



FIRST INDIA



RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 5 | ISSUE NO. 206 | PAGES 12 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



Shri Bhajanlal Sharma
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

A New Year Gift

Modi ji's Guarantee Getting Accomplished

LPG cylinder for

Rs. 450/-
Only



"The state government is implementing the guarantee given by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This initiative of providing the cheapest LPG cylinder to registered Ujjwala beneficiaries and other poor families in Rajasthan for just Rs. 450 from the New Year is a humble initiative towards women empowerment." - Bhajanlal Sharma, Chief Minister, Rajasthan

LPG Cylinder Subsidy Scheme starts from 1st January, 2024

Registered Ujjwala beneficiaries and women from other poor families (BPL) will get one LPG cylinder every month for just

Rs. 450/-

Rajasthan Samvad

The current beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana will continue to get the benefits of the scheme.

THIS YEAR, DREAM THE IMPOSSIBLE COMMIT TO A BETTER PLANET!



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

The writer is an Indian yoga guru, a spiritual leader, founder of The Art of Living



A couple takes selfie in the backdrop of a floral decoration of the Happy New Year 2024, in Delhi on Sunday.

MINDFUL DYNAMISM

Usually, we hurry the mind but we're slow in our action. The right formula for success is patience in the mind and dynamism in action. Embrace both passion and dispassion. Move ahead with the courage to strive for your goals while also letting go when necessary. Abundance will follow naturally. When you meditate, there is keenness of observation.

You become totally relaxed, yet at the same time, you possess the strength of intelligence, the sharpness of awareness and intuition. When you are aware, and then you act, then that is the right action. An undeterred focus and an intuitive mind will help you achieve your goals. Meditation is the way to a stress-free energy-filled life, with a clear vision of where you want to go.

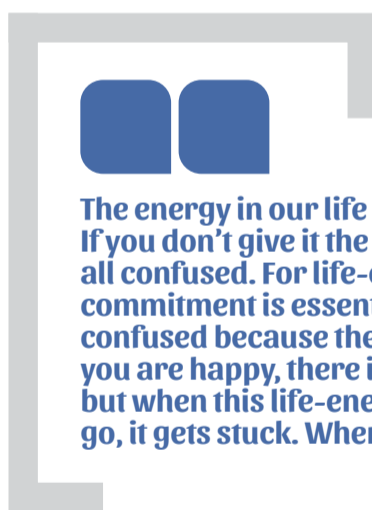
We are all born to do something unique and wonderful on this planet. Make sure you don't let this opportunity pass by. Take up something creative in the new year. Not a year should pass without doing something creative.

Unless you have a dream, you cannot realise it. Every invention has come out of a dream. Give yourself the freedom to dream and think big and have the valour to pursue them with total dedication. Often people who dreamt big were ridiculed, but they remained steadfast in achieving their goals.

The energy in our life needs some direction to flow. If you don't give it the right direction, you will be left all confused. For life-energy to move in a direction, commitment is essential.

Today, most people are confused because there is no direction in life. When you are happy, there is so much life-energy in you; but when this life-energy doesn't know where to go, it gets stuck. When it stagnates, it rots.

The secret is-greater the commitment you take, greater the energy/power are given to



The energy in our life needs some direction to flow. If you don't give it the right direction, you will be left all confused. For life-energy to move in a direction, commitment is essential. Today, most people are confused because there is no direction in life. When you are happy, there is so much life-energy in you; but when this life-energy doesn't know where to go, it gets stuck. When it stagnates, it rots

fulfill that commitment. Greater the commitment, easier things are for you. Smaller commitments can be suffocating for you because you have more capacity, but you are stuck in a limited sphere.

When you are working for the betterment of the society, of people around you, even if you have ten things to do and if one thing goes wrong, you can keep doing the other ten things; the thing that has gone wrong will set itself right! That's Usually how grace works. We think we should have resources and then we will commit. Greater the commitment you take, the resources simply come to you. What-

ever you are committed to, rewards you with strength. If it is your family that you are committed to, your family supports you; if it is the society you are committed to, you enjoy the support of society. Even before you ask, you'll get help.

For the commitment to bring result, we need the right ideas and the right actions. Do not make a list of all the things you want to achieve. Look at the big picture and select the few things that really matter. If we put things that will give us maximum fulfillment, and uplift the lives of others in the long term, smaller things will automatically fall into place.

When the mind is totally in



the present, the right ideas come to you. Not only should you plan your goals, but plan the means and methods to work towards them. Where would you like to see yourself after three years? After 20 years? After 40 years? Don't be feverish about the results. Give your 100 per cent.

Usually, we hurry the mind but we're slow in our action. The right formula for success is patience in the mind and dynamism in action. Embrace both passion and dispassion. Move ahead with the courage to strive for your goals while also letting go when necessary. Abundance will follow naturally.

When you meditate, there is

keenness of observation. You become totally relaxed, yet at the same time, you possess the strength of intelligence, the sharpness of awareness and intuition. When you are aware, and then you act, then that is the right action.

An undeterred focus and an intuitive mind will help you achieve your goals. Meditation is the way to a stress-free energy-filled life, with a clear vision of where you want to go.

Commitment will always bring comfort in the long run. Make a commitment to make this world a better place to live. Dream the impossible!

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



TOP TWEETS

The year-end #Mannkibaat talk by PM @narendramodi was particularly motivating. PM rightly stressed that India's achievements are that of every Indian. With Nation First as our guiding mantra and internalizing the Panch Pran, we can advance the quest of an #AtmanirbharBharat.

Dr. S. Jaishankar @DrSJaishankar



Celebrating 2 remarkable years of @ONDC_Official, a hallmark of innovation & inclusivity! By enabling businesses to broaden their reach & providing consumers with a diverse range of options, ONDC has truly democratised the e-commerce landscape in India.

Piyush Goyal @PiyushGoyal

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

One who sees inaction in action, and action in inaction, is intelligent among men.

BHAGAVAD GITA



FIRST INDIA



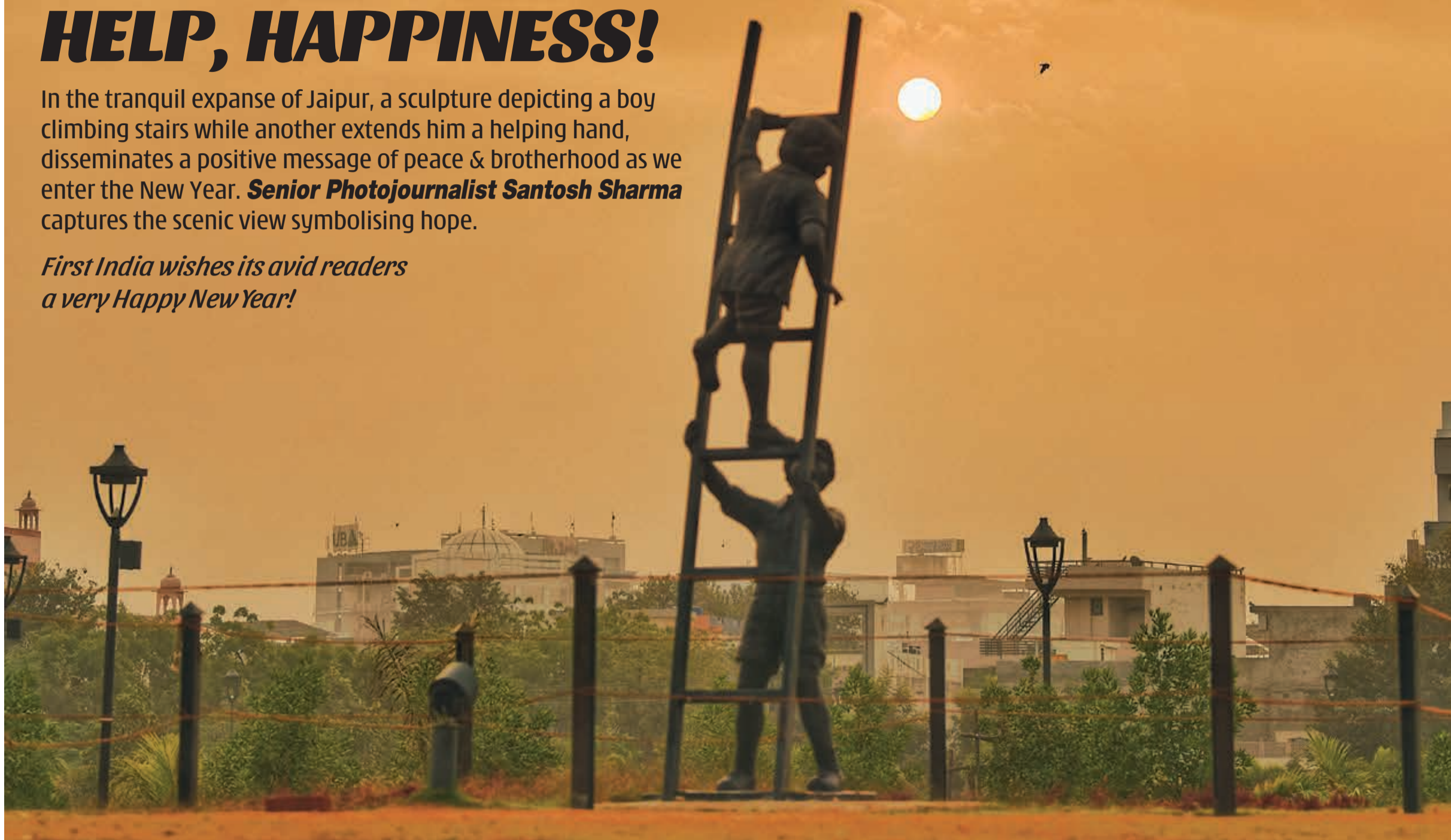
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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper

