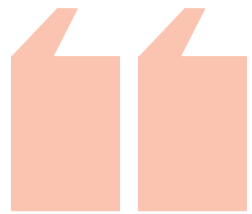




# FIRST INDIA

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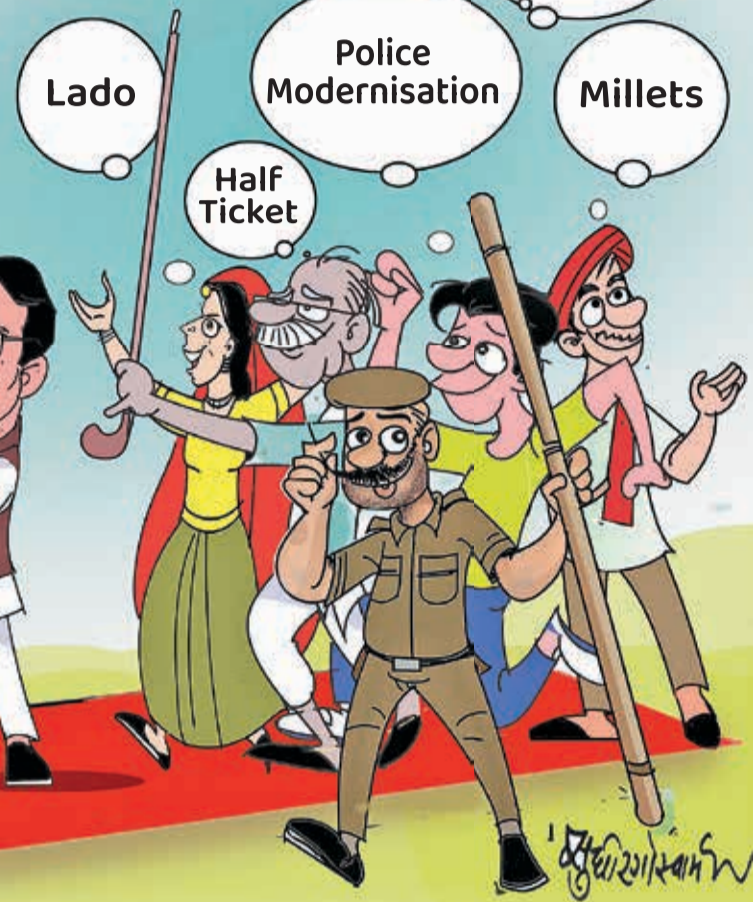
Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



● Bhajan gov't's 'Vote on Account' focusses on wooing youth voters | ● Modi's vision shapes Rajasthan's budget, propelling state's progress | ● Full Raj budget for financial year 2024-25 will be presented in July

## BHAJAN'S 'ALL-INCLUSIVE' ACCOUNT FOR VOTE!

**MODI KI GUARANTEE...**



The Rajasthan government has given a budget that decides the new role of Rajasthan in the new India. Modi ji's guarantee is fulfilled at the right time with clear policy and intentions, this was once again underlined.

**GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT**  
UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTER



Hearty congratulations to CM Bhajan Lal, Finance Minister Diya Kumari for the budget presented today to make Rajasthan a leading and developed state of the country. Through this budget, the state will set new records of prosperity and progress.

**ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL**  
UNION LAW MINISTER



Budget of 'Aapno Agrani Rajasthan' 2024. Excellent connectivity, easy commute. Rajasthan government made provision to operate 500 new state-of-the-art electric buses in the state.

**PREM CHAND BAIKWA**  
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER



In the Vote on Account, the BJP government of Rajasthan has deflated "Modi's Guarantee" because in the elections, Modi ji had given a guarantee to make the prices of petrol and diesel in Rajasthan at par with the neighboring states like Gujarat and UP, but today in the vote of account, it was not implemented.

**ASHOK GEHLOT**  
FORMER CHIEF MINISTER



This general budget of 2024 of Rajasthan government is going to fulfill the goal of overall development of the state. Heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Finance Minister Diya Kumari for this budget which has resolved the goal of "Aapno Agrani Rajasthan".

**KAILASH CHOUDHARY**  
UNION MINISTER OF STATE



Aishwary Pradhan, Naresh Sharma and Moni Sharma  
Jaipur

Rajasthan's whopping ₹1.75 lakh crore 'Vote on Account' budget clears Assembly for FY2024-25 kickoff!



**I**n a bonanza for farmers, youth, and women ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Bhajan Lal government of Rajasthan on Thursday announced an additional annual payout of ₹2,000 to farmers under the Centre's flagship scheme PM-KISAN as well as hiked the minimum support price for wheat by ₹125 to ₹2,400 per quintal, provision of ₹1,000 crore to establish and upgrade schools, colleges, hospitals, and administrative buildings, and recruitment to fill 70,000 posts. These were the key announcements in Rajasthan's Vote on Account (budget) 2024-25 presented on Thursday by Deputy CM and Finance Minister Diya Kumari. During her speech, Kumari accused former govt of financial mismanagement, corruption, lack of vision, and held it responsible for the financial burden on the state and electricity companies. The remarks triggered a ruckus in the HAssembly following which Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma requested members to listen to the Budget speech "by a woman finance minister".

P2, 3, 8 & 11

*I want to thank PM Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for giving me this opportunity, to present the budget.*

**DIYA KUMARI**, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER



Deputy CM and Finance Minister Diya Kumari (carrying the Budget briefcase) with CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg before presenting the 'Vote on Account' Budget 2024-25 at Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday.

### BUDGET ESTIMATES



**₹23,869.36 cr**  
Revenue Deficit

**₹67,240.48 cr**  
Fiscal Deficit

**₹4,86,615.10 lakh crore**  
Total Expenditure

**₹2,82,247.65 lakh crore**  
Revenue Expenditure

### BUDGET IS GOING TO FULFILL DREAM OF A LEADING RAJASTHAN: CM

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said that keeping in mind the hopes and aspirations of the public, our government has presented the Budget 2024-25 (Vote on Account). In this, as per the wish of the illustrious PM Modi, big gifts have been given to all sections including women, farmers, students, businessmen and employees. He said that important decisions have also been taken in this budget towards realizing the dream of a leading Rajasthan. He said that the budget will prove to be a realization of the dream of Suraj Sankalp of the state government and will take the state forward on the path of development and progress. Keeping 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Effort and Sabka Welfare' at the centre, concrete initiatives have been taken in this budget to provide ample relief to every person standing at the last mile.



### DIYA, 1ST WOMAN FINANCE MINISTER TO PRESENT RAJ BUDGET AFTER EX-CM RAJE



Diya Kumari became the first woman Finance Minister after former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje to present the Budget. Despite Opposition Congress' objections, Diya's maiden budget speech lasted for 1 hour and 25 minutes.

### NOTEWORTHY ALLOCATIONS AND INITIATIVES



#### LADO PROTSAHAN YOJANA

With an eye on 2.52 women voters, this yojana would give a saving bond worth Rs 1 lakh on the birth of a girl child in poor families.



#### RS 45,000 CRORE ON ERCP SCHEME

Expanding ERCP across 21 districts will boost water availability, requiring an increased investment from Rs 37,250 to Rs 45,000 crore.



#### GOPAL CREDIT CARD SCHEME

Interest free short term loans up to Rs 1 lakh, loan for 5 lakh Gopalak families in first phase with a budgetary support of Rs 150 crore.



#### PRADHAN MANTRI SURYODAYA YOJANA

5 lakh families in Rajasthan will be provided free electricity through solar panels under Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, Diya Kumari said.



#### AYUSHMAN AROGYA YOJANA

Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojana gets a new name in Rajasthan, this yojana will cover Day Care Package along with indoor patients.



#### VISHWAKARMA PENSION YOJANA

This is for labourers and street vendors with a pension of Rs 2,000/month after attaining age of 60 yrs on payment of monthly premium.



#### LAKHPATI DIDI YOJANA

This yojana is for the economic empowerment of women, it will benefit over 5 lakh families with an annual income of Rs 1 lakh.



#### RAJ'S TEMPLE RENAISSANCE

In a step towards securing the glorious heritage of the state, 20 temples of state will be beautified by spending Rs 300 crore.

**70,000 POSTS**  
New recruitment for the youth, Rs 1,000 crore for schools, colleges, hospitals.

**NO MANDI FEE**  
Sugar and jaggery will be exempted from mandi fee.

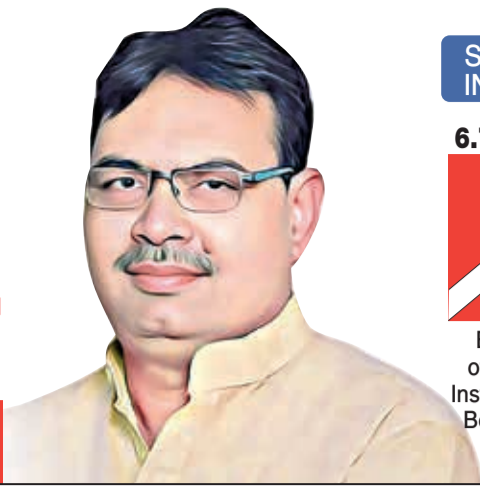
**NO LAND TAX**  
There will be no land tax imposed now, demands will be waived off on payment of 10% of the tax demand.

### KEY BUDGET TAKEAWAYS

- Detailed project report will be prepared to extend Jaipur Metro from Sitapura to Ambadi
- Students of classes 1-8, girls of classes 9-12 will get Rs 1,000, it will benefit 70 lakh students
- Under Mission Olympics 2028 world class sports facilities will be provided to 50 youths
- Formation of a Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit in which places related to Maharana Pratap including Chawand-Haldighati and others will be developed.
- Jal Swavalamban Abhiyan to build 5 lakh water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages



# Bha'JAN' BUDGET 2024-25



**SFC GRANT INCREASED**  
6.75% 7%  
Empowerment of Panchayatiraj Institutions & Urban Bodies, (Grant of ₹ 8,864 Cr.)



**PENSIONERS TO GET DOORSTEP MEDICINE**  
Diya Kumari said that Day care treatment of cancer will also be included in CM Ayushman Arogya Yojana. Pensioners under RGHS will now get on doorstep medicine. 25 life support ambulances announced



**50% OFF FOR ELDERLY IN ROADWAYS BUSES**  
The Finance Minister said that in order to provide concessional travel to senior citizens aged 60-80 years in the state, the present 30% discount in roadways bus fares within will also be increased to 50 percent

INFRA TAXATION TOURISM TEMPLE FINANCIAL POSITION



A budget that will fulfill the PM Narendra Modi's guarantee and dreams of the people of State. Raj will become strong, safe and developed. Special thanks to CM and Fin Min for ₹100 cr on Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit.  
**CP JOSHI,**  
STATE BJP PRESIDENT



The budget of Raj govt is dedicated to goal of Aapno Agrani Rajasthan. Recruitment on 70,000 govt posts in the budget, free electricity up to 300 units, gas cylinder for Rs 450, will fulfill guarantees of PM Modi.  
**VASUNDHARA RAJE,**  
FORMER CM



BJP did not make any provision in the interim budget to provide relief. The promise made to public about reducing the prices of petrol and diesel was also not kept, due to which people of State are disappointed.  
**GOVIND SINGH DOTASRA,**  
PCC PRESIDENT



It is a misleading budget contrary to public expectations. The people of the State have been waiting for the reduction in the VAT rates of petrol and diesel for last two months, but it was not mentioned anywhere.  
**SACHIN PILOT,**  
CONGRESS LEADER



The BJP govt has pledged for 'Aapno Agrani Rajasthan'. Our govt will move forward on policies and schemes for the welfare of the citizens of the state, its reflection is clearly visible in the interim budget.  
**RAJENDRA RATHORE,**  
BJP LEADER

**INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH**

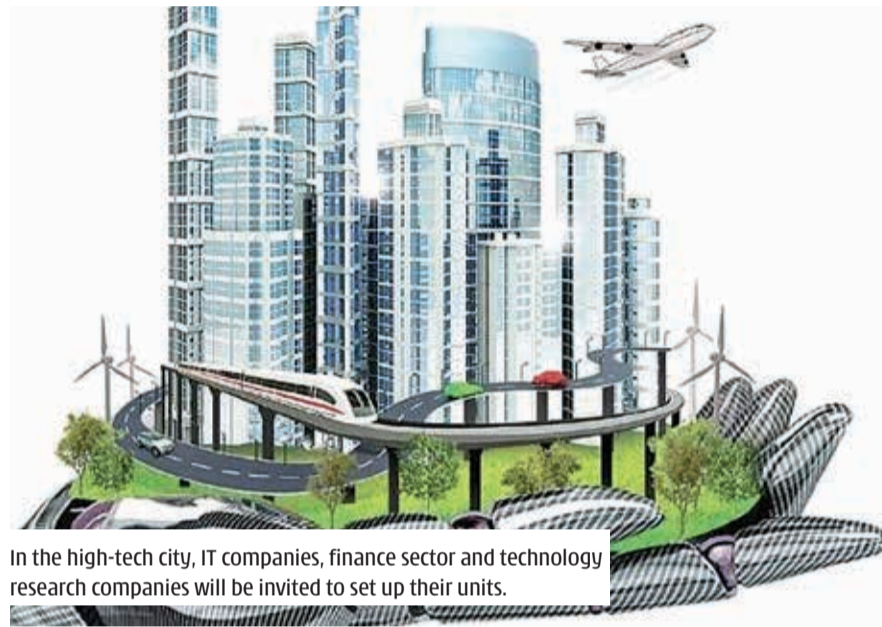
## Expansion of Metro Phase-2, hi-tech city near capital Jaipur announced

Stress on next gen public transport; 500 electric buses for Jaipur-Udaipur-Kota

**Nirmal Tiwari, Vimal Kothari & Satyanarayan Sharma**  
Jaipur

**R**ajasthan's Bhajan Lal Sharma has presented the vote on account, the first budget of its tenure. There are some announcements for Jaipur, which are similar to the plans of earlier governments. One such announcement is preparation of DPR for the expansion of Phase-2 of Jaipur Metro.

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Diya Kumari, while presenting the interim budget in the Assembly, has announced



In the high-tech city, IT companies, finance sector and technology research companies will be invited to set up their units.

plans to expand Phase-2 of the proposed metro in Jaipur (from Sitapura to Ambabadi) to Vidyadhar Nagar. The first DPR of Phase-2 was prepared during the Ashok Gehlot government's tenure. In 2012,

a 23-kilometre track was proposed in the DPR prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The cost was around Rs 10,400 crore but in revised DPR, the cost has come down to Rs 6500 crore.

**Govt announces hi-tech city near capital**  
The government has announced plans to build a hi-tech city near Jaipur city. In this, govt IT companies, finance sector and technology research

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Provision of ₹1,000 cr for the establishment/upgradation of colleges, schools, hospitals, administrative offices, etc. in deprived areas for regional devp.
- Additional provision of ₹1,500 cr in the State Road Fund for road upgradation and construction.

had started a similar city in the name of Mahindra SEZ on Ajmer Road. In this, some multinational tech companies and international banks have started their offices and units.

However, due to lack of basic facilities like water, companies are not showing interest here.

Besides, 15 years ago, the government had also announced plans to build a Science Tech City on about 1,000 bighas of land near Achrol on Delhi Road.

**500 electric buses for big cities like Jaipur-Udaipur-Kota**

During the budget speech, the Finance Minister Diya Kumari said, 'I announce to provide 500 electric buses to the inter-state as well as big cities like Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur.'

**OTHER HIGHLIGHTS**

### You can get interest free loan up to ₹1 lakh

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Families living in rural areas are highly dependent on agriculture as well as dairy production. Our government will take all necessary steps to provide assistance to such families along with protection of

cows in the state. With this in mind, we announce the launch of Gopal Credit Card Scheme on the lines of Kisan Credit Card to provide interest free short term loan up to Rs 1 lakh for dairy related activities, construction of cow shed and purchase of equipment.

**₹2,000 CRORE TO BOOST AGRICULTURE INFRA MISSION TO FULFILL AGRANI RAJASTHAN**

The Finance Minister said that with a view to provide utmost support to the farmers, "I announce a provision of Rs 2000 crore in the beginning of the Rajasthan Agriculture Infra Mission Mission. Under this, works like 20 thousand ponds, 10 thousand km irrigation pipeline, fencing for 50 thousand farms will be done. New technology like drones will also be made available."

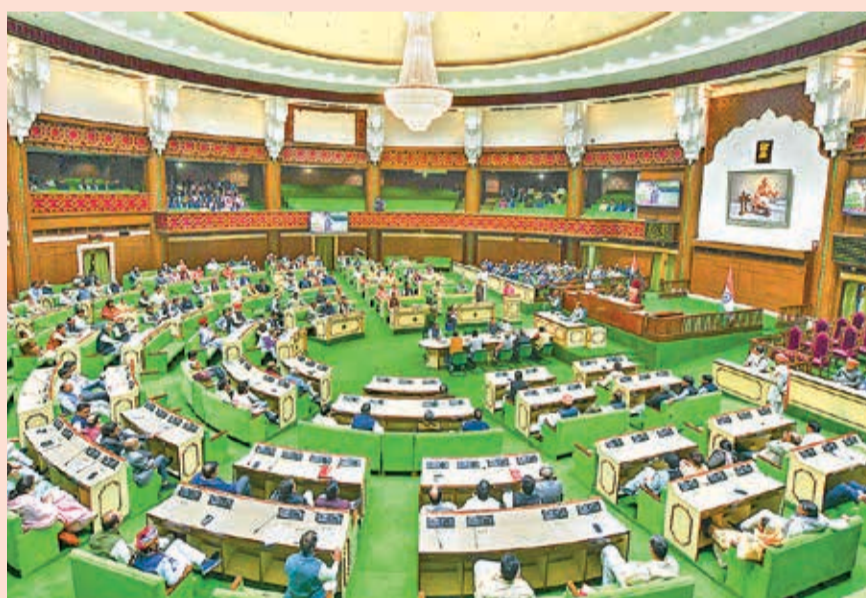
**PROVISION OF ₹1,000 CR FOR ASSEMBLIES DEPRIVED OF DEVP**

The Finance Minister said, 'The previous govt, being politically motivated, did not approve any scheme for areas like Rampura, Nasirabad, Siwana, Aarohan, Rampura and Gogunda. Now, with a view to ensure regional balance of development, I announce a provision of Rs 1,000 crore to establish and modernize additional colleges, schools, hospitals, administrative offices etc. in such areas.'

**LOAN OF ₹1 LAKH 39 THOUSAND 200 ON POWER COMPANIES**

Due to the policies of the previous government, the functioning of the energy department and power companies, currently the discoms have a debt of Rs 88,700 crore. Whereas all the power companies have got a loan of more than Rs 1.39 lakh crore. Currently production has been done with only 55 percent capacity. That is why expensive electricity has to be purchased from outside. We will take several steps to deal with this.

**THE 'HOUSE' FULL SHOW**



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Finance Minister Diya Kumari addressing the assembly during the interim budget at Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday.

**TOURISM & TEMPLE**

### ₹300 crore for beautification of 20 temples

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

In a step towards securing the glorious heritage of the state, FM Diya Kumari said 20 temples of state will be beautified by spending Rs 300 crore. These include Govind Dev Ji Temple of Jaipur, Mangarh Dham of Banswara, Mahandipur Balaji Temple of Dausa, Ranapur Jain Temple of Pali, Diggri Kalyan Ji of Tonk, Vineshwar Dham of Jaigarpur, Ramdevra of Jaisalmer, Tejaji Temple of Nagaur, Dev Narayan Ji of Bhilwara, Machkund of Dholpur, Jaldevi Temple of Rajsamand, Lauta of Puchhari on Govardhan Parikrama Marg, Shribadmathuresh ji of Kota, Netraganesh ji of Ranthambore and others.

**TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS**

Upgradation of 10 Museums, including Albert Hall (Jaipur) and museums in Alwar, Chittorgarh, Bikaner, and Jodhpur, with a budget of ₹50 crore

Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit covering places like Chawand, Haldighati, Gogunda, Kumbhalgarh, Diver, Udaipur, with a provision of ₹100 crore

**Budget Estimates for the year 2024-25**

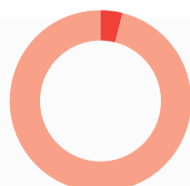
**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**  
₹4 lakh 86 thousand 615 crore 10 lakh

**REVENUE RECEIPTS**  
₹2 lakh 58 thousand 378 crore 29 lakh

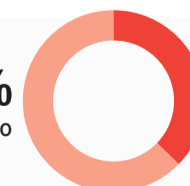
**REVENUE EXPENDITURE**  
₹2 lakh 82 thousand 247 crore 65 lakh

**REVENUE DEFICIT**  
₹3 thousand 869 crore 36 lakh

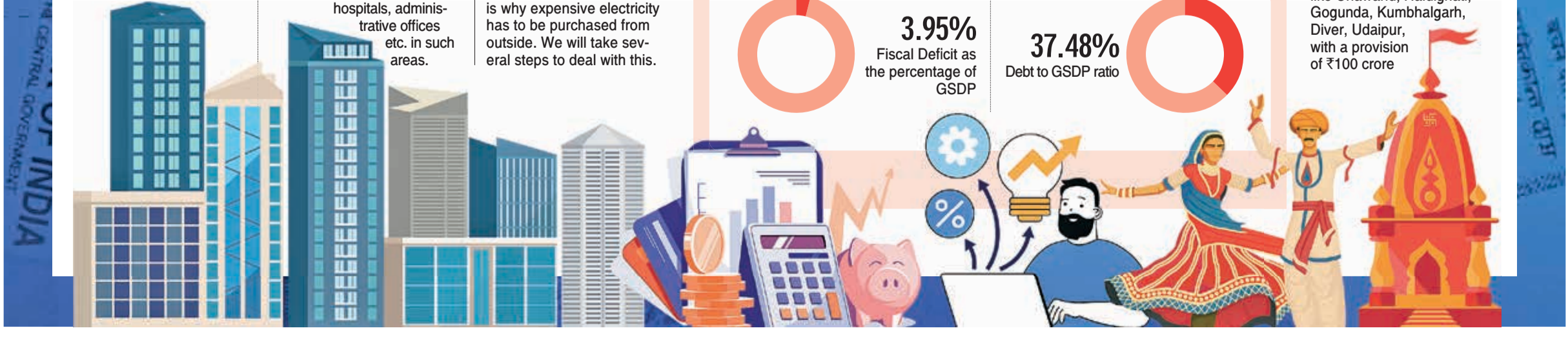
**FISCAL DEFICIT**  
₹67 thousand 240 crore 48 lakh



**3.95%**  
Fiscal Deficit as the percentage of GDP



**37.48%**  
Debt to GDP ratio



# CONSCIOUS LIVING AND THE "AHA" MOMENT



**DEEPAK CHOPRA**

The writer is MD, FACP, FRCP founder of the Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global



One of the fastest ways to make a personal breakthrough occurs in an "aha" moment, a flash of insight that delivers an answer all at once. "Aha" moments are very desirable. Isaac Newton had one about gravity when he saw an apple fall from a tree (even though this popular story was never told by him), and Alexander Fleming had one about penicillin when he saw that a common green mold had spoiled his carefully cultured dishes of bacteria.

Yet "Aha" moments are unpredictable by their very nature, and no one knows—or even has a clue—why or how they occur. But the example of Fleming and penicillin gives us an important clue. "Aha" moments don't occur unless you are paying attention. This won't guarantee that a sudden, dramatic insight will come your way but the opposite is almost a certainty: if you aren't paying attention, you are guaranteed not to get one.

