



GLIMPSES OF BJP'S NATIONAL MEETING





on Saturday displayed its firepower capability at a mega exercise featuring over 120 aircraft, including frontline fighter jets & attack helicopters in Pokhran near Jaisalmer. In the 'Exercise — Vayu Shakti 2024, theme 'Lightning Strike from the Sky', IAF also demonstrated the capabilities of its long-range drones and air-toair missiles as well as its increasing strength in the rapid deployment of combat assets by airlifting weapons like M-777 ultra-light howitzers.



IN BRIEF

Gulzar, Rambhadracharya chosen for Jnanpith Award



ew Deini: Renowned Urdu poet Gulzar and Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya have been named the recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award, the Jnanpith selection committee announced on Saturday.

Dangal actor, who played young Phogat, dies at 19



Mumbai: Suhani Bhatnagar, who played a young Babita Phogat in Aamir Khan's movie Dangal, passed away at 19 on Saturday. She had ill for some time and was taking treatment at AIIMS Delhi.

ISRO's GSLV-F14/Insat-3DS mission successful



Sriharikota: The ISRO on Saturday successfully launched Insat-3DS, a third-generation weather satellite that will augment meteorological services and improve accuracy of weather forecasts in nation.

10 killed and 10 injured in cracker factory explosion Chennai: At least 10 died, 10 others were injured on Saturday in an explosion at a firecracker factory in TN's Virudhunagar district. Blast was so high that 4 buildings were destroyed.

BJP's 2-day national convention begins at Bharat Mandapam

PM SETS STAGE FOR MODI 3.0

- BJP winning 370 seats will be true tribute to Syama Prasad Mookerjee, stresses Modi
- Stick to issues of development, pro-poor policies, says PM Modi to the BJP members
- The BJP will launch campaign to promote central schemes to beneficiaries from Feb 25

Moni Sharma

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday set the tone for the BJP's Lok Sabha poll campaign, urging party members to focus on the government's pro-poor initiatives and the nation's development trajectory. PM Modi asserted that winning 370 seats will be a true tribute to its key ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Mookerjee was a strident opponent of Article 370, which granted J&K



NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

special rights. Modi govt scrapped the article in August 2019. PM said every booth worker should now focus on polling booths, ensure atleast 370 more

Council meeting at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday. (Inset) PM Modi gets his pass scanned at the registration counter. votes for BJP in upcoming polls than in 2019. Modi told Opposition will raise

unnecessary and emotion-

al issues during polls but

we should stick to issues

of country's rising global standing. 'PM Modi has been the head of a govt, including over 12 years as Gujarat CM, for nearly 23 years and there has been

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being garlanded by Rajnath Singh in presence of Amit Shah, JP Nadda & others during BJP National no allegation of corruption. It is an 'Aarop Mukt' & 'Vikas Yukt' period un-

der Modi', BJP General

Secretary Vinod Tawde

said in media briefing. **P6**

Kamal Nath, son Nakul likely to join BJP: Sources

First India Bureau New Delhi/Bhopal

Kamal Nath, former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, and his son Nakul might join the BJP, sources told on Saturday. The speculations of a party switch started after Congress leader Nakul Kamal Nath removed the party name and symbol from his social media bio. Nakul's move further sparked rumours that Kamal Nath may also join the BJP.

On the other hand, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said that he is confident Kamal Nath would never leave the party. Kamal Nath is in Delhi for fur-





ther discusions, as per reports and the meeting is expected to take late on Saturday night.

HARYANA, RAJASTHAN SIGN MOU ON YAMUNA WATER SHARING

Bhajan Lal bane 'Bhagirath'!

Aishwary Pradhan, Aditi Nagar & Vinod Singh Chouhan New Delhi/Jaipur



tripartite MoU was signed in New Delhi on Saturday in the presence of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar. Under this MoU signed between the Central Government, Haryana Government and Ra-



CM Bhaian Lal Sharma with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gaiendra Singh Shekhawat and Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar after MoU between Rajasthan and Haryana for making DPR to get water for 3 districts of Rajasthan, in New Delhi on Saturday.

was agreed to prepare from Tajewala. After the jasthan Government, it DPR for the flow system implementation of this

scheme, Rajasthan will be able to get Yamuna river water from Tajewala head-works and the water that gets wasted during rains will also be utilized properly.

Expressing happiness after the MoU, CM Sharma said that the project will provide Yamuna river water to 3 districts of the state namely Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu through underground pipelines. He said that this project will prove beneficial for both the states. More on P8



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma calls on Union Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi at New Delhi on Saturday. Duo held talks over important issues related to the development of the State. into youth initiatives, IT and sports infra in Raj.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma greets Union Minister of I&B, Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur at Delhi on Saturday. The CM and Thakur delved









Mines dept lost revenue worth crores of rupees

Tonk: ₹17.17 cr penalty imposed on miners

In statewide drive against illegal mining discrepancies were found in stocks

> **Nirmal Tiwari** Jaipur

Irregularities in gravel stocks among mining lease holders in the Tonk district have resulted in a loss of government revenue amounting to crores of rupees. Mines Dept has taken action, imposing a penalty of ₹17.17 crore on miners in Palara, Dodwari, Mundian, Saidabad, and Mandawar. Following a statewide campaign against illegal mining, discrepancies were discovered during a probe.

Mandawar, 1.40.580.93 tonnes of excess stock were found, warranting a penalty of ₹7.02 crore. In Dodwadi and Mundiva faced penalties of ₹41 lakh 54 thousand 580 and ₹5.31 crore respectively. In Palda, a shortage of 1801.09 tonnes led to a ₹9 lakh penalty, while Saidabad faced penalty of ₹2.67 cr for excess stock. Mundiya also incurred penalties amounting to ₹1.63 cr. Total compound penalty in three locations amounts to ₹12.76 crore, reflecting govt's resolve to address mining irregularities.



₹37L seized in ED raids on sand contractor Meghraj

First India Bureau

In the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raid on contractor

Meghraj **Singh**, the Enforcement Directorate seized cash

worth Rs 37.16 lakh under the The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Notably, ED raids

were conducted in Jaipur, Ajmer and Nagaur on February 14 on a total of 16 locations.

The ED officials, during the raid seized many documents including electrical equipment,



ED raids at Meghraj Singh's FILE

and mobile laptop phones. Detailed investigation of seized documents is also being done. It has come to light that the investigation was started on the basis of the FIR registered by Rajasthan Police.

It was alleged that Meghraj Singh is involved in illegal mining on agricultural land, cremation land and gauchar land.

Father rapes minor in Jaipur, probe on

Mother of the minor victim filed a complaint against accused husband



Satyanarayn Sharma Jaipur

A 12-year-old daughter was raped by her father in Jaipur. When his wife protested, he threatened to murder and beat her. The mother of the minor victim filed a complaint against the accused husband at the Bhattabasti police station. It is claimed that for the past two months, the accused man has exploited his little daughter whenever he found her alone at home. The police have filed a report under the POCSO Act and initiated an inquiry. SHO Kailash Kumar Vishnoi is now investigating the case.



BRIBERY SCANDAL: CHITTORGARH ASI FLEES AS ACB LAUNCHES PROBE, ASI SUSPENDED

Chittorgarh: A bribery case involving a Rs 40,000 bribe has been lodged with the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Complainant captured ASI

Premaram Jat accepting bribe on video. ACB initiated a probe based on mobile footage. ACB made inquiries, leading to filing of FIR. Incident occurred on Feb 7, after which complainant visited ACB on Feb 12. ACB conducted probe in Bhainsrodgarh,

where ASI Premaram Jat fled. SP Rajan Dushyant promptly suspended Jat, who allegedly accepted the bribe to undermine a POCSO Act case.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DUPED OF ₹7.67 **CRORE IN ONLINE SCAM**

Jhunjhunu: Thugs

executed a major online scam in Jhunihunu's Pilani, defrauding a woman of Rs 7 crore 67 lakh. They received money transfers online by instilling fake fear of ED action and police. This is how the perpetrators convinced the victim to transfer money online. Three persons, including Mumbai resident Akash Kulhari and Sandeep Rao, have been accused of cheating. The victim is an assistant professor at BITS Pilani Institute, and she has already filed a report with the cyber police station.



TRAGIC END: YOUNG **COUPLE FOUND DEAD** IN JAIPUR APARTMENT



young boy and a girl were found in an apartment in Jaipur. It is suspected that they died by suffocation due to gases coming out from an Angithi (Coal Brazier). The bodies were said to be lying there for the last 3-4 days and the smell was coming from the flat. After getting information police from Shivdaspura police station arrived and upon initial investigation, it was revealed that the deceased were in a live-in relationship.

