hezbollah has 150,000 rockets and mortars and could fire potentially up to 8,000 rockets per day. He warned that this was several levels of magnitude greater than what Hamas was able to do other than for one day on October 7, 2023.

Nikki Haley coins new slogan 'Make America Normal Again' for US polls

Agencies  
Washington

Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley coined a new slogan -- Make America Normal Again -- as her campaign enters the critical phase ahead of the GOP's South Carolina Primary on February 23.

"Our campaign has been flooded with notes and emails from folks across the country who want to make America normal again. They know that we can do better than two 80-year-old names from the past. I'm fighting every day to make you proud -- let's go!" Haley said as her team launched an aggressive campaign.

Haley is trailing by more than 30 points against former president Donald Trump in her home state.



## Biden says he's decided on response to killing of three US troops



U.S. President Joe Biden arrives at Miami International Airport.

Agencies  
Washington

President Joe Biden indicated he had decided how to respond after the killing of 3 American service members in a drone attack in Jordan that his administration has pinned on Iran-backed militia groups, saying he does not want to expand the war in the Middle East but demurring on specifics.

US officials said they are still determining which of several Iran-backed groups was responsible for the first killing of American troops in a wave of attacks against

**H-1B VISA PROCESS BEGINS MARCH 6**

New York: The initial registration for the H-1B visa application for fiscal year 2025 will open from March 6 and run through March 22, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said. The announcement came as part of a final rule to strengthen the integrity and reduce the potential for fraud in the process.

US forces in the region since the October 7 Hamas assault on Israel.

## Gardner, Marsh clinch top honours in Cricket

Agencies  
Melbourne

Off-spin all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner and fast-bowling all-rounder Mitchell Marsh have clinched the top honours at the 2024 Australian Cricket Awards by winning the prestigious Be-



Ashleigh Gardner & Mitchell Marsh at Aus Cricket Awards.

linda Clark Award and Allan Border Medal.

At a ceremony to celebrate a remarkable year of achievement for Australian cricket, Ashleigh added a second Belinda Clark Award to the honour she first won in 2022 while Marsh won his first Allan Border Medal.

## "Chinese hackers want to disrupt US infrastructure"

Agencies  
Washington

Chinese government hackers are busily targeting water treatment plants, the electrical grid, transportation systems and other critical infrastructure inside the United States, FBI Director Chris Wray will tell House lawmakers on Wednesday in a fresh warning from Washington about Beijing's global ambitions.

Wray will say that there's been "far too little public focus" on a cyber threat that affects "every American," according to a copy of prepared remarks that he is to give before the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

"China's hackers are positioning on American



FBI Director Chris Wray

infrastructure in preparation to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities, if or when China decides the time has come to strike," Wray will say.

Literally every day, they're actively attacking our economic security, engaging in wholesale theft of our innovation, and our personal and corporate data, Wray said.

**FOR THIRD SUCCESSIVE TERM**

## BCCI secy Jay Shah reappointed as ACC chief

ANI  
New Delhi

Jay Shah was reappointed as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) unanimously extended by one year at its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday.

Jay Shah's extension was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) President Shammi Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all the members of the ACC. Shah had taken over the



Under Jay Shah's leadership, the ACC successfully organised the Asia Cup in T20 format in 2022 and in ODI format in 2023.

reins of the ACC in January 2021 from Nazmul Hassan, President of the Bangladesh Cricket

Board (BCB) making him the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC President.

Under Shah's visionary leadership, the ACC has achieved significant progress in promoting and developing cricket across the Asian region. Notably, the ACC successfully organized the Asia Cup in T20 format in 2022 and ODI format in 2023, showcasing Asia's capability to host premier cricket events.

"Jay has played a pivotal role in steering the ACC towards significant progress in promoting and developing cricket across the Asian region." Under Shah's guidance,

the ACC has been instrumental in unearthing and promoting new talent in cricketing powerhouses like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka," the SLC President Shammi Silva said.

The ACC board also acknowledged Shah's proven track record in enhancing financial stability through strategic commercial and broadcast deals. Shah's commitment to channelizing these financial resources to grassroots levels, thereby uplifting associate members within the ACC.

## Ashwin retains No 1 spot, Bumrah moves to 4th in ICC Test rankings

Agencies  
New Delhi

Premier India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Wednesday retained the top spot in the latest ICC Test rankings.

Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, on the other hand, ascended a spot to fourth after the first Test against England in Hyderabad.

Ashwin, who had grabbed a match haul of six wickets in India's 28-run loss against England, is on 853 rating points, while pacer Bumrah, who also



Ravichandran Ashwin & Jasprit Bumrah.

claimed half a dozen wickets in the lost game. The third Indian in the top 10 in the bowling charts is left-arm spinner

Ravindra Jadeja at number six. Jadeja also enjoys a healthy buffer at the head of the Test all-rounder rankings.



# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Build a life which lights up when you walk through the door, material possessions will not always cut it!

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

## Both Congress and BJP leaders praise CM Sharma's new 'Aggressive Avatar' in House

Bhajan Lal is really the CM material, say top officers sitting in the House

His visit to Giriraj ji was postponed as chopper couldn't arrive in Delhi due to bad weather

From Pg 1

It was like a new 'Avatar' of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma who made an impressive speech in the Assembly on Tuesday. His aggressive speech was discussed among leaders of both BJP and Congress and it appeared that a new powerful speaker had emerged in the Assembly after Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and Vasundhara Raje.

A glimpse of tremendous confidence was



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses people's concerns during a 'Jansunwai' at OTS in Jaipur on Wednesday.

seen in CM's speech.

