



FIRST INDIA

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MURMU TO ATTEND 200th ANNIV OF SWAMI DAYANAND SARASWATI
President Droupadi Murmu will on February 12 attend the 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati in Gujarat's Morbi district.



DAVIS CUP: INDIA BLANK PAKISTAN 4-0, SEAL PLACE IN WORLD GROUP IN ISLAMABAD
Indian Davis Cup team capped its historic visit to Pakistan after 60 years by sealing its place in World Group as it blanked Pakistan 4-0 with Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni recording a comfortable victory on Sunday.

QURESHI DISQUALIFIED FROM CONTESTING POLLS FOR 5 YEARS
Pakistan's poll panel has disqualified former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi from contesting polls for five years.



FORECAST
Max 23°C
Min 15°C
Humidity 94%
Breezy morning; otherwise, sunny & very warm

NO COUNTRY CAN PROGRESS BY NEGLECTING ITS HISTORY: MODI

Those in power after Independence were ashamed of their own culture: PM

First India Bureau
Guwahati

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday claimed that those who were in power after Independence could not understand the significance of places of worship and set a trend of being ashamed of their own culture for political reasons. At a massive rally here after unveiling infrastructure projects worth Rs 11,600 crore, Modi said no country can progress by erasing its past.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma arrives to attend the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of various developmental projects, in Guwahati, on Sunday.

On the Kamakhya temple corridor project, to be developed by the Centre at a cost of Rs 498 crore, he said a huge number of devotees will come to visit the 'Shakti Peeth' once it is ready and it will boost the tourism sector of the entire Northeast. "It will become gateway to tourism in North-east. Despite thousands of years of challenges, pilgrimage sites and temples are the symbols of our culture and how we have stood firm. Many of these symbols have become ruins nowadays," the PM said.

CENTRE WORKING ON MAKING ELECTRICITY BILL ZERO: PM MODI

Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre is moving towards making the electricity bill of the households in the country zero. The Prime Minister's remarks came while addressing a gathering after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 11,000 crore here in Guwahati.



PM Modi being felicitated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday.

KAMAKHYA DIVYALOK PARIYOJANA WILL BOOST TOURISM: PM

Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his address at the mega public rally at Guwahati said that the Kamakhya Divyalok Pariyojana will give a massive boost to tourism in Assam. He said once the project is complete, it will give great pleasure to devotees who through the temple and it will also offer convenient darshan facilities to the people of Assam.

PM MODI GIFTS ₹11,000 PROJECTS TO ASSAM

Guwahati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 11,000 crores in Guwahati, Assam. The key focus areas in Guwahati include projects to boost sports & medical infrastructure and connectivity.



Prez Droupadi Murmu, Amit Shah and Arjun Ram Meghwal during the valedictory function of Commonwealth Attorneys & Solicitors General Conference 2024, in New Delhi, on Sunday.

"Borders are not a hindrance for law enforcing agencies"

PTI
New Delhi

Union HM Amit Shah on Sunday said crimes and criminals do not respect geographical borders and hence, different law enforcement agencies should not consider any border as hindrance and rather consider them as meeting points for solving crimes.

At the Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA) - Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference (CASGC) here, Shah also said when the three recently enacted criminal justice laws will be implemented, one can get justice up to the level of high court within three years of registration of an FIR. He said this confer-



BIHAR BY CMs CALL ON HM AMIT SHAH IN DELHI

Bihar's Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha called on Union Home Minister in New Delhi, on Sunday. It was their first meeting with Shah after joining the Bihar government last week.

ence is taking place at a time when geographical borders have no sense when it comes to commerce and crime. President Droupadi Murmu and Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal also attended.

IN BRIEF



Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates a wicket on third day of second India-England Test match in Visakhapatnam, on Sunday. P7

Release Palestinian prisoners: Hamas

Gaza: Hamas has demanded that Israel release 3,000 Palestinian prisoners during their indirect talks on a fresh pause to fighting in the Gaza Strip. Al Arabiya news channel reported on Saturday (local time).



J'hkand CM reviews law & order situation

Ranchi: Jharkhand CM Champai Soren on Sunday reviewed the law and order situation in the state, a day ahead of the trust vote in the assembly. Soren chaired a high-level meeting with Chief Secy L. Khiantge, DGP Ajay Kumar Singh and other senior officers.

Chile: Forest fires kill 51, ravage urban areas

Chile: Forest fires in central Chile killed at least 51 people and the death toll is likely to keep climbing, authorities said on Saturday, as emergency services battled to snuff out flames threatening urban areas.

Snowfall affects road, rail, & flight ops in J&K

Srinagar: Kashmir valley received the biggest snowfall of the season, resulting in the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, the cancellation of several trains, and all flights on Sunday.

Rajasthan witnesses light to moderate rain

PTI
Jaipur

Light to moderate rain triggered by a western disturbance occurred in some parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Ajmer and Bharatpur divisions in Rajasthan during the last 24 hours, officials said on Sunday. The maximum rainfall was 21 mm in Goluwala of Hanumangarh, 10 mm in Dungargarh of Bikaner, 10 mm in Hanumangarh, 7 mm in Sangaria of Hanumangarh, 6 mm in Anupgarh and 5 mm in Tibbi of Sriganganagar till Sunday morning, according to MeT dept.

Air India ex-CMD in ₹225 crore scandal

PTI
New Delhi

The CBI has filed a charge sheet against the then CMD of Air India, SAP India and IBM in connection with alleged irregularities in procurement of software worth Rs 225 crore by the national carrier in 2011, officials said on Sunday. The CBI has registered the case on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) which found prima facie procedural irregularities in the procurement of the software, according to people in the investigation agency in know of the development.



Arvind Jadhav

After nearly six years of probe, CBI has filed a charge sheet against former CMD Air India Arvind Jadhav, IBM India Private Limited, SAP India Private Limited and six others under the IPC section 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, they said.

UP cops nab ISI agent working at Indian embassy

PTI
Lucknow

The police in Uttar Pradesh have arrested an Indian national working at the country's embassy in Moscow for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI, officials said on Sunday. The Meerut field unit of UP's ATS called Satendra Siwal, who was working as the IBSA (India Based Security Assistant) in the Indian Embassy in Moscow from 2021, for interrogation. Siwal, of Shahmahiudinpur village in Hapur, could not give satisfactory answers and confessed to his crime, it said.

Alok Gupta made Principal Secy to CM

Dr Rituraj Sharma, Shivendra Parmar
Jaipur

IAS officer Alok Gupta has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, further strengthening the CMO by inducting yet another effective and efficient officer after ACS Shikhar Agrawal. A 1996 batch IAS officer, Gupta was serving as Principal Secretary in the Energy department. On January 10, 2024, Gupta was transferred to principal secretary energy from the Administrative Reforms department. Within a month, he was



Alok Gupta

again transferred to a more powerful position. Gupta is considered a silent worker with high calibre. A post graduate from IIT, Gupta has been collector of four districts Dungarpur, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner and Nagaur.

MLA poaching: Notice served to AAP's Atishi

PTI
New Delhi

A team of Delhi Police Crime Branch on Sunday visited Finance Minister Atishi's house and served her a notice in connection with allegations that the BJP was attempting to "poach" AAP MLAs. Sources said that the Delhi minister's staff have received the notice, after the Crime Branch team visited the AAP leader's residence for a second time on Sunday. The Crime Branch has asked Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi to give information on the allegations of poaching.

LS polls: Raj BJP to seek votes on Modi's name



L-R: CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, CP Joshi and Arun Singh at BJP HQ.

The BJP core committee meeting was held at the BJP headquarters on Sunday, in which a plan to contest the election was made on the basis of Modi's name and work.

Along with the Nari Shakti Vandan programme, discussion on the matter of taking people from every Lok Sabha seat to visit the Ram temple was also held in the meeting. Former CM Vasundhara Raje also attended the meeting.

Ranthambore tigress T-60 found dead

Nirmal Tiwari
Sawai Madhopur

Tigress T-60 died at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve on Sunday, succumbing to labour pains. Forest personnel, while on patrol in the Gudha forest area, came upon the lifeless body of the tigress, said Forest Department officials. Following a post-mortem examination, the tigress was cremated. According to veterinarian Rajiv Garg, T-60 was in the process of delivering her cubs but was unable to complete the delivery.

AERIAL SURVEY OF ERCP PROJECT

CM, Shekhawat visit integrated project sites

Bhanwar S Charan & Wajahat Akhtar
Kota/Tonk

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, along with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, inspected the pre-constructed and proposed main components of the Revised Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link (Integrated ERCP) Project on Sunday. They visited the Bisalpur Dam, Mej Barrage, Kalisindh Dam, Chambal



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and CM Bhajan Lal Sharma conduct aerial survey of Isarda & Navnera Dams.

Crossing, and Navnera Barrage and conducted an aerial survey. Sharma said with the implementation of the integrated ERCP project, the decades-old demand for Eastern Rajasthan is going to be fulfilled.



GS Shekhawat, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Madan Dilawar, Hiralal Nagar and others at Nona Dam in Kota on Sunday.

He said that by connecting the two main components of this project, Navnera Dam and Isarda Dam, the wastewater of the Chambal and Yamuna rivers will be used for irrigation and drinking water needs.

Light drizzles lash parts of Raj

Light to moderate rain was recorded in several areas, bringing the mercury down once again



SANTOSH SHARMA, NAIM KHAN

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Light to moderate rain triggered by a western disturbance occurred in some parts of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Ajmer and Bharatpur divisions in Rajasthan during the last 24 hours, officials said on Sunday.

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There was chaos on the roads as rain lashed the Pink City on Sunday. A drop in temperature was also witnessed.

and 5 mm in Tibbi of Sriganganagar till Sunday morning, according to the MeT department. The impact of the western disturbance will be there and the weather is likely to remain mainly dry in most parts of the state from Monday.

Sunday Mishaps

Architect dies as SP's car from 'wrong side' collides with his bike

First India Bureau
Balotra



The car which was involved in the accident on Sunday.

