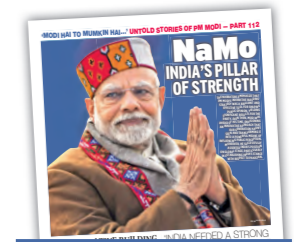




FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



PERSPECTIVE P4



WE ARE DEPENDENT ON INDIA IN MANY WAYS: B'DESH ARMY CHIEF
Calling India an 'important neighbour', Bangladesh's Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman said Dhaka is dependent on Delhi in many ways.



DILJIT DOSANJH FACES LEGAL ACTION OVER ALCOHOL SONGS
Diljit Dosanjh's New Year's Eve concert in Ludhiana was marred by legal controversy following complaint filed by Asst Professor Pundit Rao Dharenar.



VINOD KAMBLI DISCHARGED FROM MUMBAI HOSPITAL
Former India cricketer Vinod Kamble was discharged from the hospital on Wednesday. He spoke to media and appealed to stay away from alcohol.



DELHI BAKERY OWNER DIES BY SUICIDE AMID DIVORCE DISPUTE
40-year-old Puneet Khurana died by suicide amid an ongoing dispute with his wife in Delhi. Bakery owner was found with ligature mark over his neck.



Happy 2025! May this year bring everyone new opportunities, success and endless joy. May everybody be blessed with wonderful health and prosperity.

NARENDRA MODI, PM



PM MODI CHAIRS NEW YEAR'S FIRST CABINET MEETING, ANNOUNCES GIFTS FOR FARMERS

MODI REAPS A GREENER 2025!

Moni Sharma
New Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme until 2025-26, with an allocation of ₹69,515.71 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26. This decision will ensure risk coverage for crops affected by non-preventable natural disasters, benefiting farmers across nation. Additionally, to enhance transparency and efficiency in the implementation of these schemes, Cabinet approved crea-

Centre approves ₹69,515 crore outlay to extend crop insurance • Cabinet okay's 2024-25 as 1st year of implementation of WINDS



Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses media in Delhi on Wednesday.

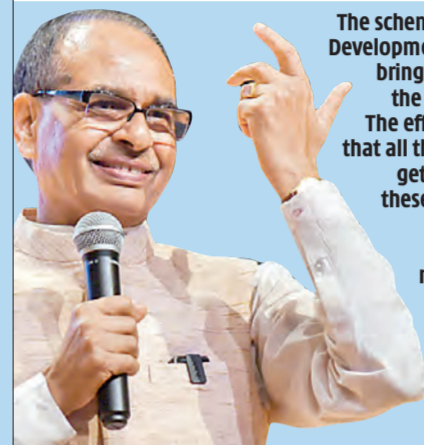
Ours is a Government fully committed to furthering welfare of farmers. We are proud of all our farmer sisters and brothers who work hard to feed our nation. The first Cabinet of 2025 is dedicated to enhancing prosperity for our farmers. I am glad that key decisions have been taken in this regard.

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

tion of a Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with a corpus of ₹824.77 crore. This fund will support technological initiatives like YES-

TECH, which uses Remote Sensing Technology for yield estimation, and WINDS, which aims to set up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and Rain Gauges (ARGs) at local levels for improved weather data. Nine states are already implementing YES-TECH, and other states are being onboarded. As technology expands, traditional crop cutting experiments will be phased out. For WINDS, which aims to increase weather data network density, the Cabinet has approved 2024-25 as first year of implementation, allowing states to benefit from higher central funding at a 90:10 ratio. Special focus will be given to saturating the North Eastern states, where Centre shares 90% of premium subsidy.

SCHEMES BRINGING CHANGE: SHIVRAJ



The schemes of the Rural Development Ministry are bringing a change in the lives of people. The effort is to ensure that all the beneficiaries get the benefits of these schemes in an effective and transparent manner as soon as possible.

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN, UNION FARMERS MINISTER

GOVT EXTENDS ONE-TIME PACKAGE OF UP TO ₹3,850 CR TO SUBSIDISE DAP

Union Cabinet has also approved proposal of Department of Fertilizers for extension of One-time Special Package on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) beyond NBS subsidy @ ₹3,500 per MT for period from 01.01.2025 till further orders to ensure sustainable availability of DAP at affordable prices to farmers. Tentative budgetary requirement for above would be approx upto ₹3,850 crore.

Centre sends options for Dr Singh's memorial to family members



First India Bureau
New Delhi

The central government has initiated plans to build a memorial for former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, with potential sites near Rajghat, Rashtriya Smriti Sthal, or Kisan Ghat. Dr. Singh's family has been asked to select a location, and land of 1 to 1.5 acres is being considered. A trust must be formed to allocate the land, and once established, it will apply for land allocation and sign an MoU with CPWD for construction. There is also a possibility that the memorial may be located near Rajghat, where the final resting places of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Sanjay Gandhi are situated.

SENSEX

BSE 78,507.41
NIFTY 23,742.90
368.40 98.10

IN BRIEF



Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra assumes command of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

GST kitty up 7.3% to ₹1.77 lakh crore in Dec
New Delhi: The gross GST collection rose 7.3% year-on-year to ₹1.77 lakh crore in Dec. The Central GST collection stood at ₹32,836 crore, State GST at ₹40,499 crore, Integrated IGST at ₹47,783 crore and Cess at ₹11,471 crore.

Car rams into crowd in New Orleans

Driver 'hell-bent on carnage' kills 10 on New Year's Day

The suspect was killed during the firefight with police
First India Bureau
New Orleans

At least ten people died and 30 sustained injuries after a vehicle drove into a crowd on Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter early Wednesday morning, AFP reported citing city authorities. The city's mayor termed it a "terrorist attack". Contradicting the statement, FBI said that "this is not a terrorist event". Witnesses reported that a truck sped into a crowd before the driver exited the vehicle and began firing a weapon, prompting police to return fire. The suspect died in the crossfire. "He



Police at the incident site after a vehicle drove into a crowd on New Orleans' Canal on Bourbon Street on Wednesday.

TERRORIST ATTACK: NEW ORLEANS MAYOR

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell called the incident a "terrorist attack". Meanwhile, the FBI is investigating what occurred early Wednesday, when the vehicle drove into a crowd.

was hell-bent on creating the carnage and the damage that he did. It was very intentional behavior. This man was trying to run over as many people as he could," Police Commissioner said.

Man kills mother, 4 sisters; records confession video
First India Bureau
Lucknow

A 24-year-old man in Uttar Pradesh has allegedly murdered his mother and four sisters at a hotel in Lucknow over a family dispute, after serving them alcohol and intoxicating food on Tuesday, police said. The accused, Arshad, has been arrested. The five were found dead with slash wounds on their wrists, and their woollen clothes were soaked in blood. A preliminary probe has revealed that Arshad allegedly murdered them after mixing intoxicants in their food.

The police have further said that a few family members were strangled and smothered to death while the rest were killed with a blade.

Defence Ministry declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The Centre has declared 2025 as 'Year of Reforms,' in order to give impetus to the ongoing and future reforms. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has exuded confidence that the 'Year of Reforms' will be a momentous step in the modernisation journey of the Armed Forces.

"It will lay the foundation for unprecedented advancements in defence preparedness, ensuring India's security and sovereignty amidst challenges of 21st century," he added while chairing over a meeting with all the Secretaries of his ministry to review the progress on various schemes, projects, reforms and the way ahead.



CONTINUING 30 YEARS OF PRACTICE, INDIA AND PAK EXCHANGE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS LIST

India and Pakistan exchanged their annual lists of nuclear installations on Wednesday, as per a bilateral agreement that prevents both sides from attacking each other's atomic facilities. The exchange, held under the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities agreement signed in 1988, marks the 34th consecutive exchange since the first one in 1992. The lists are shared every January 1 through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad, the MEA said.

BUMRAH'S HISTORIC RECORD!

Bumrah broke Ashwin's long-standing ICC Test rankings record by accumulating 907 points

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah continues to reach new heights. On Wednesday, Bumrah surpassed India legend Ravichandran Ashwin's all-time rating-point record in ICC rankings. Ashwin held record for 8 years when he reached rating of 904 in December 2016 which was highest ever for an Indian bowler. Bumrah has 907 rankings points.



MOUs SIGNED AT RISING RAJASTHAN SET FOR SWIFT EXECUTION

CM initiates a three-tier review system for effective implementation

First India Bureau
Jaipur

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF MINISTER BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, A TOTAL OF OVER ₹35 LAKH CRORE WORTH MOUs SIGNED AT SUMMIT

Under the leadership of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, the state government is working with an excellent vision & roadmap to promote industrial development and investment. After successful organization of Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in 1st year of his tenure, the CM has initiated a three-tier review system for timely and effective implementation of MoUs signed during summit. MoUs worth over ₹1,000 crore will be reviewed monthly at the CM's level. MoUs worth between



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma offers prayers at the Moti Dungri Ganesh temple on New Year, in Jaipur on Wednesday. CM Sharma said, 'May people be blessed with happiness, prosperity, and well-being'.

₹100 crore and ₹1,000 crore will be reviewed bi-weekly at the CS's level. MoUs worth less than ₹100 crore will be reviewed weekly at dept secy's level. Among these, approx 261 MoUs worth over ₹1,000 crore to around ₹32 lakh crore. MoUs worth between ₹100 crore and ₹1,000 crore is 1,678, with a total value of over ₹3.50 lakh crore. MoUs worth up to ₹100 crore is 9,726, with a total value of over ₹90,000 crore.

RAJASTHAN

Sikar shivers at 4°C as cold wave grips State; Jaipur records 5.6°C

Dense fog disrupts life in parts of eastern Rajasthan; Mt Abu chills at 5°C

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Cold conditions prevailed in parts of Rajasthan, with Sikar recording the lowest minimum temperature of 4 degrees Celsius on Wednesday morning, a MeT department spokesperson said. According to the India Meteorological Department, a cold to very cold day was recorded at some places in eastern Rajasthan, and dense to very dense fog was observed in several areas of the state.

The highest maximum temperature in the state was recorded at 27.6 degrees Celsius in Barmer on Wednesday. The state's only hill station, Mount Abu, recorded 5 degrees Celsius. In the plains, Pilani and Sirohi recorded 5



Vehicles commute amidst fog on Jhotwara elevated road in Jaipur on Wednesday morning. (Inset) A girl trying to warm her hands to beat the chill on Wednesday.

SANTOSH SHARMA

degrees each, followed by 5.1 degrees Celsius in Fatehpur and Sriganganagar, 5.3 degrees in Ajmer and 5.5 degrees in Alwar.

The state capital, Jaipur, recorded 5.6 degrees on Wednesday morning, the official of Meteorological Department said.