A YEAR OF HOPE, HELP, HAPPINESS!

In the tranquil expanse of Jaipur, a sculpture depicting a boy climbing stairs while another extends him a helping hand, disseminates a positive message of peace & brotherhood as we enter the New Year. **Senior Photojournalist Santosh Sharma** captures the scenic view symbolising hope.

First India wishes its avid readers a very Happy New Year!



LOOKING FORWARD 2024

A LEAP OF FAITH!

EVENTS THAT'LL STEAL THE SHOW!

PM MODI'S LAST 'MANN KI BAAT' ADDRESS OF 2023

UPHOLDING INDIA'S UNSTOPPABLE PACE IN 2024!

- PM Modi encourages artistic tributes to Ram Temple in Ayodhya
- Share the works on social media using #SHRIRAMBHAJAN, says Modi

Moni Sharma
New Delhi



PM Narendra Modi, in his last address of 2023 on Sunday, highlighted India's growing self-confidence and commitment to self-reliance. Speaking during 108th episode of his Mann Ki Baat, Modi focused on nation's embodiment of the 'Viksit Bharat' spirit, emphasizing importance of sustaining this momentum into 2024. Modi spoke about widespread excitement and cultural expression surrounding construction of Ram temple.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- 108 EPISODES:** PM Modi reflected on the journey of the program, marking its 108th episode with a note on public participation and inspiration drawn from it.
- 'VIKSIT BHARAT' SPIRIT:** PM Modi underscored India's current state of robust self-confidence, driven by the ethos of 'Viksit Bharat' and a focus on self-reliance.
- SPACE MISSIONS:** Modi shared his experiences of receiving congratulatory messages on India's lunar mission & Chandrayaan-3, and expressed his pride in the country's scientists.
- ACHIEVEMENTS IN SPORTS:** PM Modi congratulated Indian athletes for performances, including their medal hauls in Asian Games & Asian Para Games.
- 'FIT INDIA' INITIATIVE:** The broadcast also featured a segment on physical, mental well-being as part of 'Fit India'.
- AI AND INNOVATION:** Modi highlighted India's emergence as an 'innovation hub', viewing it as a symbol of unwavering progress.
- OSCARS:** PM highlighted successes of "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR", documentary "The Elephant Whisperers".

Navy enhances surveillance in Arabian Sea

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Against the backdrop of the increasing attacks on commercial ships transiting the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea, the Indian Navy on Sunday said it had substantially enhanced maritime surveillance efforts in Central and North Arabian Sea and "augmented force levels".

"Task Groups comprising destroyers and frigates have been deployed to undertake maritime security operations and render assistance to merchant vessels in case of any incident. Aerial surveillance by long-range maritime patrol aircraft & RPA has been enhanced to have a complete maritime domain awareness," Navy said.

20-yr-old hacks parents, divyang sister to death with axe, surrenders

Yunus Gesawat
Nagaur



Police officials probe murder site in Nagaur on Sunday. (Inset) Accused Mohit (20).

A 20-year-old man killed his parents and disabled sister with an axe while they were asleep in Nagaur on Saturday night. According to information, after murdering the three, the accused sat with the dead bodies all through the night. On Sunday morning, he reached Padu Kalan police station and confessed to his crime.

Police said that the deceased have been identified as jeweller Dilip Singh (45), his wife Rajesh Kanwar (42) and daughter Priyanka (15). The accused, Mohit (20), is being interrogated. His phone history had methods of suicide searches.

Accused sat with dead bodies all through the night. He attempted suicide by jumping into a water tank but was not successful

The accused also attempted suicide by jumping into a water tank but was not successful. The accused has no remorse, police said the accused looks mentally unstable.

IN BRIEF

Arvind Panagariya, ex-advisor to PM Modi, is new finance panel chief



New Delhi: Arvind Panagariya, former advisor to PM Narendra Modi, has been appointed as the chairman of a new Finance Commission that will recommend how federal taxes will be shared with states, Union Ministry of Finance notification stated on Sunday.

• The US aerospace major Boeing has asked operators of Boeing 737 MAX globally — which in India include AI Express, SpiceJet and Akasa — to carry out safety checks on this aircraft after finding loose bolt in one of the planes.

• Centre on Sunday declared Tehreek-e-Hurriyat (TeH) an 'Unlawful Association' under UAPA. The organisation was earlier headed by deceased separatist leader Syed Geelani.

• Mumbai on high alert after caller threatens explosions amid New Year celebrations.

• NIA identifies more than 43 Khalistan supporters involved in violence at Indian Missions abroad.

CM pledges for 'New Raj' at public hearing

Aishwary Pradhan and Kailash Chandra
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma gave assurance of a 'New Rajasthan' to the public during a public hearing held at the OTS on Sunday. After listening to the complaints of the common people, he instructed the officials to provide immediate solution. He also gave instructions to investigate the causes of pending cases and take strict action against negligent personnel.

"Dear family members, this affection, unwavering trust and steadfast love of all of you towards me provides me with immense inspiration and energy for building 'New Rajasthan of New India', for which I thank you from bottom of my heart," Sharma posted on X. Several leaders including Deputy CM Diya Kumari, ministers Madan Dilawar and Dr Manju Bagmar met the CM at the OTS. Vijay Bainsla, son of Gurjar leader late Kirori Singh Bainsla, also met CM Sharma. **P8**

NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS!

Welcome Sudhansh Pant!

State bureaucracy enthused to work with a bureaucrat par excellence!

Rajendra Chhabra
Jaipur

Top IAS officer Sudhansh Pant, a nominee of the Centre, will take charge of the administration of the State as the new Chief Secretary. Pant is to join the office today, as the DoP released the order on Sunday in this regard. He

will also handle the additional charge of Rajasthan Mines and Minerals Corporation, Udaipur.

The entire bureaucracy is happy with the arrival of a bureaucrat with extraordinary talent and experience in governance, who is a good administrator, with a clean image and an excellent personality. After the arrival of the new government and the new CM, the way the administration had faltered for the last three weeks, the period of confusion and uncertainty will now end.

The rule of the government will now be restored. The public is now confident that with the mandate and authority with which Pant has come from the Centre, the administration will now run totally as per the system without any pressure or compulsion. Anyway, Sudhansh is a stickler for rules and regulations and a follower of the rule book. Under his leadership, bureaucrats will now be able to work impartially, fearlessly and with complete transparency.