Balotra SP's car hit a bike-ridden architect engineer, where and died on the spot after he fell 20-feet away.

SP Harishankar, gunner and driver were present in the car at the time of the accident. The accident happened on Sunday afternoon near Majiwal village on Balotra-Asotra road in Jasol.

Shaitan Singh, SP's car came at a speed of 150 kmph and while overtaking it hit the bike from the front. Kishore Singh (28) was on his bike. On information, police reached the spot, and Kishore was taken to

Government Nahta Hospital of Balotra by ambulance, where doctors declared him dead.

The family of the deceased sat on a protest at the hospital which could be curbed only after a round of talks with top officials. The body was sent for post mortem.

THREE MEN DIE, 15-YEAR-OLD INJURED AS SPEEDING CAR HITS POLE IN SIKAR

Three people were killed and a 15-year-old youth was injured after a speeding car collided with a pole in Rajasthan's Sikar district, police said on Sunday. The incident occurred late Saturday night in Losal police station area, they said. After the car going from Sangla to Molasar collided with a pole on Didwana road, police said. The bodies have been kept in the hospital mortuary for post-mortem, they said. The injured youth has been admitted to a hospital for treatment, police said.



Shishram, Dharmendra Jat & Lokesh Jat died on the spot.

CM promotes SI, acts against 11 officials



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with locals at Banetha village on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday recommended special promotion of Sub-Inspector Ramswaroop Meena to the post of Police Inspector for his courageous work and also directed action against 11 off involved in corruption and misconduct in various departments.

CM said that those doing excellent work in the state government will be encouraged as much as possible and any personnel found involved in corruption or misconduct will not be spared under any circumstances.

Instructions have been given to stop the pension of the concerned employees and take punitive action including salary hike.

Miscreants ransack hospital, beat up staff



First India Bureau
Jaipur

Miscreants attacked Jai Ganpati hospital on Agra Road in Jaipur. The miscreants entered the hospital by jumping the main gate and assaulted the workers. The miscreants pelted stones at the hospital's glass gate, breaking it. When the employees objected, they were attacked severely.

When an uproar erupted and relatives of the victims came, along with hospital staff, they fled. Following the event, the hospital's owner, Dr. Somnath Sharma, filed a report against unknown miscreants at Kanota police station. A police officer has also been accused in this case.



A CCTV video of the incident has also gone viral.

FORMER JMC OFFICER, 3 OTHERS BOOKED

Chaksu: On court orders, a FIR was filed against Municipality's then-EO Jitendra Meena and three others, including contract workers, at the Chaksu police station for granting a false lease. This is a case of issuing a lease for government land. Even today, vital work is dependent on contract workers.

DEATH THREATS, EXTORTION MONEY DEMANDED FROM MARBLE TRADER IN NAME OF LAWRENCE

Sikar: An extortion of Rs 5 lakh was demanded in the name of Lawrence Bishnoi from Rajendra Kumar, with threats to kill his son and nephew. The case is of the Udyog Nagar police station area of Sikar. Shankar Lal, Rajendra's elder brother, runs a marble business in Mumbai, his son lives with Kumar. Rajendra Kumar stated that the miscreant informed him of his exact location and provided information about himself and his nephew during the call. Rajendra informed the police that miscreants could kidnap him and his nephew and murder them at any time. The Udyog Nagar police station has lodged the case and is conducting an inquiry.

RANSOM THREAT TO MARBLE TRADER

Dholpur: On Saturday evening, a brawl broke out between two parties over a farm dispute in Rahal village, Kancharpur police station resulting in the death of one young man and the injuries to many more. According to the police, the accused who are fled the scene are being searched and will be captured shortly.

POLICE FOILS ILLEGAL WEAPON SUPPLY PLAN, APPREHENDS TWO, HUGE ARMS CACHE SEIZED

Barmer: The DST and police station Sadar, in joint action, arrested two accused on a bike during the blockade and recovered a cache of illegal weapons. The police recovered 6 illegal country-made pistols, 14 magazines and 17 live rounds from them. As per police, under the 100-day action plan, DST was instructed to take effective action to arrest organized criminals and prevent the smuggling of illegal weapons and drugs. Meanwhile, the team got information that Rawatsar resident Karan Das along with his associate Hanuman Ram alias Hanu Saran had smuggled a large quantity of illegal weapons from Madhya Pradesh for supply in Barmer, Sindhari and Sanchole areas. After seizing illegal weapons, the police arrested the accused Karan Das alias Karan Sant(23), and Hanuman Ram alias Hanu Saran (21).

6 HELD PLANNING TO LOOT SMUGGLED GOLD

Jaipur: Zaheer Abbas, the incharge of the Pratap Nagar police station, took a big action in which six miscreants sitting in the car were arrested in connection with the crime. During the interrogation of the miscreants, it was revealed that they planned to plunder the gold transported to the airport. But the police foiled the miscreants' plans.

BROTHERS CLASH OVER PROPERTY, OLDER KILLS YOUNGER ONE, INJURES LATTER'S WIFE AND SON

Sikar: In the Dantaramgarh police station region of Sikar district, a brutal fight broke out between two real brothers over a land dispute. In which the older brother killed the younger one. The deceased's wife and son were both critically injured in the event and have been admitted to SMS Hospital in Jaipur. The deceased has been identified as Umed Singh. It is alleged that accused Magan Singh, his wife, and two sons attacked the family of deceased Umed Singh with sticks. The police did a post-mortem on the deceased body and turned it over to family members. Currently, the police are examining the case. 5.



INTERACTION WITH PCC WORKERS

Cong leaders gear up for LS polls

Younus Gesawat
Nagaur

Congress in charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, PCC president Govind Singh Dotasra and leader of opposition Tikaram Jully on Sunday interacted with the party workers in Nagaur.

They took feedback ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and motivated them to do hard work for the elections.

Senior party leader and up-Zila Pramukh Dr



Govind Singh Dotasra, Tikaram Jully and Dr Sahdev Choudhary interacting with the party officials in Nagaur on Sunday.

Sahdev Choudhary welcomed the leaders and gave feedback about the Nagaur Lok Sabha constituency. Dotasra said that the

party will declare the candidate as per the feedback of the workers but it will be the responsibility of the workers to ensure victory.

Hitting out at the Modi government on action by the Enforcement Directorate, and other central agencies at different places, Dotasra said that 70 percent cases of ED are against Congress leaders but took no action on leaders associated with the BJP and it shows that it is all just lies and being done to create pressure on the opposition.

Engineering girl student of a pvt college kills self

Kunal Trivedi
Banswara

A student of a private engineering college took her own life by hanging herself. Officials from the Sadar police station arrived on the scene following the incident.

Police are looking for information about the student's death and investigating all possible avenues. The student's family and relatives gathered at the engineering college after the incident. Police has kept body in the morgue and is awaiting postmortem results.

Sunday 'Slip'



A driver lost control of his speeding car, causing the vehicle to crash into the basement of a Zudio showroom opposite Gaurav Tower in Jaipur on Sunday. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

MUKESH KIRADOO

Diverse elegance seen in walkathon

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla participates virtually

Kota celebrates cultural diversity with 'One Bharat Saree Walkathon'

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

The Ministry of Textiles organized the third edition of 'One Bharat Saree Walkathon' in Kota on Sunday. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav exhibition is also being held till February 8 at Dussehra Ground in Kota. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla virtually participated in the event while Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways Darshana Jardosh, Minister of Education and Panchayati Raj Madan Dilwar, Minister Hiralal Nagar, and other MLA's jointly flagged off the Kota edition of One Bharat Saree Walkathon on Sunday.

Union Minister Darshana Jardosh said that "The event holds particular significance in Kota, where spirit of womanhood is deeply embedded in every aspect of its existence. The participation of women from various backgrounds, draped in sarees representing their distinct regional styles, has created a beautiful tapestry of diversity and strengthened the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. This resonates with the vibrant essence of Kota and adds a layer of deep cultural significance.



Women draped in sarees of various styles participating in the 'One Bharat Saree Walkathon' in Kota on Sunday.



Om Birla waving in the background as he virtually attends the event while, (L-R) Darshana Jardosh, Kalpana Devi, Hiralal Nagar & Sandeep Sharma are present in Kota on Sunday.



Girls and women dressed as goddesses, showing women power, during the walkathon event in Kota on Sunday.

Domestic tourism in Raj up 12 times since 2020

Foreigners' numbers see huge spike

PTI
Jaipur

The number of domestic tourists visiting State has increased about 12 times in the last four years, with the footfall of foreign tourists also witnessing a sharp uptick since the Covid-induced slump. According to the Tourism Dept, in 2020, more than 1.51 crore domestic tourists visited the state. The number shot up to over 17.90 crore in 2023.

A total of 32.44 crore domestic tourists visited Rajasthan from January 2020 to December 2023. On the other hand, over



Tourists footfall shot up to over 17.90 crore in 2023. FILE

22.20 lakh foreign tourists visited the desert state to witness its historical heritage during the same period. "Rajasthan has been a major tourist attraction among the tourists. After the corona pandemic, a large number of domestic tourists have started visiting the state. The number of foreign tourists have also significantly risen,"

Deputy Director of Tourism Department, Daleep Rathore, said. The freshly elected BJP govt's focus is to make the state a leader in tourism sector. Recent visits of Czech Republic PM Petr Fiala and French President Emmanuel Macron have helped Raj to present its image as a foreign destination of choice.

Diya Kumari meets US Ambassador to India Garcetti; both discuss tourism

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti reached City Palace & met Dy CM Diya Kumari. He visited the City Palace with his family and discussed tourism and business with Diya Kumari. He also shared his views on many important issues related to state.

Meanwhile, Dy CM Diya Kumari virtually inaugurated the Craft Village located at Kunda, Amber on Sunday. The programme was concluded



Deputy CM Diya Kumari with Eric Garcetti, the USA ambassador to India, and his family at City Palace in Jaipur on Sunday.

in dignified presence of Prashant Kishore, Manju Rajpal and Amrit Raj.