Several held as honey trap gangs busted in Kankroli and Dholpur



First India Bureau
Rajsamand/Dholpur

In Kankroli, police have uncovered a honey trap gang operating in the region. The gang, which targeted wealthy individuals and businessmen, has been busted, with police arresting four members, including the leader of the gang, three women, and one man. Previously, three members of the gang had already been arrested. Following the police's revelation of case, a report was filed, and another businessman who fell victim to gang also registered a complaint.

In Dholpur, the Baseri police arrested four young men and a woman over a honeytrap case. The police also seized two motorcycles and Rs 2 lakh from the accused. The accused were using social media to trap young men, and they extorted money by threatening to implicate the victims in false cases like assault and rape.



In Rajsamand, Kankroli police arrested seven accused including the main gang leader, three female members and one man in the honey trap case. Three accused were already detained.

CHURU OVERBRIDGE IRREGULARITIES: INSPECTOR EXPOSES FLAWS, CONTRACTOR FINED ₹10 LAKH

Churu's DTO Inspector, Robin Singh, has unearthed corruption related to the construction of an overbridge on National Highway 709. The bridge, located in the Radhwa village, has been found to have several irregularities, leading to a fine of Rs 10 lakhs being imposed. The overbridge, which was supposed to be 34 feet wide from divider to divider, was found to be only 26 feet at one point. The contractor reduced the width by 8 feet, compromising the structure. While the bridge is 36 feet wide at the entrance and exit, the central part of the bridge was deliberately made narrower, reportedly to save costs. This carelessness by the contractor has raised serious safety concerns, with the department citing the bridge's construction as potentially hazardous. A report has been submitted to the District Collector and SDM regarding the violations by the bridge and road construction agencies.



Robin Singh, DTO Inspector

Maharani Farm Puliya to get major upgrades, traffic movement stopped

Abhishek Shirivastava
Jaipur

On the first day of the New Year, the Maharani Farm Puliya in Jaipur was closed for traffic. Starting Wednesday, no vehicles will be allowed on the bridge as the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) begins construction of a new, higher, and wider bridge.

The construction is expected to take approximately six months, during which the traffic will be diverted. Vehicles will be rerouted via Riddhi-Siddhi Flyover and B2 Bypass. The project, costing around Rs 6 crore, follows directions from Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.



Barricades were placed to stop traffic on Wednesday.

Hindustan Zinc's Unchi Udaan Alumni Meet celebrates transformative impact of rural Raj

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Hindustan Zinc Limited celebrated over 180 alumni of its flagship CSR initiative, Unchi Udaan, at the Alumni Meet 2024. Launched in 2017 in collaboration with Vidya Bhavan Society and Resonance Training Institute, Unchi Udaan empowers underprivileged rural Rajasthan youth, including over 50% girls, to excel in



Participants pose for group photo during Hindustan Zinc's Unchi Udaan Alumni Meet 2024 in Jaipur on Wednesday.

engineering through a three-year residential training program. The initiative has benefited nearly 300 students,

with 15 securing admissions to IITs/NITs, 125 to government engineering colleges, and 6 to private institutions.

CEO Arun Mishra lauded the program as a transformative effort to nurture engineering talent. Alumna Sunita Dangi shared her inspiring journey enabled by the initiative. Alongside Unchi Udaan, Hindustan Zinc's CSR programs in education, healthcare, women empowerment, and skill development have positively impacted nearly 2 million lives across 3,700 villages.

PKC-ERCP Phase B: Chambal water to reach Alwar, Bharatpur other regions

Vinod Singh Chouhan
Jaipur

The PKC-ERCP project is set to make significant progress with Phase B of its first stage, which involves five major packages aimed at improving water supply and infrastructure in the region. In one of the key developments, Chambal water will be transported to Jaisamand in Alwar via canals and pipelines,



covering a distance of about 130 km. The project includes the construction of an 8 km tunnel in three segments, with a total budget of Rs 3450 crore. A network of 107 km of canals and 14 km of pipelines will be

developed to ensure a smooth water supply.

Another major development is the delivery of Chambal water to Bandh Baretha in Bharatpur. The water will travel through a 190 km canal system, providing 25 MCM of water. The estimated cost for this section is Rs 2250 crore. These developments will significantly enhance water availability across multiple regions.

Mother tries to end her life in Sirohi after poisoning twin kids

First India Bureau
Sirohi

Rekha, a mother from Shivganj in Sirohi gave poison to her twin children and later she also tried to end her life by consuming poison. While both children died due to poison, the mother was admitted to hospital in critical condition. However, the reasons for the woman's actions have not been revealed yet.

DEVNANI UNVEILS RAJ ASSEMBLY'S CALENDAR

Inspirational 2025 Legislative calendar launched

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani released the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Annual Calendar 2025 on Wednesday at the Legislative Assembly premises. Devnani said that the calendar for the year 2025 prominently mentions folk deities, warriors, and great personalities.

He said that the ideals of such great personalities serve as a source of



Raj Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and other officials at the launch of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Annual Calendar 2025.

inspiration for the general public. The calendar highlights the festivals and birth anniversaries of

Raj Assembly unveils 2025 calendar honoring folk heroes; Calendar highlights contributions of Rajasthan's folk legends and warriors

initiative aims to provide the public with insights into the sacrifices and contributions of local folk deities and warriors for the nation. On this occasion, Assembly's Special Secretary Bharat Bhushan Sharma and Special Assistant KK Sharma were present.

VIDHAN SABHA STAFFER DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

A Fourth-Class employee of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Gopal Singh, passed away due to a heart attack amidst severe cold weather on Wednesday. While on duty in the Assembly, Gopal Singh suffered a sudden heart attack. Doctors at the Legislative Assembly's medical facility made every possible effort to save him. He was immediately rushed to Durlabhji Hospital, but despite all attempts, he could not be saved.

Lokayukta meets Cuv



Lokayukta Pratap Krishna Lohara met Governor Haribhau Bagade in Jaipur on Wednesday. PK Lohara presented the 36th annual report of Lokayukta, Rajasthan to the Governor Bagade. Gaurishankar Sharma was also present during this time.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

In Jpr, devotees thronged Govind Dev Ji, Moti Dungri, Khole Ke Hanuman & Gadh Ganesh

Raj temples buzz with devotees



On the first day of the New Year 2025, the Moti Dungri Ganesh Temple and Govind Devji Temple in Jaipur saw a surge of devotees and tourists. The temples were filled with fervent prayers and celebrations as visitors sought blessings for prosperity and peace in the coming year. People also thronged other temples in State including Ramdevra and others. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In Jaipur, devotees thronged iconic temples like Govind Dev Ji, Moti Dungri Ganesh, Khole Ke Hanuman, and Gadh Ganesh

Jaipur: The new year, 2025, has arrived with renewed hope and excitement as people worldwide bid farewell

to 2024 and welcomed the new year with enthusiasm and joy.

In India, celebrations began late into the night, with temples and holy places flooded with devotees offering prayers. At Khatu Shyamji, the new year commenced with a visit to Baba Shyam Temple, while a heavy influx of devotees was seen at famous shrines

like Salasar Balaji Dham, Karni Mata Temple, and several others.

In Jaipur, crowds gathered at prominent temples such as Govind Dev Ji, Moti Dungri Ganesh, Khole Ke Hanuman, and Gadh Ganesh. The devotion was palpable at the Kaale Hanumanji Temple and many other revered sites. In Jaisalmer's Ram-

devra, a massive crowd gathered to pay respects at tomb of the local deity, Baba Ramdev. A 2-km-long queue of devotees formed, chanting Baba Ramdev's name, echoing through the town. The police ensured tight security & smooth access for devotees, with arrangements along Temple Road & key routes to manage large influx of pilgrims.

Citizens Await Relief



Traffic snarls on Tonk Road. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

Unyielding traffic 'crisis' emergency plagues Jaipur

Jinendra Shekhawat
Jaipur

Jaipur is currently experiencing a severe traffic crisis, with traffic jams impacting every road in the city. From one end of the city to the other, no road seems free from congestion. Commuters are finding themselves stuck for over an hour, sometimes even up to an hour and a half, just trying to move from one place to another. This overwhelming situation has persisted for nearly three months, and yet the administration has failed to take significant action. A political observer

has commented, saying, "If the welfare of the common people is indeed a priority for the Bhajan Lal government, then the CM should prioritise relieving the public from this traffic nightmare, even if it means temporarily halting other administrative duties." The chaos of traffic congestion has become a daily struggle for Jaipur residents, with every street & neighbourhood impacted. Thousands remain at home, waiting for jams to clear. Immediate govt intervention & an official statement are urgently needed to address the issue.

Three injured in tiger attack in Dausa district

First India Bureau
Dausa

Three people were injured after being attacked by a tiger in Rajasthan's Dausa district on Wednesday, officials said.

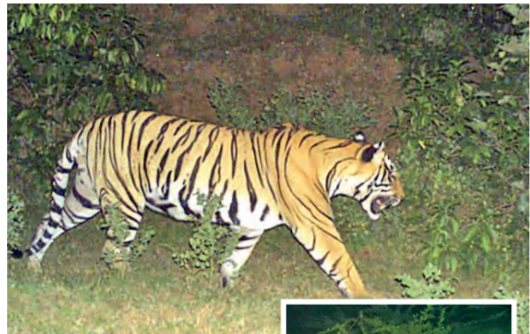
The incident took place in Mahukhurd village of Bandikui, said Alwar Divisional Forest Officer Rajendra Hooda. He added that a forest department team has reached the area to tranquilize the tiger.

The tiger apparently slipped out of the Sariska forest in Alwar and entered Dausa district on Tuesday night. Villagers had seen the wild cat and recorded videos of it, Hooda said.

The tiger was sitting near the bushes on a street near Koli Mohalla in Mahukhurd village when Uga Mahavar (45) approached the bushes. Before she could react, the tiger attacked her from behind.

To save the woman, Vinod Meena (42) and Babul Meena (48) approached the tiger

TIGERS ST-24, ST-2305 FOUND THRIVING IN JAMWARAMGARH BUFFER ZONE OF SARISKA



Tigers ST-24 and ST-2305 have been found thriving in the Jamwaramgarh buffer zone of Sariska Wildlife Sanctuary. ST-24 has been residing in the area for over two and a half years, while ST-2305's presence was confirmed in November 2023. ST-24 has established its territory in Jamwaramgarh, Raisar, and Achorol forest areas, while ST-2305 has settled in Raisar and Ajabgarh ranges. To monitor these tigers, 35

camera traps & separate search teams have been deployed across key points. Local wildlife enthusiasts have urged govt to introduce a female tiger to increase the population. **Deepak Gagrani**



camera traps & separate search teams have been deployed across key points. Local wildlife enthusiasts have urged govt to introduce a female tiger to increase the population. **Deepak Gagrani**

with sticks in hand and the wild cat attacked them as well.

The injured individu-

als have been referred to Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital in Jaipur for treatment, Hooda added.