JAIPUR POLICE BUST CAR RECOVERY GANG, CCTV **FOOTAGE LEADS TO ARREST OF CARJACKERS**

Jaipur: The Mansarovar police station has detained four criminals involved in car recovery. They used to have passengers sit in the car under the guise of asking for the address. Then they would take them to a remote location, beat them up, and film recordings to extort money and threaten those individuals.



Gang's mastermind Mohsni Khan, Sonu Yadav, Anish Khan, and Mohammad Idrish has been arrested. After reviewing hundreds of CCTV video, the police searched and apprehended all four suspects. During

investigation, it came to light that all four miscreants roam around in Jaipur city at night. SI Surendra Singh said-Churu resident Mohit Singh (20) has lodged the report.

ASHOK NAGAR POLICE BUST ILLEGAL HOOKAH BAR. 2 DETAINED

Jaipur: Ashok Nagar police station conducted a huge raid on a hookah bar operating under the guise of a club. Police raided the blackout club and recovered hookahs and flavors from the location Police detained Shahrukh and Amin Khan. The case is being investigated by the Ashok Nagar Police Station.



POLICE DEPLOY DRONES TO SEARCH IDOL OF DEITY, STOLEN IN JODHPUR, LOCALS DEMAND ACTION

Jodhpur: An instance of the disappearance of the Chamunda Mata deity from the city's old temple on a hillside has been reported. Based on the temple's condition, it is believed that some form of vandalism oc-

curred. In addition, miscreants have strewn filth throughout the temple. In addition, a black fabric was discovered there. Considering the gravity of the situation, the police have created squads to take urgent action.



Drones were used to search for the statue. A hundred police officers have been dispatched to locate the statue. The locals have issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities in protest of the occurrence. The Chamunda Mata temple was built during the fourth century. Shivprakash Purohit

Jaipur Discom implements weekend workdays till Mar



Vikas Sharma

Jaipur

Now electricity offices will remain open on holidays as well as Jaipur Discom has adopted this strict measure for revenue collection. Orders have been issued for all offices of Jaipur city.

All AEN offices will have to be open until March 31. Work related to revenue collection will be done in the office even on Saturdays and Sundays.

Meanwhile, previously approved leaves of officers and employees have been cancelled. SE Vijay Kumar issued orders in JCC South Circle. In case of any emergency, leave will be sanctioned with permission from higher officials.

This will speed up the work of revenue collection so that maximum revenue can be collected by the end of March.

Fatal accident near Dholpur claims three young lives

Vinod Tiwari Dholpur

Three young people died on the spot as a result of severe collision between a tractor and a tempo near Diholi on Rajkheda Dholpur Road in the Dholpur district. Police have retained the bodies of all three in the district hospital's mortuary. The clash was so strong that the tempo exploded on the spot, killing all three. The police transported them to the district hospital via ambulance. The tractor driver escaped, leaving the tractor behind. The tractor has been seized into their custody.

Dihauli police station in-charge Suman Kumar said that tempo driver



Mangled remains of the auto at the accident spot in Dholpur on Saturday.

Kundal Lodha, Hariom (22), son of Jagdish Lodha, resident of Maraina and Jaswant (30), son of Babulal Lodha died in the accident. Jaswant and Hariom were going to visit Kaila Devi.

Both deceased Jas-

Ajodhya (38), son of want and Hariom were neighbors and friends. The family members told that both of them used to go to Kaila Devi darshan every month. Even on Saturday morning, he had gone out for darshan, when this accident happened.

JDA office open for scanning of files, documents

Abhishek Shrivastva

Jaipur

Zone offices were open for scanning of files and documents. As per the orders, offices will remain open tomorrow also.

This is being done as the filing process is to be done on the government portal and classification will be done as per the requirement. Classification is to be done into A. B, C and D classes. Scanning of A and B category files will be done in these two days.

JDA Commissioner, JDA Secretary and additional commissioner administration, however, did not reach the JDA office on Saturday.

Kirori Bainsla's statute unveiled by son Vijay

First India Bureau

Sawai Madhopur

Gurjar leader Vijay The JDA offices were Bainsla unveiled the open even on Saturday. statue of his father Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsla unveiled Devnarayan temple complex in Ghata Nainwadi Baunli of Sawai Madhopur. Thousands of people gathered during the programme.

Vijay Bainsla's wife Pooja Bainsla was also present in the programme. Rajendra Meena, social worker Murliram Gurjar, Pradhan Krishna Poswal, Kishan Nekadi were also present.

Bainsla in his address said that there should be awareness about education in the society and people should avoid unnecessary expenditure.



statue of his father Colonel Kirori Singh Bainsla in Devnarayan temple complex in Ghata Nainwadi Baunli of Sawai Madhopur on Saturday.

He gave the message of good education, good health and that mothers should be educated.

JOINT CAMPAIGN AGAINST SQUATTERS

JDA, JMCG raze over 80 encroachments on Kalwar Road

First India Bureau

Jaipur

nder a collective campaign by the Jaipur **Development Authority** (JDA) and the Jaipur Municipal Corporation Greater, about 80 encroachments on either side of the Kalwar Road were removed.

Chief Controller of Enforcement Dharmendra Kumar Yadav said that the action was taken as part of the collective campaign. Due to these encroachments, the com-



mon people faced traffic- association said that we would remove them at He said that regarding their own levels. Tempothe remaining encroachrary squatters were orments, the representadered to remove the entives of the local business

They were also warned that if the encroachments were not removed, then action would be taken as per the rules.

The action was taken

As regards remaining encroachments, representatives of local business assn said they would remove them at their own levels. Temporary squatters

were told to remove

encroachments

on the instructions of Deputy Controller Enforcement-III, Enforcement Officer Zone-12, 10, 13, 02, PRN (South), and other officers.

JDA STARTS REGULATION PROCESS OF SCHEMES OF SOCIETIES

The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has started regulation proceedings of schemes of societies. It has started giving leases for the schemes which have been approved. Discounts will be applicable till March 31 and leases are being given in accordance with the exemptions applicable in the Prashasan Shehron ke Sang campaigns. Besides, action has been initiated regarding the plans that have not been



approved. Earlier, there was a situation of indecision in the JDA regarding of regulation started after orders from higher ups.







The indigenous Air Defence Systems, Akash and SAMAR missile systems were also showcased, destroying multiple aerial targets.

'Shakti-Pradarsham' The event showcased IAF's precision targeting capability

Lightning Strike from Sky: IAF's show of power in Vayushakti '24

First India Bureau Pokhran

Pokhran range near Jaisalmer reverberated with thunderous explosions and applause, on 17 February 2024, as the Indian Air Force showcased its offencapabilities through an enthralling and formidable display of its firepower.

The event commenced with three Chetak helicopters proudly displaying the National Flag.

Aligned with the theme **'Lightning** Strike from Sky,' the Exercise showcased IAF's offensive prowess with over 120 aircraft participating during both day and night. Fighter jets, including Rafale, Su-30, MiG-29, Mirage-2000, Tejas, & Hawk, executed attacks on simulated enemy targets using various munitions.







During the display, approximately 50 tonnes of ordnance was dropped in a short span of 2 hours over an area of 2 square km.

Ravikanth inspects Garbage **Disposal Systems in Jaipur**



T Ravikanth monitors taking stock of waste management situation in Jaipur on Saturday.

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Principal Secretary UDH T. Ravikanth conducted a cleanliness inspection for 4 hours to check the hygiene system in Jaipur. During this, he examined

door-to-door garbage collection to disposal.

He inspected the dumping yards and waste-to-energy plants built in Sevapura, Mathuradaspura, and Langariawas and gave instructions to start the 100 the arrangements from per cent disposal of the waste process by June 25 next year to keep the city clean and make it garbage-free.

Ravikanth checked the RFID system and its monitoring process made for door-to-door garbage collection in the Muralipura zone.

HC gives relief to divyang in matter of recruitment

First India Bureau

Jaipur

The petitioner got relief from the single bench of High Court senior judge Justice Arun Monga in a case related to recruitment of contract pharmacists in the medical department. The disabled person got justice after seven years.

It came to light that the medical department kept different provisions for reservation for disabled for the same post. In recruitment to the post of Pharmacist (permanent), both one leg and both leg candidates are eligible in



the specially abled category but in recruitment to the post of Pharmacist (contract), only one leg specially abled person is considered eligible under the rules.

State medical department in its argument in court instructed the petitioner to appoint his counterpart.

Rajasthan aims for unforgettable visitor experience

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore expressed that Rajasthan is the top choice for tourists, emphasizing efforts to ensure every visitor has memorable experiences.

A campaign promoting respectful interactions with tourists, especially women, was launched across major districts. The campaign encourages feedback through both online & offline feedback forms, allowing tourists to share their experiences.