All top officers sitting in Officers' Gallery in the House, kept listening to the speech of their new CM. Their comment was

that, "Bhajan Lal is really the CM material."

It is said that the young IAS officers in CMO were busy preparing for the speech.

Sidharth Sihag & Sandesh Nayak's role was important. It is said that Rajendra Rathore had supplied raw material for speech.

### CM's SON SITS IN VISITORS', NOT IN VIP GALLERY

Just like Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma is a simple man, so are his family members! An interesting incident happened in the State Assembly on Tuesday. When Chief Minister's son Kunal came to listen to his father's address, arrangements were made to make him sit on the front seats in the Governor's Gallery, where VVIP people sit, but CM's son, Kunal following his father's footsteps, listened to the speech in the audience gallery instead of sitting on the VVIP seat.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma offers his condolences to the patron of the Kshatriya Yuvak Sangh, Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabkar on the demise of latter's brother during his visit to Sangh's office located in Taranagar, Jhotwara in Jaipur on Wednesday. The CM also met the convener of Pratap Foundation, Mahavir Singh Sarwadi.

### Wishing Speedy Recovery



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani call upon Governor Kairaj Mishra and enquire about his well-being at CK Birla Hospital in Jaipur on Wednesday. They wished a speedy recovery to Governor Mishra, who underwent knee surgery at the Hospital on Tuesday. Deputy CMs Diya Kumari and Dr Prem Chand Bairwa also enquired about Governor Mishra's health.

## Dotasra hits back at CM's remarks in House



GS Dotasra, Tikaram Jolly and Vijay Inder Singla during the meeting held regarding 'Donate For Nyay' campaign at PCC Office in Jaipur on Wednesday.

NAIM KHAN

## Rajasthan stands at No. 1 position with ₹ 68,98,525 collected during Congress' Donate for Nyay' crowdfunding drive

Naresh Sharma

Jaipur

Congress State President GS Dotasra hits back at CM Bhajanlal Sharma's remarks. Dotasra indirectly took a jibe at senior BJP leader Rajendra Rathore and asked CM Sharma to question Rathore about Dotasra's tenacity. "To what level does the CM wants to take the discussion? CM had said that it is not known what does Dotasra eat that all members of his family have become RAS. Dotasra has retorted saying, "CM has made personal allegations. When I will speak

### DOTASRA, JULLY RANDHAWA ON STATE TOUR FROM TODAY

PCC Chief GS Dotasra & LoP Tikaram Ram Jolly will embark on a tour across Raj from today to prepare for LS polls. They will be accompanied by Sukhjinder Randhawa. They will visit Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner-Nagaur, Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu & Jaipur Rural, engaging in discussions with partymen during the Workers' dialogue programme.

in Assembly, I will answer each of their allegations, they won't be able to hear and run away."

## V-P pays tributes to late Bhabhra, Sushree Devi

First India Bureau

New Delhi

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Hari Shankar Bhabhra and Late Sushree Devi in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. In his condolence speech, the VP said, "Shri Bhabhra, who passed away on January 25, 2024, had a distinguished political career, representing Rajasthan from April 1978 to April 1984. Serving as the Dy CM & Assembly Speaker of Raj. I had the opportunity to serve as a fellow Member of State Legislature alongside him and benefited enormously from his insights on diverse matters. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri HS Bhabhra and Shrimati Sushree Devi."



Jagdeep Dhankhar pays tributes to late Hari Shankar Bhabhra & Sushree Devi in RS.

## Diya visits SMS Hosp, flags off Vriddhajan Teerth Yatra from Jpr



Diya Kumari on Wednesday being felicitated at Baina Road, Murlipura in Jaipur during the flag off ceremony of a group of 75 elderly to Ayodhya under the 'Vriddhajan Teerth Yatra' organised by Vipra Foundation's Dharmendra Sharma.

### ERCP will fulfil drinking water and irrigation needs of 13 dists, the Dy CM says

Nirmal Tiwari and Vikas Sharma

Jaipur

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari reached the SMS Hospital at around 11 am. Principal of SMS Medical College, Dr Rajiv Bagrahatta and Hospital Superintendent Dr Achal Sharma and other doctors welcomed Diya Kumari.

After this, Diya Kumari went to the general

ward located in Bangad campus and enquired about the well-being of the patients admitted there & distributed fruits to them. Talking to the media, the Deputy CM said that the medical sector is of the priority of the government. About ERCP she said that this will fulfil drinking water and irrigation needs of people of 13 districts of East Raj.

She also sent 75 differently-abled elders to Ayodhya from Sarveshwar Mahadev Temple in Murlipura. This 'Vriddhajan Teerth Yatra' has been organised by Bhardwaj family.

## New transfer list of IPS officers: CM honours competent cops

Vikas Kumar returns to the mainstream after a long time

Rahul Prakash sent to Bharatpur to curb increasing crime

Shivendra Singh Parmar and Aishwary Pradhan

Jaipur

The new transfer list of IPS was the outcome of a discussion between CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, CS Sudhansh Pant & DGPUR Sahoo in which, the CM has honoured capable officers.

Vikas Kumar, who was away from field posting for a long time, finally returned to the mainstream.

During the Assembly elections, he got an important responsibility as a nodal officer and while handling this responsibility, Vikas Kumar made a new record of seizure of illegal money and drugs.

Now he has the important responsibility of Jodhpur range IG.