Dr Bairwa launches Road Safety Month

Shivendra Parmar
Jaipur

The "Road Safety Month" campaign, launched by Jaipur RTO First on Wednesday, focuses on raising awareness about traffic rules rather than issuing fines. Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa visited the site and instructed officials to prior-



Dr Prem Chand Bairwa distributes pamphlets on road safety awareness to citizens on the road as part of the 'National Road Safety Month' organised by Jaipur RTO-1 on Wednesday.

130 IRS officers promoted in GST & Customs Dept

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

A total of 130 IRS officers in the Central Goods and Services Tax and Customs department have been promoted. Among them, three officers have been elevated to Principal Chief Commissioner/Principal Director General, four to Chief Commissioner/Director General, and 123 officers to Deputy Commissioner. These promotions reflect significant advancements across various levels within the department.

Birla: 2025 will be the year of fulfilment for Kota and Bundi

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla marked the New Year with a visit to his hometown, Kota, where he shared his vision for the constituency's development. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Birla announced the construction of the Kota airport, the introduction of tigers into the reserve, and major infrastructure projects like the Northern Bypass and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which he said would



LS Speaker Om Birla

spark an agro-revolution in the region. He also outlined plans for improved water supply and expanded market integration.

In a notable achievement, Kota received a Rs 2.5 crore mobile hos-

pital through CSR funds, making it the second district after Jaipur to benefit from this facility. Birla also met the locals at his Camp office and offered prayers at the Godavari Dham Temple for nation's prosperity.

ize the campaign. RTO Rajendra Singh Shekhawat, ARTO Prakash Tahlani, DTO Enforcement Vinod Saini, and other transport inspectors were present. Dr Bairwa, en route from a meeting, spontaneously joined the programme at Jawahar Circle, distributing pamphlets and urging citizens to follow traffic rules.

Kota gets Rs2.5 cr mobile hospital bus with advanced tools, thanks to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's efforts, making it the second district after Jaipur to receive this facility

Kejriwal prays at Salasar temple; smiles at crowd chanting Modi

First India Bureau
Churu

Arvind Kejriwal, former Delhi Chief Minister, visited Salasar in Churu on Wednesday with his family. Arriving at Jaipur Airport from Delhi on an Indigo flight, he was escorted by security vehicles provided by the Punjab government.

Kejriwal then headed to the Salasar Balaji Temple, where he was warmly welcomed by priests, including Yashodanandan Pujari, Mithanlal Pujari, Manoj Pujari, and Bhanwarlal Pujari. After performing darshan and prayers, he exited the temple, where the crowd outside began chanting "Modi-Modi," much to his amusement.

Kejriwal smiled at the chants, while his wife appeared surprised.

The former Delhi Chief Minister stayed in Salasar overnight and is scheduled to return to New Delhi today.

BJP ORGANISATIONAL POLLS

Agrawal counters Gehlot's remarks

Yogesh Sharma
Jaipur

BJP's state in-charge, Dr Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, reviewed the ongoing party organisation elections in Rajasthan. Along with BJP State Prez Madan Rathore & organisational Election Officer Narayan Panchariya, Agrawal addressed party officials, extending New Year greetings and urging them to highlight the feats of Bhajan Lal govt. Agrawal praised the



Dr Radhamohan Das Agrawal addresses during a meeting of office bearers in view of the organisational polls at BJP Headquarters in Jaipur on Wednesday. Madan Rathore, Narayan Lal Panchariya, Sharwan Singh Bagdi and others were present.

state's booth committee elections and met with CM Sharma. His meetings fueled speculations

about cabinet reshuffles & political appointments, likely to occur after the 'Mal Maas' period. In

response to Gehlot's remarks, Agrawal predicted BJP's victory in the next Assembly polls.

Ashok Gehlot criticises Manipur CM's apology

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A day after Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh apologised for the ethnic violence, Congress leader Ashok Gehlot stated that an apology alone wasn't enough. He emphasised that Singh should have resigned for failing to manage the crisis.

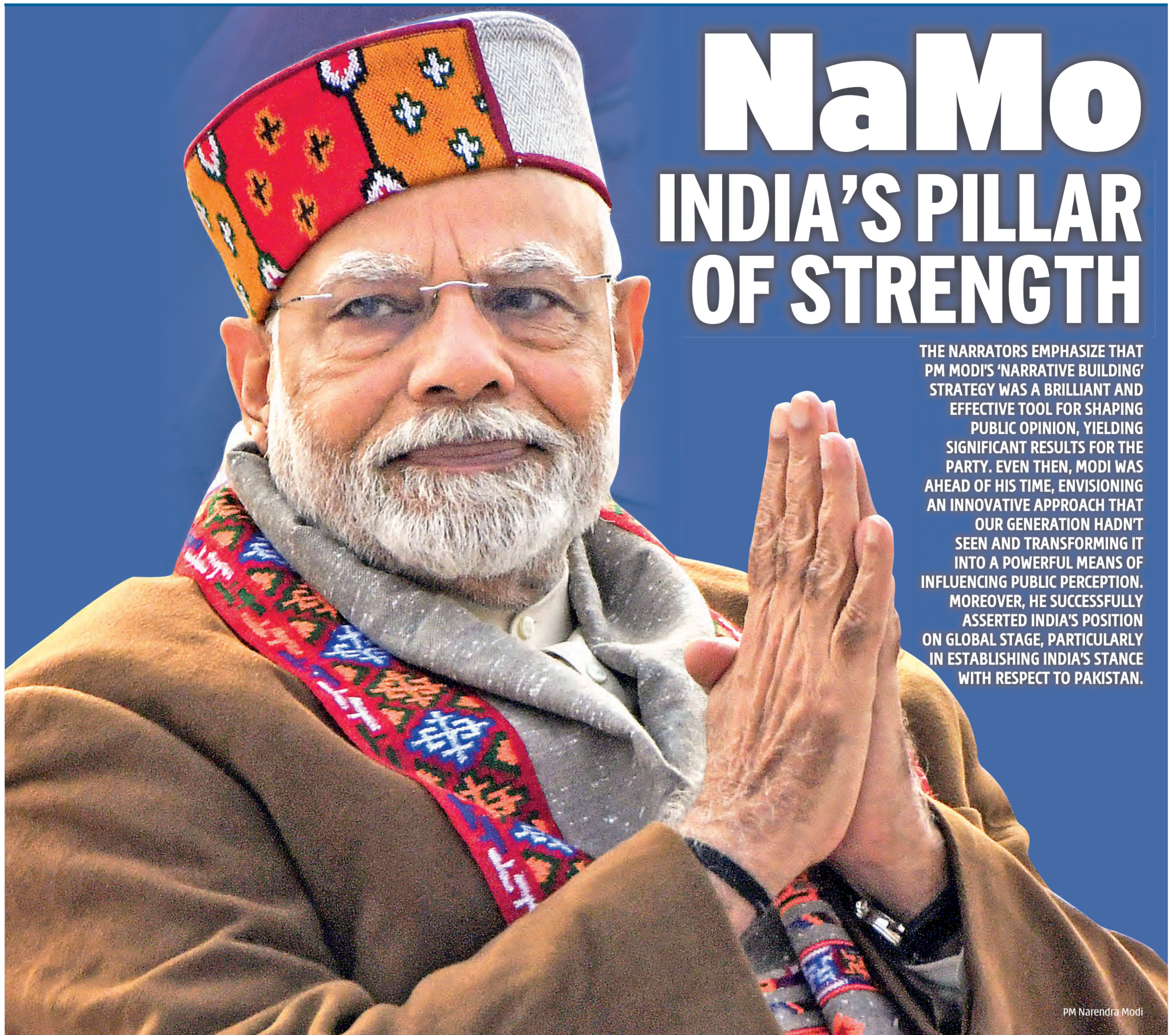
Gehlot also criticised PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for ignoring the situation, noting that Modi didn't visit Manipur during the unrest.

Blessed New Year...



Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat along with his wife, Naunand Kanwar, offer prayers at the famous Tirupati Balaji Temple in Tirumala on Wednesday. The Union Minister posted on X, "Om Shri Venkateshwaraya Namoh Namah. Shriman Narayan Namoh Namah. Tirumal Tirupati Namoh Namah. Jai Balaji Namoh Namah. The New Year began with the surrender of all emotions at the feet of Lord Tirupati Balaji. May Lord Venkateshwar, the master of the universe, continue to bless India with His divine protection. This extraordinary place, Tirumala, is truly the Bhulok Vaikuntham."

'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 112



NaMo INDIA'S PILLAR OF STRENGTH

THE NARRATORS EMPHASIZE THAT PM MODI'S 'NARRATIVE BUILDING' STRATEGY WAS A BRILLIANT AND EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR SHAPING PUBLIC OPINION, YIELDING SIGNIFICANT RESULTS FOR THE PARTY. EVEN THEN, MODI WAS AHEAD OF HIS TIME, ENVISIONING AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH THAT OUR GENERATION HADN'T SEEN AND TRANSFORMING IT INTO A POWERFUL MEANS OF INFLUENCING PUBLIC PERCEPTION. MOREOVER, HE SUCCESSFULLY ASSERTED INDIA'S POSITION ON GLOBAL STAGE, PARTICULARLY IN ESTABLISHING INDIA'S STANCE WITH RESPECT TO PAKISTAN.

PM Narendra Modi

PM'S NARRATIVE BUILDING BEFORE SOCIAL MEDIA ERA

It was way before social media had come into our lives. 'Building a narrative' was not commonplace jargon then, as people had no idea of this concept as it is today. Today it is a buzz word, and everyone is trying to 'build a narrative' on social media to get more and more people on board with an idea. Social media is a highly influential tool today which can easily sway emotions and opinions, which is why every campaign model has social media as an important part of its strategy. But it was not so then. I remember during the period of 1995-2000, Modi ji often used to be in Chandigarh on campaign related works and other party occupations. This was a time when mobile phones had just started to be introduced as a fast and convenient tool of communication in society and social media was obviously a far cry. It is during this time that Modi ji told us to identify and target tea stalls in the area or other such places of small public gatherings where people assembled over a cup of



Dr Dharinder Tayal
Chandigarh, BJP leader

tea and gossiped. He asked us to distribute our party literature, laying down our party's objectives and visions before these people at the tea stalls. He asked us to engage with these people, talk to them, explain to them the party's ideology, discuss issues and take feedback and, thus, 'build a narrative' around the party's objectives. This was perhaps the earliest initiation of this 'build a narrative' phrase in our lives. Years later, we find this so much in currency today. But in

those days, this was a novel idea no one had thought of or practised before as a tool of strengthening the party base. Modi ji said, when these people from the tea joints and other such places of public assemblage, moved to other places in their daily life, like other shops, offices, homes, villages and colonies, or out on their morning walks they would invariably carry the message narrated to them and thus spread it across the local populace. This way the message of the party could be spread far and wide in no time. People would be given a thought to discuss and propagate. Even if one person among them took up the literature, read and understood it and thought over it, it was the party's success, he said. This 'narrative building' initiative was an impeccable and ingenious tool to generate public opinion for the party that really bore its fruits. Modi ji was so ahead of his times even then, that he envisioned something which our generation hadn't even heard of and made it a practical tool of purpose that could shape public opinion.