TURN TO P5

PANT APPOINTED THE NEW RAJ CS, WILL TAKE OVER TODAY BETWEEN 9:15-10 AM



Newly appointed Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant pays a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, in presence of outgoing Chief Secretary Usha Sharma in Jaipur on Sunday. **MORE ON P8**

Winter intensifies in Raj

MeT dept predicts dense fog for 3-4 days in the state

Cold wind and fog add to chill, Mt Abu touches a low at 0°C



Winter has started intensifying in Rajasthan as icy cold winds and fog have started adding to the chill. It was freezing cold in Mt Abu. MeT sounded a yellow alert of cold day for Alwar, Churu, Bharatpur, Bundi, Karauli, Kota, Tonk, H'garh and Ganganagar.



Clockwise from left: A fisherman rows his boat on Chandlai Lake in Jaipur on a cold Sunday morning; a thick blanket of fog engulfs Jagatpura area of Jaipur; An old man and his grandson wrapped up in woollens brave the winter chill in Jaipur.

NAIM KHAN & MUKESH KIRADOO

Air Force sergeant's wife found hanging in Jodhpur

Rajeev Gaur
Jodhpur

The wife of an Air Force sergeant, Chitra was found hanging in the govt quarters of the Sahu Enclave situated in Air Force area of Jodhpur.

Although the sergeant claims it to be a result of a drinking-related argument but police are skeptical following their investigation. After a forensic examination by the FSL, the body was moved to Mahatma Gandhi Hospital mortuary. The post-mortem will be conducted by the Medical Board after the arrival of Peehar Paksha. With a one-year-old daughter left behind, the sergeant, serving in Jodhpur Air Force, faces suspicions as police view death as more than just a suicide.



Police team investigating in Chomu, Jaipur on Sunday.

TEMPLE PRIEST'S WIFE FOUND HANGING IN SAMOD NEAR CHOMU, REASON FOR SUICIDE UNKNOWN

Jaipur: A heartbreaking suicide case of 50-year-old Sumitra Devi is being reported from Samod near Chomu town of Jaipur district. The Samod police launched an inquiry after she was found hanging in her residence. The family promptly reported the incident, leading to police intervention. Following a post-mortem examination at Chomu Government Hospital, the body was given to the grief-stricken family. Sumitra Devi, the wife of Rakesh Sharma, a temple priest in Samod, leaves behind two sons and two daughters. The community is left grappling with the shock of this tragic event, as the motive behind Sumitra Devi's suicide remains undisclosed.

Manoj Kumar Saini

3 dead, 2 injured as car gets crushed between two trailers near Sikar

First India Bureau
Sikar

Three people died while two were seriously injured when a car got crushed between two trailers in Sikar on Sunday. There were five people in the car, out of which three died on the spot. Two people have been referred to Jaipur in a critical condition.

The accident happened



Cop inspecting the mangled remains in Sikar on Sunday.

on National Highway-52 in Ringas town. Deputy SP Mahabir Singh said

that the driver of a trailer suddenly took a turn at Simarla due to which the car behind collided with another trailer and got stuck between the two trailers. The injured were admitted to Ringas CHC, where the doctors referred them to Jaipur.

The bodies of the three people killed in the accident have been kept in the mortuary of Ringas CHC.

SHO sacked for obscene photo with woman

First India Bureau
Deeg

SHO Kamaruddin, posted at Kaithwara police station in Deeg district, has been terminated after his photograph in an objectionable position with a woman went viral on the social media. During investigation, Kamaruddin was found guilty and action was taken against him on Sunday.

After the photo went viral, Kamaruddin was immediately suspended by Deeg SP Brajesh Jyoti. A departmental inquiry was conducted. The incident happened three months ago. The woman with Kamaruddin is a resident of Kaithwada. A person used to bring the woman to Kamaruddin in the govt quarter.

AGTF nabs wanted gangster Anil Bishnoi

CRIME
ROUNDUP

Shivendra Singh Parmar
and Rajeev Gaur
Jaipur/Jodhpur

In a major action, the Anti Gangster Task Force arrested gangster Anil Bishnoi of Jodhpur carrying a bounty of Rs 25,000 on his head. He was wanted in Charbhuja police station of Rajsamand district for last four years.

Addl DGP Crime and AGTF Dinesh MN said that Bishnoi is an active henchman of Sopu gang run by Lawrence Bishnoi. "He has a tattoo of Sopu Gang on his right arm. Many cases have been registered against this gang under the Arms, NDPS Act, murder, attempt to murder and extortion," he said.



Gangster Anil Bishnoi

INMATE FLEES FROM OPEN JAIL IN JAIPUR

Jaipur: A case of a prisoner escaping from Sanganer open jail in Jaipur has emerged. The head of the jail filed a complaint against Ompal Singh, convicted of murder, who was noticeably absent during the morning roll call on December 29th. A search inside and outside his residence yielded no results, and the jail officials reported the incident to Malpura Gate police station. The Malpura Gate police station received a complaint from jail administration.

LIQUOR WORTH ₹1 CR BEING SMUGGLED IN GUISE OF POTATOES SEIZED, 1 HELD IN JALORE

Jaipur: The police team of Bhinmal and Chitalwana in a joint action recovered 835 cartons of illegal liquor made in Punjab from a truck, which broke a blockade late on Saturday. The value of the liquor is said to be around Rs 1 crore. Police have arrested Birbal Ram alias OP Vishnoi of Barmer. SP Monica Sen said that liquor was being smuggled in 190 potato sacks. Police have seized the truck along with liquor. A case has been registered against Vishnoi under the Excise Act.

MAN BLUDGEONED TO DEATH IN JAIPUR

Jaipur: A young man was found lying in a pool of blood with grievous injury marks on his head in a deserted place in Jaipur. A stone stained with blood was also found lying near him. Police said that deceased Balveer Singh (35) of Bhiwara used to drive an auto.

Satyanarayan Sharma

MINOR SODOMISED IN JAISALMER

Jaisalmer: A minor was kidnapped and sodomised in Bhaniyana of Jaisalmer, prompting a case lodged at police station. On Dec 24, the assailant abducted the boy at knifepoint during Jagran and took him to another village. DSP Kailash Vishnoi visited the crime scene.

THIEVES LOOT ₹29L FROM SBI ATM IN SIKAR; PNB ATM UPROOTED IN SAHWA



Sikar/Churu: In a daring heist near Sikar's Kotwali police station, thieves targeted a SBI ATM and looted Rs 29 lakh. The criminals strategically disabled CCTV camera with black paint before using a gas cutter to breach the ATM. Five police teams are conducting raids to track down the culprits. Similarly, on Saturday night, five miscreants uprooted the PNB bank ATM in Churu's Sahwa. The event was caught on CCTV camera. There are reportedly nine and a half lakh rupees in the ATM.

Sanjay Prajapat

BSF jawan dies during duty, martyr status sought

Pradeep Gadhwal
Jhunjhunu

BSF jawan from Bhimsar village died while on duty. As per the officials, the soldier had committed suicide by shooting himself. On the other hand, the family members are denying this. According to family, the bullet was fired while servicing the rifle. Mangilal, a soldier of Bhimsar village, was posted as head constable in 155 Battalion in Firozpur, Punjab. When the mortal remains reached village on Sunday morning, the family refused to accept the mortal remains, demanding martyr status.

Similarly, in Singhana another BSF jawan lost his life in a car accident. The final rites for Sunil Verma (35) unfolded in his hometown of Singha-



BSF jawan Mangilal

ARMY MAN DIES OF HEART ATTACK IN JHUNJHUNU

Jhunjhunu: Rakesh Meena, a 38-year-old Army personnel, succumbed to a heart attack on Sunday morning. According to the information, Rakesh Meena was currently posted in Leh in Grip Army. Meena had joined the army in 2008 itself.

na, where he was accorded military honors. The late jawan was serving as Head Constable Ministerial in 56th Battalion of BSF in Gujarat.