On Tuesday, CM said in the Assembly, "We

### 13 IPS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED

- Rajeev Kumar Sharma-ACB, DG
- Raghavendra Suhasa-IG, Railways, Jaipur
- Hinglajdan-IG, Rules, Jaipur
- Ravi Dutt Gaur-IG, Kota Range
- Prasanna Kumar Khamsara-IG, CID (CB)
- Gaurav Srivastava-IG, CM Security and Chief Minister Vigilance
- Vikas Kumar-IG, Jodhpur Range
- Rajendra Singh- Police Commissioner, Jodhpur
- Jai Narayan-IG, Police Intelligence, Jaipur
- Anshuman Bhomiya-IG, Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS), Jaipur
- Rahul Prakash-IG, Bharatpur Range
- Anil Kumar Tank-IG, Law and Order, Police Headquarters, Jaipur
- Om Prakash-II- Deputy Inspector General of Police, Pali Range

will not spare the corrupt" and today, the DG in ACB was posted. The charge of DG ACB was the ADG ACB Hemant Priyadarshy for a long time and now Rajeev Sharma has been made the new DG of ACB.

Giving command of ACB to an officer like Rajeev Sharma means something big is going to happen. 3 officers- Anshuman Bhomia, Rahul Prakash, and Anil Kumar Tank got promotions from DIG to IG from Jan 1. Usually, senior IPS are posted in CMO (CM Security) but this tradition

was broken in the previous government.

Promotee IPS officer Shankar Dutt Sharma was handling the responsibility for a long time. The new government has now appointed senior IPS officer Gaurav Srivastava. Srivastava has done good work while working in CM's home turf. The government also sent Rahul Prakash to Bharatpur as IG to curb increasing crime in Mevat. Ravidutt Gaur being transferred to Kota as IG means good feedback about him.

## CS reviews various departments, instructs officers to expedite works

Dr Rituraj Sharma

Jaipur

Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant, on Wednesday, instructed HRRL to complete the work soon. Pant stressed that "In any case, the work of the refinery should be completed by March 2025".

The Chief Secretary said in clear words that the deadline will not be extended beyond March 2025. Consideration will also be given to developing local employment, training etc. CS has given



Sudhansh Pant

instructions to the company to complete all the work on priority.

Meanwhile, in a high level meeting of power

supply, the CS expressed displeasure about the functioning of power generation. Pant questioned RVUNL CMD RK Sharma in the meeting. "There should be improvement in functioning of plants so that there is no problem in providing uninterrupted power supply to masses," he said. The CS also discussed current situation on increasing solar energy. He also chaired a review meet of UDH Dept & directed officers to complete works on time.

### 4 RAJ OFFICIALS TO VISIT DELHI ON FEB 2

The Rajasthan government has got into the action mode after the MoJ signed on ERCP in New Delhi and brainstorming is being done on preparing a joint Detailed Project Report (DPR). For this, team of officers from Rajasthan will reach Delhi on February 2 and it is believed that Rajasthan team will stay in Delhi for a week and brainstorm with the team of the Central Government and Madhya Pradesh in the joint DPR in New Delhi.

VS Chouhan

## Sikar will be developed as a Solar hub, says UDH Min Kharra

Hukum Singh

Sikar

Solar plants will be installed at the rooftops of the homes of one crore people across the country under 'Suryodaya Yojana.' UDH Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the work of providing electricity to every household will be given priority by the government through Suryodaya Yojana. He said that Sikar has been selected under this scheme as a 'Pilot Project.' He added



Jhabar Singh Kharra during the inauguration of Solar Rooftop Project in Sikar on Wednesday.

that solar energy is much cheaper than other energy sources, keeping this in mind, under the Suryodaya Yojana, a subsidy of Rs 18,000 per kilowatt is being given by the GoI for setting up solar plants up to 3 kilowatts.

AVVNL Ajmer MD, NS Nirvana said that through this project, electricity will be provided to every household in Sikar & rooftop solar plants will be installed at roofs of 1,000 houses by March 2024 under the scheme.

## Dy CM Bairwa pays surprise visit to Sindhi camp

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Deputy CM Dr PC Bairwa made a surprise visit to Sindhi Camp Bus Stand. He was surprised to see a minor cleaning. A policy will be made in the matter & regarding the facilities of central bus stand and major bus stands. Passenger facilities will be mentioned & guidelines will be made for bus drivers & conductors alongside keeping a first aid kit will be mandatory. There will be special focus on cleanliness standards at bus stand.





**LITKUMBH BEGINS TODAY!**

The Jaipur Literature Festival is all set to begin from 1 February at Hotel Clarks Amer. The literary extravaganza will see over 550 writers, speakers, and performers, will represent 16 Indian and 8 international languages. **P11**



Team Gullyboy (L-R) Amruta Subhash, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Ranveer Singh & Alia Bhatt



Harshvardhana Kulkarni, Bhumi Pednekar & Rajkumar Rao

**Gala Filmfare Award 2024**

**Spotlight on Brilliance**

Lights, Camera and Action! The glitz & glamour of the 2024 Filmfare awards dazzled audiences as the biggest names in Bollywood graced the event. City First highlights some glimpses of the mesmerising celebration of Indian cinema.