'INDIA NEEDED A STRONG PM LIKE NARENDRA MODI'

When I was joining the BJP, I met Mr Modi late at night in his office. Even though it was 10 PM, yet his office was buzzing with hectic activity. Generally, we are used to winding up our operations by 7 PM or 8 PM, but here I was pleasantly surprised to see the electrifying atmosphere.

I couldn't believe it was late in the night or a full bright day time. Actually, that's the way he is. Mr Modi is a workaholic. I think he believes in spending most of his time thinking about the nation, the problems of the people and ways to ameliorate them. He is always bent on finding solutions to problems and rests only after getting to the solution. I think India long needed a strong leader like Narendra Modi ji. I have always believed that an element of authority has to be there with the Prime Minister of the country, which was missing earlier.

So, I was impressed by the authority Modi ji brings to the office of the prime minister. We didn't see such authority and



Late SM Krishna
Former CM, Karnataka

resolute resolve before. I remember, once he gave me a blow-by-blow description of the famous Balakot air strike by our Indian Air Force.

I was mighty impressed by the great pains he took to convey to me, how he believed in what he did. Narendra Modi believed that Pakistan had to be shown its place, and he did it just the way only he could do. The surgical strike was indeed a masterstroke

of the prime minister that was not only lauded widely for its timeliness and precision but also for the far reaching and long-lasting impact on India's geo-political position the strike ensured. This aggressive step by India was an important cog in the diplomatic and strategic roadmap of the country that indeed forced Pakistan to rethink its moves and limit its imperious ambitions. PM Modi had succeeded in showing Pakistan its place!



You read **PART 111**
on **DECEMBER 26, 2024**

COMPILED AND EDITED BY SHASHIKANT SHARMA



SHREE जंग रोधक CEMENT

घर की ढाल, सालों साल



घर चाहे जितना अच्छा बने, सरिया में जंग लगने से घर कमजोर हो सकता है
SHREE **जंग रोधक** CEMENT सरिया पर ढाल बना कर उसे
जंग लगने से बचाता है और घर की उम्र बढ़ाता है



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Modi govt stands with farmers like protective shield: Amit Shah

Home Minister lauds Govt's first decisions in 2025 for farmers
Shah, Pradhan to launch book story of J-K, Ladakh

PTI
New Delhi

The Narendra Modi government stands with farmers like a protective shield and it has reiterated this resolve on the very first day of 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday.

Shah's comments came after the Union Cabinet announced a one-time package to subsidise key fertiliser DAP at the cost of up to Rs 3,850 crore and approved a one-year extension of two crop-insurance schemes. "The Modi government stands with farmers



Union ministers Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan will on Thursday launch a book titled "Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Through the Ages", according to education ministry officials.

like a protective shield and today, on the very first day of 2025, it has reiterated this resolve. The decision of additional subsidy on DAP will ensure that DAP is available to our farmers at a reasonable price even if its prices increase in the

international markets. Thanks to Modiji for this special package," he wrote on X.

Meanwhile, ministers Amit Shah and Dharmendra Pradhan will on Thursday launch a book titled "Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh: Through

'LINK ALL PACS IN COUNTRY TO ORGANIC MISSION TO PROMOTE ORGANIC PRODUCTS'

New Delhi: Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday directed to link all Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) to the organic mission and asked to launch a campaign to promote organic products. Shah's direction came while chairing a review meeting of National Cooperative Organic Limited (NCOL) at the Ministry of Cooperation. Shah emphasised that special attention should be given

to identifying the sources of organic products and ensuring the purity of organic products. The Minister said that NCOL should focus on building a strong supply chain of authentic organic products from farmers to customers under its "Bharat Organics" brand. He emphasized that NCOL should ensure mandatory testing of each batch of "Bharat Organics" products so that customers have access to pure products in the market.

the Ages", according to education ministry officials.

"The book attempts to document the story of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from a perspective and format that enables an overview for both the special-

ist and those less conversant," a senior education ministry official said.

Published in Hindi and English, the book is the result of collaborative efforts of the National Book Trust, India, and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

PM may lay foundation for new DU college named after Savarkar



Uttar Pradesh Minister Om Prakash Rajbhar meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

PTI
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation for two new Delhi University campuses in east and west Delhi, along with a college named after Veer Savarkar on January 3, university sources said.

Approved by DU's executive council in 2021, the Savarkar College in Najafgarh will be built at a tentative cost of Rs 140 crore. The university has

extended an invitation to the prime minister, and is awaiting a confirmation from the prime minister's office (PMO), the sources said.

The proposed east campus in Surajmal Vihar will be established at an estimated cost of Rs 373 crore, while the west campus in Dwarka is expected to cost Rs 107 crore. In 2021, the executive council also approved a proposal to name a college after late BJP leader Shama Swaraj.

DU Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh was given the authority to select names for the two upcoming colleges from a pool of names.

The other names that were part of the pool included Swami Vivekananda, Vallabhai Patel, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Savitribai Phule, among others. The university has allotted two parcels of land in Najafgarh and Fatehpur Beri for the establishment of the two colleges.

On farmers' protest, govt will abide by apex court's direction: Agriculture Min



Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan in a meeting with the officials of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Agencies
New Delhi

With a section of farmers continue to protest at Haryana-Punjab border pressing for various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) on crops, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the government will abide by the Supreme Court's decision on this issue and will take steps accordingly.

"The action will be taken as per the direction of the Supreme Court," the Minister told reporters here when asked about holding a dialogue with the protesting farmers to

end the logjam. While the protesting farmers have requested the Centre to hold a dialogue with them, the minister said the apex court is currently looking into the matter.

The minister further said he otherwise has been meeting various farm bodies on every Tuesday and discussing their concerns. The minister's remarks come a day ahead of the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a plea seeking contempt action against the Punjab government for not complying with directions to hospitalise farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite fast for over a month.

Centre, states collect gross GST revenue of ₹1.76 trillion in December

PTI
Ahmedabad

The Union and state governments collected gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue of ₹1.76 trillion in December, the lowest in three months, but showing an improvement of 7.3% from a year ago, official data showed. After adjusting for tax refunds, GST revenue collection stood at ₹1.54 trillion, showing annual growth of 3.3%.

The gross GST receipts had touched a record high of ₹2.1 trillion in April 2024 on the back of strong financial year-end inventory clearing by companies in March but subsequently moderated. Revenue collection crossed ₹1.8 trillion mark only four times in the nine months up to December, including April.

Experts pointed out that the recent slowdown in revenue collection is typical after the holiday season. "It's well in line with expectations as we have been witnessing slight decrease in consumer spending over the past few months," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner, EY.

Senior leaders of AAP have been put in jail for corruption: BJP

ANI
New Delhi

Stepping up his attacks on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi on Wednesday said that every senior leader of their party has been put in jail for corruption, whether it was Chief Minister, Deputy CM or Leader of the Party in Parliament.

"Every senior leader of their party (AAP) has been put in jail for corruption. CM, Dy CM, and Leader of the Party



MOS Harsh Malhotra with BJP MPs Bansuri Swaraj, Manoj Tiwari & others during a joint press conference, in New Delhi Wednesday.

in Parliament, all three have been to jail. You have never seen such diversified corruption before... Their Health Minister Satyendra Jain was

jailed for money laundering, Amanatullah Khan for scams in Waqf Board, Naresh Balyan for links to the mafia..." Trivedi said.

BJP PLANNING TO DEMOLISH WORSHIP PLACES IN DELHI: CM

New Delhi: Accusing the BJP of planning to demolish Hindu temples and a Buddhist religious place in the city, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Wednesday said the AAP has on the other hand promised to provide Rs 18,000 monthly honorarium to the priests and granthis. No immediate reaction was available from the BJP and Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's office on the chief minister's allegations.

DOES RSS SUPPORT BJP'S 'WRONGDOINGS'? KEJRIWAL ASKS BHAGWAT

New Delhi: AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday wrote to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and alleged deletion of votes and money distribution by the BJP in Delhi. Kejriwal raised several questions in his letter to the RSS chief which comes ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls. The former Delhi CM asked Bhagwat if the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) endorsed the "wrongdoings" committed by

BSP likely to contest all 70 seats in Delhi Assembly polls

PTI
New Delhi

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) is likely to contest all 70 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls in Delhi, with the first list of candidates likely to be released by mid-January. A party official said the city has been divided into five zones and the process of finalising candidates in all the zones is underway.

He said the Delhi Assembly polls, due in February, are both "interest-



ing and challenging".

He said coordinators have been assigned to each of the zones to oversee the candidate-selection process. The final decision on the candidates will be based on these recommendations," the official said.

IMD predicts warmer Jan in north India with below-normal rainfall

PTI
New Delhi

Minimum temperatures are expected to be higher than normal in most parts of India in January, except in some areas of eastern, northwest, and west-central regions, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

Maximum temperatures are also likely to be above normal for most parts of the country, except in parts of northwest,



People walk on a frozen pond on the outskirts of Srinagar, Wednesday.

central and eastern India, and central parts of the southern peninsula, Mruyunjay Mohapatra, di-

rector general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), said during a virtual press briefing.

SLEW OF REGULATORY & FINANCIAL CHANGES

EPFO, UPI, GST and visa changes come into effect

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Starting January 1, 2025, a slew of regulatory and financial changes will be coming into effect, affecting citizens across the country. From changes in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) procedures to adjustments in LPG pricing and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the new year could have a significant impact on your wallet. Here's a complete list of the changes that

you can expect.

EPFO new rule

EPFO is set to streamline the pension withdrawal process from January 1, 2025 as part of the centralised pension payment system (CPPS). Pensioners will now have the convenience of withdrawing their pensions from any bank in the country, eliminating the hassle of additional verification.

Reports suggest that EPFO will be soon issuing an ATM card that will enable subscribers to withdraw money around



the clock. Moreover, the EPF contribution cap is expected to be eliminated this year as well.

GST

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) will be made mandatory for taxpayers



for better security on the GST portal. Additionally, E-Way Bills (EWBs) can only be generated for base documents not older than 180 days.

UPI and farmer loans
As per a recent circular

by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), starting today, UPI 123Pay, using which feature phone users make online payments, will see an increase in its transaction limit from January 1, 2025. The new limit will be Rs 10,000, up from the previous Rs 5,000.

Additionally, the central bank has raised the cap on unsecured loans for farmers to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1.60 lakh. This increase, effective today, is intended to provide more financial support to farmers, potentially aiding in

better agricultural practices and investments.