On the occasion Diya Kumari said that with development of Shilpgram, local craftsmen will get a suitable place to sell their products, while their products will get good prices and recognition at the international level.

RSS path sanchalan



RSS volunteers taking out the 'path sanchalan' procession outside the Sufi Saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's Dargah in Ajmer on Sunday.

ANAND SHARMA

JMCH Mayor is mahila morcha prez of Gurjar Mahasabha

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The felicitation ceremony of All India Gurjar Mahasabha was organized at the Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce in Jaipur on Sunday. In the program, JMC Heritage Mayor Munesh Gurjar was appointed President of Rajasthan Mahila Morcha.

On this occasion, the newly appointed executive was honoured. After getting the responsibility of All India Gurjar Mahasabha and Mahila Morcha Prez, Mayor Munesh Gurjar expressed her gratitude to Mahasabha and said that she will always contribute to welfare and development of the community.

Monuments of tigresses Machhali, Rajmata to be constructed in Raj

Nirmal Tiwari & Ashvini Yadav
Jaipur/Alwar

As a tribute to the wildlife, on the instructions of Forest Minister Sanjay Sharma, two memorials will be built for the two deceased tigresses, who populated Ranthambore and Sariska. Out of two, one memorial will be built for tigress 'machhali' in Ranthambore and the other for 'rajmata' in Sariska.

The process on the instructions has been started and soon the construction work will begin after selecting the location of the memorial. The genealogy of both the tigresses will be inscribed on the memorial. The pictures of both tigresses will be installed at the memorial.



Forest officials along with locals during the cremation of female leopard in Sawai Madhopur on Sunday.

LEOPARD DIES OF ELECTROCUTION IN NAHARGARH; FEMALE LEOPARD CREMATED IN SAWAI MADHOPUR

Jaipur/Sawai Madhopur: A leopard died in Nahargarh Sanctuary due to an electric shock near the Jaigarh Fort. The leopard heading to drink water came into contact with the support wire of an electric pole and died on the spot due to electrocution. After the incident, the forest department team reached the spot and discovered dead body. The last rites of four-year-old female leopard were done. In a similar incident in Sawai Madhopur, a female leopard was found dead in Gol forest area of Baunli. On information of locals, the forest dept team took dead body. According to the medical board, infection in internal organs of female leopard is primarily believed to be the cause of death.

'Talent awards encourage educational upliftment'

First India Bureau
Shahpura

Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa said on Sunday that talent awards should be encouraged for the educational upliftment of the society along with social unity.

Speaking at a ceremony to honor the talents of Bairwa community, he said that the way Bairwa community has shown unity in Shahpura assembly election results, now it is the responsibility of

all to take 36 communities together and work wholeheartedly for the development of Shahpura. Expressing his gratitude to the BJP High Command, Bairwa said that by giving the responsibility of the post of deputy CM to the community, it has made the society of the entire state proud. "Now it is the responsibility of the society to work shoulder to shoulder by giving the message of unity in the times to come," he said.



Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa being felicitated during the event in Shahpura on Sunday.

NEW DAWN OF EXPOS & MARTS IN RAJ

StoneMart concludes with biz queries of ₹2,981 cr

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The 12th edition of StoneMart 2024 held at JECC, Sitapura in Jaipur concluded on Sunday. Minister for Industry and Commerce Col.

Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, the chief guest of the valedictory function said that Rajasthan is open for business and will roll out the red carpet to the investors and will provide all facilities through single window clearance. He said that the world's top 5



Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Ajitabh Sharma during closing ceremony of India StoneMart-2024 in Jaipur on Sunday.

stone festivals will be studied in detail and best practices will be adopted to make the 2026 StoneMart better.

Rathore said that today is the closing ceremony of the exhibition but the

opening ceremony of the stone business. He said that a total of 948 business meetings were held in the 12th edition of India StoneMart-2024 in which business proposals worth Rs 2,981 crores were dis-

3-DAY-LONG SOLAR EXPO CONCLUDES AT RIC

The Bharat Solar Expo 2024 concluded on Sunday. The Solar Expo was held at the Rajasthan International Centre in the city. The three-day expo was organized from 2 to 4 February. The three-day solar expo witnessed exhibitors from different states of the country. The Solar Expo was organised with an aim to create awareness about the use and benefits of solar energy among the general public. The Solar Expo saw the participation of more than 100 exhibitors at the Rajasthan International Centre.

Industry and Commerce Principal Secretary, Chairman RIICO and CDOS, Ajitabh Sharma said that India StoneMart is one of the biggest global events of natural stones.

Industry and Commerce Principal Secretary, Chairman RIICO and CDOS, Ajitabh Sharma said that India StoneMart is one of the biggest global events of natural stones.

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF LAKSHADWEEP

"IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT TOURISM"



Maj Gen CP Singh (Retd)

The writer is a scholar soldier accredited with MA, MSc, LLB, MBA, M Phil (Def Mgt) and M Phil (International Strategic Affairs)

Who would have imagined that a simple trip by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to these SW frontiers on 02 January 2024 and a tweet highlighting its pristine beauty and untapped potential would cause an international-relations storm of gigantic proportions. Three junior ministers from Maldives reacted strangely, posted disparaging and derogatory tweets followed by Boycott Maldives call by Indian celebrities and Bollywood. All this has brought focus on Lakshadweep archipelago with thousands of travellers flooding the net with searches for tour packages to Lakshadweep.

PIVOTAL LOCATION

Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands that are located some 400 km to the west of Kerala. The islands have a total land area of just 32 sq km but confer a 400,000-sq kms Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Lakshadweep stands as sentinel in the Indian Ocean, overseeing the Sea Lines Of Communication (SLOC) that pass through 'Nine Degree Channel' named after the latitude that passes through the archipelago. The channel is used by all merchantmen shuttling to and from Europe, the Middle East and western Asia, and south east Asia and the far east. Possession of these islands away from the mainland provides a strategic and political advantage to India. Therefore, the security and preservation of island territories from state and non-state actors is vital for India.

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

For centuries, Lakshadweep has been a beauty spot in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep is a picturesque



Lakshadweep can serve India as a Strategic Sentinel, Maritime Guardian and certainly as a Diplomatic Asset in the Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep islands can serve as Indian naval base in the Arabian Sea to safeguard our EEZ, check smuggling & sea piracy, monitor SLOCs, counter China's influence and help in joint training with friendly foreign countries like QUAD



group of 36 islands but only 10 are inhabited and the total population is only about 73,000. Presently, the scintillating Lakshadweep which looks like emeralds embedded on a turquoise sea attracts less than ten thousand tourists annually. Developing the islands by investing in infrastructure, promoting sustainable tourism, and strengthening security measures are crucial steps and by doing so, India can transform this undiscovered asset into a shining beacon of prosperity and security in the Indian Ocean region.

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

The strategic importance of these island groups, straddling the most heavily sailed international maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) needs no emphasis. Lakshadweep has assumed strategic importance in recent years with the rise of China and its efforts to increase its presence in Indian Ocean Region. On April 7, 2021, the USS

John Paul Jones, a guided-missile destroyer, passed just off the coast of Lakshadweep. The proximity to Lakshadweep was indicative of the strategic importance of the archipelago. It is matter of concern that all major powers of the world are competing to show their presence militarily, diplomatically and politically to gain a foothold in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Lakshadweep can serve India as a Strategic Sentinel, Maritime Guardian and certainly as a Diplomatic Asset in the Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep islands can serve as Indian naval base in the Arabian Sea to safeguard our EEZ, check smuggling & sea piracy, monitor SLOCs, counter China's influence and help in joint training with friendly foreign countries like QUAD. The Indian defence establishments in Lakshadweep has been enhanced over the years. However, to achieve immense dominance over IOR, India has to upgrade its military involvement in this region.

WAY AHEAD

After a prolonged period of neglect, Indian Govt is now starting to believe that Lakshadweep islands can be used to counter China's growing influence in neighbouring nations. India needs to reorient its thinking on these islands. The geographical location of these islands provides a tactical advantage to India during conflicts. If the need arises, Lakshadweep can also be used as an 'unsinkable aircraft carrier' away from the coastline of India.

There is potential for India to develop dual-use facilities in Lakshadweep for military and civilian purposes. Airfields and naval jetties on the islands can be upgraded to accommodate more traffic and larger aircraft. Most islands already naval bases and units. These facilities can serve tourism and military needs alike, with most infrastructure development funding. The inclusion of locals must be the first step in this development process.

CONCLUSION

The current Lakshadweep-Maldives row is a spark that should propel us to take resolute steps to develop our island assets and bolster India's maritime muscles. A well-orchestrated use of these islands, to further the Nation's foreign and strategic policy, is the present requirement of India. Secure and stable Island territories would be the launch pad for India to rediscover its great maritime and political influence in this region. A thoughtful and comprehensive defence-centric strategy would be the key to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by Lakshadweep in the changing geopolitics of IOR.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

A MUCH-DESERVED CIVILIAN HONOUR FOR LK ADVANI

The recent conferment of the *Bharat Ratna* upon LK Advani is a fitting acknowledgment of his pivotal role in shaping Indian politics with his *Rath Yatra* to bring the Ayodhya issue centre stage. Renowned for his leadership within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), despite being in the shadow of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Advani played a crucial role in transforming the party into a formidable political force.

His significant contribution to the *Ram Jannabhoomi* movement, advocating for the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, has left an indelible mark on India's socio-political scene. Advani's unwavering commitment to the cause and his ability to galvanise public support marked a turning point in the nation's history.

Beyond the *Ram Jannabhoomi* movement, Advani's leadership steered the BJP towards becoming a dynamic and influential political entity. His strategic vision and commitment to the party's principles have left a lasting legacy, making him a deserving recipient of the country's top civilian honour.