The area of insight that counts the most in everyday life isn't scientific but personal. To tap into your deepest awareness, you have to get out of your own way. An insight is a message from your core or essence. It gets blocked by the habit of routine thinking and fixed, automatic reactions. Yet once you start paying more attention, it isn't hard to sort out the thoughts and feelings you value from the scrambled activity of your mind. Doing this allows the impulses that flow from deep awareness to rise to the surface. These impulses carry the highest values in human existence, namely,

- Love
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Joy, ecstasy, bliss
- Selflessness, altruism

## RHYTHMS OF AFFECTION

Witnessing this from the outside, you might say that falling in love is a kind of vacation from reality. Soon enough the rose-tinted glasses fall off, and by degrees the intensity of love fades, replaced by the normal, everyday world. But there is another perspective. What if falling in love is what we should call the "real" reality?

The intensity of the experience is fully absorbed "in here." Through a kind of alchemy that no one can predict, an impulse of pure love from the source emerges in awareness and changes everything. Who is to say that this is an illusion or a vacation from reality? No one knows more about love than lovers, and they don't call it an illusion.

Not just love but the other values listed above as being the highest in human experience come our way when we pay attention welcome them, favor them in everyday life, and do what we can to change unawareness into self-awareness.



Yet "Aha" moments are unpredictable by their very nature, and no one knows—or even has a clue—why or how they occur. But the example of Fleming and penicillin gives us an important clue. "Aha" moments don't occur unless you are paying attention. This won't guarantee that a sudden, dramatic insight will come your way but the opposite is almost a certainty: if you aren't paying attention, you are guaranteed not to get one

- Courage
- Generosity of spirit
- Inspiration
- Creativity
- Insight
- Personal evolution
- Higher spiritual experiences

Where these impulses arise or when they evolved is a deep mystery. But one thing is certain. None of humanity's highest values had to be invented. They flow naturally into everyone's awareness from the source. This is where self-awareness comes in, as the ultimate tool in achieving a conscious way of life where paying attention comes naturally and brings results.

### WHAT SELF-AWARENESS CAN DO

- It can transcend the constant noise of the active mind.
- It can cultivate the silence of a quiet mind.
- It can listen for the impulses that arise from deeper awareness.
- It can tell you to act on those impulses.

All of this, however, begs the question: If self-awareness can do so much, literally transforming everyday life, why don't we know about its power already? The answer is simple. You have actually been using self-awareness all your life, but you've been under-using it. Any sentence that begins with the word "I" refers back to yourself. Starting with the simplest expression—"I am," "I'm here," "I think," "I want"—you are expressing your self-awareness. It's safe to say that self-awareness is already a large part of your existence.

The problem is that "I" can be a tool for other, much less desirable, things: selfishness, egotism, and blind self-interest. These are blinkers that keep you from being more self-aware. The challenge centers on a universal dilemma, the dilemma of choice.

If I ask you to have dinner with me in New York, we could choose to eat at one of a thousand restaurants, including Italian, Japanese, Indian, Ethiopian, Chinese, Mexican, or Middle Eastern. Tonight if you want to watch a movie on Netflix, you have 3,800 to choose from.

But having too many choices can be paralyzing, just as paralyzing as having no choices. A baby nursing at her mother's breast has almost as few choices (eat, sleep, cry) as a kitten. At the stage of walking and talking, however, choices explode almost without limit. There is no built-in genetic program for adapting to this explosion. (Life isn't like McDonald's, which is a comforting place thanks to its very limited

menu.) Somewhere after two years old, potential chaos and disorder loom. This prospect is so confusing and anxiety-provoking that young kids surround themselves with mental safeguards whose sole purpose is to make life more predictable, in control.

You have inherited those safeguards from your younger self, but many have outgrown their usefulness. Instead, they constrict your awareness. The construction of conformity, the need to belong, fear of criticism, and social pressure can make it feel that you have very few real choices left to you, in fact only two: Give in or break free.

By exiling so much experience into the hidden vault of the unconscious mind, you defend yourself from threats the same way you did as a child. But in adulthood, there is a heavy price to pay, as shown below.

### YOU ARE UNAWARE WHENEVER YOU ...

- Act from habit
- Speak impulsively
- Lose emotional control
- Trust your old, familiar reactions
- Resist uncertainty
- Fear change
- Take your opinions second-hand
- Follow social norms
- Protect your self-image
- Don't tolerate looking like a loser
- Pretend to be better than you are
- Insist on being right

These unconscious behaviors are tenacious. They prevent you from getting out of your own way. We are quick enough to spot unaware behavior in others. Consider the things that people typically say when they are angry.

"Can you hear what you're saying?"

"You haven't heard a word I said."

"Just take a look at yourself."

"It's like talking to a wall."

Anyone who has spoken from a place of anger and blame soon realizes that words don't work if you want someone else to be more aware. When you are being tuned out, complaining only makes the other person tune you out more.

The same mechanism operates "in here" when you try to break through your ego defences. "What am I doing?" "I'm clueless." "You idiot, who does things like that?" "What was I thinking?" You can't win by arguing with yourself. Being unaware puts up a strong defence, which is why castigating yourself is futile.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

## IN-DEPTH

### NETANYAHU IN NO MOOD FOR PEACE WITH HAMAS

Benjamin Netanyahu's rejection of the ceasefire offer from Hamas is yet another setback to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's peace initiatives in the region. Netanyahu's claim that victory is within reach seemed hollow especially considering his acknowledgment that it will take months before Hamas is totally defeated. Netanyahu called Hamas' ceasefire offer "delusional" but he himself is facing backlash.

This assertion offers little solace to families anxiously awaiting the release of their loved ones held by Hamas. With nearly 27,000 Palestinians killed in Israel's relentless bombing of Gaza since the October 7 attack on its soil, the situation in Palestine seems destined to perpetuate a genocide-like scenario as sending humanitarian aid has also become a challenge.

As Israel planned to attack Rafah, where civilians fled for refuge, the madness seems unending. The fear of Americans getting dragged into the conflict also keeps getting bigger as Houthis are fighting a proxy war for Iran. The conflict also poses a threat for Syria and Lebanon.

### BHAJAN LAL GOVT'S WELFARE-CENTRIC BUDGET FOR STATE



As anticipated, the Bhajan Lal Sharma government began in right earnest to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "guarantee" to the poor, farmers, youth, and women with Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, also the state's Finance Minister, unveiling a series of welfare and development measures in her inaugural vote on account, addressing various segments of the populace. The full budget for 2024-25 is slated for presentation in July.

Diya Kumari notably addressed underdeveloped areas overlooked by the previous Ashok Gehlot administration, such as Ladpura, Nasirabad, Siwana, Ahor Dag, and Malpura, aiming to rectify regional growth imbalances. A significant allocation of Rs 1,000 crore has been earmarked for establishing and upgrading additional colleges, schools, hospitals, and administrative facilities, signaling a commitment to comprehensive development initiatives.

Rajasthan is one of the most water-deficient states in the country. The Budget has sought to address the problem with the Chief Minister Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan to build 5 lakh water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages over the next four years. A fund of Rs 11,200 crore has been allocated for the purpose. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission the government proposes to spend Rs 15,000 crore to provide tap water to 25 lakh rural families.

Interests of women have been suitably addressed under the Lado Protsahan Yojna a savings bond of Rs 1 lakh will be given to a girl child born in a poor household, besides free education to girls from poor families. Promise of free electricity to five lakh families through solar panels shows that Rajasthan's double engine kee sarkar is right on track.



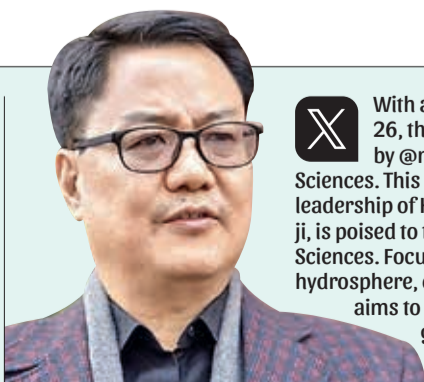
As anticipated, the Bhajan Lal Sharma government began in right earnest to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "guarantee" to the poor, farmers, youth, and women

## TOP TWEETS



It is Prime Minister Shri @narendramodiji's resolve to secure our borders. The MHA has decided that the FMR between India and Myanmar be scrapped to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar. Since the MEA is currently in the process of scrapping it, MHA has recommended the immediate suspension of the FMR.

Amit Shah @AmitShah



With a budget of Rs 4797 crores for 2021-26, the "PRITHVI Vgyan (PRITHVI)" scheme by @moesgoi aims to revolutionize Earth Sciences. This groundbreaking scheme, under the leadership of Hon'ble PM, Shri @narendramodiji, is poised to transform the landscape of Earth Sciences. Focused on the key domains of atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, geosphere & biosphere, it aims to drive cutting-edge research & foster groundbreaking innovations until 2026.

Kiren Rijju @KirenRijju

## SPIRITUAL SPEAK

All experiences are preceded by mind, having mind as their master, created by mind.

BUDDHA



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# IN AMRIT KAAL WE HAVE RESOLVED TO MAKE INDIA DEVELOPED: PM MODI

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that in *Amrit Kaal*, we have resolved to make our India developed.

'*Amrit Kaal*' of 25 years is the period when the country will complete 100 years of Independence in 2047.

The PM, while addressing an event on the 150th anniversary of Sri Lanka Prabhupada Ji at Bharat Mandapam here in the national capital, said that today crores of Indians have entered *Amritkaal* with the energy of patriotism inside them.

"Today, crores of countrymen have entered *Amritkaal* with the energy of patriotism. In this *Amritkaal*, we have resolved to make our India developed. We are moving forward considering the nation as God and taking the vision of the country from God," PM Modi said.

"We are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Prabhupada Goswami ji at a time when, just a few days ago, the hundreds of years old dream of a grand Ram temple has been fulfilled. The joy and enthusiasm visible on your faces today, I am sure, also includes the happiness of Ram Lalla's presence," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Meenakshi Lekhi and Arjun Ram Meghwal during a programme marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Lanka Prabhupada, at the Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi, on Thursday.

## CONG'S BLACK PAPER VS GOVT'S WHITE PAPER

**Cong releases 'black paper' on Modi govt's 'failures'; flags neglect of non-BJP states**

New Delhi: The Congress on Thursday released a "black paper" to highlight "failures" of Modi govt, alleging that the last 10 years were a period of "injustice" with issues such as rising prices, unemployment, subversion of institutions and



"discrimination" against non-BJP states. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge released a "charge sheet" indicting the Centre ahead of the govt's tabling in Parliament of a "white paper" on the "mismanagement" of

the economy prior to 2014 with an aim to draw lessons. "We are bringing out a 'black paper' against the govt. Whenever PM Modi presents his views in Parliament, he hides his failures. Therefore, we thought of bringing out a black paper and tell the public about the failures of govt," Kharge, flanked by Pawan Khera and Syed Naseer Hussain, said.

**"Economy in fragile state in 2014, ...it was crisis situation": Finance Ministry in White Paper**

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman on Thursday laid a White Paper on Indian Economy in Lok Sabha. It states when BJP govt came to power in 2014, the economy was in a fragile state, public finances were in bad shape, there was economic mismanagement, and there was widespread corruption. "It was a crisis situation. The responsibility to mend the economy step by step and to put the governance systems in order was enormous. Our govt refrained from bringing out a white paper on the poor state of affairs then. That would have given a negative narrative and shaken the confidence of all, including investors. The need of the hour was to give hope to the people, to attract investments, both domestic and global and to build support for much-needed reforms," the White Paper said.



**PM LAUDS MANMOHAN SINGH'S CONTRIBUTION TO RS; LIKENS CONG BLACK PAPER TO 'KAALA TEEKA'**

New Delhi: Bidding farewell to members retiring from the Rajya Sabha, PM Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded the contribution of his predecessor Manmohan Singh to the House. Manmohan Singh came to vote in the Rajya Sabha on a wheelchair to help strengthen democracy, Modi said. In a sarcastic jibe at the Congress, he thanked Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for coming out with a "black paper" against his government and referred to it as "kaala teeka" (to ward off the evil eye) in the midst of good work being done by his government. The prime minister also referred to black robes worn by opposition MPs in the House as a mark of protest and said, "We also saw a fashion parade in the Rajya Sabha when some members came in black clothes." He gave his best wishes to all retiring members expressed the hope that that new generations will benefit from their experience.