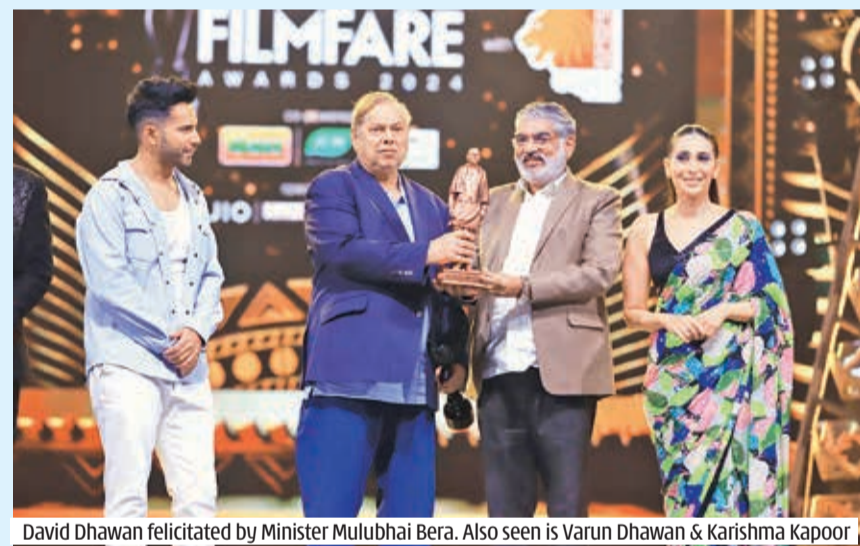


**Tripti Mahawar**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The much-anticipated 69th Filmfare Awards took centre stage on the 28th of January 2024, on Sunday, captivating audiences with its signature blend of glitz, glamour, and celebration of cinematic excellence. Held at GIFT City, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, the event proved to be a star-studded affair, bringing together the crème de la crème of the Indian film industry under one roof.

As the sun set over the picturesque cityscape of Gandhi Nagar, the who's who of Bollywood descended upon the venue, dressed to the nines in dazzling ensembles that exuded elegance and style. Celebrities, filmmakers, actors, and actresses alike graced the red carpet, posing for the flash-



David Dhawan felicitated by Minister Mulubhai Bera. Also seen is Varun Dhawan & Karishma Kapoor

ing cameras and setting the stage for an unforgettable evening.

The 69th Filmfare Awards honoured outstanding achievements in Hindi cinema across various categories, ranging from Best Film and Best Director to Best Actor and Best Actress. The prestigious awards recognized both critical and commercial successes, reflecting the diverse talent and creativity that defines Indian cinema.

Alia Bhatt won Best Actor for 'Rocky Aur Rani...', Ranbir Kapoor won Best Actor for 'Animal'. Vikrant Massey's '12th Fail' was adjudged as the Best Film of 2023. The popular gala was hosted by Karan Johar and saw performances by many Bollywood celebrities.

During this, Alia Bhatt turned heads in a stunning white corset-

ed saree, radiating elegance and poise. Kareena Kapoor Khan opted for a bold statement in a vibrant red saree, while Karisma Kapoor sparkled in a colourful shimmering saree, adding a touch of glamour to the evening. The men were equally impressive, with Ranbir Kapoor exuding charm in a classic suit, and Varun Dhawan looking dapper as he made his way down the red carpet.

Among the night's biggest winners was the critically acclaimed drama "The Silent Echo," which swept top honors including Best Film and Best Director for its poignant portrayal of human resilience and the power of love amidst adversity. The film's stellar cast and crew were lauded for their exceptional contributions, solidifying its place as a cinematic masterpiece.



Karishma Kapoor

**Awardees**

Best Film (Popular)  
**12th Fail**

Best Film (Critics)  
**Joram**

Best Director  
**Vidhu Vinod Chopra for 12th Fail**

Best Actor In A Leading Role  
**Ranbir Kapoor for Animal**

Best Actor In A Leading Role (F)  
**Alia Bhatt for Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani**

Best Actress Critics  
**Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway, Shefali Shah for Three of Us**

Best Actor In A Supporting Role (M)  
**Vicky Kaushal for Dunki**

Best Actress In a Supporting Role  
**Shabana Azmi for Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani**

Best Lyrics  
**Amitabh Bhattacharya for Tere Vaaste from Zara Hatke Zara Bachke**

Best Music Album  
**Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani, Bhupinder Babbal, Ashim Kemsom, Harshwardhan Rameshwar, Gurinder Seagal)**

Best Actor (Critics)  
**Vikrant Massey for 12th Fail**

Best Playback Singer (M)  
**Bhupinder Babbal for Arjan Vailly from Animal**

Best Playback Singer (F)  
**Shilpa Rao for Besharam Rang from Pathaan**

Best Story  
**Amit Rao for OMG 2**

Best Screenplay  
**Vidhu Vinod Chopra for 12th Fail**

Best Dialogue  
**Ishita Moitra for 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani'**

\*\*\*\*\*





**WHAT'S NEXT?**



**17th edition of Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 Series Jaipur Literature Festival JLF-2024:** The Jaipur Literature Festival for its 17th edition has taken this initiative to bring together writers, readers, connoisseurs, influencers and thinkers.

**When:** Feb 01 - Feb 05, 09:00 am  
**Where:** Clarks Amer, Hotel, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, opposite FORTIS ESCORTS HOSPITAL, Jaipur



**Jaipur Music Stage:** The 17th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival, promises a unique blend of literary and musical experiences with the introduction of the Jaipur Music Stage (JMS).

**When:** Feb 1 - Feb 3, 7 PM  
**Where:** Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur



**Indian Ocean Live Concert:** Experience an unforgettable evening under the stars as the acclaimed band Indian Ocean takes the stage live. Over two decades of musical prowess, Indian Ocean stands as one of India's foremost bands, boasting a cult for their distinctive sound.

**When:** Feb 14, 8:00 PM  
**Where:** The Big Tree Cafe, Jaipur

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



**JACKIE SHROFF**  
**AQUARIUS**  
February 1

Lucky Number: 01

Lucky Colour: Blue

The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesh.