PROTEST AGAINST NEW HIT AND RUN RULE

Truckers protest, jam NH-48 in Behror

First India Bureau
Behror

Truck drivers took to the streets in protest against the hit and run rule and jammed the NH-48 in Behror. After the amendment in the Indian Penal Code 2023, the rules in hit and run cases have become strict. Truck drivers blocked the Delhi Jaipur Highway (NH-48) at Gunti village in Kotputli-Behror district on Saturday evening. There was a 10-kilometre-long jam on either side of the highway.



Cops trying to remove truck drivers who blocked the Delhi Jaipur Highway (NH-48) at Gunti village in Kotputli on Saturday night.

Private vehicles, roadways buses and emergency services vehicles got stuck in the jam.

Drivers said that under the new rule, there is a

provision of a fine of Rs 7 lakh and imprisonment for 10 years for the driver in such a case.

Later, DSP Tej Kumar Pathak and others

reached the spot and tried to convince the drivers. When they did not agree, police had to resort to mild force to clear the jam.

After the amendment in the Indian Penal Code 2023, the rules in hit and run cases have become strict, irked by this the truck drivers took it to the streets in State and jammed the NH-48 in Behror in a protest

Minor studying in class 10th raped, probe launched

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A case of rape with student of 10th class has come to fore in Jaipur city. The accused neighbor had kidnapped the victim from outside the house. The family members who arrived in search of her rescued the minor daughter from the clutches of the accused neighbor. The father of the minor student has lodged a report at Muhana police station.

The case is being investigated by SHO (Muhana) Gautam Dotsara.

Condolence Meet



Advik Sharma, son of senior correspondent of First India News Vikas Sharma, passed away on December 29. A condolence meeting was held at Raghu Vihar Extension in Mansarovar here at the residence of Sharma. CEO and Managing Editor of First India Pawan Arora, Civil Lines MLA Gopal Sharma and many others paid floral tribute to Advik and consoled the bereaved family. Many people from First India were also present.



FIRST INDIA

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Tourists Usher New Year in Raj!

Walled City roads remained chock-a-block with traffic throughout the day



Tourists were seen enjoying camel ride on the occasion of the New Year's celebration in Pushkar on Sunday.

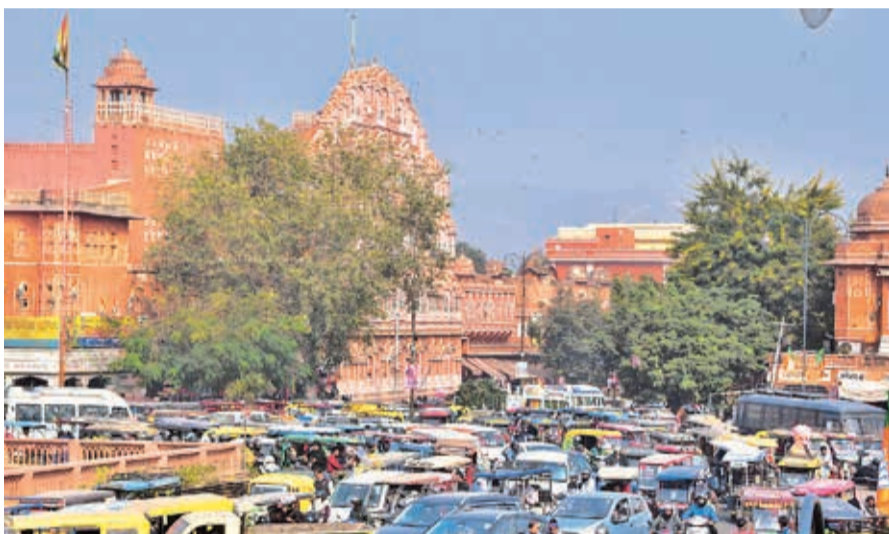
HIMANSHU SHARMA

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Most of the tourist spots in the city saw heavy rush on Sunday as tourists preferred the pink city to celebrate the New Year. Long queues of tourists were seen at ticket windows of monuments and other tourist spots. Walled City roads remained chock-a-block with traffic throughout the day. Foreign tourists were seen at Jal Mahal, Jantar Mantar, Nahargarh and Jaigarh forts and other spots in the city.

The road connecting Nahargarh and Jaigarh



Traffic congestion as tourists rush for New Year celebrations, in Jaipur on Sunday. NAIM KHAN

forts was full of tourist buses and at a few curves, traffic cops were trying

to manage the jam-like situation. A large number of foreign tourists were

also seen. The foreign tourists were seen wearing masks.

GUV, CM EXTEND NEW YEAR WISHES

Jaipur: Governor Kalraj Mishra extended his best wishes for the New Year 2024. On this occasion, Governor Mishra issued a message that read, the New Year should bring happiness and prosperity in everyone's life. Similarly, Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma congratulated the people for 2024. While Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani congratulated the state's people for the New Year 2024. Vinod Singh Chouhan



Migratory birds inside the Barkheda Pond on a cold winter morning, in Jaipur on Sunday. (Inset) Tourists click pictures of their family members enjoying the safari in Pushkar on Sunday evening.

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

New Year Gift

457 I-T officers to get promotions

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

The New Year 2024 has brought a gift of happiness in the form of promotions for the officers and employees serving in the Income Tax (IT) Department. 457 I-T officers will get promotions. The Central Board of Direct Taxes on Sunday issued four separate orders for the promotion of Income Tax officers to the post of Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax as well as Assistant Commissioner. Apart from this, the Cadre Controlling Officer of Rajasthan, Principal Chief Income Tax Commissioner's Office, Jaipur has issued two separate orders and has also given the gift of promotion to 68 Income Tax personnel working in Rajasthan.

India-UAE to conduct joint military exercise in Raj

ANI
New Delhi

The Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' between India and UAE will be held from January 2 to January 15 in Rajasthan.

The joint drills under 'Desert Cyclone 2024' will aim to enhance interoperability by learning and sharing best practices in urban operations. India and the UAE en-



FILE

joy strong bonds of friendship which are founded on millennia-old cultural, religious and economic intercourse between the two

regions. The first-ever India-UAE Joint Air Forces exercise took place in September 2008 at the Al-Dhafra base in Abu Dhabi.

and capable head of the Finance Department.

In the previous governments, the role of CS in transfer posting matters had become zero. Due to this, in a way the authority of the CS office had diminished. Pant will have to restore that authority and morale and only then the CS will be able to maintain the hold on the entire administration.

This task is not difficult for Pant because Delhi has sent him to

Jaipur with full authority for this very purpose. Pant is a 1991 batch IAS officer and has been working in the Modi Government for a long time. He knows and understands how the government runs there. The responsibility of running the same kind of organised and systemic government in Rajasthan also lies on the strong shoulders of Pant. The general public also wants efficient administration in the new government.

FROM PG 1...

Welcome Sudhansh Pant...

In fact, during the last 5 years of Congress rule, the condition of bureaucracy in the State had deteriorated. The people of the ruling party treated every small and big bureaucrat as a paid servant.

Therefore, with full authority and power from the Centre, to run the administration, the bureaucrats are looking at Pant as their godfather. Now, the challenge before Pant is to work strictly and

quickly as per the expectations of the bureaucrats and emerge as their "strong leader".

First of all, he will have to release the much-awaited transfer lists of IAS, IPS, IFS and RAS officers. This is a marathon task and despite the political commitments of the CM, the lists will have to be approved soon. New heads will have to be found for many big and small departments in the secretariat. The most important is the search for a suitable




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T&C Apply S JEE



Fireworks explode above the Bolte Bridge in Melbourne.

Over Sydney Harbour New Zealand, Australia among first nations to ring in 2024 with fireworks

Spectacular fireworks display

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Sydney and Auckland are the first major world cities to welcome the arrival of 2024. Over a million revellers celebrated the New Year on Sunday night amid stunning fireworks displays, illuminating the skies over Australia's Sydney Harbour and New Zealand's tallest structure, the Sky Tower in Auckland.