LPG pricing

The central government on Wednesday (Jan 1) slashed prices of commercial cylinders (19 kg) from ₹1818.50 to ₹1804, across cities, including Delhi and Mumbai. However, the price of domestic LPG cylinders (14.2 kg) remains unchanged at ₹803.

Visa requirements

US Visa Appointment Reschedule: Starting January 1, 2025, non-immigrant visa applicants in India

will benefit from a policy allowing one free rescheduling of their visa appointment. However, any further rescheduling will necessitate a new application and payment of the visa fee, aiming to streamline the process while maintaining discipline in appointment scheduling.

Changes in the H-1B

New rules, effective from January 17, 2025, will modernise the H-1B visa process, making it more flexible for employers and accessible for Indian F-1 visa holders.

Cong to launch new campaign from January 3

PTI
New Delhi

The Congress will launch its 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhiyan' in all blocks, districts and states on January 3. The campaign will culminate in a public rally at Mhow on January 26.

The campaign was to be launched on December 27 but was suspended in view of the demise of former prime minister Manmohan Singh on December 26 and the announcement of a seven-day mourning in his honour.

Israeli strikes kill at least 17 Palestinians in Gaza



Smoke rises from an Israeli strike as the Israeli military conducts operations inside the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, as seen from southern Israel.

Agencies
Jerusalem

Israeli air strikes on al-Bureij refugee camp and Jabalia town in central and northern Gaza killed at least 17 Palestinians on Wednesday, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment although in a post on X, its Arabic spokesperson warned residents of al-Bureij earlier to evacuate ahead of an imminent strike against militants firing rockets from the area.

It also said overnight that it killed Abd al-Hadi

ISRAEL FAILS TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO JUSTIFY ATTACKS ON GAZA HOSPITALS: UN

The Israeli military has failed to provide sufficient evidence to justify its attacks on hospitals in the Gaza Strip, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said in a report published on Tuesday. "The Israeli military has not provided sufficient information to enable independent substantiation of its statements, when made, that the hospitals, ambulances, and personnel attacked had lost their special protection and constituted military objectives," the report read. Israel carried out 136 strikes on at least 27 of the 38 hospitals and 12 clinics in Gaza from 7 October 2023 to 30 June 2024, with catastrophic effect on Palestinians' access to health and medical care, the UN rights agency said.

Sabah, a Hamas militant who helped lead the infiltration into Kibbutz Nir Oz during the Oct. 7, 2023 attack by the Islam-

displacement, although it was not immediately clear how many people were affected.

Israel says its almost three-month-old campaign in northern Gaza is aimed at preventing Hamas militants from regrouping. Its instructions to civilians to evacuate are meant to keep them out of harm's way, the military says.

Smoke rises from an Israeli strike as the Israeli military conducts operations inside the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, as seen from southern Israel, Wednesday.

340 hurt in Philippines NY revelries

Agencies
Manila

The Philippines' Department of Health (DOH) said on Wednesday it has tallied 340 firecracker-related injuries nationwide during Christmas and New Year revelries.

The DOH said that the total number of injuries recorded from Dec. 22, 2024, to Jan. 1, 2025, was 34 percent lower than that in the same period of the previous year.

According to the health department, nearly 60 percent of the injuries were caused by prohibited powerful firecrackers.

The DOH said that 239 of the victims were 19 years old and below. Of the 340 cases, 299 were men and 41 women.

OpenAI Whistleblower's parents claim foul play

Agencies
New Delhi

Indian-American Suchir Balaji, a 26-year-old former researcher at OpenAI known for his whistleblowing against the company, was found dead in his home in San Francisco on Nov 26.

The tragedy comes three months after Balaji publicly accused OpenAI of breaching U.S. copyright law in the development of ChatGPT, the highly popular generative artificial intelligence program. Balaji's death, first reported on December 14 was ruled a suicide with no foul play suspected. However, his parents dispute the au-



Suchir Balaji's parents Balaji Ramamurthy and Purnima Rao

thorities' conclusion. Balaji's mother, Purnima Rao, has launched an online campaign, claiming a private autopsy did not confirm suicide as the cause of death and urging the FBI to investigate.

The launch of Chat-

GPT in late 2022 triggered a wave of lawsuits against OpenAI. Authors, computer programmers, and journalists accused the company of illegally using their copyrighted material to train its AI model, which significantly boosted its market.

US needs smart people: Donald Trump sides with Elon Musk on H-1B visa row

Agencies
Washington DC

US President-elect Donald Trump appeared to side with ally and tech billionaire Elon Musk over the ongoing H-1B visa row and said America needs "smart people" coming into our country. Musk sparked political turmoil in the Republican camp recently after he vowed to "go to war" to defend the H-1B visa programme.



"I always felt we have to have the most competent people in our coun-

try. We need smart people coming into our country," Trump told.

ABOUT H-1B VISA PROGRAMME

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa which allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Tech companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India & China, and therefore, the sector has long called for more H-1B visas to attract highly skilled workers to the US.

Russian gas era in Europe ends as Ukraine stops transit

Reuters
Moscow/Kyiv

Russian gas exports via Soviet-era pipelines running through Ukraine came to a halt on New Year's Day, marking the end of decades of Moscow's dominance over Europe's energy markets.

The gas had kept flowing despite nearly three years of war, but Russia's gas firm Gazprom said it had stopped at 0500 GMT after Ukraine refused to renew a transit agreement. The widely expected stoppage will not impact prices for consumers in the European Union - unlike in 2022, when falling supplies from Russia sent prices to record highs, worsened a cost-of-living crisis and hit the bloc's competitiveness.



A gas worker walks between pipes in a compressor & distribution station of the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod gas pipeline. FILE

TWO KILLED IN RUSSIAN DRONE STRIKE ON KYIV

Russia launched a New Year's Day drone strike on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv early on Wednesday, killing two people, wounding at least six others and damaging buildings in two districts, authorities said. Explosions boomed across the morning sky as Ukraine's air force warned of incoming drones and Mayor Vitali Klitschko said air defences were repelling an enemy attack. Two floors of a residential building in central Kyiv were partially destroyed in the strike, according to the State Emergency Service. Two people were killed, it said.

Jaishankar meets Qatar PM, reviews bilateral cooperation

PTI
Doha

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday met with Qatari PM and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and held a productive review of bilateral cooperation and also discussed recent regional & global developments.

It was this year's first diplomatic engagement of Jaishankar, who arrived here on December 30 on a three-day visit.

"Delighted to meet PM and FM @MBA_AlThani_ in Doha today. My first diplomatic engagement in 2025. A productive review of our bilateral cooperation. Also a wide-



ranging discussion on recent regional and global developments," Jaishankar said in a post on X. His visit will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations, including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural and people-to-people, as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release earlier.

FI TOON



SHEKHAR

CLASH SPARKS UNREST

Tensions flare in village over minister's car incident

PTI
Mumbai

Curfew has been imposed at a village in north Maharashtra's Jalgaon district following clashes over a trivial dispute involving the driver of a minister's car and a group of locals, officials said on Wednesday morning.

Seven persons have been arrested so far as several shops were set on fire and public property was damaged during the



REPRESENTATIONAL

violence at Palthi village, a senior police official said. There was a heated exchange between a group of locals and the driver of state minister

Gulabrao Patil's car in Kasaiwada area of the village late Tuesday night when the driver honked and asked them to give way, he said.

Patil, a Shiv Sena leader and the minister for water supply and sanitation, was not present, but a member of his family was riding in the car.

While the altercation ended at the spot, some persons from the locality later went to a village square and protested, the official said.



1995 IAS batch misses out on ACS promotions

In a surprising turn of events, the promotion of 28 IAS officers this year has excluded the entire 1995 batch from being elevated to the rank of Additional Chief Secretary (ACS). Out of the batch, only Praveen Gupta and Bhaskar Atmaram Sawant were promoted to ACS. This year, there were only two vacancies for the ACS position, leading to the promotion of just two officials.

Modi govt announces New Year boost for farmers

The Modi govt has announced a significant gift to farmers. The Union Cabinet has approved an increase in the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to Rs 69,515 crores. Rs 3,850 crores have been allocated for DAP fertilizer, which will now be available at a subsidized rate of Rs 1,350 per bag. This move is part of PM Modi's continued efforts to focus on the welfare of farmers and ensure their prosperity.

CM Bhajan Lal extends CET score validity

On the occasion of the New Year, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal has presented a significant gift to unemployed youths. The government has extended the validity of the (CET) scorecard from one year to three years. This move is expected to ease the path for aspiring candidates. The results for both the CET Senior Secondary and CET Graduate exams will be declared later this month. CM Bhajanlal, known for his hard work, is determined to fulfill his promises, striving to alleviate the hardships of the youth.

Kejriwal challenges RSS, questions BJP's actions

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has written a letter to RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, raising several provocative questions. He questioned whether RSS supports the BJP's actions, including their financial dealings and the alleged undermining of democracy. Kejriwal's letter focuses on the alleged targeting of Dalit and Purvanchal votes by the BJP, and whether RSS condones such practices.

Fan frenzy stops Akshay Kumar

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar's visit to Amer Fort on New Year's Day took an unexpected turn. Arriving by car in the morning, Akshay was unable to step out as fans surrounded his vehicle in hopes of catching a glimpse of the star.

Bumrah's captaincy sparks dissent

The Indian cricket team's poor performance in Australia has caused ripples within the team. In the absence of Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah captained the team for the first match, but his leadership did not sit well with some senior players.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Choose to live your life with gratitude, it's immense power brings clarity to confusion and acceptance instead of denial and will change your house into a home.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Ayushi Shekhawat, Astha Khandelwal, Shikha Thakur, Aditi Nagar and Poornima Mishra during 'The JC Show.'

Narendra Modi will continue to rule as 'Chakravarti Raja' in 2025: Dr Chandra

● How will the year 2025 be for Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra: The year 2025 will be a miraculous one for Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He will continue to rule like a "Chakravarti" (emperor) and maintain his dominance over the hearts of 140 crore people. By October 2025, there will be a ceasefire agreement between Russia and Ukraine, and a large part of the credit for this will go to Narendra Modi, alongside Trump and Putin. Numerous events related to Narendra Modi will take place in India and worldwide, further cementing the narrative that "Modi Hai, To Mumkin Hai."

● How far will Modi's "One Nation-One Election" agenda progress in 2025?

The agenda will move forward, but it's a long-term plan. In reality, this experiment is expected to be implemented starting in 2034. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has already been formed, and its chairman, PP Chaudhary, is a highly qualified and experienced individual. Under Modi's supervision, I believe the JPC chairman will complete the task properly. If everything goes smoothly, the JPC report will likely be ready by the end of 2025. However, the issue of a two-thirds majority still stands.

Currently, the NDA holds 292 seats in the Lok Sabha, but it needs 363 for a two-thirds majority. Similarly, in the Rajya Sabha, the NDA has 118 out of 231 total seats, requiring 154 seats. Amit Shah's strategy is



well-known for making the impossible possible. If all goes well, by the end of 2025 or the beginning of 2026, Modi and Shah will have found a way to gather the necessary majority, and the first phase of the law will be passed. I believe that by 2034, the law will be fully implemented.