**Jaipur Flight Plan**

**MUMBAI-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, Vistara

**DELHI-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara

**INDORE-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, Vistara

**SURAT-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara

**CHENNAI-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, SpiceJet

**KOLKATA-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara

**AYODHYA- AIR INDIA, AIR INDIA EXPRESS, INDIGO, SPICEJET, VISTARA**

**LEH-** Air India, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara

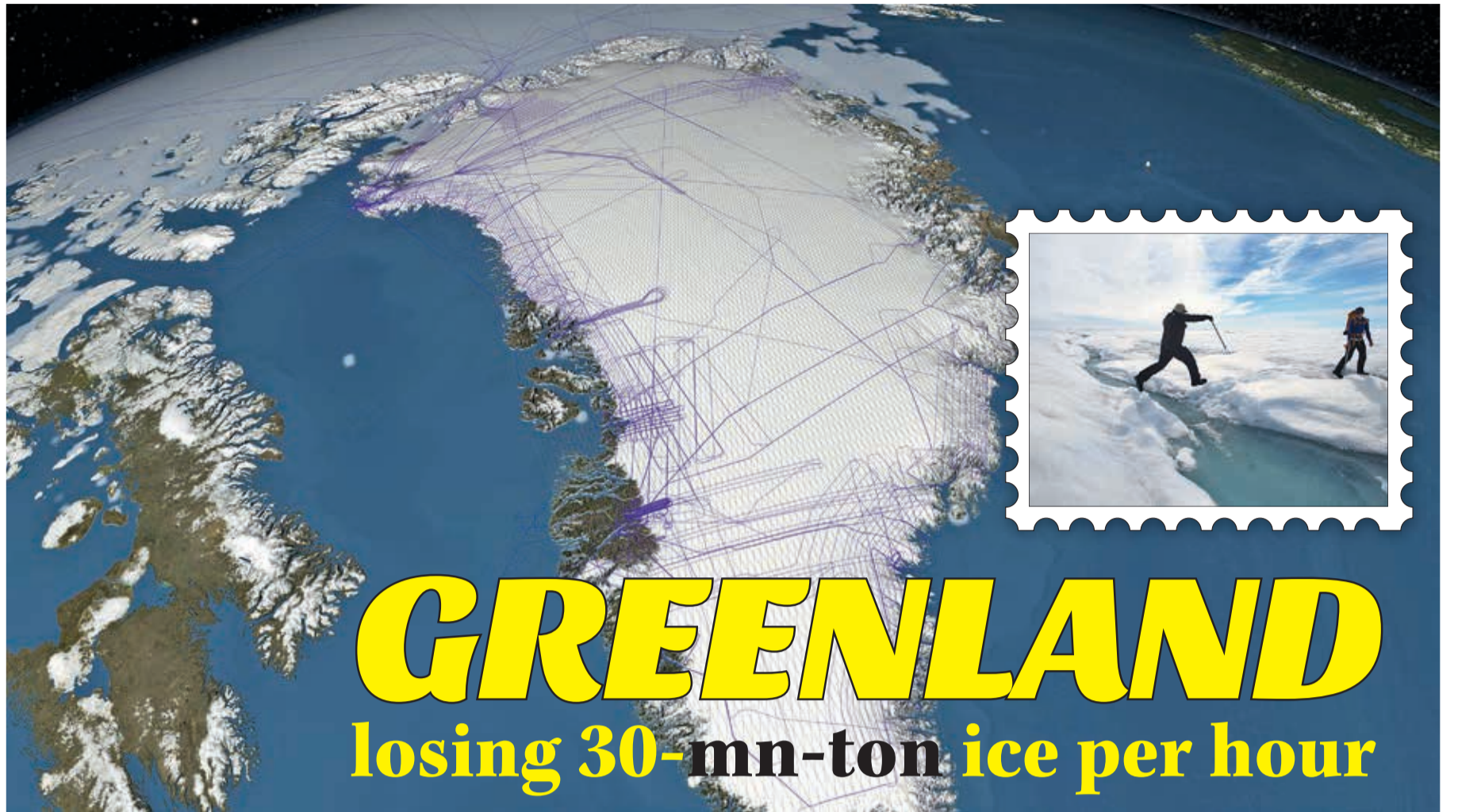
**KOCHI-** Air India, Air India Express, Akasa Air, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara

**UDAIPUR-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet, Vistara



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**GREENLAND**  
losing 30-mn-ton ice per hour

Threats to ocean currents, ecosystems and global food security to increase, courtesy of climate crisis



**Mohd Fahad**

The writer is a Jaipur-based journalist and alumnus of Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia University

**D**ue to the climate crisis, the Greenland ice sheet is losing an average of 30 million tons of ice every hour. This figure is 20 per cent more than before. Scientists are concerned that the depletion of this additional source of freshwater in the North Atlantic could lead to the collapse of a widespread system of ocean currents called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). They play an important role in redistributing heat and controlling weather patterns around the world. One trillion tons of ice have been lost in four decades: Due to an increase in global temperature, a huge loss of ice sheets has been recorded in Greenland for decades. In another research, scientists associated with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the US analyzed more than two lakh manual and AI-generated satellite images to track 207 glaciers in Greenland every month from 1985-2022. They observed widespread depletion of these glaciers and found that nearly a trillion tons of ice had been lost since 1985.