As the clock struck midnight in Australia's largest city, Sydney, a 12-minute fireworks display erupted around the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Over one million people watched from the shore and boats in the harbour.



Fireworks are seen over the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge during New Year's Eve celebrations in Sydney.

May the year 2024 bring happiness, peace and prosperity for all. May we continue to contribute to the progress of our country. Let us welcome the new year and take a pledge to build a prosperous society and nation. On the joyous occasion of new year, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad.

DROUPADI MURMU,
PRESIDENT

WEATHER IN NEW YEAR

- Several rains, flights delayed as dense fog engulfs North India; no relief till January 2, 2024
- Srinagar shivers at minus 3.4 Degrees as severe cold to continue in Kashmir
- Shimla records over 60 per cent occupancy on New Year's Eve, 'lowest in 40 years'
- Delhi Police deploys 10,000 personnel to maintain law and order on New Year's Eve
- DFS stations fire tenders at key locations in Delhi in view of New Year celebrations
- Goa Gov extends New Year greetings, asks people to maintain peace and harmony in state
- Jharkhand's tourist and picnic spots decked up for New Year celebrations



Youngsters pose for photos, in Patna on Sunday. PTI



Tourists celebrate New Year 2024 at a rooftop cafe near the Taj Mahal, in Agra, Sunday. PTI



Women with painted hands pose in Amritsar on Sunday.



Heavy rush of tourists in Shimla on Sunday.



People at Kartavya Path, New Delhi on Sunday.

Rajnath praises India's defence eco-system



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the 21st Convocation Ceremony of the Tezpur University, in Sonitpur, Sunday. PTI

PTI
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the government is developing a strong base of domestic defence industrial ecosystem to make the country a strategic economy.

Addressing the 21st Convocation of Tezpur

University here, Singh said his ministry is making all efforts to achieve the target of becoming self-reliant in the defence sector.

"Our government is developing a strong base of domestic defence industrial ecosystem to make India a strategic economy", the Defence Minister said.

Cops nabs 3 in IIT student's gangrape case

PTI
Varanasi

Police here have arrested three accused in connection with the alleged rape of a woman student of IIT on the Banaras Hindu University campus, a police officer said today.

The in-charge of Lanka police station Shivakant Mishra said that the accused have been identified as Kunal Pandey, Anand alias Abhishek Chauhan & Saksham Patel.

As per the complainant, she had gone out of her hostel with a friend when three men on a motorcycle forcibly took her to a corner and gagged her after separating her from her friend.

CM Yogi is implementing PM's vision on the ground: JP Nadda

PTI
Lucknow

Bharatiya Janata Party National President JP Nadda said on Sunday that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is giving his 100 per cent to accomplish PM Narendra Modi's mission to take the country forward while implementing the flagship schemes of the Centre.

Under CM Adityanath's leadership, UP has today shunned the BIMARU tag and has joined the league of leading states in the country, he claimed.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Women's Half Marathon organised in Dubagga,



BJP National President JP Nadda & UP CM Yogi Adityanath listen to PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme, in Lucknow, Sunday.

Nadda said, "There is intense competition between those leading the country forward and those trying to pull it backward." Attacking the opposition, Nadda mentioned that while PM

Modi and CM Yogi are leading the country and the state forward, 'Congress' Rahul Gandhi and SP's Akhilesh Yadav are only interested in securing the well-being of their own families'.

Goyal visits Shrinathji temple in Nathdwara

Ashish Choudhary
Nathdwara

Union Minister Piyush Goyal during his tour of Nathdwara on Sunday visited the Shrinathji temple and prayed for the country's prosperity. Talking to the media, he said that he wished the country to be the Vishwa Guru by setting new records in 2024. Goyal was accompanied by his wife, Seema Goyal.

Goyal, while praising the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, said that during the tenure of Modi, India is moving towards new heights and is touching many dimensions of development. Administra



Piyush Goyal with his wife Seema at Shrinathji temple in Nathdwara on Sunday.

tive officers and BJP leaders had gathered to welcome him.

Goyal saw and discussed the ongoing renovation work in Shrinathji temple and lauded the arrangements for the devotees. After this, he left for Udaipur.

TO STUDY BLACK HOLES

ISRO to usher in 2024 with launch of XPoSat

Agencies
Sriharikota

ISRO is set to welcome the new year with the launch of its first X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite that would offer insights into celestial objects like black holes, onboard a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle rocket on Monday.

The launch comes after the success of its Gaganyaan Test Vehicle D1 mission in October. The PSLV-C58 rocket, in its 60th mission, would

After Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1, XPoSat marks a big step in India's space exploration programme

carry primary payload XPoSat and 10 other satellites to be deployed in low earth orbits.

The 25-hour countdown commenced on Sunday for the lift-off scheduled at 9.10 am from the first launch pad at this spaceport, located about 135 kms east of

Chennai, on January 1. "The countdown commenced for PSLV-C58 at 8.10 am today," ISRO sources said. The X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) is aimed to investigate the polarisation of intense X-ray sources in space.

While space-based X-ray astronomy has been established in India focusing on imaging, and time domain studies, Monday's mission marks a major value-addition to the scientific fraternity, the space agency said.



Preparations underway for the launch of ISRO's PSLV-C58 carrying X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat), at the Satish Dhawan Space Station, in Sriharikota. PTI

NIA identifies 43 suspects involved in attack on Indian missions abroad

Agencies
New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has identified 43 Khalistan supporters, allegedly involved in violence at the Indian High Commission in London during a protest on March 19 and also who allegedly targeted the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on July 2.

According to the NIA, the attacks on the High Commissions of India in Ottawa and London, as well as on the Consulate General of India, San Francisco, US, also remained the focus of the NIA actions on offences against Indian interests



On March 19, the national flag at Indian high commission in London was pulled down in a protest by pro-Khalistan activists.

abroad through the year, which witnessed more than 50 raids and searches as part of the agency's efforts to unravel the conspiracy behind the attacks on Indian Missions abroad. The NIA

scaled up its crackdown against terror networks this year, conducting over 1000 raids after registering 68 cases and arresting 625 accused across the country, an official said on Sunday.

A LEAP OF FAITH!

As we eagerly step into Day One of the New Year, we anticipate an exhilarating journey ahead, as the year 2024 happens to be a leap year. We will have an extra day, February 29, this year. So, 2024 promises to be eventful, as a lot will be happening across the world! We look forward to a future filled with innovation, collaboration, and continued success...



Inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya

The month of January will be of special significance for Indians as the country will witness the consecration ceremony of the idol of Ram Lalla, on January 22 at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the inauguration ceremony of the Ram Temple. The Ram Janmabhoomi Trust has also invited around 7,000 people, including VVIPs, seers, and several prominent figures from various fields, all four Shankaracharyas, and other religious leaders.



Historic year as 50 nations, including India go to the polls!

The year 2024 will also see electoral battles of great magnitude in several democracies around the world. According to the Centre for American Progress, in 2024, around the world, over 2 billion voters in 50 countries will cast their votes. The United States, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Mexico are among the countries that will be holding national elections in 2024. The stage is set for the Lok Sabha elections in India somewhere in April-May, where the Narendra Modi-led government is eyeing a hat-trick. India's neighbour Pakistan is also expected to witness general elections on February 8, while the US will vote on November 5, and on June 2 almost 100 million Mexican voters will elect a new president for a six-year term. In the EU, elections for the European Parliament will take place between June 6 and 9. Elections will also be held in South Africa, Taiwan, Indonesia, Russia, and Iran, along with several other smaller countries.



Paris Olympics: First to achieve full gender parity

Paris 2024 will be the first Olympics in history to achieve numerical gender parity on the field of play, wherein out of the 10,500 athletes participating in the Games, 5,250 will be men and 5,250 will be women. The 33rd Olympiad will take place from July 26 to August 11, where the 18-day extravaganza will see 329 events, where a total of 32 sports will be contested. Four new additions have been made to the Paris Olympics that include breaking (break dancing), sport climbing, skateboarding, and surfing.