PANEL MOOTS TOUGH LAW TO CHECK VANDALS



Citizens have a democratic right to protest, but the method has sparked debate. Damaging public property, a common form, may stem from a perception of authorities ignoring peaceful protests. In recent times, the act of damaging public properties during protests has become a cause for concern. The National Law Commission's recommendation to make vandals deposit the estimated market value of damaged property in lieu of bail highlights the severity of this issue. The 1984 Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act aimed to curb such criminal acts, but it failed to deter vandals.

Protesters expressing dissent is a fundamental right, but resorting to vandalism jeopardizes the collective well-being of the nation. Trains and buses, often symbolic of public infrastructure, bear the brunt of such actions. The aftermath is not just a financial burden but also a disruption to essential services, affecting the lives of ordinary citizens.

Examining global practices, it's evident that other countries have adopted stringent measures to deter property damage during protests. Learning from successful strategies can inform our approach to strike a balance between safeguarding public assets and respecting people's right.

While advocating for the protection of public properties, it is essential to address the root causes behind such acts of vandalism. Open dialogue, effective communication, and understanding can pave the way for constructive expressions of dissent.

The call for responsible protest is not just a legal obligation but a civic duty. Striking a balance between the right to dissent and the need to protect public assets is crucial for fostering a society that values both democracy and collective well-being.

It is essential to address the root causes behind such acts of vandalism. Open dialogue, effective communication, and understanding can pave the way for constructive expressions of dissent

NEED OF THE HOUR

India needs to reorient its thinking on these islands. The geographical location of these islands provides a tactical advantage to India during conflicts. If the need arises, Lakshadweep can also be used as an 'unsinkable aircraft carrier' away from the coastline of India.

There is potential for India to develop dual-use facilities in Lakshadweep for military and civilian purposes.

TOP TWEETS



Privileged to meet Dr. Krishna Patel Ji, a celebrated Sambalpuri folk singer, whose mesmerising voice has resonated for over four decades. Her contribution to our cultural heritage is immense. The Government of India had conferred the Padma Shri on her in 2023.

Narendra Modi@narendramodi



Warm greetings to FM @alisabrypc and the Government and people of Sri Lanka on their Independence Day. Committed to deepening the partnership and promoting greater exchanges.

Dr. S. Jaishankar@DrSJaishankar

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

If one offers Me with love and devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, I will accept it.

BHAGAVAD GITA



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Birth centenary celebrations of Vipassana teacher SN Goenka

Vipassana teachings can help tackle stress: Modi

PTI
Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said Vipassana is a unique gift of ancient India and also a modern science whose application can help young and elderly people tackle "stress and distress" in their lives.

In a virtual address to mark the birth centenary celebrations of Vipassana teacher SN Goenka, Modi said meditation and Vipassana were once seen as a medium of renunciation but now it has become a medium of personality development in practical life.

He said India needs to share evidence of Vipassana science with the world according to the standards of modern science. "Stress and distress are common in the present-day life of young people and senior citizens, and Vipassana teachings can help them find solutions to their



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers a video message at birth centenary celebrations of SN Goenka on Sunday.

problems," Modi said. He said S N Goenka was a perfect example of 'one life one mission'. His teachings and commitment to the welfare of society are a source of inspiration as India is

moving fast to fulfil the goals of Viksit Bharat, Modi said. "Inspired by Lord Buddha, Guruji would say when people meditate together the result is very effective. Such power of

PM HAILS ACHARYA GOENKA'S EFFORTS

The Prime Minister also hailed Acharya Goenka's efforts to make everyone's life peaceful, happy and harmonious through his campaigns. "He also wanted the future generations to avail the benefits of these campaigns and thus expanded his knowledge. He did not stop there but also created skilled teachers," Modi added. Vipassana is a journey into the soul and a way to dive deep within yourself, Modi said and stressed it is not just a genre but a science. "We are familiar with the results of this science. We now need to present its evidence to the world according to the standards of modern science", he added.

unity is the great pillar of Viksit Bharat," the PM said. Recalling his close association with Goenka, the prime minister said the late Vipassana teacher possessed calm and serene characteristics.

BJP members protest outside D K Suresh's residence

PTI
Bengaluru

Several members of the BJP gathered outside the residence of Congress MP DK Suresh here on Sunday to protest his recent statement that southern states would be forced to demand for a separate nation if the 'injustice' in distribution of funds is not rectified by the Centre. Protesters were heard shouting slogans 'Vande Mataram', 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'down down D K Suresh' outside his residence in Sadashivanagar here.

However, the agitators were soon removed from the spot by the police and shifted into a bus, police said. Suresh is the brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress President D K Shivakumar.

"A group of members from the BJP had gathered outside the residence of the Congress MP," a senior police officer said.

To woo Muslim voters in UP

BJP's minority front to launch new campaign



The campaign will start on February 10.

PTI
Lucknow

Seeking to connect with voters of the minority community in Muslim-dominated Lok Sabha constituencies of western Uttar Pradesh, the minority front of the BJP is all set to organise 'Qaumi Chaupal' in more than 4,100 villages and discuss issues concerning them.

The BJP's Minority Morcha will depute Lok Sabha constituency-wise in-charge for the 'Qaumi Chaupal' programme to be organised in 23 Lok Sabha constituencies of

CONGRESS SECULAR ARCHITECT OF 'ROOM ME TOPI, ROAD PE TILAK', SAYS BJP LEADER NAQVI

Prayagraj: Senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Sunday took a dig at Congress leaders and said the opposition party, which is the "secular political architect of 'Room me topi, road pe tilak'" (skull cap in the room and tilak on the road), stands nowhere now. Naqvi said in the last 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought about a positive change in political resolve, thinking and culture by eliminating the deceit of appeasement and replacing it with the power of inclusive empowerment. Naqvi said today Modi's hard work and the power of penance have made him the "global hero of ground zero". However, some feudal people are making cunning attempts to tarnish India's growing prestige and honour, he said.

Western Uttar Pradesh BJP Minority Morcha's Uttar Pradesh unit president Kunwar Basit Ali told PTI that the Morcha has selected 23 Muslim dominated Lok Sabha constituencies.

Govt, industry discuss ways for successful implementation of PLI

PTI
New Delhi

Senior government officials and industry players have discussed ways to enhance collaborations and create a clear action plan for successful implementation of PLI schemes, an official statement said on Sunday.

Around 1,200 delegates including beneficiary companies under the PLI (production linked incentive) scheme for 14 sectors and officials met on Feb 3 to discuss and chart out the strategy for effective and seamless implementation of these schemes, the commerce and industry ministry said. The opening session was followed by two interactive sessions covering all the 14 sectors, with the objective of exploring areas of collaboration between the government and industry champions and creating a clear action plan for successful implementation of PLI Schemes.



REPRESENTATIONAL

CENTRE TARGETING BENGAL: TMC MP

Kolkata: The ruling Trinamool Congress in West Bengal on Sunday took on the BJP-led government at the Centre, alleging that it was indulging in "fiscal federal terrorism".

Addressing a press conference here, TMC MP Derek O'Brien rejected the claims that the West Bengal gov't did not provide utilisation certificates for central funds and alleged that the Centre was targeting the state as it was ruled by a party opposed to the BJP.

Yogi govt to present its largest-ever budget

Agencies
Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh government will be presenting its largest-ever annual budget (2024-2025) of a size of over Rs 7 lakh crore in the state legislature during the budget session here on Monday. There are indications that the annual budget will have



larger allocations for development of infrastructure. There will be an increase in allocations to capital expenditure and

some ongoing projects. There may also be certain populist announcements that the state government may make ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "The Yogi Adityanath government has always presented a progressive budget in accordance with the aspirations of the people over the years. The state government has

taken care of development of infrastructure and public welfare and maintained a strict financial discipline. We have taken initiatives to curtail wasteful expenditure," said Parliamentary Affairs and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna. The state govt had presented an annual budget of Rs 6.90 lakh crore for 2023-2024.

Cong should take lead in resolving issues in INDIA bloc: Oppn

PTI
New Delhi

The Congress should take the lead in resolving differences of opinion within the INDIA bloc and show "large-heartedness" in seat sharing to emerge as a viable alternative to the BJP in upcoming elections, according to some opposition leaders.

They also said that the opposition should take this election "very seriously" and present a united face before the people by coming up with a common minimum programme soon. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi agreed that seat-sharing talks have been delayed, but she was hopeful that things will be set right soon and allocation of seats will be announced in most states. "The discussions are happening and it could have happened earlier. I do agree that it could have been more confidence-building in the minds of



Priyanka Chaturvedi

people that we have managed to resolve our seat-sharing issues and are showing our united face. "I would continue to say, like the TMC would say, that the Congress would have to show more large-heartedness, considering that we are fighting the battle of our lives, not our lives but of the millions and billions that matter in this country," Chaturvedi told PTI. "We would have to show our bigger commitment to the idea of saving constitutional morality as well as democratic principles of this country," she said.

Works won't stop even if I am jailed: Kejriwal

PTI
New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said the ongoing developmental works of his government for the people would not stop even if he was sent to jail. Laying the foundation stone of two school buildings at Kirari here, Kejriwal said, "Sisodia was put in jail because he built schools. Satyendar Jain was sent to jail because he built Mohalla clinics." Kejriwal alleged that central agencies such as



Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi Singh during the foundation stone laying ceremony of a govt school at Kirari, in New Delhi, Sunday.

ED and CBI have been unleashed on them (AAP leaders). "But even if you put Kejriwal in jail, the (ongoing) works of

building schools and Mohalla clinics and providing free treatment to the people of Delhi will not stop," he asserted.

'PATHETIC' STATE OF CITY GOVT-RUN HOSPS

New Delhi: Delhi Lt Governor VK Saxena has written to CM Arvind Kejriwal, expressing his "deep concern" over the "pathetic state" of hospitals under the city govt. On Sunday, Kejriwal wrote to Saxena to acknowledge the receipt of the letter. In his letter, Kejriwal sought Delhi's health and finance secretaries be replaced at the earliest, saying the "in-subordination and refusal" by these two bureaucrats to obey their ministers' orders "has brought Delhi's health system to this state".