Glaciers shrunk from every part of the ice sheet: Scientists have warned that melting ice could increase risks such as destabilizing ocean currents, weather patterns, ecosystems and even global food security. Glaciers are shrinking in almost every part of the ice sheet. This has led to sea level rise and impacted climate around the world. The Greenland Ice Sheet is one of two remaining

ice sheets in the world. The ice sheet covers about 80 per cent of Greenland.

**AMAZON DROUGHT**

On the other hand, research has found that Climate change is the main culprit for record drought in the Amazon rainforest, which has dried up rivers, killed endangered dolphins and disrupted the lives of millions of people in the region.

Global warming has made droughts 30 times more likely to occur, increasing extreme temperatures and resulting in less rainfall, according to an analysis by World Weather Attribution, an international group of scientists. The study focused on June to November last year.

Scientists told Reuters last year that all nine countries in the Amazon rainfor-

est, including Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and Peru, are facing a drought that is expected to worsen in 2024 after the rainy season begins in May.

Protecting the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest is considered vital to preventing climate change because its trees absorb huge amounts of greenhouse gas. The drought caused river levels to drop to their lowest levels on record in some parts of the region. The study found that periodic warming in the eastern Pacific Ocean, known as El Nino, also contributed to the decline in precipitation, though not higher temperatures.

Although the region has faced at least three other intense droughts in the past 20 years, the scope of this drought was

unprecedented and affected the entire Amazon basin, Rodrigues said. In Brazil, a major tributary of the Amazon River fell to its lowest point since records began in 1902, with smaller streams almost disappearing.

At least 178 of the endangered pink and grey Amazon river dolphins died last year due to low water levels and high temperatures, Brazilian researchers said. Thousands of fish have also died due to low oxygen levels in the tributaries of the Amazon.

**GREENLAND ICE SHEET**

- Greenland Ice Sheet will raise global sea level by 23 feet if it melts
- 18 million years old major glaciers and ice caps are present in Greenland
- Snow is melting two to five times faster in summer than in 1850



The changes around Greenland are tremendous. Almost every glacier has retreated in the last few decades. The influx of freshwater into the North Atlantic Ocean will certainly weaken the AMOC. However, there is no idea how effective it will be.

**Dr. Chad Green,**  
Scientist, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, NASA



Police  
**100**

Fire  
**101**

Ambulance  
**102/108**

Child Helpline  
**1098**

Help in Suffering  
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**WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?**

<https://in.bookmyshow.com/>



**Movie: Hanu-Man**  
**Director:** Prashanth Varma  
**Cast & crew:** Teja Sajja, Varalaxmi, Amritha, Vinay, Vennela, K Niranjan Reddy, Hari Gowra, Krishna Saurabh & Sai Babu Talari



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets

**Movie: Fighter**  
**Director:** Siddharth Anand  
**Cast & crew:** Hrithik Roshan, Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Siddharth Anand, Ramon Chibb & Abbas Dalal



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# DHARTI DHORA RE!

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**M**ahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia, a multifaceted luminary celebrated as a poet, educator, social reformer, environmentalist, and freedom fighter, is remembered through the annual Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Poetry Award, presented by the Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 Series Jaipur Literature Festival in collaboration with the Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Foundation. The esteemed jury, consisting of Namita Gokhale, Sanjoy Roy, Jaiprakash Sethia,

and Siddharth Sethia, has unanimously selected Arundhathi Subramaniam as the recipient of this prestigious award for the 2024 edition of the award. Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia, renowned for his poem 'Dharti Dhora Re', considered the unofficial anthem of Rajasthan, left an indelible mark on the country's literary landscape. A documentary film, 'Land of Sand Dunes', directed by Gautam Ghosh, based on Sethiaji's anthem poem, received the National Award – the Golden Lotus from the Government of India. The poem was showcased at the 2016 Republic Day Parade in New Delhi.

Arundhathi Subramaniam, distinguished for her exceptional body of work, has been chosen by the jury to receive the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry 2024. The award ceremony, featuring the jury citation and a cheque of INR 100,000, will take place on Saturday, January 3, at 2 pm at the Front Lawn during the 17th Samsung Galaxy Tab S9 Series Jaipur Literature Festival. Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia, a prolific writer in Hindi, Urdu, and Rajasthani, authored 42 books. Recognised with the Padma Shri in 2004 and Rajasthan Ratna in 2012, he embodied a spirit of social activism and environmental consciousness.



Arundhathi Subramaniam shines bright as the chosen laureate for the award, celebrated by the distinguished jury - Namita Gokhale, Sanjoy Roy, Jaiprakash Sethia and Siddharth Sethia in the 2024 edition.



Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia



# The 'Litkumbh' begins today

**SANTOSH SHARMA**



JLF 2024 preparations in swing



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**T**he 17th Edition of Jaipur Literature Festival is all set to begin from 1 February at Hotel Clarks Amer. The grand literary extravaganza will see over 550 writers, speakers, and performers, and will represent 16 Indian and 8 international languages. The Indian languages include Assamese, Awadhi, Bengali, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Kurukh, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Tamil, Toda, Urdu, and the Banjara language – Lamani (Lambada). This year too, the decor theme of the festival is 'Utsav'. The 'Utsav' is a celebration of the colors of Rajasthan. The first day of the festival will begin with the inaugural ceremony, where Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister, Diya Kumari will be the Chief Guest. The Keynote Address will be delivered by the Former Governor of West Bengal, Gopalkrishna Gandhi. The Morning Music will feature Kalapini Komkali, celebrating the 100th Birth Anniversary of Pandit Kumar Gandharva. The first day will see literary talks with some prominent speakers like Gulzar, Amish, Raghuram Rajan, Ajay Jadeja, Chi-

tra Banerjee Divakaruni, Pavan K. Varma, and more. All in all, the first day will see 40 sessions, spread across 5 different venues - Front lawn, Baithak, Mughal Tent, Charbagh and Durbar Hall at Clarks.