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah at Parliament House complex, in New Delhi on Thursday.

## Govt scraps Free Movement Regime with Myanmar

Union Home Min  
Amit Shah cites  
internal security

PTI  
New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Centre has decided to scrap the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR) to ensure the country's internal security and maintain the demographic structure of the Northeastern states.

As the Ministry of External Affairs is currently in the process of scrapping it, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recommended the immediate suspension of the FMR Shah said.

The FMR allows people residing close to the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents.

"It is Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji's resolve to secure our borders. The Ministry of

Home Affairs (MHA) has decided that the Free Movement Regime (FMR) between India and Myanmar be scrapped to ensure the internal security of the country and to maintain the demographic structure of India's North Eastern States bordering Myanmar," Shah said on X.

The announcement came two days after Shah said that India has decided to fence the entire 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border.

The India-Myanmar border, which passes through Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, currently has FMR. It was implemented in 2018 as part of India's Act East policy.

Fencing along the border has been a persistent demand of the Imphal Valley-based Meitei groups which have been alleging that tribal militants often enter into India through the porous border.

## Jewar airport to be ready by end of 2024, says Jyotiraditya Scindia

Minister says India is now the fifth-largest aviation market in the world

PTI  
New Delhi

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday said the international airport at Jewar, Noida, will be ready for operations by this year end.

Scindia also said in Lok Sabha that India is now the fifth-largest aviation market in the world with regard to both domestic and international passengers and by 2030, it will become the third-largest market in the world.

"Uttar Pradesh had six airports. After the Modi government came to power, we have built four more airports in the state



Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and VK Singh awarding a contract to a company, in New Delhi on Thursday.

and soon, five more airports will be ready. Jewar airport will also be ready for operations by the end of this year. So by the end of this year, UP will have 16 airports," he said.

The Noida airport, coming up in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddha Nagar district adjoining Delhi is expected to serve

65 lakh passengers (per year) initially, according to an estimate.

This figure is expected to rise to seven crore passengers per year by 2042-43, he said.

The Civil Aviation Minister said the country had just 74 airports before 2014 and now the number has gone up to 149.

## BJP's 2-point programme is to encourage injustice, spread hatred and violence: RaGa

PTI  
Raigarh

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday hit out at the BJP, alleging the ruling party's two-point programme is to encourage injustice and spread hatred and violence.

Gandhi was addressing a public meeting at Rengalpali village in Chhattisgarh's Raigarh district after his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' entered the state from Odisha.

This was his first visit to Chhattisgarh after the November 2023 assembly polls wherein his party was ousted from power in the state.

The Congress leader also targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming he was not an



Rahul Gandhi being felicitated by Chhattisgarh Congress workers during Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, in Raigarh, on Thursday.

**RUMOURS OF RLD JOINING NDA: BJP KNOWS HOW TO BREAK PARTIES, ALLEGES AKHILESH YADAV**

Lucknow: Amid speculation about RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary joining hands with the BJP, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday said the BJP knows how to break parties and when and whom to "buy". He also accused the ruling party of misusing Central agencies like ED, CBI and Income-tax. "BJP knows when to take whom. It also knows how to cheat. In Chhattisgarh you saw how dishonesty took place," he said.

OBC by birth as his caste "ghanchi" was included in the Other Backward

Classes list in 2000 in Gujarat by the then BJP government there.

**NO RIFT IN I.N.D.I.A., BJP CREATING OPPOSITE NARRATIVE: CONGRESS**

Nagpur: Congress secretary Dr Vineet Punia on Thursday asserted that there was good coordination and understanding among the members of opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc, but the BJP was deliberately creating an opposite narrative about the alliance. He said the BJP was doing so it as knows that people like the INDIA grouping. Punia was addressing a presser to give information about the Congress' 'Jai Jawan' campaign that was launched by party leader Rahul Gandhi last week with an aim to provide "justice" to 1.5 lakh youth in the country who were selected for defence services but "not allowed" to join after the launch of the Agnipath scheme.

**ANOTHER BLOW FOR MUMBAI CONGRESS AS BABA SIDDIQUE QUILTS**

Mumbai: Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Ziauddin Siddique, popularly known as Baba Siddique, on Thursday said he had resigned from the party and will be joining the Ajit Pawar led-NCP. He is the second senior Mumbai Congress leader to leave the party in the last one month after former Union minister Milind Deora joined the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena in January. Siddique's son Zeeshan is a Congress MLA from the city, but the senior leader said the latter will take his own decision. The 66-year-old leader did not cite any reason for his decision to leave the Congress, only stating "some things are better left unsaid."

## REUNION OF OLD ALLIES

# Nitish Kumar meets Advani, congratulates BJP veteran on getting Bharat Ratna

PTI  
New Delhi

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Thursday met veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani and congratulated him on being awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour.

On his first visit to Delhi after snapping ties with the Opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc and re-



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar meets veteran BJP leader LK Advani at the latter's residence, in New Delhi on Thursday.

joining the BJP-led NDA, Kumar had met PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit

Shah and BJP president JP Nadda on Wednesday. The Janata Dal (United) chief has always held

**On his first visit to Delhi after snapping ties with the I.N.D.I.A. bloc and rejoining the BJP-led NDA, Nitish Kumar had met PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and JP Nadda on Wednesday**

Advani in high regard despite the ruptures in his ties with the BJP a number of times since 2013

and has often reminisced fondly about his relations with him and former PM Atal Bihar Vajpayee.

Advani, as a key leader of his party in the 90s, was pivotal in rallying the BJP's support around Kumar and making the Bihar leader the face of their alliance to take on the then all-powerful RJD leader Lalu Prasad who along with his wife Rabri Devi ruled the state for 15 years.

## Soren probe: ED summons Cong MP Dhiraj Sahu for questioning

PTI  
Ranchi/New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Congress Rajya Sabha MP from Jharkhand Dhiraj Prasad Sahu for questioning in a money laundering case in which the central agency recently arrested former chief minister Hemant Soren, official sources said on Thursday.

Sahu, 64, was in the news after the Income-tax department in December recovered Rs 351.8 crore cash, an all-time high seizure, during raids against



Dhiraj Prasad Sahu

Sources said the ED wants to question and record Sahu's statement in connection with his purported links with Soren and a BMW SUV that was seized by the agency from the JMM leader's house in Delhi during searches last month.

Sources said that ED officials found the keys of the vehicle in the Jharkhand govt leased residence in south Delhi and they took the SUV with them at the conclusion of the raids and parked it at their headquarters in the national capital.

Odisha-based Boudh Distillery Pvt. Ltd. (BDPL), promoted by the family of the Congress MLA. The MP is understood to have been summoned to appear on February 10 at the ED office in Ranchi.

**IN BRIEF**

**Accused of rape, Varun withdraws from FIH Pro League**

**New Delhi:** Accused of rape under the stringent POCSO act, Arjuna award-winning Indian hockey player Varun Kumar has withdrawn from the FIH Pro League in Bhubaneswar to explore his legal options against the allegation, which he denied.

**Delhi Metro Stn wall collapse: Ex-gratia of '25L to deceased's kin**

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Thursday announced Rs 25 lakh in compensation for the family of 53-year-old man who died after a portion of the Gokulpuri Metro Station on the Pink Line in northeast Delhi collapsed, an official statement said.



**Uddhav Sena leader shot dead live on FB**

**Mumbai:** Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Vinod Ghosal's son Abhishek Ghosal was injured when one Mauris Noronha opened fire on him on Thursday. A 'Facebook live' video of the incident went viral on social media.

**4 Killed, 15 Injured In Road Accident In West Bengal's Raiganj**

**Raiganj (WB):** Four persons, including a civic volunteer, died and at least 15 people were injured, after a speeding truck rammed into two vehicles and turned turtle in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur district, the police said. The accident took place late on Wednesday.

**SL navy nabs 19 Indian fishermen for fishing in its waters: Report**

**Colombo:** Sri Lanka has arrested 19 Indian fishermen and two trawlers for illegally fishing in the island nation's waters near Delft Island in northern Jaffna province, the country's Navy said on Thursday, in the second such incident this month.

**5 Indo-Canadians held for extortion threats targeting South Asians**

**Toronto:** Canadian police have arrested three men and two women of Punjab origin and laid almost two dozen charges in connection with extortion threats targeting the South Asian business community in the Greater Toronto Area.

**PAKISTAN ELECTION 2024**

## 9 killed as violence mars Pakistan elections; results expected today

Agencies  
Islamabad

At least nine people, including two children, were killed in militant attacks in Pakistan on Thursday as the country voted in a general election after suspending mobile phone services and closing some land borders to maintain law and order.

The interior ministry said it took the security steps after at least 26 people were killed in two explosions near electoral candidates' offices in the southwestern province of Balochistan on Wednesday. Islamic State later claimed responsibility for those attacks.

"As a result of the recent incidents of terrorism in the country precious lives have been lost, security measures are essential to maintain the law and order situation and deal with possible threats," the ministry said in a post on messaging platform X.



Pakistan's Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, center, talks to media after casting his vote, in Lahore on Thursday. **PTI**

Thousands of troops were deployed on the streets and at polling stations as voting commenced and borders with Iran and Afghanistan were temporarily closed.

A person died in firing on a security forces vehicle in Tank. In Balochistan, a soldier from a civilian was killed and 10 others injured in over a dozen blasts. While 2 kids died in a blast outside a

women's polling station, officials said.

Unofficial first results are expected a few hours after voting closes at 5 p.m. (1200 GMT) and a clearer picture is likely to emerge early on Friday.

Pakistan's National Assembly has 265 seats and polling in one seat was postponed due to a candidate's death. A party needs 133 seats for a simple majority.



People stand in queue as they wait to cast their vote outside a polling station during parliamentary elections, in Karachi, Pakistan, on Thursday. **PTI**

### 4 policemen killed in bomb attack in northwest Pak

PTI  
Peshawar

At least four policemen were killed and six others injured on Thursday when unidentified gunmen set off a bomb and then opened fire at their vehicle deployed for election security in Pakistan's restive Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

province, bordering Afghanistan.

According to police, the vehicle was stationed in the jurisdiction of Kalachi police station in Dera Ismail Khan. The policemen were deployed for the security of Grah Aslam polling station, the Express Tribune newspaper reported.

## Clampdown on Paytm Payments Bank due to non-compliance: RBI

Agencies  
Mumbai

The RBI's clampdown on Paytm Payments Bank was the result of persistent non-compliance with regulations, top central bank officials said on Thursday, adding they took action after giving the company ample time to comply.

The RBI last week ordered Paytm Payments Bank to stop accepting new deposits in its accounts or digital wallets from March, citing supervisory concerns and non-compliance with rules. Paytm Payments Bank parent is One 97 Communications, popularly known as Paytm for its digital payments app.

The order led to a 35% decline in Paytm's stock price, erasing \$2 billion in investor wealth.

"We give sufficient time to every regulated entity ... to comply with the regulatory requirements," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said at a press conference following the central bank's monetary policy review.



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das at a presser on monetary policy, in Mumbai on Thursday.

### RBI KEEPS KEY LENDING RATE UNCHANGED @ 6.50%

Mumbai: The RBI kept its key lending rate unchanged on Thursday for a sixth straight meeting, in line with expectations, as inflation stayed above the 4% medium-term target while economic growth continued to be resilient. The six-member monetary policy committee, consisting of three RBI and three external members, left the key repo rate unchanged at 6.50% after having raised it by 250 basis points between May 2022 and February 2023. Monetary policy must continue to be actively disinflationary, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday.

## Farmers hold protest march amid security, traffic hit in Delhi-NCR



Farmers during a protest march to the national capital, in Noida, on Thursday. **PTI**

PTI  
Noida/Delhi

Thousands of farmers from around 100 villages of Noida and Greater Noida on Thursday took to the streets seeking hiked compensation, bringing traffic to a standstill in several parts of Delhi-NCR as they made an unsuccessful bid to march towards Parliament.