PWD speeds up ropeway work in Raj following Dy CM's order of Chambal' over Hijab row the Land Pooling Scheme

First India Bureau Jaipur

Following instructions of Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, the PWD department has started development of the ropeway in the state on a war footing. PWD and NHAI will work together to develop ropeways in Sawai Madhopur, Bundi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Rajsamand, Sikar, Jodhpur, Dausa, Baran, Banswara, Ajmer and Chittorgarh in the first phase.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in his meeting with Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal



on February 12 emphasised on the need for speeding up ropeway scheme-Parvat Mala.

The Chief Secretary handed over the work to PWD Rajasthan and under the leadership of Ad-

Sharma and Diya Kumari ditional Chief Secretary PWD, the department showed promptness and after receiving the list from Tourism Development, PWD started work day and night to send the proposal to the Govern-

ment of India by Feb 19.

Jodhpur

There was a commotion over hijab in a government school in Jodhpur on Saturday. The matter pertains to Government Higher Secondary School in Pipar, Jodhpur. The families asked the principal why their children were called "dacoits of

Chambal". The principal, however, clarified that the children were asked to come to the school in the prescribed dress code, but their families came and started protesting. There was commotion for about



half-an-hour.

Police said that as per the orders of the government, the principal had asked the children to come to school only in the dress code. Most of the girls in the school agreed, but around seven girls from Class 8 to 12 did not agree to it.

Abhishek Shrivastva

Jaipur

A meeting was at the Jaipur Development Authority to discuss the proposed draft Land Pooling Scheme under Section 7(1) of Land Pooling Scheme Act, 2016, and the provisions of Rajasthan Land Pooling Scheme Rules, 2020, pertaining to the creation of approximately 163.5 hectares of land in Villages Revenue Shivadaspura, Chandalai, and others.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders,



Vinay Kumar Dalela and Subhash Sharma in a meeting with JDA officals and land owners in Jaipur on Saturday.

including sarpanches, to provide information on the provisions and proposals of the draft layout plan for the beneficiaries of proposed LPS.

During the meeting, detailed information regarding the provisions and proposals of the draft plan was given by the Director, JVP, Addil Chief Town Planner, Senior Town Planner, Deputy Commissioner, Zone-14 and other officers.

Tourists flock City Palace

A sea of tourists converges upon City Palace, eager to immerse themselves in its cultural allure. The historic site becomes a vibrant hub, attracting a multitude of visitors eager to explore its grandeur.

NAIM KHAN

GOOD NEWS SOON

RVT 3 in Ramgarh Vishdhari to give birth

Nirmal Tiwari Bundi

Ramgarh Vishdhari is expected in the beginning of

good news from

March. Successful mating of tiger RVT 1 and tigress RVT 3 (T 119) had been reported. Now changes are visible in the physical structure of tigress RVT 3. The tigress mostly remains around Bandra Pole.

Tiger RVT 1 is usually found hanging Govardhan Mountain. Tigress T 119



was shifted from Ranthambore to Ramgarh on August 20 last year and got its new name RVT 3 in Ramgarh Vishdhari.

This will be the second time that cubs will be born to a tigress in such a short time of shifting to

was shifted from Ranthambore to Ramgarh last August, is showing visible changes in her physical structure due to being pregnant. Currently, the sanctuary is home to a growing tiger family of six

Tigress RVT 3, who

Earlier RVT 2 had delivered three cubs here. At present, there is a family of six tigers, including a tiger, two tigresses and

gress will be shifted here from Ranthambore next week to incourage the increase in Tiger Population. Dy Forest Conservator Sanjeev Sharma is monitoring all this.

three cubs. One more ti-

Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary was designated a tiger reserve on 5th July 2021 as it was granted in-principle approval by NTCA.

It was given a status of wildlife sanctuary in 1982 under a state act named Rajasthan Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act, 1951.

OFIRST INDIA 04



Dr PS Vohra

The writer is a columnist and financial thinker

INDIANUPI IS NOW GLOBAL



REVOLUTIONISING **PAYMENTS**

Now, it is also required to realize that the Indian govt is making aggressive expansion of Indian UPI towards global acceptance to get more NRI funds in India. According to the World Bank report, India's remittance inflows reached US\$125 billion in 2023, which is the highest in the world. After India, Mexico is in the second position and China is in the third. If India easily gets these remittances, it would definitely be a great help in increasing forex collection.

This will also help to control USD appreciation, resulting in relief from high inflation in the domestic market due to various global issues such as high crude oil prices, etc., caused by the high USD value. Furthermore, it would be great assistance to Indian people living overseas to send funds very easily to their relatives living in India.

The other benefits from UPI's global status will come in the Indian tourism sector as it will reduce the requirements of currency conversion while traveling overseas or when foreigners visit India, especially from neighbouring countries. UPI will also provide trade benefits in exports and imports, particularly from neighbouring countries including China, by reducing material costs, transportation costs, etc., thereby enhancing the profitability of businesses.

But it is for sure that the UPI mode has given a new life to Indians and has made them relaxed from the conventional or traditional approach of always keeping cash. Now the time has come to expand this system globally to accelerate the economy and to have hope for increased per capita income and more job opportunities in the future, especially in the IT and banking sectors.

ndian Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is receiving global appreciation on a vast scale. It's indeed a phenomenal accomplishment and sense of great feeling because when you look at the story of less than a decade of UPI, you find that our Country has given a new shape to the entire globe for digital payments. This has emerged as a game-changer in India's expedition for a digital future by enabling secure and inclusive financial transactions. This system has also transformed the way Indians conduct transactions, making millions financially empowered while driving Indian economic growth.

The good news is that Indian UPI now is gaining international currency status. Currently Seven countries including France, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Bhutan, and Nepal are already conducting UPI payments. Bhutan was the first country to enable UPI transactions. In February 2024, UPI was launched first in France and then in Sri Lanka & Mauritius. Many other Countries are in the process of accepting UPI for money transaction in collaboration with India. The present Modi Govt. holds a strategic political agenda with many countries for mutual agreement because this revolutionises India's payment sector and makes it more accessible to Non-resident Indians (NRIs) in several nations.

We certainly remember that India used a number of different systems like RTGS, IMPS and NEFT to transfer money between banks. All those online banking forms had a strin-



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gent banking rule and a typical paper burden process, which never provided ease to the customer. Therefore, there was always a need for an Innovation in online banking system to standardise India's payment platforms. Accordingly, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) conducted a pilot launch with 21 member banks on 11th April 2016 under the leadership of Dr Raghuram Rajan (Governor, RBI, 2013-2016) in Mumbai. Later Banks started uploading their UPI enabled Mobile Apps on Google Play store from 25th August, 2016 onwards. UPI is an instant real-time payment system to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. It empowers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile

application. It is also very important to assess the post demonetisation period and the growth of UPI. Demonetisation occured on 8th November 2016, with Indian government banning Rs 500 and 1000 notes, which at that time used to account 86 percent of cash in the circulation, with immediate effects by PM Modi during his first tenure. Definitely the intention behind this strategic move was to curb corruption.But till now, despite several discussions and various arguments in public forums, it has still not been proven whether the govern-

ment succeeded in that move.But it is quite certain and unanimously accepted that after demonetization, Indians started giving priority to online transactions, which gave mohuge mentum to

UPI.According

lowing demonetisation(2017), the Year on Year growth of UPI transactions was 900 percent. In 2018 UPI facilitated transaction worth more than Rs 1.5 trillion. Even during Covid-19 pandemic UPI had greatly supported Indian financial system and society as a whole. Data reports that between March 2020 and March 2022, UPI transactions grew over 3 times both in volume and value terms. During the lockdown period, it grew to around 3 lakh cr in volume, signifying that Indians largely used UPI for financial exchanges or transactions during Covid. Now a days UPI has be-

to one report in the year fol-

come almost indispensable in the Indian system. You find this everywhere, starting from the vegetable seller in the streets, the puncture repair shop for bicycles and two wheelers, getting prasad from a shop outside a temple, making payment after getting fuel on petrol pumps, paying toll taxes through fast tag, etc. or transactions at other places like PVR, Malls, etc. According to NPCI data, in a comparative analysis for the year ended on January 2024, 167 new banks have been added to the listing for UPI transactions. This accounts for over 4 billion financial transactions with a value of over Rs 19 lakh crore. This represents an increase of more than 7 lakh crores in a year. Additionally, based on a report, it is a fact that currently, 46% of global digital payment transactions are happening in India, which certainly describes India as the incubator of innovation in the field of digitalization of financial transactions.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

LEGAL HURDLES LIE AHEAD FOR VERDICT ON ELECTORAL BONDS

he Supreme Court's judgment striking down the electoral bonds scheme is still being debated for the effect it may or may not have on curbing the use of black money in elections. But the immediate hurdle that the judgment may face in its implementation is from banks which are meant to protect a customer's privacy. Revealing the identity of the buyers of electoral bonds can be interpreted as violation of their privacy and hence a breach of trust.