A landmark year for space exploration

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set for another adventurous year in 2024, as the agency is expected to launch the Shukrayaan 1 space mission to Venus by December. This is being touted as the first mission to Earth's "twin" planet since Japan's Akatsuki in 2010. The mission aims to study the chemistry of the atmosphere of Venus. Additionally, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR), a collaborative project between NASA and ISRO, aims to launch a dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar satellite that is going to be used for remote sensing in January.

While India's Gaganyaan 1 is a collaborative endeavour between ISRO and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), which is scheduled for a launch in January or February.

Mangalyaan 2, popularly called Mars Orbiter Mission 2 (MOM 2), will be ISRO's second Mars planet mission, which will study surface, atmosphere, and climatic conditions and will be launched in 2024.



ARTEMIS II MISSION TO MOON

America's Artemis II mission is due to blast off in 2024 and will be sending four astronauts to the Moon. The crew—which will include the first black man, first woman and first non-American to leave Earth orbit—will not attempt to land.



T20 World Cup in June

The T20 World Cup will be played in the West Indies and the USA from June 4 to 30. The event, organised and hosted by the ICC, will see the participation of 20 Men's National teams for the first time. The teams are from the West Indies, Australia, England, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ireland, Scotland, Guinea, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Nepal, and Oman, while two more teams will be decided later.



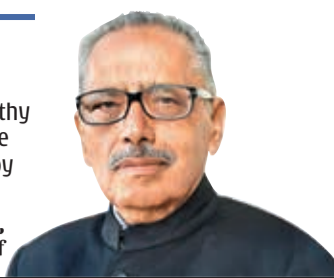
Will it be a promising year for INDIA Bloc?

The year 2024 should also look promising for the INDIA Bloc, as they hope to give a good fight to PM Modi and the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The Alliance, which got off to a shaky start in 2023, has been seeing a clash of egos. Let's hope 2024 sees all 28 parties stick together.



May 2024 be the year of global peace

May 2024 be the year when we can start to look forward to new times of peace and the end of war between Russia and Ukraine and also Israel and Hamas. It is hoped that the Leap Year 2024 makes the world a little better where innocent children, men, women do not fall victim to un mindful bloodshed and violence.



With Pant at helm, generational shift in Rajasthan's bureaucracy expected!

It will be possible to give important responsibilities to young & efficient bureaucrats

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

As 1991 batch IAS officer, Sudhansh Pant is set to head the State bureaucracy as the new Chief Secretary, a new face of bureaucracy is also expected to be seen in Bhajan Lal government.

Pant will be able to remain on the CS post for three years and two months and with it the government will be relieved from the hassle of appointing the CS again and again. Also, after this, a new era of generation shifting may begin in State bureaucracy as well, in which it is possible to give important responsibilities to more young, capable and efficient bureaucrats. This will make possible to realise the vision of Modi government



Sudhansh Pant



You read it First in First India on DECEMBER 31, 2023

to bring youth forward. Pant ranks 8th in seniority and after he becomes CS, ACS Subodh Aggarwal and Shubhra Singh may have to move

PANT: A RESULT-ORIENTED OFFICER

Pant was on deputation at the Centre and was currently holding the charge of Union Health Secretary. He has image of a very sorted, honest, gentle, calm, decent, polite, soft-spoken and clean bureaucrat. Besides, he is considered a result oriented and efficient officer in bureaucracy.

2 IAS BECAME CS FROM CENTRAL DEPUTATION

It would be a coincidence that an IAS officer takes up the post of CS after leaving Central deputation twice in a row. Earlier, Usha Sharma and Rajeev Meharihi had also done this.

even after his junior Niranjan Arya became the CS. After this, PK Goyal also followed his footsteps. Pant's challenge will be to build the image of the government through better implementation of the schemes of PM Modi and the state government.

After CS, now eyes glued on the commander of CMO!

Rajendra Chhabra
Jaipur

With the arrival of Sudhansh Pant, the bureaucracy's curiosity about the new CS has ended. Now all eyes are glued on the CMO as to who will take over the command of the Principal Secretary to the CM. In a state government, the role of the Secretary to the CM along with the CS is also important.

According to administrative experts, this is happening for the first time that after the change of government, new CS and DGP have come but the Secretary to the CM has not been appointed till date. T Ravikanth's appointment as Secretary to CM is

temporary.

Since the CM is completely new, it is extremely important for his Secretary to be experienced and hardworking. It is becoming difficult to find a bureaucrat like CS for this post. This search is also happening at the Delhi level only.

According to sources, the names being considered include those of Abhay Kumar, Naresh Pal Gangwar, Alok Gupta and T Ravikanth. Gangwar is currently working on deputation at the Centre. Under one ACS or principal secretary, two or three secretaries will have to be appointed, who will be IAS officers only. Half a dozen young IAS are trying for these posts.

Birla lauds Bairwas for promoting edu



Om Birla addresses the 'Bairwa Mahakumbh' on the occasion of Sant Balinath Jayanti in Kota on Sunday.

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Speaker Om Birla during his visit to Kota, attended the 'Bairwa Mahakumbh' organised by Bairwa Development Committee on Sant Balinath Jayanti on Sunday. Deputy CM Premchand Bairwa presided over the programme which was attended by Patan MLA CL Premi and former Minister Babulal Verma.

He said that Bairwa community worked to promote education among daughters and a hostel should be constructed. In the programme held at Beni Madhav Community

Hall, Birla said that the life of Saint Balinath inspires us.

"Baba Saheb Ambedkar started a movement for social harmony following the ideals of Saint Balinath. He strongly believed that only education can change a person's life," he said.

Birla also met people at camp office and participated in the annual function of Rajasthan Pensioners' Society and said that pensioners fulfilled their duty towards humanity by helping the needy. Birla said that air services will start soon in Kota as PM Modi had announced this during his Kota tour.

CM, Mins listen to 'Mann ki Baat'



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma virtually attends PM Narendra Modi's address to the nation in the 108th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' programme on Sunday at OTS in Jaipur. Bhagirath Chaudhary, Gajendra Singh Khinvsar, Madan Dilawar, Otaram Dewasi, Manju Baghmar, Abhay Kumar & others were present.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with the President of Pink City Press Club, Radha Raman Sharma, and General Secretary, Ramendra Solanki, who hand over the certificate of 'Honorary Membership' of Pink City Press Club to Chief Minister Sharma at the OTS on Sunday. Executive members were present on the occasion.

Promotions for more than 100 AIS officers

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

More than 100 All India Service officers were promoted on Sunday. These include about 43 IAS, about 37 IPS and about 20 IFS, while 4 IPS will be promoted to ADG rank. Rajesh Nirvan, Hemant Priyadarshi, Sanjay Aggarwal will become DG from ADG. Similarly, more than 100 All India Service officers including Kuldeep Ranka, Shreya Guha, Naresh Pal Gangwar, Anand Kumar, and Roli Singh were promoted in Chief Secretary salary range. While promotion in super time salary series include names like Muktanand Aggarwal, Rajan Vishal, Archana Singh, Dr Mohan Lal Yadav, Mahendra Soni, Shaili Kishanani, Sushma Arora, Rashmi Gupta, & Vandana Singhvi. IAS Abhimanyu Kumar, Nakate Shivprasad Madan, Bhagwati Prasad Kallal, Sandesh Nayak, Shivangi

SIX IAS TRANSFERRED

State govt on Sunday, transferred 6 IAS officials. Shreya Guha was transferred as ACS in Cooperative Dept, while Anand Kumar was made ACS Home. Archana Singh was transferred as Secretary in Home Dept. Mahendra Soni as ADG of HCM RIPA. Likewise, H. Guite was made Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities & HM Meena was shifted to the post of Director of Public Services.