● How do you view Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to pay tribute and show respect to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh?

This shows his greatness. For the first time, a sitting Prime Minister has shown such respect and reverence towards a former Prime Minister from a different party. He said that Manmohan Singh was a symbol of simplicity and honesty, and the country will always remember him as an honest and brilliant economist. Amit Shah and Mohan Bhagwat also made similar important remarks. Narendra Modi truly went the extra mile to sympathize with the late Prime Minister, and this was appreciated across the country—not just by the Punjabi community, but by people everywhere. The example of democratic tolerance that Modi presented sent a powerful message. Modi's long-term vision means it's not surprising

if, a couple of years down the line, we find a member of Manmohan Singh's family contesting elections on a BJP ticket. This generosity of Narendra Modi has been praised both domestically and internationally, especially because Manmohan Singh was known globally, whether in Russia, America, or elsewhere. People saw how Modi respected a former Prime Minister from a different political party, which has also enhanced his stature internationally.

● Some critics argue that BJP's glorification of Dr Manmohan Singh has inadvertently led to the revival of Congress' achievements from 2004-2014 in the public eye. Do you agree with this view?

Absolutely. For a moment, it seemed like Congress had revived itself from 2004 to 2014. Nobody had noticed it before, but once it was noticed, it was too late. From morning to evening, newspapers and news channels created a narrative around it. The Times of India headline read, "The Man Who Changed the Country," followed by "The Silent Singham of Economic Revolution," and then came references to the foundations of New India, a vision that Naren-

dra Modi claims to have, but was originally laid by Manmohan Singh. There were mentions of the country being on the brink of bankruptcy, with gold being pledged, but Manmohan Singh's leadership brought it back. He demonstrated economic liberalization, dismantled the permit-control system, reformed the

agreements with Sonia Gandhi and the perceived disrespect towards him, which became part of the media narrative. The government's media management system faltered, and the damage was done before they could correct it. This ongoing glorification of Manmohan Singh and his legacy continues today, with articles and analyses of his personality in major newspapers. The dilemma for the BJP now is how to balance the sympathy for Manmohan Singh with the achievements of Congress during his tenure. I'm sure the BJP strategists are working on this because it's a tricky mix that needs to be separated.



stock market, brought in FDI, and struck the nuclear deal. He introduced NREGA, RTI, the Right to Education, and food security policies. BJP realized overnight that if all these things were done by Manmohan Singh, then what has Narendra Modi done? The next day, damage control began. You saw reports of Manmohan Singh's dis-

respect everything, Dr. Manmohan Singh served for ten years as Prime Minister. Whether under the control of Sonia Gandhi or not, he led the country well, and that is not a bad deal in politics.

● There was a controversy surrounding the memorial and samadhi site of Dr. Manmohan Singh shortly after his funeral on December 28th. How do you view this controversy, and do you think it will persist in 2025?

Yes, this issue will linger in 2025 because it's a political war, and the matter has gained traction. The sequence of events is important here. Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on the 26th of December, and by 11 a.m. on the 27th, a Cabinet meeting took place. Shortly after, the Home Ministry issued a press note stating

and did not give him the respect he deserved. Do you have any comments on this? Yes, this accusation has been made. When Dr. Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister, we also heard similar things. For example, once Rahul Gandhi tore up an ordinance that Manmohan Singh wanted to introduce. Rahul Gandhi was too young at that time, but it was still unfortunate that Dr. Manmohan Singh had to go through that. I'm sure it hurt him. He was a very serious and composed person and never made an issue out of it. Another matter was his day-to-day administration, where senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel often intervened. Manmohan Singh acted on behalf of Sonia Gandhi, issuing instructions, and sometimes his authority was questioned. But Manmohan Singh was seasoned and visionary enough not to let those disagreements escalate. Despite everything, there must have been mutual respect between Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh, because Sonia could have removed him at any point, but she didn't. Their relationship endured. However, there were moments when his family members might have felt slighted. De-

● Some BJP leaders claim that Congress mistreated Dr. Manmohan Singh during his tenure

● Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, PK Mishra, also paid a heartfelt tribute to Dr Manmohan Singh. Have you seen that video?

Yes, I watched the video, and was highly impressed with PK Mishra's courage and conviction. He has been with Narendra Modi for 25 years and was a student of Manmohan Singh. They worked together in the Ministry of Agriculture on Disaster Management. Bureaucrats often become reluctant over time to praise someone from a different party, but PK Mishra openly acknowledged Dr Manmohan Singh's contributions, describing him as a brilliant economist. This kind of open praise within the bureaucracy is rare and is highly appreciated. It reflects well on the Prime Minister's leadership, as Modi himself acknowledged Mishra's gesture. It was a commendable move on the part of the bureaucrat.

TO BE CONTINUED...



Scan to watch The JC Show

During the show #TheManOfPrediction trended top All-India on X



CULTURAL SHOWCASE!

Julia Gama, the Miss Universe 2020 1st Runner-Up & Miss Universe 2024 (Telemundo) host, graced the Forerunners event, held as a prelude to the 25th Hornbill Festival recently.

P12

A Glamorous New Year in B-Town

STARRY CELEBRATION



Drove from Finland, 3 h into Sweden to get clear skies
Triptii Dimri post

Triptii Dimri celebrated the New Year beneath the Northern Lights in Sweden. She shared breathtaking photos of the mesmerizing lights on Instagram, giving her followers a glimpse of her magical experience.



Kajol, Ajay Devgn with their son Yug

Kajol and Ajay Devgn chose an intimate celebration with family, including their son Yug, Ajay's mother, and sister Neelam. Kajol's heartfelt caption resonated with fans: "May your joy be supremely infectious to the world around you always."



Bhavika Khunteta

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

As the clock struck midnight, Bollywood stars ushered in the New Year with style, love, and heartfelt celebrations. City First highlights B-town's festive moments and warm wishes shared by beloved celebrities.

Bollywood celebrities stepped into 2025 with flair, sharing glimpses of their joyous celebrations. From intimate family gatherings to scenic getaways, stars treated fans to heartwarming moments as they wished them a Happy New Year.

Parineeti Chopra & Raghav Chadha celebrated New Year in Delhi. The couple shared a collaborative post on social media, where they warmly wished their fans a "Happy New Year." This marked their joyous first New Year celebration together as a happily married couple.



Parineeti Chopra & Raghav Chadha

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal

kicked off 2025 in Sydney, Australia, sharing a sweet video where Sonakshi planted a kiss on Zaheer's cheek, making fans swoon.



Sonakshi Sinha & Zaheer Iqbal

Katrina Kaif made waves with her New Year post, featuring her radiant smile against palm trees and a serene beach adorned with "2025" in LED lights. Fans couldn't stop admiring Vicky Kaushal's photography skills.



Katrina Kaif



Ananya Panday with her cut dog Riot

Ananya Panday started her year on a cozy note, cuddling her adorable pet dog, Riot. Sharing pictures on Instagram, including a striking image of "2025" lit up in laser lights, she wrote, "Starting 2025 with only love! Let's set the tone for the rest of the year."



Khushi Kapoor & Boney Kapoor

Other stars, including **Khushi Kapoor, Preity Zinta, Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor**, also extended heartfelt wishes, bringing the industry's charm and warmth to the New Year celebrations.

With love, laughter, and meaningful connections, Bollywood ushered in 2025, inspiring fans to embrace the year with hope and joy.



WHAT'S NEXT?



SHIMMER Wedding & Gift Expo 2025: Jaipur's premium event, brings top designers and vendors across bridal couture, decor, accessories, and lifestyle, creating a one-stop wedding destination!

When: Jan 10-11, 2025, 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Where: Kesari Bagh Banquets by County inn, vaishali nagar, Jaipur



Rahgir Live- Nanhe Kalakar Festival Jaipur: Experience Rahgir's soulful blend of folk, poetry, and contemporary rhythms. His music, filled with deep lyrics and emotion, will inspire and connect while supporting Urban Forest Plantation through your ticket purchase.

When: January 04, 4:00 PM

Where: Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur



Truth and Dare Date: Join "Truth or Dare" Date, a fun twist on the classic game to spark connections! Singles can interact through Truth or Dare rounds, breaking the ice and meeting new people in an exciting way.

When: January 05, 5:00 PM

Where: Code Black, Jaipur

BIRTHDAY FORECAST!



Gabrielle Carteris
CAPRICORN
JANUARY 2

Your heart races, Scorpio, drawing you to a romantic fantasy where you're the star. However, reality intervenes your conscience reminds you of unfinished tasks demanding attention. Balance work and whimsy to achieve harmony between your responsibilities and your dreamy escapades today.

Lucky Number: 7

Lucky Colour: Red



Jaipur Flight Plan

UDAIPUR- Air India, Indigo

JAMNAGAR- Air India, Air India Express, Indigo

JAMMU- Air India, Indigo

CHANDIGARH- Air India, Air India Express

SHIMLA- Air India, Alliance Air, Indigo

CALI, COLOMBIA- Air Europa, American Airlines, Copa Airlines, Etihad Airways, Iberia, LATAM Airlines

SAN FRANCISCO- Air India, Air India Express, American Airlines, Etihad Airways, JetBlue Airways

ISTANBUL, TURKEY- Air Arabia, Air India, Air India Express, Azerbaijan Airline, Emirates, Etihad Airways

HONG KONG- Air India, Air India Express, Cathay Pacific, Etihad Airways, IndiGo, Singapore Airlines

SHANGHAI, CHINA- Air China, Air India, Air Macau, Cathay Pacific, China Eastern, Hong Kong Airlines



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JOY OF MISSING OUT (JOMO)

Live Your Own Life



Dr Akhilesh Jain

Head of Psychiatry & Medical Superintendent
ESI Model Hospital, Ahmedabad

In today's digital age, where people are often caught up in "FOMO" (Fear of Missing Out), a new mindset called "JOMO" (Joy of Missing Out) is emerging. This perspective not only shows us a way to escape the pressure and stress of a fast-paced life but also teaches us how to live with happiness, contentment, and peace.

WHAT IS JOMO?

The Joy of Missing Out means prioritizing your own life and experiencing contentment and joy by freeing yourself from external pressures and unrealistic expectations. It is about embracing the idea that it's not necessary to follow every trend, stay updated on social media, or participate in every event. In fact, letting go of some things can be fulfilling.

On the other hand, FOMO, or Fear of Missing Out, is considered as a byproduct of technology and social media. It often causes us to fear missing out on something important. Notifications, party posts, and the seemingly "perfect lives" of others promoted on social media make us feel as though we are falling behind.

While FOMO may trigger envy of others' lives and achievements, JOMO inspires us to focus on our own lives and find satisfaction within. This mindset helps us realize that staying active on social media or attending every party, event, or opportunity is not necessary for happiness.