A clause in the Reserve Bank of India's Master Circular, which was released in 2015, reads, "The bankers' obligation to maintain secrecy arises out of the contractual relationship between the banker and customer and, as such no information should be divulged to third parties except under circumstances which are well-defined."

Even if the banks are made to divulge details, the electoral bond buyers could move court to prevent their identity from being disclosed as they were guaranteed anonymity. This would render the judgment ineffective.

DISSENT IN RUSSIA HAS A HEAVY PRICE TAG



ussian President Vladimir Putin's harshest critic, Alexei Navalny, has tragically passed away at the Polar Wolf penal colony in the Arctic, where he was serving a 19-year prison sentence. Navalny's demise follows closely on the heels of his recent court appearance and merely a month before the highly anticipated national elections. His death is expected to heavily favour Putin, effectively granting him another six-year term in office.

This untimely event has sparked a storm of allegations from Western nations, who suspect Putin's involvement in Navalny's death. In response, the Krem-

lin has vehemently denied any wrongdoing, urging patience until the investigations are concluded.

Navalny's demise adds another somber chapter to the list of unnatural deaths of Putin's critics. From the nerve-agent poisoning survival in 2020 to his subsequent imprisonment in 2021, Navalny's ordeal mirrors a disturbing pattern of dissent suppression. Tragically, he is not

As the world mourns Navalny's demise, his passing serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by dissenting voices in Russia and its implications for freedom of speech and democracy in the country

alone in his fate; predecessors like Yevgeny Prigozhin, Viktor Yushchenko, Alexander Perepilichiny, Alexander Litvinenko, and Anna Politkovskava met similar untimely ends, all of whom were vocal critics of Putin's regime.

As the world mourns Navalny's demise, his passing serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by dissenting voices in Russia and its implications for freedom of speech and democracy in the country. As per the 1993 constitution Russia is a "democratic, federative, law-based state". Vladimir Lukin, a former Human Rights Ombudsman, once dismissed claims about freedom of speech being non-existent in Russia as an exaggeration. There is no institutionalized censorship and the right to speech freedom is basically observed, he said. Except that dissenters meet with untimely deaths.



I pay my respects to the great freedom fighter and pioneer of social justice, 'Bharat Ratna' Karpoori Thakur ji on his death anniversary. His life full of simplicity, purity and sacrifice is an inspiration for all of us. Under the leadership of respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the decoration of Karpuri ji with the highest civilian honor is immortalizing his contribution in the upliftment of

> Jagat Prakash Nadda @IPNadda



Humble tribute to the great freedom fighter and symbol of social harmony, former Chief Minister of Bihar, Bharat Ratna Shri Karpoori Thakur ji on his death anniversary. His commitment towards education, social justice, upliftment of

the backward and deprived and women's rights is an inspiration for every Indian. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

@JM_Scindia

SPIRITUAL SPEAK



As a water bead on a lotus leaf, as water on a red lily, does not adhere, so the sage does not adhere to the seen, the heard, or the sensed.

BUDDHA

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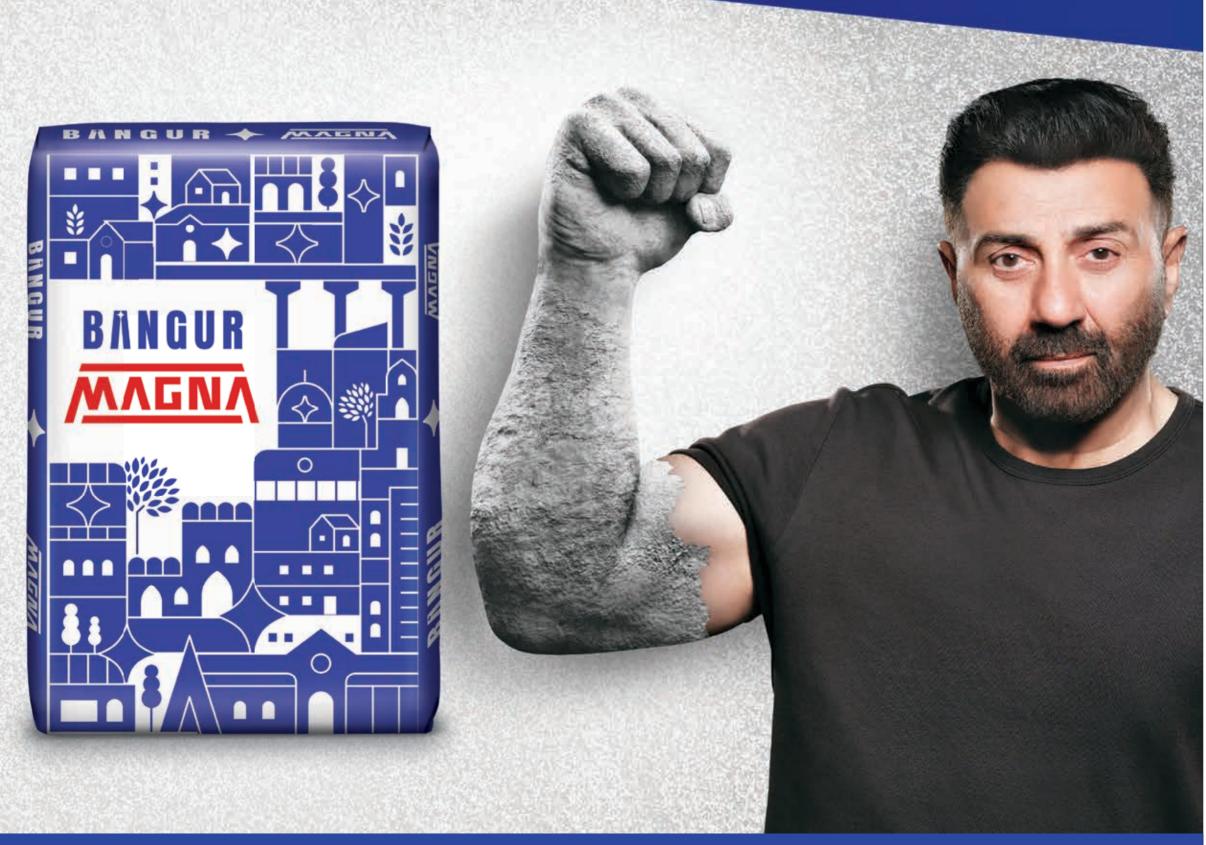


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Meteoric rise Saffron party chief hails PM Modi's leadership for party's big rise

BJP will score hat-trick of Lok Sabha victories, says JP Nadda

BJP chief JP Nadda on Saturday underlined the party's meteoric rise since PM Narendra Modi took office and lauded his leadership in the past decade that has been full of new achievements for

the organisation.

The Modi government will score a hattrick and retain power for a third straight term after the Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May, he told nearly 11,500 party delegates who have assembled at Bharat Mandapam here for the twoday national convention.

"We have to cross 370 seats and the NDA has to cross 400," he said in his inaugural address, exhorting party members to put all their energy in achieving the target so

PM Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda lights lamp to inaugurate the BJP National Council meet in New Delhi, on Saturday.

previous records.

Thousands of party delegates from across the country rose to cheer Modi when Nadda made a mention of the women's

construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya while citing the highlights of the prime minister's tenure.

In his speech, Nadda noted that the BJP ruled

that the party breaks its reservation law and the only around five states before Modi's rise in 2014 and it is in power in 12 states now. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is in power in 17 states, he said.

BJP'S 2-DAY NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING BEGINS IN DELHI

New Delhi: A two-day meeting of nearly 11,500 delegates of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) drawn from across the country began here on Saturday, as the party's top brass led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gets set to outline its campaign themes for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. From its elected panchayat heads to district presidents and Union ministers, the BJP's 'national council' meeting is going to be the ruling party's biggest organisational get-together in recent memory — an exercise aimed at galvanising its cadre for the polls. The meet was preceded by a meeting of the party's national office-bearers, who will finalise some of the key agenda items for the convention.

Farmers' Protest Continues

Dharnas against Punjab BJP leaders, march in Haryana



Farmers at the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border during farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' protest, near Patiala district, on Saturday.

PTI

Chandigarh

The Bharti Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) on Saturday held dharnas outside the residences of three senior BJP leaders in Punjab on the fifth day of the farmers' protest over their various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP.

Apart from holding dharna outside the homes of former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh, BJP's Punjab chief Sunil Jakhar and senior leader Kewal Singh Dhillon, the union also held protests at toll plazas in the state.

On the fifth day of their 'Delhi Chalo' march – called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha – the Haryana farmers took out a tractor march.

100 FARMERS HELD AT TN RAILWAY STATION

Thanjavur (Tamil

Nadu): Around 100 farmers from different farmers associations were arrested at Thanjavur Railway station on Saturday when they tried to stage a 'rail roko' protest in front of the Cholan Express. The group was protesting the police action against the farmers' agitation in New Delhi.