MISUSE OF RESOURCES

Freebies spreading like 'cancer': RSS affiliate

PTI
New Delhi

RSS affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) has said the misuse of resources by states to dole out freebies such as free electricity is like a "cancer" in the economy and should be put an end to.

SJM co-convenor Ashwani Mahajan said state governments should follow the Centre in adopting fiscal prudence.

In an interview to PTI after the interim Budget for 2024-25, he said,

"States were given more resources for development, but they chose to misuse these resources for freebies. This is very unfortunate. This is a kind of contagious disease, which is now causing a kind of cancer to the economy of the country." He said the misuse of resources meant for development is hampering growth and it is "very unfortunate" that states are becoming "too undisciplined" as far as expenditure is concerned.

Mahajan said this is leading to a rise in overall



Ashwani Mahajan

debt on the government, both the Centre and states, and is bringing the ratings by international rating agencies down. "This is also making it

States were given more resources for development, but they chose to misuse these resources for freebies. This is a kind of contagious disease, which is now causing a kind of cancer to the economy of the country, said Mahajan

difficult for our economy to attract investment at a lower rate of interest," he noted. He said if the country is made to borrow at a higher rate of

interest, it cannot develop. "Therefore, a full stop has to be made on the undisciplined expenditure by the state governments," the leader of the SJM, an affiliate of the RSS, said. "And, for that the judiciary will have to play its role and the next Finance Commission should also be given the responsibility to do so," he said. On the interim Budget Mahajan said, "I appreciate that the govt and the finance minister have shown the path to state governments."

BJP reshuffles cluster in-charges for 29 Lok Sabha seats in MP

PTI
Bhopal

In the run-up to the general elections, BJP's Madhya Pradesh unit has reshuffled cluster in-charges for 29 LS seats in the state and shifted them from their respective home districts or regions. Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla, who was earlier appointed as cluster in-charge for his home turf Rewa, has been shifted to Bhopal region.

While, State Youth Affairs Minister Vishwas Sarang, who was in-



charge for Bhopal region cluster and also hails from the state capital, has been shifted to Ujjain. Urban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, who was earlier appointed for Indore,

now has given responsibility of Jabalpur cluster. Vijayvargiya, who won assembly election from Indore -1, will be preparing for Jabalpur cluster, which includes Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency the BJP lost in 2019. Former state home minister Narottam Mishra, who was made cluster in-charge for Gwalior-Chambal region, has been shifted to Sagar with same responsibility. Senior BJP leader Mishra hails from Datia, which falls under Gwalior-Chambal region.



A glimpse of the snow-covered road following a fresh spell of snowfall at Kud, in Udhampur on Sunday.

FLIGHTS CANCELLED AMID HEAVY SNOWFALL

Avalanche warning issued for hilly areas of Kashmir

PTI
Srinagar

Snowfall across the Kashmir Valley affected normal life on Sunday with all flights cancelled at Srinagar airport, officials said. The snowfall has forced the cancellation of all inbound and outbound flights from Srinagar airport for the day. Authorities have issued avalanche warnings for hilly and mountainous areas of Kashmir, urging the residents to avoid unnecessary movement.



A view of the snow-covered Lal Chowk on Sunday.



Vehicles queued up at the Srinagar-Jammu Highway amid fresh snowfall, in Srinagar on Sunday.

HOME MINISTER ON JUDICIAL SYSTEM AT CLEA

Tech in judiciary will bring simplicity: Shah

President Murmu, Union HM Amit Shah attend CLEA- Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference 2024

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that the use of technology in the judicial system will bring simplicity to the whole system. He also exhorted to make the entire justice system on 3 A's which he explained as-- Accessible, Affordable and Accountable. "In today's time, it is very important to make the entire justice system on three A's i.e. accessible, affordable and accountable and for all these three we should make maximum use of technology. I believe this will bring a lot of simplicity," Shah said.



President Droupadi Murmu and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the valedictory function of Commonwealth Attorneys and Solicitors General Conference 2024, in New Delhi, on Sunday.

NATION WILL TAKE JUDICIARY FORWARD WHEN NEW CRIMINAL LAWS ARE IMPLEMENTED: SHAH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday further emphasised that the Central government has given place to technology in the new criminal laws passed by Parliament. "In the three new criminal justice system laws that have been brought in, we have given place to technology and along with it we have also given place to FSL. To promote evidence-based prosecution, we have made provision for a punishment of seven years and above in all the sections. In all, the visit of the Scientific Officer of FSL has been made mandatory. Before the law comes, we have already completed the entire infrastructure and human resource generation work by making FSL University," he said.

The Union Minister also said that the use of technology will have to be adopted in the entire process of justice in view of the cross-border challenges. "The way the

scenario is changing today, I believe that the judiciary will also have to change. In view of the cross-border challenges, the use of technology will have to be adopted in the entire process of justice in the 21st century with the laws of the 19th century," he added.

Gadkari inaugurates 3 overbridges in Kheri

PTI
Lakhimpur Kheri

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday inaugurated three road overbridges in Lakhimpur Kheri through video-conferencing and said this will ease traffic congestion and add to the convenience of people. These overbridges have been built at Chhouch crossing, LRP crossing and Rajapur



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari crossing on the Pilibhit-Basti national highway at a cost of Rs 297 crore.

"The three road overbridges (ROBs) came into existence on the initiatives of Union MoS Home Ajay Kumar Mishra, who strived to push up these projects," he said. Gadkari highlighted that the three overbridges were completed in January 2024 two months before the stipulated time of March 2024. Mishra thanked Gadkari for acceding to his request for the overbridges and putting them into a reality in a record time. Mishra said that soon three more overbridges — one on the Ghaghra river, other on the Sharda river and another in Gola town — were proposed. The Union minister said that national highway construction works were accelerated from 12 km per day earlier to 35 km per day since the Narendra Modi government to power in 2014.

"Congress stands for 'Jal-Jungle-Jamin' of tribals"

PTI
Dhanbad

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that his party stood for 'Jal-Jungle-Jamin' (water, forest and land) of tribal people and employment of youths. Gandhi was speaking during a roadshow in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, as part of his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra'. After a night halt in Tundi block of the district on Saturday, the yatra resumed at Govindpur in Dhanbad city on Sunday, the third day of his yatra in Jharkhand.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', in Bokaro, Sunday.

The main objective of the yatra is to save public sector units from being sold to private parties and ensure justice to employed youths and tribal of the country, Gandhi said.

Uddhav Thackeray's 'Gang War' jibe after Sena leader shot at by BJP MLA

PTI
Sawantwadi

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday claimed a "gang war" has broken out in the Maharashtra alliance government and said PM Narendra Modi should understand that the state BJP unit has "weakened" due to the induction of leaders into it by breaking other parties. The former state CM's remarks came 2 days after an incident of firing by an MLA of the ruling BJP on a local Shiv Sena leader (belonging to CM Eknath Shinde camp).



Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde visits a hospital where injured Shiv Sena leader is being treated after he was allegedly shot in Thane.

BJP MLA HELD FOR FIRING AT SHIV SENA LEADER BOOKED IN SC/ST CASE FOR ABUSING WOMAN

Thane: Maharashtra BJP MLA Ganpat Gaikwad, who is accused of shooting at a Shiv Sena leader inside a police station in Thane district, has been booked in an SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act case, an official said on Sunday. Gaikwad was booked on the complaint of a villager who claimed she was subjected to casteist abuse by him and seven others on January 31, the official added.

STOCK MARKET WATCH

Decline in Index stopped but there is fear of profit recovery



Vimal Kothari

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

Despite the lack of announcements in interim budget that were in line with stock market expectations, decline that had been going on for previous 2 weeks came to a halt in first week of February. Due to the rise on Friday, BSE index reached near its highest level while NSE index Nifty also made a record of reaching the highest level of 22126.80 this week. However, despite all this, stock market experts are still afraid of profit recovery. Due to this apprehension, it is believed that the markets will remain flat this week and

there is almost no chance of further recession. Experts who do technical analysis of stock market activities also estimate that support for Nifty is seen at 21660-21600 and registration is seen at 22100-22150. Analysts are unanimous regarding the movement of the stock market. They believe that the upward trend in the index will continue and it is not a big deal that Nifty index touches the level of 23400 points in the month of June. However, before this, a decline is also being predicted in the month of February-March, which



can be called an opportunity for those making new investments in the stock market. There was an improving trend in the Indian stock markets this week. According to the data, last week there was an improvement of 1384.96 points i.e. 1.96 percent in the BSE index and the BSE index increased from 70700.67 points to close at 72085.63, while the NSE index also increased by 501.20 points i.e. 2.35 percent and the NSE Nifty index increased from 21352.60 points to 21853.80. But it closed. Along with the basic index, midcap and small-

In January, FIIs made a net sale of Rs 35977.87 crore, while Domestic Institutional Investors-DIIs made a net purchase of Rs 26743.63 crore in January. Talking about the bullion market, this week the price of gold improved by Rs 350 per 10 grams, while the prices of silver fell by Rs 400 per kg, and the price of gold was Rs 64,450 per ten grams and silver was Rs 72,900 per kg. Traders are predicting a slight decline in bullion business due to weak demand. Regarding the market trend this week, traders say that there is a possibility of a rise in the market,

but profit making will also continue. Businessmen still consider it safe to invest in public sector companies and power sector companies. In their opinion, from the point of view of long term investment, one can invest in the shares of selected companies like Life Insurance Corporation of India, SJVNL, Delhivery, Power Grid, Indian Oil, Adani Port, PNB, South Indian Bank, GAIL, Petronet etc. but if sentiments in the market are weak, then even the so-called good stocks may fall. This week, four IPOs on the main board and two new IPOs on the

SME platform will be available for investors to apply. Before investing in a new IPO, investors should decide to invest only after studying the financial condition of the company and the premium being demanded. On the other hand, among the new IPO applications coming to SEBI this week, a company Kronox Lab Sciences Limited has presented its Draft Herring Prospectus-DRHP. (This is the personal opinion of the author. The author, his family members and acquaintances may have investments in the companies mentioned in the article.)