Barricades were set up at Chilla border with Noida Police on one

side and Delhi Police on the other side to prevent protesters, who started their march from Mahamaya Flyover in Noida around 12 pm, from entering Delhi.

Several police personnel were in anti-riot gear equipped with tear gas shells and water cannons, even as personnel from the rapid action force and provincial armed constabulary were deployed at the Chilla border, officials said.

## India does not trust US to lead: Nikki Haley

Agencies  
Washington

Indian-American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has said that India wants to be a partner with the US but considers it "weak" and is playing "smart" by staying close to Russia from where it gets a lot of their military equipment.

"I have dealt with India too. I have got to say, I have dealt with India too. I have talked with (PM Narendra) Modi. In-



Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley speaks to her supporters.

dia wants to be a partner with us. They don't want to be a partner with Russia," Haley said.

Haley, 52, the only Republican candidate in the race for the party's nomination against Donald Trump, said that New Delhi has played smart in the current global situation and stayed close to Russia. "The problem is, India doesn't trust us to win. They don't trust us to lead. They see right now that we're weak," Haley said.

### FROM FOOD TRUCK "INDIA ON WHEELS" TO TECH STARTUP, BHAVINI PATEL RUNNING FOR US CONGRESS

Washington: From helping her single parent mother running a food truck "India on Wheels" in Pittsburgh to launching a tech startup after completing her education from the Oxford University, Indian American Bhavini Patel is now running for US House of Representatives. Bhavini Patel, 30, last year on October 2 announced her decision to run for the Congress from the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, which is currently held by her Democratic party colleague Summer Lee. Over the years, Lee has become unpopular in her district for some of the extreme positions that she has taken on several issues.



## U'khand: Curfew in Haldwani after violence

PTI  
Haldwani

A curfew was imposed here on Thursday as violence erupted in the city's Banbhoolpura area over the demolition of an "illegally built" madrasa, officials said.

Local residents pelted stones at police and torched vehicles here after authorities demolished the madrasa that was built on government



Security personnel at the site after protestors set vehicles on fire, over demolition of an "illegal" madrasa in Haldwani. **PTI**

land, they said.

The madrasa demolition took place after a prior notice to the resi-

dents, according to SSP Prahlad Meena.

People living around the madrasa hurled stones

at the police personnel and journalists, leaving some injured, Meena said. The protestors also set vehicles on fire, he added.

The SSP said the madrasa stood on an "illegally encroached government land".

The demolition was carried out in the presence of Municipal Commissioner Pankaj Upadhyay, City Magistrate Richa Singh, SDM Paritosh Verma, he added.

### Union Cabinet Decisions

## Telecom spectrum auctions at base price of ₹96,317.65 cr

PTI  
New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved auctions in eight spectrum bands for mobile phone services at a base price of Rs 96,317.65 crore.

Spectrum, held by certain companies undergoing insolvency process, that are expiring this year, will also be put on auction. "All the available spectrum in 800, 900, 1800, 2100, 2300, 2500, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands will be put on auction. "As recommended by



Union Minister Anurag Thakur briefs the media on Cabinet decisions in New Delhi, on Thursday. **PTI**

TRA, the reserve prices for various bands have been revised using suitable indexation," an official statement said. The reserve price will

be Rs 96,317.65 crore. Meanwhile, the government on Thursday announced a Rs 6,000 crore scheme in order to formalise the unorganised fisheries sector, facilitate institutional finance to micro and small enterprises and promote aquaculture insurance.

The government also decided to extend the Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) for another three years up to 2025-26 within the already approved fund of Rs 7,522.48 crore and budgetary support of Rs 939.48 crore.

## Bengaluru FC back to winning ways; beat Chennaiyin FC

ANI

Bengaluru

Bengaluru FC sealed a 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC as the Southern Derby titled in favour of the Blues at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 on Wednesday.

A second-half strike by Ryan Williams was enough for Gerard Zaragoza and his side to triumph over the visitors in a clash that they dominated from the offset, and held an upper hand to a greater extent than suggested by the scoreline.

Zaragoza had claimed ahead of the game that he had almost a month's time to train with this squad after taking over the reins from his predecessor Simon Grayson in December. The tactician hoped that the work put in the practice sessions would reflect on the field, but all of that expectation was squandered in their 3-1 loss to Punjab FC in New Delhi.

**WEATHER WATCH**

## Light to moderate rain likely in Telangana on February 10-11: MeT Department

Agencies  
Hyderabad

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers is very likely to occur at isolated places in Telangana on Saturday and Sunday, Meteorological Centre said.

In a daily weather report here on Thursday, It said dry weather very likely to prevail in the state on February 8 and 9 and from February 12 to 14.

The lowest minimum temperature of 18.2 de-



Nadia: A cyclist rides amid fog on a cold winter morning, in Nadia, Wednesday. **PTI**

gree celsius was recorded at Adilabad on the inter-

vening night of Wednesday and today, the report added.

### COLD WAVE PREVAILS IN HIMACHAL, KUKUMSARI RECORDS MINUS 14.2° C

Shimla: Cold wave conditions continued in Himachal Pradesh as Lahaul and Spiti district's Kumsari recorded a low of minus 14.2 degree Celsius while the weather remained dry on Thursday. Thick fog was witnessed in Sundernagar, Mandi and Bilaspur in the morning, reducing visibility to 500 metres while ground frost occurred in mid and higher hills, making commuting hazardous. Restoration works are in full swing to open 254 roads.

25-year-old fights for life in Sawai Madhopur village

# Woman stuck in borewell feared dead, rescue ops on

The district admin have set target to complete the rescue operation in 24 hrs

Ashish Mittal

Sawai Madhopur

The borewell opened in Ramnagar Bairwa Dhani of Bamanwas once again proved a death well.

Despite the rescue operation that continued for more than 30 hours, the 25-year-old woman could not be rescued.

Initially, oxygen pipes and cameras were inserted in the borewell.

Based on the sighting, the woman was trapped at a depth of more than 90 feet. In such a situation, NDRF and SDRF



Mona Bai (25) fell into a borewell on Wednesday. The rescue ops are on to take her out safely, the officials said on Thursday.

teams tried to rescue the woman but all efforts proved inadequate.

DM Gaurav Saini, who reached the spot, taking stock of the situa-

tion, gave instructions to start excavation work as a last option.

After this, the work of digging a sloping pit of 135 feet in length near

## EXCAVATION WORK STOPPED AT 7:30 PM

Bamanwas SHO Hava Singh said it was reported late in the evening that the soil in the area was extremely slippery. In such a situation, the slope-like pit can prove fatal for the JCB and L&T operators and the laborers working nearby so, the excavation work was stopped by the administration at 7:30 pm. As per the administrative system, the rescue work will be done only by the state-of-the-art filer machine.

the borewell was started on Thursday afternoon. The district administration set a target to complete the rescue operation in 24 hours.

Police issue helpline numbers to protect 'love couples'

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Helpline numbers have been issued at the state level and district level for the assistance and protection of adult men and women who voluntarily marry in the state.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Armed Battalion, Shweta Dhanekar has been appointed nodal officer and Additional Superintendent of Police, Women Atrocities Prevention Cell, Civil Rights Jaipur, Navita Khokhar has been appointed the assistant nodal officer.

Shweta Dhanekar said that if the family members or the community members harass a couple, they can contact the state-level helpline numbers 8764871150, 9413179228 and 9468952828 for their protection.



The exercise was conducted in two phases. The first phase focused on combat conditioning and tactical training. The second phase culminated in physical exercises and validation.

## India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise concludes

First India Bureau

Bikaner/Jaisalmer

The validation phase of the first joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Royal Saudi Land Force named 'SADA TANSEEQ' was successfully completed at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges on February 8, 2024.

The 12-day joint exercise from 29 January to 09 February 24 aimed to achieve interoperability between the two forces and acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills under UN mandate.

The Indian contingent of the 20th Battalion of The Brigade of Guards Regiment and the Saudi Arabian contingent comprising a group of 45 soldiers of the Royal Saudi Land Force participated in the joint exercise.



Both the contingents jointly took part in the validation phase.



The closing ceremony of the joint exercise will be held today to felicitate outstanding soldiers and to give an opportunity to both the contingents to reflect upon the lessons learnt.

## CM appoints Dhanraj as OSD

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has appointed Dhanraj Solanki as his OSD (Social Media). The appointment has been made for one year initially on a contractual basis. Also, Anand Sharma will continue to look after the work of the media advisor till further order comes.

## "2.79 L more voters added in voters' list"

Dr Rituraj Sharma

Jaipur

In Rajasthan, 15,54,604 new voters aged 18-19 years have been added to the electoral rolls since the State Assembly General Elections held on November 25 last year.

They will exercise their franchise for the first time in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. This data emerged from the final



CEO Praveen Gupta with others during a meeting on Thursday.

publication of the integrated voter lists of 199 assembly constituencies of the state. Chief Elec-

toral Officer Praveen Gupta said that the Election Department published the final electoral rolls on Thursday in all the districts of the state.

The published voter lists of 199 assembly constituencies are available on the department website ceorajasthan.nic.in. The final publication of voter lists of the Karanpur assembly constituency will be on 13 February.

As per the final electoral rolls published on February 8, the gender ratio in the voter lists of the state has become 923 as compared to 920. Presently, the percentage of voters in the age group of 18-19 years among the total registered voters is 2.94.

According to the CEO, after the 2023 Assembly polls, there has been a net increase of 2,79,366 voters in the electoral lists.

By the team of 4,483 policemen in a two-day special operation

# Raids conducted across state; 8,368 wanted criminals held



First India Bureau

Jaipur

To realise Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's vision of a safe Rajasthan, a team of 4,483 policemen in a two-day special operation conducted across the state on Tuesday and Wednesday raided 17,464 hideouts of criminals and arrested 8,368 of them.

Director General of Police UR Sahoo said that, "the state-level special operations were conducted on February 6 and 7 to arrest wanted criminals of various categories. The action was conducted under Additional Director General of Police Crime Dinesh MN".



1,528 criminals were arrested in Udaipur, 1,110 in Kota and 996 in Ajmer. In Sikar, 247 were arrested, 471 in Jodhpur, 796 in Bikaner, 642 in Jaipur, 539 in Pali, 553 in Bharatpur, 365 in Banswara, 634 in Jaipur Commissionerate & overall in Jodhpur Commissionerate.

## JAIPUR: YOUTHS ASSAULT TRAFFIC COP; BOOKED

Jaipur: Some youths assaulted a traffic policeman in the Mahesh Nagar police station area in Jaipur. Outraged for being asked to stop their vehicle by the police, the young men beat him up. The victim who is traffic policeman, has registered a case at the Mahesh Nagar police station. The matter is being investigated.



Jaipur: Some youths assaulted a traffic policeman in the Mahesh Nagar police station area in Jaipur. The matter is being investigated.

## BIKANER: TEACHER SUSPENDED FOR MOLESTING TEEN GIRL

Bikaner: A government school who molested a girl student in lieu of giving her marks, has been suspended and shifted to a school near Jaisalmer, close to the India-Pakistan border. This is the first time that the headquarters of a suspended teacher has been kept so far. Education Minister Madan Dilawar gave orders for this after reading the news. Director of Secondary Education Ashish Modi suspended the accused teacher Satish Chaudhary (37) with immediate effect. He apparently told a 17-year-old girl student that if she wanted good marks in her practical exam, she would have to do whatever he asked her to. Later, he began molesting her.

## BHARATPUR: ACB NABS BABU WITH BRIBE

Bharatpur: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday arrested an assistant of SDM office in Bharatpur while taking a bribe of ₹11000. The accused Suresh Chand had demanded the bribe in lieu of getting a stay on a controversial land. After verification, the accused was trapped by a team of the ACB. After receiving the bribe amount, the accused sent ₹5000 to an advocate Chandrashekhar who managed to escape from there. The amount given to him was recovered from there. Suresh Chand was under the prevention of corruption act.