The key lies in understanding that happiness resides with-

in us if we free ourselves from unnecessary pressures and prioritize what truly matters.

FOMO vs. JOMO: What's the Difference?

FOMO (FEAR OF MISSING OUT)

- It is the fear that if we don't participate in an activity or event, we might miss out on something important.
- It leads to constant comparison and anxiety.
- Seeing others' posts and photos on social media can make our own lives feel inadequate.

JOMO (JOY OF MISSING OUT)

- It is the conscious joy of letting go of certain things.
- It helps us experience inner peace and contentment.
- It allows us to focus on our priorities and free ourselves from external pressures.

WHY IS JOMO IMPORTANT?

In a world where everything is rapidly changing and we try to stay connected at all times, we often lose ourselves. Letting ourselves free from unnecessary activities and enjoying what is in hand and what we like, we gain the following

benefits:

- **Improved Mental Health:** FOMO often leads to stress and anxiety. JOMO frees us from these pressures and provides mental peace.
- **Stronger Relationships:** When we aren't constantly distracted by social media or running after unnecessary engagements, we can spend quality time with family and friends.
- **Quality Time:** JOMO teaches us how to make the best use of our free time. We can invest in hobbies, learning, outdoor activities, or simply relaxing.

● **Self-Awareness:** JOMO makes us more mindful of our lives. We become more attuned to our needs, desires, and goals.

HOW TO EMBRACE JOMO

- **Take a Break from Social Media:** Set aside time each day to stay away from social media. This will reduce the habit of comparing yourself to others and allow you to focus on yourself.
- **Enjoy Solitude:** It's not necessary to be surrounded by people all the time. Spend some time alone for introspection and mental peace.
- **Set Healthy Boundaries:** Learn to say no to invitations or opportunities that don't align with your priorities.
- **Practice Digital Detox:** Step away from phones and gadgets. Instead, read books, meditate, or spend time in nature.
- **Explore Your Interests:** The real joy of JOMO lies in dedicating your free time to activities that bring you happiness—such as reading, painting, singing, or learning a new skill.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF JOMO

- It helps you move away from a negative and comparative mindset to a more positive and fulfilling outlook.
- It allows you to lead a meaningful and creative life, free from unnecessary stress and worries.
- It improves your physical and mental health.

YOUR PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES

In today's fast-paced world, where everyone is striving to stay ahead, JOMO serves as a pause button. It reminds us that true joy not always lies in the race but in the moments of stillness also. Embrace JOMO in your life and realize that missing out isn't always a loss—it can sometimes be your greatest gain.



Police
100

Fire
101

Ambulance
102/108

Child Helpline
1098

Help in Suffering
2760012

Do you want to add your establishment here? Email your details to cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?

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



Movie: Baby John
Director: Kalees
Cast & Crew: Varun Dhawan, Jackie Shroff, Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets



Movie: Vanvaas
Director: Anil Sharma
Cast & Crew: Nana Patekar, Utkarsh Sharma, Simratt Kaur, Rajpal Yadav

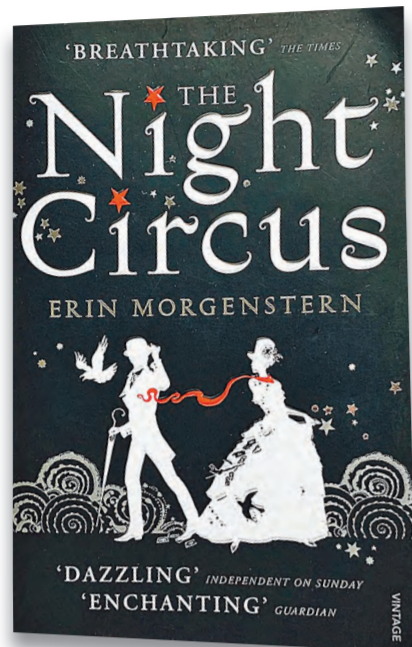


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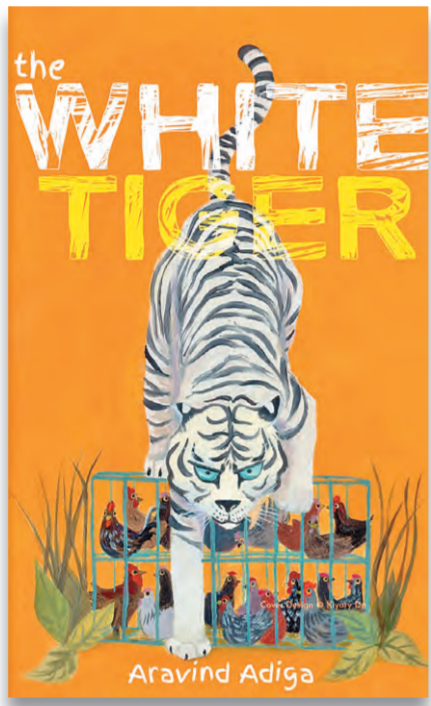
BOOKS

You Can't Miss in 2025!



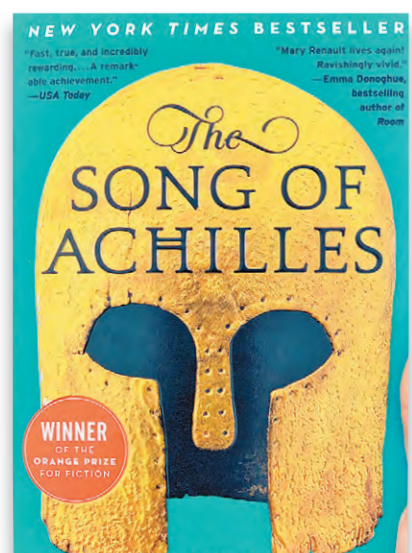
"THE NIGHT CIRCUS"
BY ERIN MORGENSTERN
For those who enjoy a touch of magic and mystery, "The Night Circus" is a must-read. Set in a magical, mysterious circus that only opens at night, this novel revolves around two young illusionists bound by a dangerous game. Morgenstern's beautifully poetic writing creates an atmospheric and immersive experience that will appeal to fans of fantasy and romance. The lush, imaginative world she crafts is unforgettable, with each page offering something new and enchanting. Whether you're drawn to the allure of the circus or the slow-burn romance at its core, this book is a magical escape from the ordinary.

"THE WHITE TIGER"
BY ARAVIND ADIGA
A modern Indian classic, "The White Tiger" is a searing critique of India's social hierarchy, poverty, and the divide between the urban elite and rural masses. Narrated by Balram Halwai, an ambitious driver who rises from the depths of rural India to become a successful entrepreneur, the novel explores themes of corruption, survival, and the pursuit of power. Adiga's dark humour and sharp observations on social inequality make this book both thought-provoking and gripping. As relevant today as when it was first published, The White Tiger offers a poignant look at the realities of India's socio-economic structure.



"BECOMING" BY MICHELLE OBAMA
In her deeply personal memoir, "Becoming", Michelle Obama offers readers an intimate glimpse into her life, from her humble beginnings in Chicago to her years as First Lady of the United States. Through her candid reflections, she shares her journey of self-discovery, the challenges she faced as a woman of colour in a predominantly white environment, and her efforts to balance career, motherhood, and public life. This book is not just a political memoir but a powerful story of resilience, growth, and finding your voice. Obama's ability to connect with readers on a personal level makes Becoming an inspiring and impactful read.

"THE SONG OF ACHILLES"
BY MADELINE MILLER
A retelling of Homer's Iliad, "The Song of Achilles" offers a fresh perspective on the relationship between Achilles and Patroclus, turning the classic myth into a heartbreaking and beautiful love story. Miller's writing is lyrical and emotionally charged, breathing new life into ancient Greek mythology. For fans of epic romance and stories of loyalty, honor, and tragedy, this novel is a deeply moving exploration of love and loss that will stay with you long after the final page.

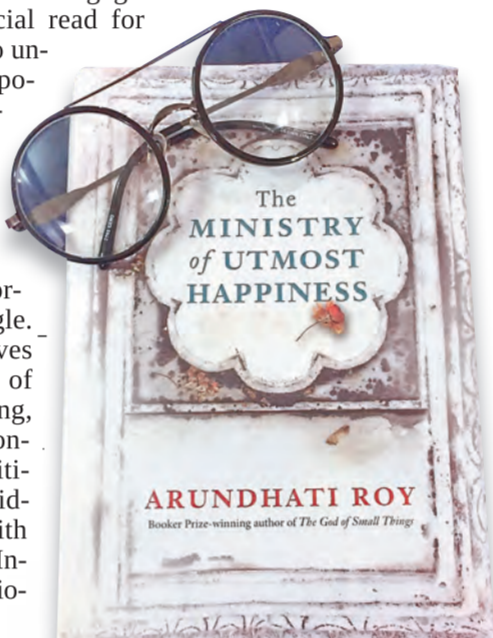


City First
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As we enter 2025, the world of literature continues to offer a rich tapestry of stories, ideas and experiences waiting to be explored.

Whether you're an avid reader or someone looking to dive deeper into diverse genres, this year promises a wealth of captivating books to immerse yourself in. City First brings you some timeless classics to contemporary Indian voices, that should be on your radar in 2025!

"THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS"
BY ARUNDHATI ROY
Arundhati Roy's long-awaited return to fiction with "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" is a sprawling, intricate novel that tackles India's socio-political landscape in the 21st century. Through a series of interconnected characters and narratives, Roy paints a vivid portrait of a country in turmoil, filled with corruption, religious violence, and environmental destruction. However, at its heart, the novel is about hope, resistance, and the search for a better world. Roy's evocative storytelling, profound empathy for marginalized voices, and unapologetic political engagement make this a crucial read for anyone seeking to understand contemporary India's complexities, contradictions, challenges, and enduring resilience amidst constant transformation and struggle. The novel weaves together themes of identity, belonging, justice and the consequences of political choices, providing readers with deep insight into India's evolving socio-political fabric.

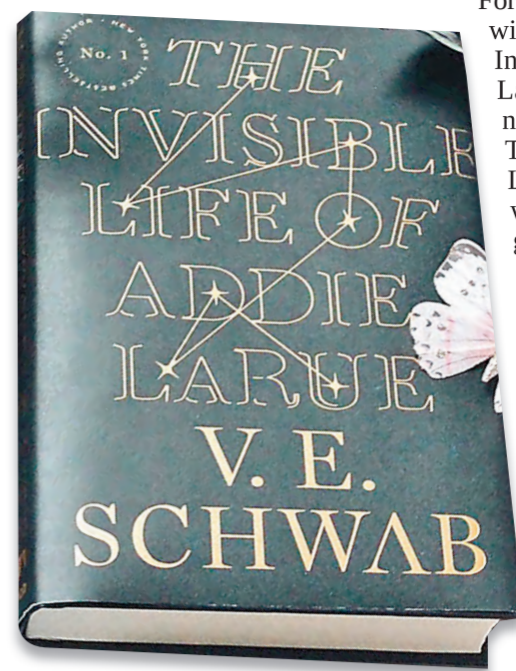


"THE SECRET GARDEN" BY FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT
One of the most beloved children's classics, "The Secret Garden" is a story of personal growth, healing, and the restorative power of nature. When Mary Lennox, a spoiled and lonely girl, discovers a neglected garden, she embarks on a journey of transformation, learning the importance of love, kindness, and connection. Burnett's tale is timeless, offering readers of all ages a reminder of the beauty of nature and the strength that lies within each of us to overcome adversity.