US intends further strikes on Iran-backed groups: Sullivan

Agencies

Washington/Aden/Baghdad

The United States intends to launch further strikes at Iran-backed groups in the Middle East, the White House national security adviser said on Sunday, after hitting Tehran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen over the last two days.

The United States and Britain unleashed attacks against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, a day after the U.S. military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan.

"We intend to take additional strikes, and additional action, to continue to send a clear message that the United States will respond when our forces



Houthi tribesmen gather to show defiance after US and UK air strikes on Houthi positions.

are attacked, when our people are killed," White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the

Press" program on Sunday. The strikes are the latest blows in a conflict that has spread into the Middle East since Oct. 7,

when the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas stormed Israel from the Gaza Strip, igniting war.

YEMEN'S HOUTHIS VOW RESPONSE AFTER US, BRITISH STRIKES

Washington/Aden/Baghdad: The United States and Britain launched strikes against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, in the second day of major U.S. operations against Iran-linked groups following a deadly attack on American troops last weekend. The strikes late on Saturday hit buried weapons storage facilities, missile systems, launchers and other capabilities the Houthis have used to attack Red Sea shipping, the Pentagon said, adding it targeted 13 locations across the country. The Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the strikes "will not pass without a response and consequences." The Houthis did not announce any casualties.

Hamas hounds Israeli forces in main Gaza cities

Agencies

Doha/Gaza/Jerusalem

Palestinian gunmen kept up attacks against Israeli forces on Sunday in the Gaza Strip's two main cities, weeks after they were overrun by troops and tanks, in a sign Hamas still maintains some control ahead of any potential truce.

Nearly 4 months into the war triggered by the Palestinian Islamist group's deadly cross-border rampage in Israel, there was persistent fighting in Gaza City in the north of the densely populated enclave, and in Khan Younis to the south.

PM Benjamin Netanyahu said 17 of Hamas' 24 combat battalions had been dismantled. The rest, he said, were mostly in the southern Gaza Strip - including Rafah, on the enclave's Egyptian border.

Joe Biden wins South Carolina, vows to make 'Trump a loser again'

PTI

Washington



US President Joe Biden has secured a decisive win in the Democratic presidential primary in the crucial state of South Carolina, notching his first official victory in his largely unobstructed path to become his party's nominee for a possible rematch against Donald Trump in the November 5 election.

Biden, who is seeking re-election in the November presidential elections,

received 96.2% of the votes in Saturday's primary. "The people of South Carolina have spoken again and I have no doubt that you have set us on the path to winning the Presidency again & making Donald Trump a loser - again," he said.

TESLA WORKER ARRESTED FOR THREATENING TO KILL US PRESIDENT BIDEN AND ELON MUSK

A Tesla employee from Minnesota, US was arrested after he allegedly threatened to kill US President Joe Biden and billionaire Elon Musk. Justin McCauley, aged 31, had posted on X that he was "planning to kill" Mr Biden, Mr Musk, his companies X and Tesla. He was charged with felony terroristic threats. "I will arrive in Texas where the war has begun on many fronts @X @Tesla," he wrote in a post. In another post, he said, "@JoeBiden @X @Telsa @Elonmusk, I am planning to kill all of you."

India set England 399-run target to win second Test



Indian players come out of the ground at the end of the third day of second Test match between India and England, at Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, in Visakhapatnam.

PTI

Visakhapatnam

Shubman Gill scored a fine century to help India set a 399-run target for England to win on day three of the second Test in Visakhapatnam on Sunday. Gill returned to form, scoring a timely 104 off 147 deliveries.

All-rounders Axar Patel (45) and Ravichandran Ashwin (29) pitched in with handy knocks before India were bowled out for 255 in their second innings.

Gill and Axar stitched an 89-run partnership before Ashwin hit two fours and a six to help India swell their lead.

England Spinners Tom

MULANI GRABS FIVE WICKETS AS INDIA A BEAT ENGLAND LIONS BY 134 RUNS, BAG SERIES 2-0

India A spinners turned the knife into England Lions' batting line-up to give their side a commanding 134-run victory on the fourth day of the third and final unofficial Test in Ahmedabad on Sunday. Chasing an improbable 403, the Lions were bundled out for 268 in their second innings as India A bagged the three-match series 2-0. Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani (5/60) and Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain (3/50) grabbed 8 wickets among them as England crumbled after resuming from overnight 83 for two. England were 120 for 4 then and they lost another 3 wickets while adding 20 more runs to slip to 140 for seven.

Hartley and Rehan Ahmed shared seven wickets between them on the third day of the Test.

Hartley took four wickets with his left-arm spin before Ahmed finally got a stubborn Ashwin out for 29 to wrap up

the innings with his third strike. The highest fourth-innings target successfully chased against India was England's 378 at Edgbaston in 2022, and the biggest in India was when the hosts got 387 against England in 2008.

"India going to be front row at the world's transformation"

ANI

Paris (France)

President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday posted a video highlighting a glimpse from his recent visit to India during the Republic Day celebrations and stressed that France wants to have "more and more investments" in India.

Praising India, he stated that India is going to be on the front row in the world's transformation.

"We have got everything to say to a country like India, a democratic power, a demographic, economic and a technological as well," he said.

Chile: Forest fires kill 51, menace urban areas

Agencies

Chile



People try to extinguish a fire burning a house during the spread of wildfires in Vina del Mar, Chile on Sunday.

Forest fires raging in central Chile have killed at least 51 people and the death toll is likely to keep climbing, authorities said on Saturday, as emergency services battled to snuff out flames threatening urban areas.

Areas around the coastal tourist city of Vina del Mar have been some of the hardest hit and rescue teams were struggling to reach all the affected areas.

The death toll rose when 5 bodies were found on public roads, and information indicates "we are going to reach much higher figures" in coming hours, said Interior Minister Carolina Toha.

67th National School Games conclude with great pomp

First India Bureau

Jaipur

The closing ceremony of the 67th National School Games (Yogasan - Boys and Girls) held from 1-4 February. Padmashree Avani Lekhara was present as the chief guest, along with special guest NR Murali, Additional Commissioner, Pranjal Bajpai, Regional Head, Union Bank of India, VC, Headquarters, New Delhi, Dr Pratibha Ratnu, Assistant Director, Department of Physical Education, RU.



186 male & 188 female students from 20 states, 3 union territories and 7 institutions demonstrated their passion and skills.

Nat'l Wrestling C'ships: Vinesh clinches 55kg category gold



Rajasthan UDH Minister Jhbar Singh Kharra presents the bouquet to wrestler Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik in Jaipur on Sunday.

PTI

Jaipur

Asian Games gold medalist Vinesh Phogat clinched the 55kg gold medal in the Senior National Wrestling Championships being organised by the IOA-constituted ad-hoc committee, here on Sunday.

Vinesh showcased her experience by defeating her opponent from Madhya Pradesh Jyoti 4-0 despite the ace grappler competing in a higher weight category.

The 29 year old Vinesh, representing Railway

WRESTLER SUNIL KUMAR SECURES GRECO-ROMAN TITLE IN 87KG CATEGORY

Jaipur: The Asian Games Hangzhou bronze medalist wrestler Sunil Kumar secured the 87 kg title in the National Wrestling Championships 2024, which started on Saturday in Jaipur. Sunil, the wrestler who got India its first Asian Games greco-roman medal in 13 years just last year, defeated Manoj Kumar 9-1 to clinch the title in a bout which he dominated for the most part, as per Olympics.com.



Sports Promotion Board (RSPB), had won the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games gold in 50kg category, while

her title triumph at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games had come in the 53kg category.

IN KHELO WINTER GAMES

Varsha Puranik makes it a golden double

PTI

Leh (Ladakh)

Leading Indian ice-skater Varsha Puranik cornered more glory, winning the women's 500m short-track race (above 17 years category) to take Karnataka's gold medal tally to four in the Khelo India Winter Games here on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Varsha, who had also won the 300m short track race on Saturday, led from start to finish to win the 500m version in



The 37-year-old Varsha, who had also won the 300m short track race on Saturday, led from start to finish to win the 500m version in 1:07.78 seconds.

1:07.78 seconds. Karnataka are leading the table with four gold medals out of a total eight de-

cided so far. Maharashtra finally struck an ice-skating gold on a snowy and cloudy

day three with Aarav Patwardhan clinching the men's under-17 500m short-track title and tak-

ing his state to third spot on the table. Maharashtra also have seven silver and five bronze medals.

The event was keenly contested with Patwardhan (54.55 sec) warding off a strong challenge from Telangana's Pranav Surapaneni (55.65) in the five-lap race. Telangana, who are second on the medals tally, owe their success to the talented Nayana Sri Talluri

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Make the smallest effort, genuine and sincere effort rather than a truckload of excuses, it will make more impact.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

THIS POSITION IS A RESPONSIBILITY, AND IT SHOULD BE DISCHARGED WITH INTEGRITY: DR BAIRWA

Bairwa's Unyielding Journey from Labour to Leadership, Weaving Dreams and Defying Odds



During the 'KeyNote By Pawan Arora', Dy CM Prem Chand Bairwa opens up to CEO and Managing Editor of First India News - Pawan Arora, providing insights into his challenging past. Bairwa shares details of his perseverance through odd jobs to sustain his education, narrates his entry into the political sphere of the state, outlines his vision for Dudu constituency and dist, and expounds on his broader aspirations for Raj. Excerpts...

Q In states with coalition governments, it's a common practice for Chief Minister to represent main alliance, while Dy CM's role goes to representative of the allied party. However, with a clear majority government in Rajasthan, what factors lead to the appointment of two Dy CMs?

A The BJP aims to allocate responsibilities to every party worker, ensuring that each individual can contribute based on their abilities and experience.