## FATHER, SON HELD FOR DUPING PEOPLE IN JODH

Jodhpur: A case of fraud worth crores has been reported in Jodhpur and police have arrested a man and his son for duping people in the name of investing their money in the share market. It is said that the two promised people to invest their money and duped them off about ₹150 crore.

## BARMER: MOTHER, SON DEAD, 8 HURT IN CRASH

Barmer: A woman and his son were crushed to death while a person was seriously injured by a speeding car on Thursday in Kanasar of Shiv area of Barmer. After the accident, the car lost control & overturned & its seven occupants were injured. Locals said accidents happen here due to no speed breakers.

## TONK: FORMER DEO BOOKED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Tonk: A case has been registered against former District Education Officer Upendra Kumar Raina and five others for embezzlement of funds. A case has been registered against six people under various sections after a court order in the Kotwadi police station. The accused are Himanshu Sogani, Priyanka Rani Jain, Shivraj Jat, Tina Rathore, Maujiram Meena and Upendra Kumar Raina. Several allegations, including embezzlement of funds using fake bills, have been made. Probe is on.

## Dinner held for Rajput ministers, MLAs

First India Bureau

Jaipur

A dinner was organised on Thursday at Shri Kshatriya Yuvak Sangh Bhawan for Rajput ministers and MLAs. About 2 dozen ministers and MLAs arrived to attend the dinner. Sangh patron Bhagwan Singh Rolsahabsar, Pratap Foundation coordinator Mahavir Singh Sarwadi were also present at the dinner.

Issue related to EWS simplification raised in dinner by Mahavir Singh Sarwadi in front of ministers and MLAs during which he said, "The society made all of you winners & sent you to the assembly. Now it is your responsibility to simplify EWS reservation."

## 'PROBLEM OF PLENTY'

# Plenty of vacant positions... but is there a dearth of capable officers in Raj?

Rajendra Chhabra

Jaipur

The new BJP government has to conduct appointments on one dozen important posts of which several are lying vacant and others are soon going to be vacated. Chief among these are Chairman, Information Commission; Members RERA, Member RPSC; Chairman, Secondary Education Board, CMD Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (RVUNL); MDs of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Ajmer Discoms;

Chairman, Rajasthan Highway Authority etc.

After the retirement of DB Gupta in December 2023, the post of Chairman, Information Commission became vacant. The post will be filled through selection of candidates who apply once advertisement seeking application is released. Generally, a retired IAS or IPS is accorded this position for which the tenure spans three years or about sixty five years of age.

The previous government appointed Venu Gupta to the post of Chairman RERA but the ap-

pointment of two posts of members will have to be done by the current government since one of the members - Shailendra Agrawal - retired in December 2023, while the other member - Salvinder Sahota - will retire on February 12. These positions are also selected posts whose tenure is of either five years or sixty-five years of age. The nodal department - UDH - has already issued advertisements and invited applications and the last date for filing the application is February 25, 2024.

Once the legal pro-



ceedings around Babu Lal Katara are completed, one more post of member of RPSC will become vacant and the new government will have to appoint a member after careful consideration. The previous government, in a haste, made two appointments which had resulted

in a controversy. In fact, the then CM Ashok Gehlot had also accepted that the appointment of one member was conducted wrongly.

The chair of Chairman, Secondary Education Board has been lying vacant for the past two years since the suspension of

DP Jaroli and the Divisional Commissioner of Ajmer is holding the additional charge of this important post. But since there is no full time Chairman, hence the work has suffered too. As the paper leak has become a sensitive issue and hence a non-controversial and capable officer should be appointed as Chairman here.

The manner in which CM Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed his displeasure over CMD of Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam - RK Sharma's work culture during the first review meeting of Energy Sector,

it was being believed that he would soon be shuffled out of the position. And on February 1, Sharma was removed from the position. At a time of energy crisis in Rajasthan, the government needs a capable individual to take up the challenge.

The tenure of MDs of all three Discoms - RN Kumawat, Pramod Tak and SS Nirvan - will completed on February 24. The previous government had handed the reins of these Discoms to favoured engineers and now there is no chance of their service extension and they are

sure to be removed. The new government will have to sideline political recommendations so that able individuals can be appointed at these crucial positions.

The Committee formed under chairmanship of Chief Secretary had selected ACS Sandeep Verma for the position of Chairman, State Highway Authority around ten days back but the file is pending in CMO and only after approval can a formal order be issued. On the other hand, the work of the Authority is suffering in absence of a Chairman.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

To live a life of happiness and contentment, we need to balance the mixture of optimism and pessimism within ourselves.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

## State Budget: Govt presents big surprises in compact package



### Analysis

Pankaj Soni

Jaipur

The first 'Mini Budget' i.e. the Vote on Account of Bhajan Lal gov't was presented in the Assembly on Thursday. It is 'Mini budget' because the economic account presented is much ahead of the Vote on Account. Or we can say that CM Sharma gave big gifts to the public in small packets. The Vote on Account definitely bears the imprint of PM Modi's vision.

Along with the ideological touch, there was equal inclusion of both governance and public concerns. By CM Diya-Kumari, in the four months of Vote on Account as Finance Minister, drew such an outline of the priorities and resolutions of gov't that even the Opposition was seen saying that this is not a Vote on Account, it is a budget.

The State Gov't focused on four 'castes' or 'categories' coined by Prime Minister Narendra

- The impact of the Double-Engine Government was evident
- Diya Kumari leaves her mark as Finance Minister



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma congratulates Onkar Singh Lakhawat on being appointed as the Chairman of the Rajasthan Heritage Conservation and Promotion Authority (RHCPA) at State Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday. Jhavar Singh Kharra, Jogaram Patel, Otaram Dewasi, Gopal Sharma and others are seen.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being welcomed by Mahavir Prasad Sharma at State Assembly in Jaipur on Thursday. Jogaram Patel and Jogeshwar Garg are also seen.

Modi. Along with providing employment to youth, Diya also worked to take them into confidence. Bhajan Lal's ideological-strength was also evident in Vote on Account. Many types of innovations were also announced. In a first, a separate team has been formed to give suggestions regarding the economic situation.

As the Finance Minister, Diya Kumari led the Vote on Account preparations, while effectively presenting the State Government's vision.

## Uproar in Rajasthan Assembly over Finance Min's allegations against previous Cong gov't

Aishwary Pradhan & Naresh Sharma

Jaipur

The Rajasthan Assembly on Thursday witnessed heavy uproar during the presentation of interim budget by Finance Minister Diya Kumari, who targeted the former Cong gov't during her speech. The minister accused the former government of financial mismanagement, corruption and



lack of vision. As the minister blamed the former government, the opposition Congress members raised objections and created uproar

in the House. CM Sharma requested them to listen to the budget speech presented by the woman Finance Minister.

LoP **Tikaram Jully** said that Finance Minister shouldn't include political accusations in her budget & should read what is written in speech. The House came in order when Finance Min started reading the speech without making allegations on former gov't.

## Devnani's 'effective' role in House proceedings shines through

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani was seen playing a pivotal role in the effective running of the House. Devnani took on the Opposition members who were creating a ruckus during the Vote on Account.

At the same time, he also appeared strict on the indiscipline of members of the ruling party. There is rarely any uproar seen during the budget in the House. Devnani warned ex-minister Shanti Dhariwal and



Vasudev Devnani presents the portrait of the country's first martyr woman Naval officer, Lt Kiran Shekhawat to her father, Vijendra Singh Shekhawat in State Assembly on Thursday. Also seen are Santosh Kanwar, Sandeep Shekhawat, Lakshmi Rathore and Nishant Singh.

Congress State Prez GS Dotsara while adopting a tough stance on the continuous interference by the opposition. He even warned opposition

member Rohit Bohra to throw him out.

The Speaker also reprimanded the members of the ruling party for standing up and speaking.

## Floral Tributes



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma pays floral tributes to senior RSS Pracharak late Satyanarayan Sharma during a prayer meeting held at Adarsh Vidhya Mandir in Adarsh Nagar in Jaipur on Thursday. Reflecting on his profound dedication to public service, CM Sharma said, "Satyanarayan ji's enduring contribution to the nation will forever be cherished and remembered."

## Warm Greetings...



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla being presented with a memento by a Thai Parliamentary delegation during a meeting, at the Parliament House, in New Delhi on Thursday.

## Alka Gurjar to lead 'Beneficiary Contact' drive in four states

First India Bureau

Jaipur

BJP's National Secretary Dr Alka Gurjar has been entrusted with the important responsibility of four states under the 'Beneficiary Contact' campaign. She has been given the

responsibility of beneficiary contact campaigns in Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat, and Lakshadweep. Gurjar chaired a meeting of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and interacted with the beneficiaries of Modi gov't's public welfare schemes.

## Meeting of panel held to review previous gov't's decisions

Kamalkant Sharma

Jaipur

The first meeting of the group of ministers formed to review decision of previous Congress gov't was held on Thursday. A review of decisions taken in cabinet meetings and at department level during the last six months of the previous government was taken. Group coordinators GS Khimsar, Jogaram Patel, Sumit Godara, Manju Baghmur attended the meeting. Jogaram Patel said that the financial condition of the state will also be discussed. Co-ordinator GS Khimsar said that after conducting meetings, a report will be prepared in one and a half months.

## Rajyavardhan conducts surprise check at SMS Stadium

Naresh Sharma

Jaipur

Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore on Thursday, paid a surprise visit to SMS stadium and interacted with players.

During the surprise inspection, he took stock of the sports facilities available to the players.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, efforts are being made to promote sports and to make it an integral part of education and provide best facilities to the players," he said.

Rathore said that the BJP government is continuously dedicated to

providing this.

He also held a meeting with the Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Madan Dilawar and held a detailed discussion on important issues related to Education and Panchayati Raj in the entire Rajasthan including the Jhotwara assembly constituency.



Rajyavardhan Rathore interacts with the players during the surprise inspection of Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Thursday and also takes stock of the sports facilities available to them.

## Courtesy Meet



The CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, Pawan Arora greets Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani during a courtesy visit at Vidhan Sabha on Thursday.

## Mere allegations on ex-gov't evident in State Budget: Gehlot

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot responded over the State budget through social media platforms saying that 'instead of vision, only allegations against the previous gov't are visible.' "Today's vote on account in Rajasthan exposes the hol-

lowness of Modi's guarantees. Despite promising to align petrol & diesel prices with neighboring states like Gujarat & UP, there's no mention of it. This failure underscores empty rhetoric of Modi's pledges. BJP gov't's decision to scrap separate agri budget initiated by our gov't reveals its anti-farmer stance."

## TOTAL OVERHAUL

## Govt lifts ban on transfers for 10 days

Shivendra Singh Parmar, Dr Rituraj Sharma and Dimple Sharma

Jaipur

The State government has lifted ban on transfers for 10 days. Now, transfers of employees can be made as per their need in all departments, corporations and boards between 10th to 20th February. According to the order issued by the Administrative Reforms Department, transfer-posting was banned in all the departments of the state

from January 15 last year. However, there will be no transfers in the Education Department due to the exams, said Education Minister Madan Dilawar. For them, a separate transfer policy will be made by the Department. After making major changes in bureaucracy at the highest level, the Bhajan Lal gov't is now striving hard to remove old gov't's imprint from gov't offices by removing ban on transfers. Even after change of gov't, most of the key seats in depts



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

were occupied by officers & staff close to Cong leaders.

The relaxation given for transfers in depts, corporations, and boards is expected to provide relief to those officers and employees, who were feeling oppressed by pre-

Education Minister Madan Dilawar said that there will be no transfers in the Education Department due to the examinations

vious gov't. It is believed that the gov't's intent behind removing ban on transfers is that through changes in gov't system, the masses are being made aware of change of gov't. Generally, government work comes to a standstill during trans-

fers. Understanding this, the government has opened transfers only for a short period from Feb 10-20. Besides, the gov't also wanted to settle work of transfers before the 'MCC' for LS polls is executed. Following PM Modi's advice, the Bhajan Lal gov't had kept away the 'desire' system in transfers of IAS, IPS, and IFS cadres. Now, it remains to be seen, whether 'desires' of MLAs or leaders get preference among departmental-level officers and staff or not.