Ghulam Nabi Azad hints at not contesting Lok Sabha elections



Ghulam Nabi Azad at a public rally at Nagrota on Saturday.

Jammu

Senior politician Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday indicated that he would not be contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as he would be campaigning for the candidates of his newly formed DPAP candidates.

Azad, who has refrained from contesting Lok Sabha polls after his defeat in 2014 Lok Sabha polls, asked his party men to gear up as 2024 would be poll year for J&K.

Talking to media, Azad, who resigned from Congress, also appealed to PM Narendra Modi to resolve the issues of agitating farmers "once for all" as the protest is neither good for the government nor the farmers.

Avalanche warning issued in 15 commercial units, houses gutted Nitish downplays Lalu's

Agencies Srinagar

With the Meteorological centre here predicting heavy snowfall, eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir received avalanche warning on Saturday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKD-MA) said avalanche with low danger level is likely to occur above 2,200 metres over districts of Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, Gan-



Doda, Kishtwar, Poonch and Ramban in Jammu region in the next 24 hours. People living in these areas are advised to take precautions and avoid venturing out into avalanche prone areas, derbal in Kashmir and JKDMA added.

8 dists of Jammu & Kashmir in fire in Mumbai, nobody injured

Mumbai

Around 15 commercial units and some houses were destroyed in a massive fire that broke out in a chawl in Mumbai's Govandi early on Saturday.

No injuries or casualties were reported in the fire incident that took place at Baiganwadi in Adarsh Nagar locality at 3.50 am.

According to Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) officials, 15 galas (commercial units) on the ground floor and some houses on



Fire fighters douse a major fire that broke out at Sujan Chemoplast company, in Navi Mumbai, on Saturday

the first floor were damaged in the fire. Upon reinformation, ceiving around nine fire brigades not clear, officials added.

reached the spot and started the operation. The exact cause behind the fire was

'doors are open' remark

A day after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad caused a flutter by saying "doors were always open for Nitish Kumar", the Bihar Chief Minister on Saturday downplayed the issue, but said he "maintained good relations with allies as well as opponents".

The Janata Dal (United) president was replying to questions from journalists on the remark



Karpoori Thakur in Patna.

by Lalu Prasad Yadav, with whom he was seen warmly shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries inside the assembly

_ucknow hosts Awanish Kumar RaGa heads to Wayanad after elephant attack Awasthi, advisor to UP CM Yogi

First India Bureau

Lucknow

IIM Lucknow on Satur-

day hosted Awanish Kumar Awasthi, advisor to Hon UP CM Yogi Adityanath, for an interactive session titled "Destination Uttar Pradesh." Awasthi addressed the students in this engaging session, touching upon the importance of entrepreneurs and AI in the development of the nation. He focused on the main initiatives taken by the UP govt for the fu-



Director IIM Lucknow, Awanish Awasthi, Chief Advisor UP Govt, Alok Kumar Pr Secv Secv Education, Prof Suresh Jakhar, Chairman PGP.

state. This included Startsupport and the development of Bundelkhand to

ture development of the be a future investment destination. Awasthi also up and skill development invited the institute to be a partner for the UP development project.

New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi left for Wayanad from Varanasi as he was urgently required in his Lok Sabha constituency and will resume his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj on Sunday afternoon, the party said on Saturday.

Gandhi's visit to Wayanad comes a day after a man, who was seriously injured in another wild elephant attack on Friday morning, died at the Kozhikode medical college during the day.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's convoy during the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', in Varanasi, on Saturday.

The victim was an ecotourism guide of the Forest department and was stationed at the Kuruva Island here which is a well known tourist destination, a Forest official said.

In a post on X, Congress general secretarty Jairam Ramesh said, "Rahul Gandhi's presence is required urgently in Wayanad. He is leaving this evening from will resume at 3PM tomorrow, February 18th, at Prayagraj." In Wayanad, a districtwide bandh was called by the ruling LDF, Opposi-

Varanasi at 5PM. The

Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra

tion UDF and BJP to seek permanent solutions to the man-animal conflicts in the region. Shops and business establishments remained closed while vehicles kept off the roads across the district.

The Congress yatra entered Uttar Pradesh on Friday and will traverse through the state before entering Rajasthan.

PROBLEMS IN RED SEA

EAM, Blinken discuss need to ensure free navigation

Washington

State Antony Blinken during his meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar in Germany discussed the need to ensure freedom navigation the Red Sea, highlighting how the US and India play important roles in safeguarding economic stability in the volatile region.

The two leaders met on Friday on the sidelines



EAM Jaishankar, US Secy of State Antony Blinken and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, (from L) in Munich, on Saturday. OPTI

of the prestigious Munich Security Conference in the German city.

"Blinken and Jaishankar discussed the need to ensure freedom

EAM MEETS CANADIAN COUNTERPART IN GERMANY, DISCUSSES 'PRESENT STATE' OF BILATERAL TIES Munich: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has

said that he discussed the "present state" of bilateral ties and the current global issues with his Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly, amidst a diplomatic row between the two countries over the killing of a Sikh separatist in Canada. The two leaders met on Friday on the sidelines of the prestigious Munich Security Conference here in Germany. The meeting comes amid bitterness in bilateral ties over the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil last year. "Met my Canadian counterpart FM @melaniejoly on the sidelines of #MSC2024. Our conversation understandably focused on the present state of our bilateral ties. Was also useful to exchange views on the global situation," Jaishankar posted on X.

Sea," State Department Spokesperson Matthew

of the meeting. Secretary of State

of navigation in the Red Miller said in a readout with Hamas.

Blinken highlighted that the respective US and Indian approaches to maritime security in the Red Sea are mutually reinforcing and play important roles in safeguarding

They also discussed ongoing work to ensure lasting peace and security in the Middle East, Miller said.

economic stability in the

region, he said.

November, Since Yemen's Houthi rebels have targeted ships in the Red Sea to demand a ceasefire in Israel's war

Our govt is providing opportunities to farmers to progress: UP CM Yogi

First India Bureau

Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday emphasised the unwavering commitment of the double-engine government to empower farmers, ensuring opportunities for progress in

every circumstance. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 55th Regional Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Exhibition 2024 at Raj Bhawan, the CM said that UP, despite constituting only 11 percent of India's



UP Guv Anandiben Patel & CM Yogi Adityanath at the event.

total cultivable land, contributes over 20 percent to the country's overall food grain production.

He inaugurated the exhibition with Governor Anandiben Patel.

🖊 डबल इंजन सरकार का संकल्प 🖊



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OFIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The only way to change is to break the boundaries and embrace the uncertain and uncomfortable. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief





BJD CHIEF NAVEEN PATNAIK FINALLY GETS HIS SUCCESSOR?

iju Janata Dal chief Naveen Patnaik, due to his age and health, is making efforts for a 'change of guard' in Odisha and wants to declare his political successor as soon as possible. If reliable sources are to be believed, recently Naveen called Arun Patnaik, son of his elder brother Prem Patnaik, and Aditya Singh Mehta, son of his late sister Geeta Mehta, together and said, 'Biju Janata Dal is the party of your grandfather and maternal grandfather. Now is the time. It's time for you to take charge.' Naveen's elder brother Prem Patnaik is an industrialist who lives in Delhi with his son Arun, while Aditya Singh Mehta lives in Singapore. So, Arun

and Aditya asked Naveen in

one voice, "We do not live

in Odisha, then how

will the people

of the state

accept both

of us." Naveen's answer was, 'Who was I before entering politics? Did I used to live in Odisha? I came here, stayed here and the people here gave me so much love.' Earlier, there were speculations that Naveen would appoint his most trusted IAS officer, VK Pandian, who had left his job to join Biju Janata Dal, as his successor, but somewhere in Naveen's mind it was already going on that the people of Odisha would hardly be able to accept this Tamil Brahmin Pandian hailing from Tamil Nadu. When

Naveen came to Odisha in 1997, after death of his father, Biju Patnaik, he had no experience in politics. His elder brother, Prem. had no interest in politics. Naveen also supported his nephew Arun during the 2019 Assembly elections and offered to contest the elections from the Hinjili Assembly seat, but Arun was not ready for it then.

WILL PIYUSH GOYAL CONTEST 2024 LOK SABHA ELECTIONS FROM MEERUT? **ALREADY MADE UP**

nion Minister Piyush Goyal's connection with Haryana and Maharashtra is understandable, as his ancestral village is in Haryana and the workplace of his father and his mother was in Maharashtra. If reliable sources are to be believed, this time Piyush Goyal was the architect of bringing RLD's Jayant Chaudhary to the BJP. Goyal may also have his own personal motive behind this. If sources are to be believed,



Goyal can contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Meerut. The current MP from there, Rajendra Aggarwal, has won a trio of victories on the Meerut-Hapur seat. Bania voters have a lot of influence on this seat, while there is a bulk of farmers' votes.