Q There is often speculation about whether the role of Dy CM entails more authority than that of a department minister or if it is

primarily an honorary position?

A I hold the view that this position is a responsibility, and it should be discharged with integrity and an innovative approach to ensure success of the work we undertake.

Q Could you shed some light on your early years spent in a modest setting, where you were involved in rearing goats, working as farm labour, and even taking up the task of stitching clothes?

A I hail from a small 'dhani' with about twenty houses. My journey began in rural Mozamabad, where I faced challenges early on after my mother's demise during my fifth standard. With my father working away, I lived with my brother and sister-in-law, commuting nine kilometres to school. Financial constraints led me to shift from agriculture to stitching clothes. Despite hardships, I pursued arts, completing my MA and delving into various jobs. I juggled work from 6 AM to 6 PM in



Pawan Arora in conversation with Dr Prem Chand Bairwa during the programme, 'KeyNote by Pawan Arora.' © SANTOSH SHARMA

BAIRWA BACKS ARORA'S INITIATIVE TO PROHIBIT LEARNER DRIVERS ON HIGHWAYS

Arora proposed a policy modification to Bairwa, suggesting a restriction to learning license holders from driving on highways, citing the inappropriateness of large roads for inexperienced drivers. Bairwa acknowledged the merit of the suggestion and committed to issuing an order on this matter in the near future.

CONVERSATION ALSO COVERED DIVERSE TOPICS

Bairwa also delved into matters such as higher & technical education, transportation, Ayurveda, discipline in government colleges, student union elections in state colleges, coaching preparation in schools and colleges, student suicides in Kota and other cities, road safety, urban transportation, licensing in the Transport department, quality control on private vehicle fitness centers, the issue of overloaded vehicles on highways, extending modern motor vehicle tracks to other cities, addressing losses in roadways, Dudu as a district and sharing insights on how he cultivated an interest in 'Bhajans'.

Jaipur, even doing labour jobs. Undeterred, I earned my MA, M.Phil, and PhD, initially supporting myself through stitching until venturing into an LIC

agency. Winning the Jaipur Zila Parishad election in 2000 marked my entry into politics, aligning with BJP. In 2013, I became an MLA, focusing

Q Despite favourable circumstances, what led to your poll defeat in 2018?

A Personal challenges played a significant

role in my electoral loss in 2018. My brother's critical condition, requiring intensive care just before ticket announcement, demanded my attention for over a month. By the time I received ticket, he had passed away. Despite commencing campaigning after 12-day rituals, the limited time impacted our outreach. Entry of an RLP candidate, coupled with substantial Jat population in my area, created a disconnect with young voters. Regrettably, we couldn't address this, leading to our defeat.

Q Will BJP conduct student union polls?

A Govt has opted not to proceed with student union polls, a process that was initially initiated by Congress but subsequently discontinued by them.



Click to watch Keynote by Pawan Arora

Youths need to adopt healthy lifestyle: CM

Kailash Choudhary
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday, said that the youth need to adopt a healthy lifestyle for a healthy life. He said that campaigns like 'Young India', 'Fit India' and 'Khelo India' are being run in the country.

Sharma was speaking at the flagging off ceremony of the 15th Jaipur Marathon organised by the Sanskriti Yuva Sanstha and the World Trade Park.

He further said that in the present times, due to busy lifestyle, people are moving away from a healthy lifestyle. "Staying up late at night and waking up late in the

State govt will promote sports facilities in Raj, says CM • Inspired by the campaigns "Young India, Fit India, and Play India," citizens enthusiastically participated in the Jaipur Marathon, including the elderly, youth, and children, CM Sharma further adds



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma flags off the 15th Jaipur Marathon organised by Sanskriti Yuva Sanstha and World Trade Park in Jaipur on Sunday. Ramcharan Bohra, Balmukund Acharya, Dr Somya, Puneet Karnawat, Suresh Mishra, Anoop Bartaria, Neelam Mishra, Anup Jalota and others were also present on the occasion.



Enthusiastic participants during the 15th Jaipur Marathon on Sunday.

morning is having adverse effects on health," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the State government will work to encourage people to lead a healthy lifestyle and pro-

te mote sports.

Sports facilities will be developed in the state and sports infrastructure including government schools and colleges will be created," he added.

In today's fast-paced life, people are moving away from a healthy way of living. Late nights and waking up late are adversely affecting health. Rajasthan is leading in raising awareness about health compared to other states. It is the land of warriors. Here, the youth are enthusiastic about serving the nation by joining the armed forces, so they pay special attention to their fitness.

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CM

BJP leaders to bring tiffins in meetings: BJP State Prez CP Joshi

Aishwary Pradhan
Jaipur

The BJP has started a new experiment in core committee meet on Sunday. Many members brought tiffin with them and had food together. Those who did not bring, shared food from tiffins of other leaders.

In the meeting, the 'Gaon Chalo' campaign launched by BJP was discussed. In this, people belonging to all district committees will spend 24 hours in villages and take feedback, so that the Centre's schemes can be taken to the people. After the core panel meeting, Rajya Sabha MP Rajendra Gehlot took the meeting of BJP city unit.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, CP Joshi, Arun Singh during the core committee meeting held at BJP Headquarters in Jaipur on Sunday. Diya Kumari, Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Vasundhara Raje, GS Shekhawat, Rajendra Rathore, Kailash Choudhary, Vijaya Rahatkar, Dr Alka Gurjar and others were also present.

Along with starting preparations for the LS, he directed to find the place for the election office before February 29.

Meanwhile, in another meet chaired by State Prez CP Joshi on LS

polls, Joshi said that it is workers' duty to make BJP's 'Gaon Chalo' "Shakti Vandan" and voter awareness campaigns successful, hence every worker will have to join it.

We will create new energy in Congress, asserts Randhawa



Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Govind Singh Dotasra & Tikaram Jullu condole the demise of late Chitra Singh, wife of ex-MP Manvendra Singh at his residence in Jodhpur on Sunday.

Rajeev Gaur
Jodhpur

PCC Chief GS Dotasra said that GS Shekhawat was going to become Raj CM, but the slip came from Delhi & Bhajan Lal Sharma was made the CM. "The person who was looking after the ar-

rangements for food and tents an hour ago, was made the CM. Bhajan Lal's name appeared on the slip that came from Delhi. After that 'Parchi Sarkar' was formed," he said. State in-charge Sukhjinder Randhawa, said, "We will create new energy in Congress."

Shekhawat: Cong prioritised politics over water ignoring 3 crore people

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the former Congress government in Rajasthan did politics for 5 years to declare ERCP as a national project.

"This national project could not be declared because the neighboring state of Madhya Pradesh did not have the consent. For the Congress government, political importance was more important than quenching the thirst of approximately



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and GS Shekhawat being informed about the progress of the under construction Navnera Dam during their visit to Kota on Sunday. Madan Dilawar and others were also present.

three crore people of 13 districts," he said at a press conference. He said that the Con-

gress government had failed on this issue, hence the matter could not move forward.

Shekhawat said that after the formation of BJP government in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, an MoU has been signed between the two states on Eastern Rajasthan Canal (ERCP). The Union Jal Shakti Minister also said that this project includes all the things of earlier ERCP. "This includes irrigation of 80,000 hectares in 9 districts, creation of 2 lakh hectares of new command in two districts Dholpur-Sawai Madhopur and provision of 286 MCM water for industrial requirement," he added.

New Advocate General of Raj pays courtesy visit to CM



Newly appointed Advocate General of Raj, Rajendra Prasad Gupta calls on CM Bhajan Lal Sharma at OTS in Jaipur on Sunday.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The newly appointed Advocate General of the State, Rajendra Prasad Gupta called on Chief

Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at his residence at OTS in Jaipur on Sunday evening. This was his first courtesy meeting with CM Sharma after his appointment.



City First

JAIPUR, MONDAY | FEBRUARY 5, 2024



TOURISM EXCELLENCE!
The session 'Heart Over Mind' by Ashwani Lohani & Piyush Kumar in conversation with Amitabh Kant. The session commenced with Ashwani Lohani sharing some of his experiences outlined in the book. **P12**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with International Judges Lokodi Zsaba Zolt & Ramon Podesta also seen are Viren & Issa Sharma, Gaurav Gaur, Srishti, Sneha, Malhari, Manisha, Urvashi, Sheena, Akanksha, Navya, Tanu & others.

A Doberman takes a stance

PAWSOME PARADE

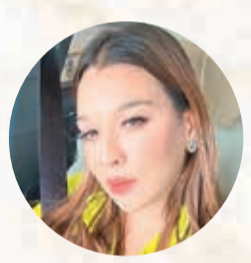


In a heartwarming display of canine splendour, the Dussehra Maidan on Sunday played host to an extraordinary dog show that left spectators in awe. The Jaipur Dog Show presented by Bharat24-Vision of New India and organised by the Kennel Club of India, Rajasthan chapter showcased the beauty and agility of various breeds and also the discipline and training of these four-legged friends.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the event and gave away the prizes in the various categories. He congratulated the winners even as he saluted the spirit of the team and

pet-owners for keeping the flag flying high in spite of the rains. Dr Chandra said that the Jaipur Dog Show has become nationally popular and very soon, this event will be taken to a global level. He assured all support to Viren Sharma, Secretary, Rajasthan chapter of Kennel Club of India.

The models of Elite Miss Rajasthan presented a wonderful walk on the ramp with pets drawing appreciation from the audience.



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Gaurav Gaur Director, EMR said they all are truly animal lovers and it was an enjoyable time for each.

The 2-day event saw a plethora of competitions. Two International FCI judges Lokodi Zsaba Zolt from Romania and Ramon Podesta from Chile examined and observed the dogs as per the breed's official standard. The judges are looked for characteristics that allow the dog to perform the function for which his or her breed was bred. Apart from the seriously disciplined category competitions, endearing titles like "Mom's Darling" and "Crazy Child" to adventurous monikers like "Brave Child" and "Glutton," were highly popular too as each dog displayed its distinct personality with pride. Pup adoption, Nagar Nigam registration, Vet consultations, and grooming excitation added to the festive atmosphere.