## RS nominations for 3 seats on Feb 16; returning officers appointed

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Three members of RS from Rajasthan will be elected in days to come and nominations, for scrutiny, will be accepted in room no. 751 of the Assembly building's ground floor on February 16 at 1:30 pm.

Candidates will be able to withdraw their candidature from the designated officers before 3 pm on February 20 and voting will take place on February 27 at 9 am. Notably, ECI appointed Rajasthan Assembly Secre-

etary Mahavir Prasad Sharma as the Returning Officer for Rajya Sabha elections while Suresh Chandra Pareek has been appointed as Asst Returning Officer. Nomination papers can be submitted in the Assembly from 11 am to 3 pm and candidates can get nomi-

nation papers from room no. 110 of the Assembly which can be deposited in room number 106.

In absence of Returning Officer, the Assistant Returning Officer will accept the nomination papers. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be held on Feb 16 in Room No. 751 of the State Assembly.

If necessary, voting will be held on February 27 from 9 am to 4 pm and counting of votes will take place on the same day from 5 pm. The poll process will be completed before Feb 29.





# First

JAIPUR, FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2024



## ARTICLE 370 POWER-PACKED

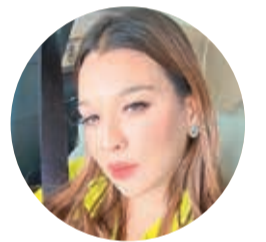
**T**he first glimpse of Article 370 was unveiled and it quickly became the hot topic of discussion as it fearlessly addressed the political matters in Kashmir. **P11**

Meet Simran Kashyap, a multifaceted woman whose journey from pursuing law to conquering the fashion world is nothing short of inspiring. Hailing from Delhi, she embodies confidence and determination. With a supportive family by her side, she balances her career achievements with a focus on holistic well-being and unwavering determination!



# Breaking Barriers!

**I**n the bustling world of fashion and life, one name shines bright - Simran Kashyap. A woman of many talents, Simran's journey from pursuing law to conquering the world of modeling is nothing short of inspiring.



**Tripti Mahawar**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Hailing from Delhi, Simran's childhood was filled with freedom and happiness, allowing her to explore her interests and passions. From impersonating actors and journalists to winning hearts on the runway, her attraction to the limelight was evident from an early age. Her foray into the fashion world was serendipitous, as she entered a Rajasthan-based beauty pageant on a whim, never expecting to make it past the first round. To her surprise, she emerged victorious, clinching the titles of Ms Jaipur and Ms Rajasthan. From that moment on, there was no looking back for Simran.

Throughout her journey, Simran credits her family as her backbone, providing unwavering support in every endeavor. Their encouragement fuels her ambition, propelling her to reach new heights in both her law career and the fashion industry. When it comes to maintaining her health and well-being, Simran believes in balance. She advocates for indulging in everything one desires, without depriving oneself, as it impacts both the mind and body. Keeping a healthy balance of mental and emotional well-being is equally important, according to her health mantra. With numerous accolades in both law and fashion, including medals and certificates from law conclaves and prestigious beauty pageant titles, Simran's dedication and hard work speak volumes. Yet, amidst her achievements, she remains grounded and focused on her goals.



# Indulge in Sweet Delight



**A**s Valentine's Week unfolds, lovebirds around the world eagerly anticipate the arrival of Chocolate Day, a delectable celebration of sweetness and affection. Nestled between Rose Day and Teddy Day, Chocolate Day on February 9 holds a special place in the hearts of romantics, offering an opportunity to express love through one of life's most irresistible pleasures chocolate.

**ANCIENT BEGINNINGS**  
The history of chocolate dates back over 3,000 years to ancient Mesoamerica, where the Mayans and Aztecs revered cacao as a divine gift. They consumed it in the form of a bitter, frothy beverage, often flavoured with spices and chilli peppers. Chocolate was so highly valued that it was used as currency and offered during religious ceremonies and royal feasts.

**EUROPEAN INTRODUCTION**  
The Spanish conquistadors, led by Hernán Cortés, encountered chocolate during their conquest of the Aztec Empire in the early 16th century. Bringing it back to Europe, chocolate transformed, becoming sweeter and more palatable with the addition of sugar and milk. By the 17th century, chocolate houses began to spring up across Europe, becoming popular social gathering spots for the elite.

**CHOCOLATE AND ROMANCE**  
The association between chocolate and romance blossomed during the Victorian era, as the indulgent treat became synonymous with courtship and affection. Chocolate boxes adorned with intricate designs and love poems became popular gifts exchanged between lovers, symbolizing sweetness and devotion.

**MODERN CELEBRATIONS**  
In the present day, Chocolate Day has become an integral part of Valentine's Week, a time dedicated to expressing love and appreciation for one another.



**Mohit Choudhary**

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Couples exchange boxes of chocolates, go on chocolate-themed dates and indulge in decadent desserts together. Chocolatiers around the world craft exquisite creations, from hand-painted truffles to artisanal chocolate bars, enticing both the palate and the heart.



**HEALTH BENEFITS**  
Beyond its irresistible taste, chocolate also boasts a range of health benefits. Dark chocolate, in particular, is rich in antioxidants and has been linked to improved heart health, enhanced cognitive function, and mood elevation. These qualities only add to the allure of chocolate, making it a guilt-free indulgence for many.

**GLOBAL INFLUENCE**  
While Chocolate Day is widely celebrated in Western countries, its popularity has spread across the globe, transcending cultural boundaries. In countries like Japan and South Korea, Valentine's Day traditions include the exchange of chocolates between lovers and friends, with women often taking the lead in gifting. This cultural exchange has further cemented chocolate's status as a universal symbol of love and affection.

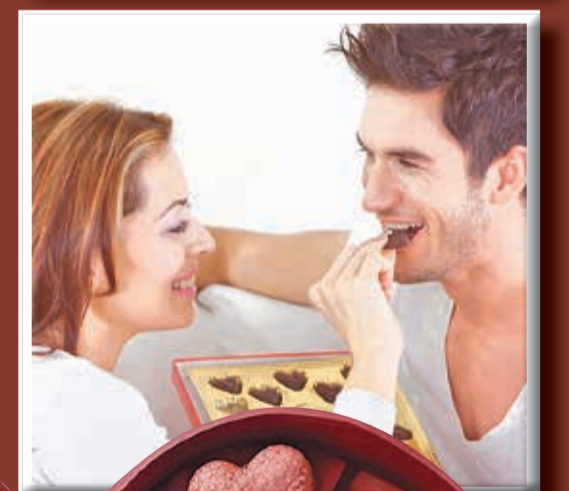
In addition to romantic gestures, Chocolate Day also serves as a re-

minder to cherish the simple pleasures in life and take time to savour the sweetness that surrounds us. Whether enjoyed alone or with loved ones, a piece of chocolate has the power to uplift spirits and hearts, serving as a delightful reminder of life's simple joys.

As the day draws to a close, couples often find themselves lingering over dessert, savouring the last bites of chocolate as they reflect on the love they share. In a world filled with hustle and bustle, Chocolate Day offers a welcome respite—a moment to slow down, reconnect, and appreciate the beauty of love in all its forms.

For those who are single, Chocolate Day presents an opportunity to celebrate self-love and indulge in a little bit of indulgence. Treating oneself to a box of chocolates or whipping up a batch of homemade brownies can be a delightful way to honour one's worth and embrace the joy of being single.

As we celebrate Chocolate Day on Valentine's Week, let us indulge in the timeless pleasure of chocolate while honouring its rich history and cultural significance. Whether shared with a loved one or savoured alone, chocolate has the power to delight the senses and nourish the soul, making it a truly enchanting symbol of love and romance. So, let us raise a chocolate-covered strawberry or a truffle to toast to the sweetness of life and love on this special day. Happy Chocolate Day!



Rajasthan's government-scripted saga unfolds as a promising academic journey. The "Suraj Sankalp ki Siddhi" initiative is akin to acing exams, delivering tangible benefits to students - symbolized by affordable LPG and enhanced meal assistance. Tackling inherited challenges becomes a lesson in resilience, with a Special Investigation Team adding a plot twist to address past issues. Under "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas," it's a multifaceted curriculum, investing in deprived areas' educational upgrades and road infrastructure. Holistic development for youth, farmers, and the economically disadvantaged is the syllabus, while financial amnesty schemes act as scholarships for industry growth. Rajasthan's narrative aspires to be a textbook example of inclusive development!



**Dr Raakhi Gupta,**  
Registrar, IIS University

Rajasthan's game-changing initiatives are like a legal brief for progress, where 'Suraj Sankalp ki Siddhi' acts as the star witness. The government, in a courtroom drama, confronts challenges head-on, treating the debt burden, electricity issues, and paper leaks as cases to be cracked by their Special Investigation Team. The commitment to 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' feels like a powerful closing argument, promising ₹1,000 crore for needy areas and a blockbuster ₹1,500 crore for road drama. It's a legal masterpiece, providing amnesty to sectors and balancing the fiscal scales. Rajasthan's script for success is nothing short of a courtroom thriller!



**Tej Prakash Sharma,**  
Advocate

The Rajasthan government's budget has brought many new gifts for artists and youth. Under the Chief Minister's Tourism Skills Development Program, over the next two years, 20,000 youths and artists will be provided traditional training, which will help elevate Rajasthan's art and culture industry. This budget is based on the idea of a developed Rajasthan along with a developed India, which is commendable move, totally worth appreciating.



**Ankit Khandelwal,**  
World Record Holder Anchor

## A BUDGET FOR PROGRESS!

Finance Minister Diya Kumari made history as she presented Rajasthan's first budget under the Bhajan Lal Sharma government, breaking a 22-year tradition of only the Chief Minister presenting the budget. With a focus on youth, women and overall state progress, Kumari unveiled ambitious plans, including 70,000 new government job openings and enhancements to social welfare schemes. Key announcements included metro expansion in Jaipur, electrification of buses and concessions for senior citizens in roadways. Despite criticism and opposition uproar, Kumari emphasized the government's commitment to good governance and comprehensive development. City First gathers reactions from across Rajasthan on this groundbreaking budget!



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

Rajasthan's saga of progress unfolds as a captivating academic discourse. "Suraj Sankalp ki Siddhi" exhibits a meticulously researched thesis, delivering palpable benefits comparable to enriching scholarly resources. The narrative deftly addresses inherited challenges, akin to navigating complex academic landscapes. The government's commitment to multifaceted development under "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas" unfolds like a well-crafted curriculum, elevating educational and infrastructural facets. Holistically prioritizing citizens' welfare, from education to employment, the narrative weaves a compelling story of inclusive development. Financial amnesty schemes mirror scholarships, infusing economic growth into the plot. Rajasthan's unfolding narrative stands poised for academic acclaim, an eloquent tale of holistic and inclusive progress!



**Dr Rishika Sharma**  
Professor, Birla Institute of Technology

Rajasthan's resurgence orchestrated by the government is a symphony of progress! Initiatives like "Suraj Sankalp ki Siddhi" spotlight tangible benefits, with affordable LPG for women and elevated support for households. Tackling challenges head-on, from debt to power, portrays a governance ballet in action. 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' unfolds as a commitment quilt, stitching a roadmap for development with substantial funds for facilities and road infrastructure. Prioritizing citizens from education to tax relief, it's a strategic masterpiece. Rajasthan's vibrant culture is an economic asset, nurtured by projects like the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit. This saga of progress is a businesswoman's investment in a thriving future!