Swarnkar, H Guite, Tarachand Meena, Harimohan Meena, Narendra Gupta, Premeeksh Bishnoi, and Anil Kumar Aggarwal were promoted in selection pay series. In junior administrative pay series, IAS Neelabh Saxena, Nishant Jain, Dr Khushal Yadav, Lokbandhu, Saurabh Swami, Pooja Kumari, Anjali Rajoria, Dr Inderjit Yadav, Dr Ghanashyam, Sita Ram Jat, Hempushpa Sharma, Sharad Mehra, Dr OP Bairwa were promoted.

A busy day for new Ministers



(1) Rajyavardhan Rathore prays for State's welfare during the Bhagwad Katha by Mokhan Dham Bihari ji at Harnathpura in Jhotwara on Sunday. (2) Dr Kirodi Lal Meena being welcomed with a garland by his wife Golma Devi as he reaches Khohra village in Karauli district on Sunday. (3) Suresh Singh Rawat being welcomed by the locals at his residence in Pushkar on Sunday. (4) Kanhalya Lal Choudhary meets Rajendra Rathore at the latter's residence in Jaipur on Sunday.

'Team CM' sends a strong political message!

Aishwary Pradhan
Jaipur

With the expansion of the Bhajan Lal cabinet including 12 Ministers and 10 Ministers of State, a clear political message has been sent about caste and regional equations across the State. The 'Team Bhajan Lal Sharma' will target voters from varied castes and regions in the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. Through Gajendra Singh Khimsar, a message has been relayed to the Rajput belt of Marwar, Nagaur, Ajmer, and Jodhpur Lok Sabha seats have



Guv Kalraj Mishra, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Dy CMs Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa along with the Council of Ministers after oath-taking ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Saturday.

been targeted as the influence of Khimsar being a royal family is also important. The Rajput community influences the results of Lok Sabha seats here. A message from Avinash Gehlot has been sent to Pali, Ajmer, Rajasamand, and Jalore seats. The focus here is on Mali

voters and Marwar-Merwara-Godwad. Efforts have been made to control the areas of influence of former CM Gehlot. Dr Kirodi Lal Meena's induction has brought relief to Eastern Rajasthan, especially the traditional Meena voters of Congress. Maybe that's why no Minister was taken

from Dausa and Karauli. A message has been sent to Sawai Madhopur-Tonk, Dausa, Jaipur Rural, Dholpur-Karauli, Bharatpur, and Alwar Lok Sabha seats. Dr Kirodi will be the BJP's trump card during Lok Sabha elections in East Rajasthan. Through Madan Dilawar, the focus is on two Lok Sabha seats of Hadoti. Efforts are to woo Dalit voters of Jhalawar-Baran and Kota-Bundi Lok Sabha seats. The party has also tried to play the 'Hindu card' through Dilawar as he has an image of a fierce Hindu leader. Anyway, Hadoti is called the

laboratory of RSS, and Dilawar is known as the choice of RSS. With Dr Manju Baghmar, the focus is on Nagaur, Ajmer, Jodhpur Lok Sabha seats and a direct effort to tap Dalit vote bank. Through Suresh Singh Rawat, the focus is on two Lok Sabha seats Ajmer and Rajsamand. Making Tirtharaj Pushkar a Minister also sends a religious message. The induction of Surendra Singh Pal TT is to focus on Sri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh Lok Sabha seat and a message among the Jat Sikh class of the Canal area.

Congress writes to EC, demands TT's candidature be cancelled

Dr Rituraj Sharma and Naresh Sharma
Jaipur

A controversy has erupted over the appointment of a BJP candidate from Srikananpur, Surendra Pal Singh TT as a Minister before voting. Congress leaders have complained to ECI, calling it a violation of MCC. They have submitted a memo and demanded cancellation of Singh's candidature. Congress State Prez GS Dotasra targeted BJP ahead of voting on Jan 5 for Srikananpur seat.



A delegation of Congress leaders including Dr Raghu Sharma, Sanyam Lodha, Lalit Tunwal, Ram Singh Kaswan, Jaswant Gurjar, Kuldeep Punia, Pradeep Aggarwal, submits complaint to ECI over Surendra Pal Singh TT being appointed as Minister.

"BJP neither believes in the Constitution nor the ECI & making TT a Minister is an attempt to woo voters," he said. Lodha said such an act by BJP also proves that it is afraid of defeat.



Cuty First

JAIPUR, MONDAY | JANUARY 1, 2024

Happy New Year 2024



A visual symphony of fashion and flair

A TOAST TO UNITY & Glamour!

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra orchestrated an exquisite New Year's gathering at his residence, attended by an array of personalities from the world of fashion and empowerment, celebrating unity, elegance, and a promising future!

MUKESH KIRADOO



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Neha Shekhawat



Mitali Dusad

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, renowned for his elegance and hospitality, recently played host to a New Year's soiree at his residence. The affair was graced by the presence of Gaurav Gaur, Director of Elite Miss Rajasthan, alongside an ensemble of super-models hailing from diverse corners of the globe. The evening unfolded as a symphony of jubilation, resonating with melodious tunes, delectable gastronomy and an ambience that was embraced and cherished by all in attendance.

Amidst the shared exuberance, heartfelt wishes reverberated, heralding the arrival of the new year with a collective embrace of optimism and hope. The gathering boasted an illustrious roster, featuring the presence of Ms and Mrs Glam India models, interwoven with the grace and poise of the Miss Rajasthan models. It was a celebration that not only embraced the splendour of the moment but also underscored a profound commitment to championing the cause of women empowerment.

More on PTI



Clockwise Mitali Kumawat, Shweta Rajee, Navya Singh Shekhawat and Shrishti Khatri





Ringging in the New Year

Pink City's New Year revelry paints a vibrant picture of Rajasthan's rich cultural tapestry. From grand galas to street parties, fireworks to age-old traditions, City First embraces the old and new in style!



In Jaipur, New Year's Eve is often marked by grand events and parties. The city's luxurious hotels and heritage properties host elaborate celebrations, offering a perfect blend of traditional Rajasthani hospitality and modern festivities. From live music performances to traditional folk dances, these gatherings provide a unique experience that captures the essence of the region.

While many opt for upscale gatherings, the streets of Jaipur witness a different kind of celebration. Crowds gather in popular areas, such as Johari Bazaar and Hawa Mahal, to participate in street parties.

Fireworks light up the sky, and the city echoes with the sounds of revelry as people dance to the beats of traditional Rajasthani music.

Rajasthan, known for its cultural richness, sees many families embracing age-old traditions during New Year celebrations. Pujas and prayers are conducted to seek blessings for a prosperous year ahead. Additionally, people exchange sweets and traditional gifts as a gesture of goodwill.

As the sun sets on the last day of the year, the vibrant celebrations in Jaipur and Rajasthan serve as a testament to the rich tapestry of traditions woven into the cultural fabric of the region. Whether amidst the grandeur of a hotel gala or the simplicity of a family gathering, welcoming the New Year here is an experience that seamlessly merges the old and the new.

As the calendar turns its final page, it's time to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new with a bang. If you're planning to host a New Year's party that leaves a lasting impression, consider these creative and unique ideas to usher in the coming year with style.

THEME EXTRAVAGANZA

Transform your party into an immersive experience by choosing a theme that sparks excitement. From retro disco to masquerade ball or even a futuristic space odyssey, a themed party adds a layer of fun and cohesiveness to the celebration.



Tripti Mahawar

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

DIY DECOR DELIGHTS

Get hands-on with your party preparations by incorporating do-it-yourself decor elements. Create personalized banners, crafty centrepieces, or even a DIY photo booth with props that reflect the spirit of the New Year.

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Elevate your party with a unique culinary experience. Consider hosting a potluck dinner where guests bring their favourite homemade dishes, or hire a local chef for a cooking demonstration and tasting. Food can be the star of the show.



CLUB NIGHT

New Year's Eve in nightclubs is a spectacle of vibrant energy and pulsating beats. Neon lights flicker, DJ booths come alive, and the dance floor becomes a dynamic tapestry of movement. Revellers, dressed in their glittering best, gather to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new in a symphony of music and celebration. The countdown to midnight is an electrifying moment, in the city marked by cheers, clinking glasses, and the anticipation of a fresh start with places like Naila Bagh, Clocktower, Rosado, Burj and HOP etc.