Dalit and Muslim voters also have a significant influence here. So, Piyush Goyal, who has become one of the expert players in politics, had to break the RLD-SP-Congress alliance so that he could win this seat with a huge majority. As far as Dalit votes are concerned, BSP's behaviour till now has been like that of the BJP's 'B' party, so anyway, there is no wrinkle visible on the saffron foreheads regarding Dalit votes.

FOR WHOM DELHI IS FAR AWAY IN BJP

JP has conducted several opinion polls one after the other regarding its Delhi MPs, on the basis of which the final report card of Delhi MPs has been prepared. The MPs whose numbers are less are looking more active in their parliamentary constituencies these days. Indications have been given to people



like Gautam Gambhir, Manoj Tiwari, Pravesh Verma, Meenakshi Lekhi, Harshvardhan, Hansraj Hans that this time their seats can be changed or they can be put in the service of the organization. The only complaint of the people of the area

about most of the BJP MPs is that 'they do not meet people easily, nor do they answer their calls.' When there was a grand event of 'Shri Ram Pran Pratishtha' in Ayodhya, Pravesh Sahib Singh Verma had a grand statue of Shri Ram placed at the government residence in Delhi so that he could meet his people on this pretext.

fter Sonia Gandhi's announce-

ment of going to Rajya Sabha

from Rajasthan, Priyanka

Gandhi's core team which includes

Sandeep Singh, Mohit Pandey and

Taugeer, reached Delhi to meet Pri-

yanka and told her that 'now they are

moving to Rae Bareli and for the next

three months they will camp there.' But it

ing that 'she has no desire to contest the

is said that Priyanka refused them say-

Lok Sabha elections.' Actually, earlier

it was absolutely certain that Priyanka

would come to the Rajya Sabha from

Himachal. Himachal CM Sukhwinder

Singh Sukhu had also sent a proposal in

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH TURMOIL IN THE GANDHI FAMILY?

JAYANT'S MIND WAS



avant Choudharv was already anxious to join the NDA. The main reason being that his party did not open its account in the two consecutive Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and 2019. This time, Jayant was calling Akhilesh's close friend and SP spokesperson Udayveer Singh almost every day, asking 'SP to clarify how many seats it wants to leave for RLD'. Akhilesh was saying that 'he will announce it by the end of February or March. But due to constant pressure from Jayant, Akhilesh had to say that 'he is ready to give 7 seats to RLD.' Javant created an atmosphere with this number and put pressure on Piyush Goyal to take a quick decision. When the announcement of giving Bharat Ratna to Chaudhary Charan Singh was made, Akhilesh wanted to talk to Jayant to congratulate him. Sources say that even after three attempts of Akhilesh, when Javant did not come on line, then Dimple Yadav called Jayant's wife Charu and said. 'They should get Jayant to talk to Akhilesh.' Charu told that 'Jayant is unwell, and cannot talk.' Dimple asked, 'What exactly happened to him?' So Charu claimed that 'her husband has an upset stomach'. By then Akhilesh had understood that Jayant had ditched SP

Kharge in this regard. It is said that after

this, when Kharge talked to Sonia, she

did not agree to this proposal. After this,

Sonia talked to Priyanka and told her

because my health is not good these

days, if you also go to Rajya Sabha, it

will not send the right message. You

should contest elections from Rae Bareli

on my seat.' Priyanka was distressed by

this decision of Sonia. After this, Sonia

issued an emotional open letter to the

people of Rae Bareli, so that the Gandhi

family's emotional relationship with Rae

Bareli could be expressed and pressure

could be put on Priyanka to contest elec-

tions from Rae Bareli.

that 'I was forced to go to Rajya Sabha

CM, other State BJP leaders in Delhi; issues of Raj discussed

CM Sharma discusses centrally sponsored schemes with Union FM Sitharaman

CM to inaugurate Pali's 'Om' shaped temple on Monday

> First India Bureau Jaipur

On Saturday, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma visited Delhi to attend BJP's national convention. Sharma also held a series of meetings with union ministers, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman re-

garding various issues of Rajasthan. Sharma also held discussion on centrally sponsored schemes related to the welfare of the state. During the day, CM Sharma also held meetings with the leaders of Barmer and Jaisalmer. This meeting took place at the Delhi residence of Kailash Choudhary.

Meanwhile apart from the CM, several other BJP leaders of the state are also in Delhi to attend the BJP meet. Former CM Vasundhara Raje, several MLAs Of the party from Rajasthan are in Delhi for the same.

On Monday, the CM Bhajan Lal Sharma will be on a one-day visit to Pali. He will participate in the consecration ceremony of the world's first 'Om' shaped temple in Jadan of Pali.



Rai CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav & Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai during the BJP National Convention held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma held a meeting at the residence of Union MoS for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Kailash Choudhary in New Delhi on Saturday. Madan Rathore and others are also seen here.

CM meets Union Ministers



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma paid a courtesy visit to Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi on Saturday.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with Union Minister of **Education and Skill Development Dharmendra** Pradhan in New Delhi on Saturday.

Jaipur: Deputy CM Diya Kumari will

CP JOSHI LAUDS DOUBLE ENGINE GOVT OF BJP

BJP State Prez CP Joshi has expressed gratitude to PM Modi, Union Min GS Shekhawat. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Haryana CM Khattar for the agreement regarding Yamuna water between Rajasthan and Haryana. Joshi said that the double engine govt of BJP in the state is taking many historic decisions in public interest with Modi guarantee. "This scheme remained pending for so long due to lack of attention by the previous govt. Now, after agreement, Haryana will give excess water of Yamuna to Rajasthan during rainy days and State will store this water so that it can be used for drinking purposes," he said



CP Joshi, PC Bairwa and **Dushyant Singh during BJP** event at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday.

DIYA TO VISIT BERLIN FOR INT'L TOURISM BOURSE TO PROMOTE TOURISM



Deputy CM Diya Kumari on her visit to New Delhi met Arjun Meghwal and his wife on Saturday.

start tourism promotion from Berlin. Rajasthan Tourism will be represented at the International Tourism Bourse to be held in Berlin from March 5 to 7. Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant, Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore and DOT Rashmi Sharma will also accompany the deputy CM. This would be Diya Kumari's first foreign trip after becoming the Deputy CM. Renowned travel agents and tour operators from around the world will participate in ITB Berlin. A strong team under the leadership of Diya Kumari of Raj Tourism will go to Berlin. Diya Kumari will meet German ministers and diplomats from other countries which might boost tourism. Mirmal Tiwari

Tribal MLA Ganesh Goghra

DOTASRA-JULLY COMBINATION TO PLAY CRUCIAL

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Congress conference will be held again in Bikaner and conference is proposed on Feb 24th. State Incharge SS Randhawa, **PCC Chief Govind Singh** Dotasra and LoP Tikaram Jully will be present. Interestingly, in the previous session, Dotasra had expressed his displeasure over lack of crowd in the last conference. In such a situation, it has now been decided to hold the conference again.

City Congress Organi-

ROLE IN LOK SABHA ELECTION FOR CONGRESS

PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotasra and LoP Tika Ram Jully will be playing big role in Congress party's Lok Sabha Poll preps. Both will be involved in the ticket distribution and it being said that these

Congress seminar in Bikaner over

Lok Sabha poll preps on Feb 24

two leaders wont be fielded as candidates of party. This has been decided at the level of party high command it is learnt. Notably the party in a surprise move had appointed a three-time MLA from Alwar Rural and cabinet minister in the previous Gehlot government, Tikaram Jully, as the LoP. Both these leaders have been taking on the BJP govt actively.

zation General Secretary Nitin Vats told that an urgent meeting of Bikaner City Congress has

been scheduled on 17th Feb at 11 am in the City

District Congress Com-

mittee office.

meets former CM Gehlot

First India Bureau Jaipur

Amidst speculation about the possibility of Cong leader and former minister Mahendrajeet Malviya joining the BJP, The Cong leaders of the tribal belt are meeting former CM Ashok Gehlot. On Saturday Cong MLA Ganesh Ghogra also met Gehlot and discussed the issues

Notably as per sources Malviya is likely to join the ruling BJPwhich will be a major blow to the congress party. Malviya had recently targeted

related to Malviva.



Ganesh Ghoghra with Ashok Gehlot in Jaipur on Saturday.

Congress and had claimed that the grand old party has been surrounded by some people. "Congress is surrounded by some people. The vision that Congress had earlier is not there today," he said.