**Pragya Surolia,**  
Entrepreneur

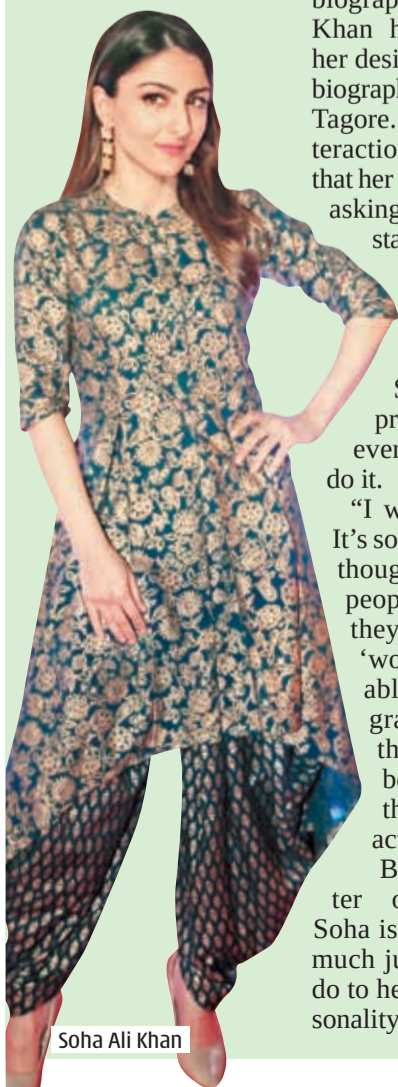
Rajasthan's metamorphosis is a narrative spun with visionary strokes! "Suraj Sankalp Ki Siddhi" is a canvas of transformative governance, resonating with accomplishments like affordable LPG cylinders and heartening Shri Annapurna Rasoi expansions. Facing challenges head-on, from debt to power predicaments, the government orchestrates solutions akin to a well-composed sonnet. The 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' commitment crafts a diverse tapestry, funding crucial facilities and paving roads of progress. Prioritizing citizens through education, employment, and tax revitalization forms a masterpiece. Rajasthan's cultural richness is preserved in projects like the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit. This symphony of development paints Rajasthan's future with vibrant hues, earning a standing ovation on the global stage.



**Surendra Gupta,**  
National President of Rajasthan Business Federation

## WRITE THE BIOGRAPHY

Part from being an actress, Soha Ali Khan is also known for being an author. Her book *The Perils Of Being Moderately Famous* remained in the news when it was published and apart from that she has also written several children's books along with her husband Kunal Kemmu. The latest update is that Soha is keen to write her mother, legendary actress Sharmila Tagore's biography. Soha Ali Khan has expressed her desire to write the biography of Sharmila Tagore. During an interaction, Soha said that her mom keeps on asking her about the status of her next book and will be happy if "I write her biography." Soha expressed that even she'd love to do it.



Soha Ali Khan

"I would love to. It's so close to home though... When people read them, they will be like 'would they be able to share the gray aspects of this personality because you are their child,'" the actress said. Being a daughter of Sharmila, Soha is not sure how much justice she can do to her various personality traits.

# ARTICLE 370 Power-Packed

The first glimpse of Article 370 was unveiled and it quickly became the hot topic of discussion as it fearlessly addressed the political matters in Kashmir. And now, the film's trailer has been released, promising to boost the excitement to new heights. After the teaser, a 2:43 min trailer of the film has been released it tells the viewers a little bit more about the issues of terrorism and corruption in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The trailer talks about how Article 370 has been exploited to empower terrorism



and corruption in the state and why it was challenging and crucial to remove it. It sheds light on the efforts and commitment of the Central Government in executing the task. Yami Gautam plays the character of an agent fighting against terrorism and the trailer sheds more light on her fierceness. It looks like she's all set for another memorable performance after *OMG 2*. Priyamani shines in her character. But it's Arun Govil and Kiran Karmarkar who grab your attention instantly as they play the role of Prime Minister and Home Minister respectively. Article 370 promises a gripping narrative inspired by real events that steered the destiny of Kashmir, as mentioned in a press release. The plot

unfolds against the backdrop of neutralizing terrorism in Kashmir by rendering Article 370 ineffective. The significant move by the Central government on August 5, 2019, to revoke Article 370, reshaped the status of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, ultimately leading to its bifurcation into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The film has been helmed by two-time National Award winner Aditya Suhas Jambhale and stars Yami Gautam, Priyamani, Arun Govil, and Kiran Karmarkar in main roles.

Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar, Article 370 marks the second collaboration of Aditya Dhar and Yami post the success of the 2019 action blockbuster, *Uri: The Surgical Strike*.

Article 370 is all set to release in the cinemas on Feb 23.



Yami Gautam



Rakul Preet Singh & Jackky Bhagnani

## Soon-to-be BRIDE

Bollywood star Rakul Preet Singh, known for her active presence on social media, is preparing to marry her long-time partner and successful producer-actor Jackky Bhagnani. Recently, it was reported that following their wedding in Goa, the couple plans to organize a lavish reception in Mumbai. Now, the reason behind choosing Goa as the location has been revealed. Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani have been together for a while. They often share sweet moments on social media and during public appearances. Now, they are ready to get married and officially tie the knot on February 21st.

In an recent interview, the couple plans to have an intimate wedding ceremony in Goa, attended only by their close friends and family members. Recently it has been reported that choosing Goa as their wedding destination isn't just because of its stunning beauty, but also to revisit the place where their love story began. A source shared that Goa is deeply meaningful to them. It's where their journey began and their love blossomed. Opting for Goa and their wedding promises to be tranquil and beautiful. The source said, "Goa holds a special place in their hearts. That's where it all started and their romance flourished. Choosing Goa is a sentimental decision for them and the wedding is going to be serene." Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani originally planned to have their wedding in a different country.

# Battle of Champions Begins

by **MUKESH KIRADOO**

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**T**he prestigious Sub Junior, Cadet and Junior National Championship of India Taekwondo commenced on Thursday amidst fervent cheers and applause at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium in Jaipur. With a staggering participation of about 1200 talented players hailing from various corners of the nation, the championship promises to be an exhilarating showcase of skill and sportsmanship.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the inaugural ceremony as the Chief Guest. Expressing his admiration for the participants' dedication and perseverance, Dr Chandra urged all athletes to strive for excellence and cherish the spirit of sportsmanship. In attendance were notable dignitaries such as KK Vishnoi (Minister of State for



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) KK Vishnoi, Mahendra Choudhary, Ashok Parnami and Mahipal Singh

Sports), Rajasthan Olympic Secretary Arun Saraswat, Ashok Parnami, Namdev Shivgankar & Mahipal Singh of the First India family, who lauded the initiative and extended their support to the budding talents.

"This championship is not just a platform for competi-



Taekwondo participants from various states

tion but a testament to the growing enthusiasm for Taekwondo across the nation," remarked Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, reflecting on the significance of the event. "It provides a stage for aspiring athletes to showcase their prowess not only at the national level but also on the global stage."

Local talents from Jaipur added to the fervour of the championship, receiving commendable encouragement from the community. Emphasising the inclusivity of the event, organisers emphasized the importance of nurturing new talent and fostering a vibrant Taekwondo community. With competitions set to unfold in the coming days, the championship aims to invigorate the nation's passion for Taekwondo and rally support for its practitioners. As the excitement mounts, all eyes are on the arena, where dreams will be forged and champions will rise.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience. Also seen is Mahipal Singh

## DURING THE DAY!



Basic life support training of RSRTC driver from Muskaan Foundation



Eye checkup by technician

Under the continuing activities for National Road Safety Month 2024, Muskaan Foundation for Road Safety and One Sight Foundation conducted complete eye checkups of 175 drivers. Of the six Training Camps, four were conducted for the drivers of Rajasthan Rajya Path Parivahan Nigam. This included drivers from Jaipur depot, Vaishali Nagar, Vidhyadhar Nagar and Deluxe depots. The other two Training Camps were done for the Baal Vahini drivers of Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh School and Tagore Public School, Shashtri Nagar. The six trainings included Road Safety Orientation and live demonstration of Basic Life Support to accident victims too. All the drivers will be given free spectacles as per the results of the eye checkups.



Amity University Gurugram's Convocation 2024 was a grand affair held at Village-Panchgaon, Manesar, Distt-Gurgaon, infusing the campus with celebration and achievement. Amongst a gathering of students, faculty and dignitaries, the event commenced with a stately academic procession, accompanied by the melodic strains of a bagpiper's band. Dr PB Sharma illuminated the significance of the day, while Vedanshi Sharma, a standout from the Masters in Journalism and Mass Communication, received a gold medal for academic excellence. Dr Ashok K Chauhan graced the ceremony, offering guidance to the graduating class, and the conferral of Honoris Causa Doctorates to distinguished individuals marked a pinnacle moment, with luminaries such as Govindan Rangarajan, Shardul S Shroff and Kishore Jayaraman receiving accolades for their contributions.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Noida Power Company Limited (NPL) launches 'Project Sankalp' in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), inaugurating a skill and livelihood center in Greater Noida. The initiative aims to empower youth with essential skills for sustainable livelihoods. NPL partners with George Telegraph to provide training in fields like Assistant Electrician and Retail Sales Associate. The program targets 300 youth in 2024, offering globally recognized certifications and ensuring 75-80% job placements. Sarnath Ganguly and Meghna Dosi from NPL lead the inauguration ceremony, joined by esteemed guests from NSDC and George Telegraph.



Raj Bhawan Government School in Jaipur hosted its annual celebration and prize distribution ceremony recently. The event, held at Mahatma Gandhi Government Higher Secondary School within the Raj Bhawan campus, commenced with traditional rituals worshipping Goddess Saraswati. Local councillor Rajesh Kumawat and Education Officer Om Prakash Gaur presided over the ceremony as special guests. Students showcased their talents through patriotic and Rajasthani songs, captivating the audience. The ceremony concluded with the honouring of talented students and expressions of gratitude to guests and parents.

Goddess Saraswati. Local councillor Rajesh Kumawat and Education Officer Om Prakash Gaur presided over the ceremony as special guests. Students showcased their talents through patriotic and Rajasthani songs, captivating the audience. The ceremony concluded with the honouring of talented students and expressions of gratitude to guests and parents.



Students practicing high jump during the day



Hans Jacob Frydenlund and Gina Frydenlund indulge in an activity with the students



Navin Chawla with Hans Jacob Frydenlund and Gina Frydenlund

# FROM CHEERS TO DREAMS

City First

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**T**he Darshan Trust, dedicated to empowering differently abled children, especially those with hearing impairments, joyously marked its annual sports event on February 5. The occasion was graced by Chief Guests, former Norway Ambassador to India, HE Hans Jacob Frydenlund and his wife, HE Gina Frydenlund, alongside the Governor of South Norway.

Nearly a hundred children, aged between 4 to 16, enthusiastically participated, showcasing



Gina Frydenlund plays around with the children

their talents and spirit amidst cheers and applause. Founded in 2006 by Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, the Darshan Trust has steadily expanded its reach, offering education from KG to class 10, and skill

development programs for older students. Notably, several youths have secured employment in the hospitality sector, with Taj Hotels demonstrating remarkable generosity in hiring computer-skilled individuals. During the event, Their Excellencies conferred certificates upon ten youths who successfully completed their examinations, a testament to their hard work and dedication. The certificates, provided by Rajasthan Knowledge Corp Ltd. (RKCL), underscored the commitment to recognizing and nurturing talent among differently abled individuals. Navin Chawla, Chairman of Darshan Trust, and former Chief Election Commissioner, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests, alongside Director Group, Captain Latif (Retired), and the Principal, in a celebration of inclusivity and achievement.



Navin Chawla shows around the Darshan Trust campus to Hans Jacob Frydenlund and Gina Frydenlund

by **SUNIL SHARMA**



Ritu & Govind Sharma with their daughter Aadhya (Tia) Sharma



Shailendra Kumar Sharma & Aadhya Sharma

In a spectacle of celebration, Adhya Sharma's birthday party turned into an adrenaline-fueled adventure on Wednesday with an array of thrilling activities like the exhilaration bungee jumping, magic show and trampoline that left guests on the edge of their seats. Adhya Sharma (fondly known as Tia) is the daughter of Govind and Ritu. The celebration, held at a lavish venue Gulab Garh captivated friends and family with a lineup of entertainment fit for a blockbuster event.