AIR BNB THIS NEW YEAR

Celebrating the New Year in an Airbnb offers a unique and personalized experience that goes beyond the traditional festivities. It's a chance to create memories in a home away from home, surrounded by friends or family. Airbnb properties, ranging from cozy cottages to chic city apartments, provide a comfortable and intimate setting for festivities. Whether you're nestled in a snow-covered cabin, enjoying a beachside retreat, or overlooking city lights, the flexibility of Airbnb accommodations allows for diverse celebrations. Groups can cook up a storm in a fully-equipped kitchen, toast to the New Year on a private balcony, or gather around a fireplace for warmth and storytelling.

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK DANCE PARTY

Transform your space into a neon wonderland with glow-in-the-dark decorations, accessories, and even body paint. Encourage guests to dress in vibrant colours, creating a visually stunning dance party under UV lights.

RESORTS EXTRAVAGANZA

Celebrating the New Year at a resort elevates the festive experience to a luxurious and indulgent affair. Resorts, often nestled in picturesque locations, offer a perfect blend of relaxation and revelry. Guests can immerse themselves in a serene atmosphere, enjoying amenities such as spa treatments, scenic views, and lush landscapes during the day. Extravagant gala dinners, live entertainment, and themed parties set the stage for a night of glamour and celebration. Whether by the poolside, on a pristine beach, or within the elegant confines of a resort ballroom, the festivities are designed to create a sense of opulence. The countdown to midnight is met with fireworks lighting up the night sky, marking the transition into the New Year with a touch of luxury and style.

Whatever combination of ideas you choose, the key to a memorable New Year's party is to infuse it with your personality and the spirit of celebration. As the clock ticks towards midnight, let the countdown to a fantastic new beginning unfold in a setting that reflects the joy and excitement of embracing the possibilities that the coming year holds.



NEW YEAR: DO'S AND DON'TS

Respect Local Customs: While celebrating, be mindful of the local customs and traditions. Respect the cultural significance of the festivities.

Noise Control: While fireworks are a common part of celebrations, be considerate of noise levels, especially in residential areas.

Traffic Safety: With increased gatherings, traffic congestion is common. Plan your commute, and avoid driving under the influence of alcohol.

Eco-friendly Celebrations: Choose environmentally friendly options for decorations and celebrations to minimize the impact on the surroundings.

Follow COVID Guidelines: Stay updated on any specific guidelines or restrictions in place due to the ongoing pandemic. Prioritize the safety and well-being of yourself and others.



by MUKESH KIRADOO



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Mitali, Pihu, Aastha, Tanu, Riya and Suhana



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Naina Parmaar



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with cute adorable pet

New Year

EXTRAVAGANZA

City First unveils additional captivating moments from the exquisite soiree held at Dr Jagdeesh Chandra's abode!



Sneha Sharma

FROM PG 1

In a resounding testament to the vision upheld by First India and Bharat24 - Vision of New India, the evening transcended mere revelry, standing as a testament to the boundless allure of fashion, entertainment, and glamour. Dr Chandra, with his affable demeanour and unwavering enthusiasm, extended his warm wishes, encapsulating the essence of unity, prosperity and joy that the dawn of a new year embodies.

This fête, adorned with the luminaries of the entertainment realm, illuminated the path toward a future where elegance intertwines seamlessly with empowerment, fostering a world where every individual, irrespective of their background, finds a platform to shine. As confetti adorned the air and laughter echoed through the night, it became a celebration not just of a passing year but a spirited invocation of the endless possibilities awaiting in the year ahead.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Kavita Chauhan & Mittali Dusad



(Top) Isha Tulayat
(Bottom) Mushkan Mulchandani



Priyanshi, Khwahish, Somya, Pawan Tank, Apoorva, Ridhima and Anuja



Samiksha, Naina, Gaurav Gaur & Sneha



Behind the scenes of effortless glamour



Rajasthan's Countdown to a New Beginning!

Echoes of Optimism!

Happy New Year 2024

As the dawn of 2024 approaches, a wave of optimism sweeps through the heart of Rajasthan, with residents eagerly anticipating the new year and all that it promises. City First sought the thoughts and aspirations of individuals from this vibrant region, uncovering their plans for New Year celebrations and their perspectives on resolutions and health goals. With an air of anticipation, citizens across Rajasthan are gearing up to bid farewell to the old year and embrace the new with open arms. Speaking to a cross-section of people from different walks of life, City First delved into the diverse tapestry of hopes and traditions that adorn the region's New Year celebrations.



Our New Year celebrations revolve around family gatherings, traditional music, and indulging in flavorful Rajasthani cuisine. As for resolutions, we focus on fostering stronger community bonds and preserving our cultural heritage. Health-wise, yoga and Ayurveda take precedence, ensuring a holistic approach to well-being."

Anchal Choudhary,
Event Coordinator



In Rajasthan, the New Year is a time for vibrant festivals, adorned with colorful attire and spirited dance forms. Our resolutions emphasize environmental sustainability and promoting local artisans. Prioritizing health involves embracing nutritious diets and practicing ancient wellness techniques like meditation."

Liza, Digital Creator



The New Year in Rajasthan is a tapestry of joyous festivities & communal harmony. Our resolutions center on educational upliftment & supporting underprivileged communities, involve embracing organic farming practices & integrating yoga into daily life."

Arun Sharma,
Councillor



Amidst the New Year celebrations in Raj, our resolutions resonate with fostering animal welfare & preserving natural landscapes. Prioritizing health encompasses & maintaining a balanced lifestyle through nutritious eating habits."

Anoop Arya,
Manager Operations, Hotel The Palace by Park Jewels



The New Year in Rajasthan celebrates our rich heritage with gatherings. Our resolutions revolve around rural development and agricultural practices. Health-wise, we emphasize yoga and meditation for both physical and mental well-being."

Laxmi Kant Sharma,
Businessman



Rajasthan welcomes the New Year with enthusiasm, marked by cultural galas and expressions of artistic heritage. Resolutions echo a commitment to women's empowerment and fostering educational initiatives."

Ashish Anand,
Secretary Rajasthan Hotel & Restaurant Association



Rajasthan welcomes 2024 with grandeur, celebrating with traditional music and exquisite cuisines. Our resolutions emphasize positivity, community upliftment, and health strategies involve mindfulness, embracing Ayurvedic remedies for a balanced lifestyle."

Anjana Sharma, Home Maker



As the dawn of 2024 graces us, our celebrations in Rajasthan involve vibrant cultural events, reinforcing our bond with traditions. Resolutions entail embracing positivity, fostering community unity, while health strategies prioritize yoga and locally sourced organic diets for holistic well-being."

Prerna Singh, PR Personal



New Year festivities reflect our vibrant culture through traditional dances and sumptuous feasts. Resolutions center on promoting tourism & preserving historical monuments. Health strategies encompass embracing herbal remedies & engaging in outdoor exercises."

Karan Surolia,
Exporter



Rajasthan celebrates the New Year with jubilant festivities honoring our traditions. Resolutions include initiatives for skill development and environmental conservation. Health-conscious practices involve traditional herbal remedies and adopting an active lifestyle."

Mahesh Sharma,
Politician



In Rajasthan, the New Year heralds celebrations filled with folk music, dances, and sumptuous. Resolutions encompass charitable endeavors and preserving our heritage. Prioritizing health involves incorporating yoga practices & consuming locally sourced, nutritious foods."

Gopal Surolia, Jeweller



In Rajasthan, our New Year festivities include colorful processions & communal feasts. Our resolutions revolve around personal growth, advocating for kindness, and health strategies focus on balanced nutrition

Nemi Chand Yadav,
Educationist Director Vasundhara Bed college Achrol Jaipur



The arrival of 2024 in Rajasthan calls for jubilant dance festivities and feasting. Resolutions aim at personal betterment, spreading joy, and health strategies encompass mental wellness practices and embracing nature walks."

Meena Jain,
Social Worker