CS Pant conducts surprise inspection at Psychiatric Centre, miffed over absentees

Dr. Rituraj Sharma Jaipur

hief Secretary Sudhansh Pant reached psychiatric hospital in Jawahar Nagar. As soon as the CS reached the hospital around 11:15 without any prior notice, there was panic among the medical workers. The Chief Secretary looked at all the arrangements in the hospital for about an hour. Chief Secretary Pant first reached the OPD and saw the overall

arrangements to analyse



CS Sudhansh Pant

the working conditions.

After that, Pant proceeded to examine the emergency services, the RRC (Rehabilitation and Recovery Centre), and

The CS looked at all arrangements in the psychiatric hospital for about an hour; he also took opportunity to solicit feedback from patients present within the hospital, he also ssued

directives regarding cleanliness in hosp

the telepsychology services offered by the institution. During his visit, he also took the opportunity to solicit feedback from patients present

within the hospital, seeking to understand their perspectives on the quality of care provided.

Expressing dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the hospital's operations, Chief Secretary Pant highlighted concerns over the absence of some medical personnel during his visit. Additionally, he issued directives aimed at enhancing the levels of cleanliness within the hospital premises, emphasizing the importance of maintaining hygienic standards healthcare facilities.

Public has faith in justice system: Devnani to lawyers

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani has stated that advocates must understand their roles. They should not go on strike or get arrested. The public has faith in the justice system; they should contribute to preserve that faith.

Vasudev Devnani spoke at the District Bar Association's swearingin ceremony on Saturday in Dausa. Vasudev Devnani administered the oath to the newly elected officials.

Priyanka's name to Congress President





WHAT'S NEXT?



ELISIUM: The Musical Extravaganza: The musical journey that transcends boundaries and captures the essence of pure euphoria! ELISIUM is not just a concert it's an experience that will resonate in your hearts long after the last note fades away.

hen: Feb 24, 05:00 PM

Where: JECC, Jaipur

(f) FIRST INDIA



Ghar - An Open Mic For Words By Tape A Tale: Monthly open mics where you can come and perform your stories and pieces. It'll be like a little warm home for your words, and a place for our community to bond, give and receive feedback. and have a beautiful time overall.

b When: Feb 18, 04:00 PM

Where: Aura Sky Jaipur, Jaipur



SpacSec '24- 2nd International Conference on **Cyber Warfare, Security & Space Computing:** As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the need for secure and reliable communication systems becomes more important than ever.

b When: Feb 22 & 23 11:00 AM

• Where: Manipal University, Jaipur

BIRTHDAY FORECAST!



Sajid Nadiadwala **AQUARIUS FEBRUARY 17**

You can expect an excellent day ahead. The stars are aligned in your favor, bringing you good luck and positive energy. This is the perfect time to take on new challenges and make bold decisions. You creative and innovative ideas will

Lucky Number: 3

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Rekha Kumar

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aithfulness, duty, obligation, allegiance – what do these words have in common? These are different facets

of loyalty. For many today, it means little to be loyal. Faithfulness to a marriage partner, obligations to older family members, the allegiance of an employee to the employer – all relationships are casual and often compromised.

With changing standards, marriage is no longer held in high esteem. Many couples stay together until their physical attraction wanes or problems arise and then they separate or divorce each other.

Betrayal in any form is a vile act that disrupts peace. The betrayed partner is suddenly left alone, with a life that has turned upside down. How does this happen to two people who once loved each

other? Often, the first step in that direction is taken when they become emotionally distant. Alternating between being fully present in a relationship and not being fully present is

betrayal finds its niche. This has happened to some during middle age, which is termed a midlife cri-

Loyalty prevents one from being nicer to other men or women than one is to his / her wife or husband. It also requires that one does not share with others the weaknesses of one's partner. It is easier to complain than it is to work hard to keep open the lines of communication with one's spouse.

While facing challenges and disappointments, a relationship without loyalty does not flourish. When trust breaks down, love begins to wither. Is faithfulness worth the effort? Yes, as it benefits each partner, making their relationship stable and lasting. When a husband focuses on the well-being of his wife, she has a feeling of security that brings out the best in her. The same is true of a husband.

Some say that loyalty in marriage is old-fashioned. Most people do not agree with this. A group of men and women were asked to list five qualities they most admired in their partner. The virtue that was highly prized was loyalty. One husband said, "Staying loyal has resulted in 37 years of sustained respect."

Unity in goals strengthens the relationship. Many couples today spend little time together. They work long hours at their jobs travel extensively for their work or move abroad alone.

By adjusting their circumstanc-

es, and looking for opportunities to confirm their commitment to each other, couples make their marriage durable. When the feelings and opinions of the other partner are considered when making plans, it converts into 'our' plan



just being 'my' plan.

Loyalty carries a strong sense of mutuality. It includes positive actions by both partners to preserve their precious relationship. The cornerstone of a secure marriage is loyalty. Without it, there is no trust.

The marriage bond is strained when partners fail to assume their responsibilities or if one spouse is abused by the other. A distorted sense of values can also test loyalties. Still, even if only one partner does what is right, things are better than if neither did.

A husband married for 58 years says, "Through the years, my wife's loyalty has been a great source of strength in our marriage. I can rely on her, no matter what challenges we face."

One wife says, "Even when I'm most upset about what is happening to us, I'm not worried about our marriage coming to an end."



If one is loyal in a relationship, one enjoys a sense of permanence. When you think about the months, years and decades ahead, you see yourself together in the picture. This outlook brings security in marriage.

Another wife married for 27 years said, "My husband and I take marriage seriously, so we do not even consider separation. This makes us work harder to resolve problems by discussing them together."

Genuine love grows as loyal couples experience life together. They become close friends and cherish each other's company. One couple married for 17 years, message or call each other during the day just to see how things are going.

Learning early to be loyal within the family makes it easier to develop friendships based on loyalty. A good marriage is not static but grows richer and stronger with time. One can ask oneself, how often do I think about my partner, perhaps reflecting on the qualities that attracted me to him/her in the first

Looking for ways to reassure the spouse with words and actions that he or she is the most important person contributes to a stable marriage.



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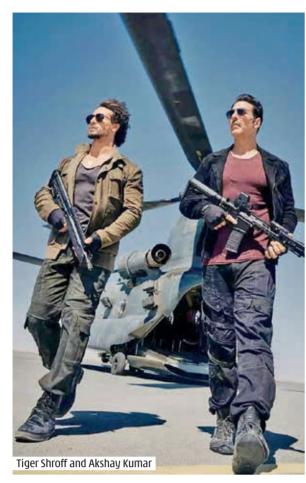
Bade Miyan TRIUMPH

lywood's box office struggles, hopes are soaring as Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff gear up for the actionpacked extravaganza, "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan," set to hit screens on April 9, 2024. Directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, the film holds the promise of breaking the dry spell that has loomed over the industry.

Both Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff have faced a challenging phase, with their recent releases falling short of expectations. Now, the spotlight is on "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan" to revive their fortunes. The anticipation is amplified as the movie is slated for an Eid release, ensuring a massive audience during the festive period.

The film's teaser, revealing Akshay and Tiger as powerful soldiers combating a formidable villain portrayed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, has only fueled excitement. Beyond the action, the bromance between the lead actors is expected to be a major high-

Janhvi Kapoor



light, evident in Akshay's Valentine's Day tribute to their camaraderie.

Before the industry's recent downturn, Akshay Kumar enjoyed a successful streak at the box office in 2019, with hits like "Mission Mangal," "Housefull 4," and

"Good Newwz." Tiger Shroff's "War" with Hrithik Roshan dominated the charts in the same year.

The star-studded cast of "Bade Miyan Chote Miyan" includes Manushi Chhillar, Sonakshi Sinha, Alaya F, and Ronit Roy.

ACTION Unleashed!



Tripti Mahawar

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enowned actors Arjun Rampal and Vidyut Jammwal Co-producers descended upon Jaipur on Saturday to promote their upcoming film, "Crakk." The movie promises to take audiences on a riveting journey from the slums of Mumbai to the world of underground extreme sports on an international level. Speaking about the film, Vidyut highlighted the resilience and fitness of individuals hailing from slum areas, stating, "People who belong from slum areas are very fit and

Despite facing challenges during filming, both actors exhibited remarkable enthusiasm and dedication. Arjun, known for his energetic presence, even persevered through an injury, showcasing his commitment to the project. Vidyut commended Arjun's resilience, emphasizing their shared passion for the film. "While shooting the movie, Arjun got injured slip disc, but with both stars' keenness, they eagerness per-

easily perform every formed each task very task in their daily life." well," Vidyut remarked.

The name "Crakk" itself carries profound meaning, as Vidyut explained, "All men are crack when they are stuck on their decision to achieve something." The film promises authentic action sequences coupled with a compelling narrative, making it a must-watch for audiences.