**JAIPUR MUSIC STAGE** Jaipur Music Stage (JMS) promises a diverse musical journey with Indian sub-continent artists. Award-winning singer Alif and The Tapi Project kick off the first evening, blending folk, jazz, and ambient textures. Delhi's Prabh Deep headlines the second night, joined by The Revisit Project's unique jazz fusion. The finale features singers Harpreet and Salman Elahi, along with the dynamic When Chai Met Toast band. A harmonious celebration of India's rich musical tapestry awaits.

**JAIPUR BOOKMARK** Jaipur BookMark (JBM), coinciding with the Festival, unfolds over five days, featuring diverse sessions with publishing luminaries. Topics range from exploring Indian literature and diverse sexualities in regional publishing to commemorating DC Books' 50-year journey. JBM also addresses multilingual publishing, evolving book marketing in the digital age, fostering young readers, and industry challenges.



## JIFF 2024



# CELEBRATING Cinematic Legacy

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**T**he prestigious Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) 2024 announced the recipient of its Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award, honouring the legendary actress Kamini Kaushal for her unparalleled contributions to Hindi cinema. Renowned for her iconic roles in classics like 'Neecha Nagar' (1946), Kamini Kaushal's illustrious career spans decades, encompassing both the big screen and television, known for her versatility and dedication to her craft, will be bestowed with this esteemed accolade at her residence in Mumbai. In a parallel celebration of cinematic excellence, JIFF 2024 will also honour the distinguished cine historian Muralidhar Soni, renowned for his meticulous documentation of Rajasthani cinema. So-



A Glimpse of JIFF Torch Champion 2022



Hanu Roj



Kamini Kaushal

to preserving the rich heritage of regional cinema. His exhaustive research and literary contributions have earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award, underscoring his invaluable role in chronicling the 80-year journey of Rajasthani cinema. The announcement was made by Hanu Roj, Founder Director of JIFF, emphasizing the festival's dedication to honoring cinematic luminaries and their enduring legacies. Scheduled from February 9 to 13 at INOX GT Central, Jaipur, the 16th edition of JIFF promises to showcase the best of global cinema while paying homage to trailblazers like Kamini Kaushal and MD Soni.

# EMBARK ON A CULINARY ADVENTURE



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**E**xperience the vibrant flavors of Vietnam without leaving Jaipur as InterContinental Jaipur presents a 13-day Vietnamese Cuisine Food Fiesta. Running from January 24 to February 5 this gastronomic extravaganza promises to tantalize taste buds and transport diners to the bustling streets of Vietnam. At the heart of this culinary journey is Chef Do Van Quy from InterContinental

Hanoi Landmark 72, renowned for his mastery of Vietnamese cuisine. Chef Quy curates an exquisite dining experience at House of Han, showcasing his signature dishes that beautifully blend tradition with innovation. Among the highlights are Vietnamese vegetable curry and Pomelo Salad, each dish meticulously crafted to evoke the rich culinary heritage of Vietnam. But the feast doesn't end there. On January 30, food enthusiasts can partake in an exclusive masterclass conducted by Chef Quy himself. This rare opportunity offers a behind-the-scenes look into the art of Vietnamese cooking, where participants can learn techniques and secrets passed down through

generations. Beyond just a meal, this event is a celebration of culture and flavour. Each dish served tells a unique story, reflecting Vietnam's diverse culinary landscape and the ingenuity of its people. From fragrant herbs to bold spices, every bite is an invitation to explore the depth and complexity of Vietnamese cuisine. Whether you're a seasoned foodie or simply curious about new culinary experiences, Jaipur's Vietnamese Feast promises to elevate your senses and broaden your palate. Join us on this culinary odyssey and discover why Vietnamese cuisine continues to captivate hearts and palates around the world.



Chef Do Van Quy



**THE DOG SHOW!**



Get ready for the ultimate canine extravaganza at the 25th Edition of 'THE JAIPUR DOG SHOW' on February 3 and 4, from 9 am to 8 pm, at Dussehra Ground, Raja Park, Jaipur! Organised by Viren Sharma, Secretary for the Kennel Club of Rajasthan & founder of IDB/MAD. From celebrity sightings to on-the-spot dog registrations by the Municipal Corporation and Kennel Club of India, it's a must-attend for all pet enthusiasts!

**CELEBRATING ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE**

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**T**he SMS Stadium in Jaipur roared to life on Wednesday as AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) inaugurated its second state-level tournament under the 'AU Bano Champion' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

In the tournament, a culmination of rigorous village and district-level qualifiers held across Rajasthan, Participants showcased their prowess in volleyball, football, athletics, kabaddi and boxing, vying for prize money ranging from Rs 2,100 to Rs



Sanjay Agarwal, Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore & Mary Kom

21,000. The tournament's opening ceremony witnessed the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Industry &

Commerce and Youth Affairs & Sports Dept., Govt. of Rajasthan, alongside legendary boxer Mary Kom and AU SFB's Founder, MD, and CEO, Sanjay

**MUKESH KIRADOO**

Agarwal. Col. Rathore hailed AU SFB's efforts in promoting sports and urged corporates nationwide to embrace similar initiatives to foster talent.

**MEET & GREET!**



Aarav Chhabra (grand son of senior journalist Rajendra Chhabra) seeking blessings from Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, on his appointment as 'Head Boy' of Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya, Jaipur.