On Day 2 of the 25th Jaipur Dog Show, presented by Bharat24 Vision of New India, the Rain Gods poured blessings but rains could not dampen the passion and enthusiasm of the organising team, the dog parents and the pets themselves. International and National, popular and unique dog breeds competed in the 2-day mega show. City First highlights some stunning glimpses!

Viren Sharma, Secretary of the Rajasthan Chapter of the Kennel Club of India, commended the unwavering dedication of international judges who persisted with the championship despite the rainy conditions. At the 'Jaipur Dog Show,' over 115 puppies found loving homes during the two-day adoption camp, symbolizing a collective effort to provide them with a brighter future.



Pet owner strike a pose with Dogue De Bordeaux



An alert Boxer poses



A ferocious Great Dane

Parul Beel posing with lovely Covenant Cavaliers



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra awards first prize along with Lokodi Zsaba Zolt, Viren Sharma and others



Dr Jadeesh Chandra awards second prize, also seen are with Anita Hada, Viren Sharma, Akanksha Balla, Lokodi Zsaba Zolt, Monty Bhardwaj and others

THE BEAUTIFUL

WORLD OF WORDS

FEISTY PROTAGONIST, TUMULTUOUS TIMES

by **MUKESH KIRADOO & SUNIL SHARMA**



Rachna Singh

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The epic debut novel by former diplomat Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, "Swallowing the Sun" was launched on Sunday at the Jaipur Literature Festival by Sanjoy K. Roy, Namita Gokhale, and William Dalrymple. At the session, Lakshmi Puri takes the audience through her process of writing the book and turning the leaves of history in a conversation with Vikas Swarup also a former diplomat.

"Swallowing the Sun" is about the encounter of India's national story and the constant tussle between revolution and reform. Set against the tumultuous changes taking place in the five decades of the 20th century.

"I am a student of History and believe that History is the prophet of the



Sanjoy K Roy with Vikas Swarup, Lakshmi M Puri, Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple during the book launch of 'Swallowing the Sun'



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri

future. I have been fascinated by this period because I believe it reverberates with our present and has the potential to shape our destiny. More so at this time in India, there is almost the same kind of civilization resurgence, a cultural resurgence, and a



Lakshmi M Puri

new kind of re-imagining of individuals, youth, society, and girls. I feel a book like this set against the epic struggle for independence of India resonates with the present and what we aspire for," she said responding to what inspired her to write the book.

The book through the eyes of its feisty

young protagonist, Malati, recreates one of the most tumultuous periods in modern Indian history—the struggle for Independence. Malati's steeliness and fearlessness enable her to defy the constricting patriarchal traditions of her time and take on all those who try to cow her down.

Lakshmi held the audience captive as she shared her experience of writing the book and narrated the poetry, bringing the emo-

Feminine Narratives Unveiled

Lakshmi Puri Fmr Asst. Secretary-General at UN and Fmr Deputy Executive Director, UN Women was also a part of the session, "Crafting Inclusive Narratives: The Power of Gender Equal language" with Aasha Kapur Mehta, Nupur Garg and Minakshi Achan in conversation with Susan Ferguson held at Durbar Hall on Sunday evening.



Vikas Swarup

tions alive as she 'sang' the Marathi verse and then spoke aloud the English translation. Through an epic feat of remembering and storytelling that is im-

aginative, compelling, and exquisitely narrated, Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri has penned a memorable debut novel in recent years.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with the students of Sunbeam Suncity School at JLF at Clarks Amer



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets CS Sudhansh Pant and Chhavi Pant at the JLF

How Prime Ministers Decide



Mandira Nayar



Neerja Chowdhury in conversation with Mandira Nayar

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Award-winning journalist and seasoned political commentator Neerja Chowdhury's recent book 'How

Prime Ministers Decide' explores the tenures of six prominent Prime Ministers of independent India and dissects the pivotal decisions that shaped the course of Indian history.

Weaving through firsthand interviews, anecdotes and eye-opening accounts, the narrative sheds light upon the world of power and human fallibility. In conversation with Mandira

Nayar, Chowdhury shares her deep insights into the inner workings and often opaque processes behind these events and reflects upon what they indicate in the larger context.



Styles captured at JLF

Sukhvinder Singh with his Tibetan Mastiff



PAWS & Applause

The Jaipur Dog show has created a buzz in the entire city, not just among the dog lovers but even in the general populace. The two day festival was an extravaganza of animal love as pet-parents from across India reached to showcase their beloved dogs with the 'best of the best' and exchange notes on pet love amid an atmosphere of competitiveness and camaraderie. It was heartening to see families throng Dushhera Maidan with children leading the way as they begged parents to be allowed to take a new member home. Yes, bonds were formed, forever, in these two days.



Pug

SANTOSH SHARMA & NAIM KHAN



Priya & Yashika posing with Toy Poodle



Priya posing with her white Siberian Husky



Visitors posing with Great Dane



Priya with her Toy Poodle



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra awarded position - 3, 4 & 5 to the dogs 'Best in Show', along with Viren Sharma, Ramon Podesta, Anita Hada, Akanksha Bhalla, Govind Singh and the Team & Exhibitors



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Viren Sharma, Govind Singh, Dr Satyam Bisht from Ghaziabad, Anita Hada, Mr Ramon Podesta from Chile, prize winner Yenny from Indonesia with her pet, Kavita Chauhan and the exhibitors



Fateh Singh strike a pose with his lovely Chow Chow



Hemant Mishra with his Rottweiler



Kripal Singh posing with his giant Great Dane



Vineet posing with his Tibetan Mastiff



The ferocious Rottweiler



Urvashi Soni poses with a Spitz



Jaipur Polo Showdown

SANTOSH SHARMA



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Shanti Chaudhary of Royal Gems and Art



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Digvijay Singh, Narendra Singh, Vikramaditya Barkhana, Shanti Chaudhary felicitates Team Achievers and Team Jaipur



Kavita Chauhan

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Jaipur's prestigious Polo Season 2024 came to a captivating end on Sunday, as the final match of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Gold Vase, was regrettably cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. The anticipated face-off be-

tween Team Achievers and Team Jaipur was eagerly awaited by polo enthusiasts, but the heavy rain played spoilsport.

Despite the cancellation, the spirits remained high as both teams were declared joint winners, showcasing their prowess and determination throughout the tournament. The presentation ceremony, held at the illustrious Rajasthan Polo Ground, witnessed a gathering of various dignitaries.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr Chandra, in a gesture of admiration and respect, presented trophies to the players, acknowledging their commendable performance and sportsmanship. Among the notable attendees were Abhimanyu Pathak, Lakshya Sharma and Daniel Otamendi representing Team

Achievers, while Shamsher Ali, Padmanabh Singh, Salim Azmi and Mahendra Singh represented Team Jaipur, showcasing their skill and dedication on the field.

Distinguished individuals such as Digvijay Singh, Narendra Singh and Shanti Choudhary of Royal Gems and Art added to the grandeur of the event with their presence. Choudhary, with over 15 years of association with polo, exemplified the enduring legacy and passion for the sport.

The cancellation of the final match due to rain may have dampened the proceedings momentarily, but the camaraderie displayed between the teams and the enduring spirit of the sport prevailed, culminating in a memorable joint victory to conclude the Jaipur Polo Season 2024.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulates Padmanabh Singh on the occasion. Also seen are Digvijay Singh and Narendra Singh

Pant Hails Rajasthan as the Epitome of TOURISM EXCELLENCE!

'Heart Over Mind' by Ashwani Lohani; Ashwani Lohani and Piyush Kumar in conversation with Amitabh Kant

Moni Sharma

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The session commenced with Ashwani Lohani sharing some of his notable experiences outlined in the book. He recounted his achievements, including securing a Guinness world record, orchestrating the successful turnaround of Delhi's Ashok hotel, and contributing significantly to the success of Madhya Pradesh tourism. Lohani also highlighted his impactful work in the Delhi division of the expansive



Ashwani Lohani and Prabhat Kumar in conversation with Amitabh Kant

Railway system, his contributions to Air India during twin stints, and his unique experiences leading the colossal Indian Railways organization.

Expressing the book's core message, Lohani emphasized the attainability of anything through focus, commitment, honesty, and a

genuine love for human resources. He particularly underscored the significance of standing up for what is right, irrespective of potential challenges and costs.

In the context of his role as Railways museum director, Lohani advocated for the strategic use of technology to develop museums. He suggested a division of responsibilities, recommending that the private sector manage hotels due to their expertise, while the government focuses on infrastructure and marketing destinations. Lohani highlighted the challenges posed by officer transfers, emphasizing the importance of

maintaining experienced personnel.

Praising Lohani's contributions to railway development, Pant advocated for the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPP) to further enhance the railway sector.

Shifting the discussion to Rajasthan Tourism, Pant urged the Chief Secretary to showcase Rajasthan's success in driving tourism, proposing an invitation to Tourism Secretaries and Chief Secretaries from other states. He emphasized Rajasthan's leadership in tourism, applauding the use of palaces as heritage hotels and well-maintained and illuminated monuments, positioning Rajasthan as a model for other states with tourism potential.

From Books to Beats



Foreign visitor delves into the First India Newspaper, Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



On the fourth day of the Jaipur Literature Festival 2024, diverse discussions thrived with powerhouse sessions. Dr Kamala Shankar's musical performance kicked off the day, followed by significant announcements, including a partnership between Teamwork Arts and the British Council. Visitors and guests from all across enjoyed a vibrant blend of literary exploration and cultural celebration on Day 4 of JLF 2024. From captivating performances to thought-provoking discussions, attendees reveled in the diverse offerings of this literary extravaganza. The day concluded with a glimpse into the upcoming sessions for the final day even as the sudden showers created bit of chaos.



Sudden rain disrupts the visitors during the event



MUKESH KIRADOO & SUNIL SHARMA