When asked about choosing Arjun for the movie, Vidyut expressed admiration for

Arjun Rampal and Vidyut Jammwal

action prowess, stating, capable of all the Arjun's versatility and view, he found Arjun the actor.'

"Through the point of action and potential in

MUKESH KIRADOO



JANHVI'S CULINARY SURPRISE

glamworld of Bollywood, Ananya Pan-



port for each other through

case the delightful surprise chemistry. Previously, Ananshe received from her bestie Janhvi Kapoor – a plate of what she claimed to be the "best paneer bhurji ever." The actress expressed her gratitude with a sweet caption, saying, "Thanks for sending, JK," accompanied by a heart emoji. The gesture not only highlights the genuine friendship between the two stars but also adds a flavorful twist to their bond.

ya, Janhvi, and Sara Ali Khan were seen breaking a sweat together during a Pilates session. The trio's fitness instructor playfully documented the experience on Instagram Stories, revealing their distinct vibes, varied music preferences, and favourite workout routines. With humour and camaraderie, the instructor aptly captioned the post, "3 distinct vibes, 3 di-I his isn't the first time the verse music choices, 3 varied

TENNANT'S

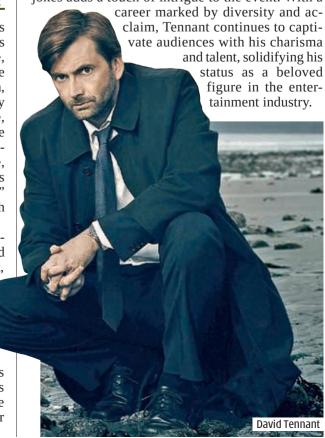
WEALTH **JOURNEY**

avid Tennant, the versatile Scottish actor renowned for his portrayal of the tenth and fourteenth Doctors in Doctor Who has amassed a net worth of \$9 million, according to celebritynetworth. Beyond his iconic role in the beloved sci-fi series, Tennant has left an indelible mark on television, film, and the stage.

Born David McDonald on April 18, 1971, in Bathgate, Scotland, Tennant's passion for acting ignited at the tender age of three, inspired by the very series he would later become a pivotal part of. His educational journey took him through Ralston Primary School, Paisley Grammar School, and ultimately, the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where he adopted the surname Tennant officially.

Before gracing the TARDIS, Tennant made his television debut in 1988 with "Dramarama." His career took flight with notable roles in series such as "Takin' Over the Asylum," "Casanova," and "He Knew He Was Right," showcasing his versatility and talent. However, it was his stint as the Doctor that propelled him to international stardom and earned him a special place in the hearts of fans worldwide.

As Tennant gears up to host the BAFTA Awards in 2024, his decision to steer clear of Taylor Swift jokes adds a touch of intrigue to the event. With a



KELLY'S Mira's Family Today Exit CELEBRATIONS



hahid Kapoor and Mira Kapoor, along with their adorable duo Misha & Zain, added a touch of glamour to a friend's wedding in Delhi. Mira, who had been in the capital for a few days, now had her family by her side for the celebratory affair.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Mira shared

glimpses of the starstudded event. One heartwarming picture captures Shahid and Mira striking a pose with friends, radiating joy and elegance. The duo looked pictureperfect amidst the wedding revelries.

In another candid shot, Mira shares a moment with the bride, skillfully multitasking as she manag-

es her son Zain's mood. Despite Zain's apparent reluctance, the photo captures the beauty of the occasion, with Misha gracefully joining in the frame, embodying charm like her parents. Mira captioned the picture, "When the bestie was a bride #bridalparty,' adding a playful touch

The joyous occasion also showcased Misha in her element, captured in another frame where she played at the wedding, donning an adorable flower dress. Mira's social media updates give fans an intimate look into the Kapoor

family's event.

to the celebration.



the unexpected switch, Ora effortlessly took over,

earning praise from both the show's staff and ex-

ternal observers for her on-the-fly hosting skills.





(1) FIRST INDIA

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ndia International School's Play House, The Play House, mesmerized attendees at its 16th Annual Fiesta held on Saturday at APJ Abdul Kalam Auditorium. The event kicked off with a soul-stirring musical homage to the divine, setting the tone for an evening of celebration and reflection. Embracing the theme of devotion, students showcased an array of dynamic performances, highlighting reverence towards deities, parents, nature, and the nation. The stage came alive with energetic and

captivating dance routines, captivating the audience with their exuberance and precision. From intricate choreography to heartfelt expressions, every aspect of the program left a lasting impression. Attendees lauded the school's commitment to holistic education and praised the young performers for their talent and dedication. The Annual Fiesta not only showcased artistic flair but also instilled valuable lessons of gratitude and respect in the hearts of all who attended.







Lifestyle Sho

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he Hidden Treasures Lifestyle Show extravaganza is set to grace the city with its presence on Saturday at Hotel Diggi Palace. The event includes over 110 designers converging at this esteemed venue, and attendees can expect a treasure trove of

exquisite products ranging from stunning garments to opulent jewellery and luxurious footwear. But the allure doesn't end there - alongside the dazzling displays of creativity, guests can tantalize their taste buds with a myriad of delectable cuisines available at the food stalls scattered



throughout the venue. Richa Singh and Saloni Bhandari have orchestrated a truly immersive experience, where families can revel in the vibrant atmosphere while exploring the finest offerings from artisans across the nation. As the sun sets,



the event transforms into a symphony of music, further elevating the ambience and ensuring an unforgettable evening for all. What's more, entry to this extravaganza is completely free, making it accessible to everyone eager to partake in this celebration of design, culinary delights, and community spirit.





GREETINGS!





In a celebration of love and tradition Ashwani, son of Bhawana & Manoj Thakwani with Khushboo, daughter of Mona & Chandra Prakash Tolani filled the air with melodious tunes and infectious laughter as friends and family gathered to partake in the joyous festivities of the vibrant wedding ceremony, marking the union of two hearts in matrimony on Friday at Shree Rooplaxmi's Castle, Niwaru Rd, Ashok Nagar II, Jothwara, Peethawas. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the ceremony and blessed newlyweds with a happy married life ahead. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Chancellor Dr Sandeep Bakshi unveiled the cutting-edge Carl Zeiss Pentero 900 neurosurgical microscope at JNU Hospital, accompanied by hospital officials and department heads. Neurosurgeon Dr Deepak Mewara praised its advanced features like high magnification and autofocus, crucial for intricate surgeries. Dr Bakshi stressed the hospital's commitment to providing top-tier neurosurgeries, enhancing patient safety, and ensuring affordability statewide.

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGA

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Children's Theater and Performing Arts Society Jaipur dazzled audiences with captivating performances at the Fungama National Children's Drama Festival on Saturday. The event, held in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, showcased the incredible talents of young artists. Child folk singer Nehal Sharma from Krishna Kala Kendra, Beawar/Nathdwara,



harmonium and dholak performance, while Smile and Hope Jaipur presented 'Ajmmon Ka Nagar and Guddi,' shedding light on crucial issues of girl education and feticide.

Directed by Saurabh Bhatt,

mesmerised the crowd with her the play ingeniously intertwined narratives addressing societal challenges. The stellar cast included Jhilmil Bhatt, Priyansh Mathur, Sargam Bhatt and more, with lighting by Shahjor Ali and costume design by Namrata Bhatt.



Ankit Bhardwaj from Bharatpur clinched the top spot and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh in a state-level speech competition themed 'My India-Developed India @2047' held in Jaipur. Organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the event saw participants from 33 districts. Runners-up included Pallavi Soni of Bhilwara, Ananya of Jaipur and Mukund of Ajmer. The winners were honoured by NYKS State Director Mahendra Sisodia, journalist Gulab Batra and Subodh Mahavidyalaya Principal Dr KB Sharma. Ankit Bhardwaj, in a heartwarming gesture, pledged Rs 5000 from his prize to aid Hridayansh Sharma, a resident of Masari village battling a severe illness.



In a captivating performance on NetTheat, Kritika and Rakshita from the International Institute of Kathak Dance Jaipur Gharana displayed the essence of Jaipur Kathak. Under the guidance of Smt. Shweta Garg, presented traditional pieces like 'Kasturi Tilak Vandana' and 'Jai Murli Manohar Gopala', showcasing intricate rhythms and emotive storytelling. The event, organised by Renu Sanadhya and coordinated by Naval Dangi, featured stunning visuals and melodious music.



Subodh Women's College in Jaipur hosted the prestigious "Pinnacle" awards ceremony on Saturday. The program commenced with the lighting of the lamp. During this Chief Guest Govardhan Bardhar and Special Guest KK Pathak, graced the event and celebrated academic extracurricular achievements. Principal Dr Renu Joshi urged students to persevere, while RC Jain emphasized the power of belief. Notable students were honoured, and the ceremony featured cultural performances, highlighting the college's vibrant spirit.