**GREETINGS!**



Dr Pallavi Mishra, an Associate Professor at Amity School of Communication, has been honoured by Shabd Yatra in Abu Dhabi for her original poem representing India's cultural essence at the International Hindi Literature Meet on January 26, 2024. Her poetic prowess was celebrated, highlighting the richness of Hindi literature on a global stage. Dr. Mishra's achievement underscores Amity's commitment to showcasing faculty talent and fostering cultural exchange through literature.

**Route Map Unveiled**

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**T**he 15th AU Jaipur Marathon, supported by World Trade Park and Sanskriti Yuva Sanstha, in collaboration with AU Small Finance Bank, will commence from JLN Marg in Jaipur on February 4. Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Bhajan Lal Sharma, will inaugurate the marathon. Anoop Barbaria, Chairman of World Trade Park, and organiser Pandit Suresh Mishra re-



(L-R) Man Singh, Yogesh Mishra, Ravi Goenka, Dr Balwinder Walla, Vivek Tripathi, Pt Suresh Mishra, Malvika Agarwal, Dr Pramila Sanjay and Karan Singh Tomar

vealed that over 100 institutions and 200 schools-colleges are participating in the event. The mara-

thon route will start from Ram Niwas Bag's South Gate, pass through Malviya Nagar Flyover,

Apex Circle, U-Turn from U-Turn, Jawahar Circle, and Bajaj Nagar, and return to JLN Marg.

The marathon bib was also launched during the press conference. This year, a cash prize of INR

10 lakh is up for grabs. Several government officials will also participate in the marathon. Speaking to the media, Sanjay Agrawal, Founder, MD & CEO of AU Small Finance Bank, highlighted that the AU Jaipur Marathon is not just a race but a spirit. It instills energy and momentum for us to continue the race of life. He expressed his desire for people from all over the world to participate in the 15th edition of the AU Jaipur Marathon with enthusiasm and commitment to staying healthy.

**NIEM's Spectacular Showcase!**



The winners of MMU along with the judges

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**N**NIEM's students showcased remarkable talents at the grand finale of dance, vocals, fashion shows, and the Mr & Ms University All India finale. The event paid homage to the late Dr Hoshi Bhiwandiwalla, highlighting his influence in shaping NIEM as a nurturing family for creativity. Esteemed judges and star-studded guests, in-



Celebrities of the event

cluding Sajid Khan and Vipul Shah, graced the occasion. Winners included Prem Golande and Radhika Munj for Mr & Ms University, along

with various solo, duet, and group performers in dance and vocals. NIEM thanked sponsors and supporters, recognizing faculty and student representatives

from collaborating colleges. Special appreciation was extended to individuals for their invaluable support throughout the event, ensuring its success.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING!**



The 67th National School Games (Yogasana, age group up to 14 years, boys and girls) 2023-24 will kick off today at KV 1, Jaipur. Organised by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and SGI, 374 young participants from across India will compete in various Yogasana competitions. The event, renowned for showcasing budding talent, will be inaugurated on February 1, 2024, with esteemed guests including Prof. PK Prajapati and NR Murali. Jaipur's hospitality adds to the excitement of hosting these promising athletes.



Dr Shalini Gupta, renowned for her mastery of Avadhi folk songs, graced the Net Theatre's series of programs recently. Commencing with the rendition of the devotional hymn 'Janam Liyo Ho Rama', she captivated the audience with traditional melodies like 'Hare Rama Saryu Ji Ki Dhara' and festive tunes such as 'Dasarath Sut Khelat Hori, Avadh Pur Batori'. Accompanied by renowned harmonium player Sher Khan and tabla artist Prem Sharma, Dr Gupta's performance received accolades. John McGrath from Los Angeles, California, honoured the artists with memorabilia, acknowledging their talent and dedication.



The Heritage Fest, part of the Hare Krishna Movement, captivated attendees with various competitions, notably devotional singing, at Jaipur. Children from city schools participated enthusiastically, showcasing their devotion through songs like "Meri Jhopdi Ke Bhag Aaj Khul Jaaye", "Payoji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Paayo", and "Shri Ram Jaanki Baithhe Hain Mere Seene Mein". The event, graced by District Education Officer Om Prakash Vijay, aimed to instil cultural values among students. School principals received accolades for their dedication to preparing students for the event.



Dr Ruma Devi, Rajasthan's social activist, hailed the achievements of Indians in Abu Dhabi, UAE, emphasizing their leadership across various domains. Speaking at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's annual conference, she praised Indian professionals' credibility in Gulf countries. Dr Devi stressed financial literacy for women's empowerment, highlighting its role in fostering social harmony. The event, attended by notable personalities like Shweta Singh and Nambi Narayan, showcased India's global influence.



The 4th Mahan Gurmat Samagam at Gurudwara Shri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, Jaipur, will run from Feb 3-4. Commencing with the Akhand Path Sahib on Feb 1, the event will feature three sessions of spiritual upliftment through kirtans. Distinguished guests from Shri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, and local luminaries will grace the gathering. Live broadcasts on PTCT Simran Channel and Kirtan Pradhana YouTube Channel will ensure wider access to the event.



The Rajasthan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Young Women Entrepreneurs Wing marked the 73rd Republic Day with a special ceremony, honouring outstanding young achievers at state and national levels. Led by Chairperson Sonika Maharwal and Chandani Jagga, the event not only acknowledged children's achievements but also provided a platform for NGO Prem Sansthan kids to showcase their talents. President KL Jain praised the initiative, emphasising the importance of nurturing young talent, as awards were presented in various categories.