Whether you are drawn to fantasy, historical fiction, or contemporary Indian literature, 2025 is set to be a year filled with extraordinary books that offer something for every type of reader. From the whimsical to the profound, these books will challenge your perspectives, evoke deep emotions, and take you on unforgettable journeys through different times, cultures, and experiences. As you look ahead to the new year, dive into these remarkable works and let them inspire, educate, and entertain you.



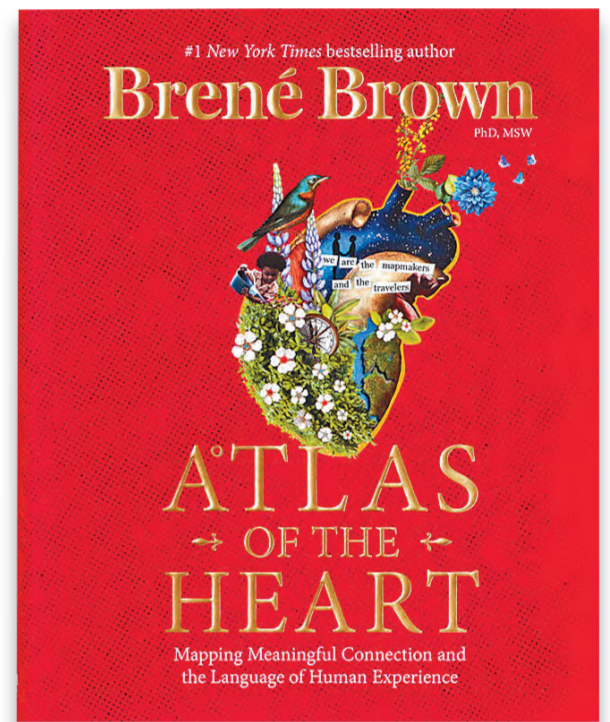
"THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE" BY V.E. SCHWAB



For lovers of historical fiction with a twist of fantasy, "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue" is a captivating novel that spans centuries. The story follows Addie LaRue, a young woman who makes a Faustian bargain to live forever, only to be cursed with the ability to be forgotten by everyone she meets. The novel is a poignant exploration of identity, memory, and the desire to leave a mark on the world. With its lyrical prose and timeless themes, Schwab's novel will resonate with readers who appreciate stories about the human condition, love, and the passage of time.

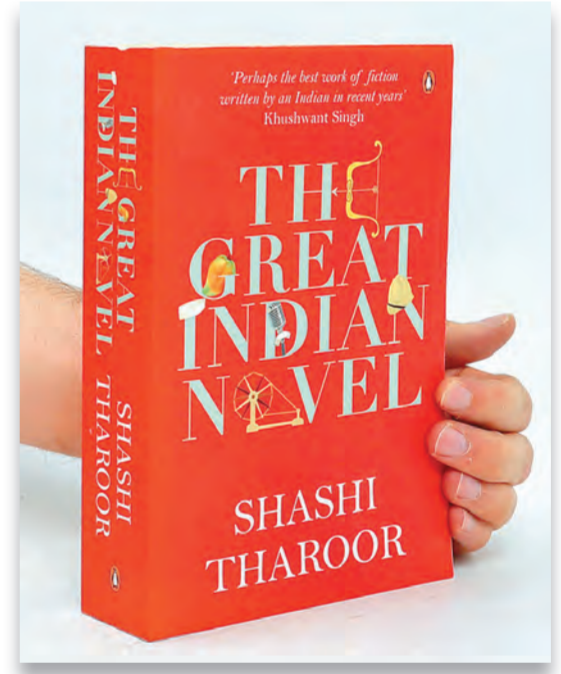
"AN ATLAS OF THE HEART" BY BRENÉ BROWN

Brené Brown's "An Atlas of the Heart" is an exploration of emotions and human connection, grounded in research and personal insight. Brown delves into the language of emotions, examining how we experience feelings like joy, anger, fear, and grief, and how they shape our lives and relationships. This book is for anyone looking to better understand their emotional landscape and improve their interpersonal connections. Brown's compassionate and accessible writing makes complex psychological concepts easy to grasp, offering readers practical tools to navigate their emotions and foster greater empathy in their lives.



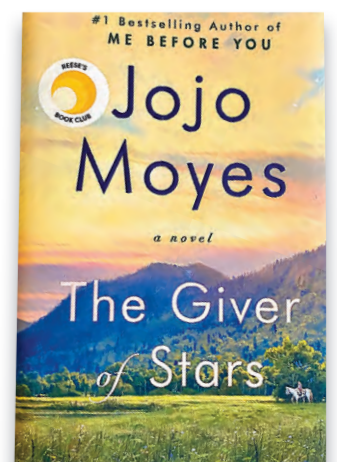
"THE GREAT INDIAN NOVEL" BY SHASHI THAROOR

Shashi Tharoor's "The Great Indian Novel" is a brilliant and humorous retelling of the Mahabharata, reimagined in the context of modern Indian politics. Using a satirical lens, Tharoor explores the complexities of India's political landscape, drawing parallels between the epic's characters and figures from India's post-independence history. The novel is both entertaining and enlightening, offering sharp insights into the country's political culture. Tharoor's wit and intelligence make this a compelling read for anyone interested in Indian history, mythology, and politics.



"THE GIVER OF STARS" BY JOJO MOYES

Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, "The Giver of Stars" tells the inspiring story of a group of women who become part of a travelling library, delivering books to rural communities in Kentucky. The novel is a celebration of the transformative power of literature, friendship, and resilience. Moyes' warm and compassionate writing brings to life the strength and courage of these women as they face adversity. With its rich historical setting and emotional depth, this book is a beautiful reminder of the importance of education and community in overcoming life's challenges.





THE JC Show!

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Aayushi Shekhawat, Akanksha Tomar, Astha Khandelwal, Shikha Thakur, Aditi Nagar, Poornima Mishra, Preeti Negi, Priya Raj and Pooja Yadav during The JC Show at Bharat24 Channel office on Monday. The special show titled 'Welcome 2025' notched 1 lakh 40 thousand views on YouTube Live, topping all national channels' viewership many times over during its telecast on 31st December 2024.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted and conveyed his best wishes for the upcoming new year to First India News Director Virendra Choudhary and Sanjay Poonia on Wednesday at the Taj Rambagh Palace, Jaipur.

MEET & GREET!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by RAS Shruti Bhardwaj; MD, Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF), during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Wednesday. During the meeting, they exchanged warm New Year greetings.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Bharat Dixit of the First India family, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Wednesday. During the meeting, Dixit sought blessings from Dr Chandra, on the occasion of his birthday which was on December 30, and also exchanged warm New Year greetings.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Vinod Goswami of the First India family, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Wednesday. During the meeting, Goswami sought blessings from Dr Chandra, on the occasion of his birthday which was on December 29 and also exchanged warm New Year greetings.

CULTURAL FUSION



Julia Gama

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Julia Gama, the Miss Universe 2020 First Runner-Up, actress, and Miss Universe 2024 (Telemundo) host, graced the Forerunners event as the showstopper, held as a prelude to the 25th Hornbill Festival recently. The event, organised in collaboration with the Tourism Department and the Government of Nagaland, was presided over by Imlibenla Wati Neinu, President of Forerunners.

The event showcased Nagaland's rich traditions through songs, cultural dances, and interactive activities. One of the even-



Julia Gama (Miss Universe 2020 Runner-Up, Miss World Brazil 2014, Actress, and Host) with Malik Isani (Founder of P&I Magazine)



Imlibenla Wati Neinu (President Of Forerunners)

a traditional Naga outfit, walked as the showstopper, exuding elegance and celebrating the unity and legacy of Nagaland's pageantry.

Malik Isani, Founder of P&I Magazine, played a pivotal role in bringing Julia Gama to Nagaland, facilitating a unique cultural exchange between global pageantry and Indian traditions.

Julia Gama expressed, "It has been an incredible honour to experience Nagaland's culture and history. Walking the runway was a humbling experience."

The event's success was supported by notable patrons including Temjen Imna Along (Minister of Tourism and Higher Education, Govt. of Nagaland), Kunzholuzo Azo Nieniu (MLA, Govt. of Nagaland), and the Forerunners team.

ing's highlights was the Tribute Runway, where former winners of Miss Nagaland,

from 1989 to the reigning queen, walked the ramp together. Julia Gama, donning

GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Gauravi & Rajveer

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was warmly greeted by Gauravi and Rajveer, the children of Kavita Chauhan from the First India family, during a heartfelt courtesy visit at his residence on Wednesday. The young duo, visiting on the eve of their birthday, sought Dr Chandra's blessings as they gear up to celebrate their special day today. New Year greetings were also exchanged during the visit, making the occasion even more memorable.

Celebrate with Grace



MLA Kalicharan Saraf with Pooja Chhabra, Gopal Gupta and others during the inaugural ceremony



Dharamveer Katewa

Divya Kanwalia
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Rajasthan University marking a positive and healthy start to the New Year by distributing over 7,000 litres of milk on Tuesday. The inauguration ceremony was graced by MLA Kalicharan Saraf, Mayor Somya, Prof Alpina Kateja and IPS Tejaswini Gautam. Thousands of people embraced the initiative,

choosing milk over alcohol to celebrate.

Dharamveer Katewa, Secretary of the Indian Asthma Care Society, launched this unique campaign in 2003 to promote New Year celebrations with milk instead of alcohol.

The idea was born on Jaipur's JLN Marg, where New Year's Eve often witnessed chaos due to drunken revelry, reckless driving and unsafe streets. Starting with just 500 litres of milk,

Katewa emphasised its symbolic value as a representation of life, nourishment and strength, encouraging a pure and positive beginning to the year.

The campaign promotes health, safety and cultural pride. It fosters community-driven celebrations involving women and families. Katewa envisions a healthier, addiction-free India, inspiring millions to re-think their New Year traditions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Dr Devendra Pathak, National Business Head of Bharat 24, was warmly welcomed by Prakash Purohit; Group Managing Director of Miraj Group, during a courtesy visit to Nathdwara, Rajasthan, on Wednesday. During the meeting, Dr Pathak conveyed New Year greetings to Purohit & Madan Paliwal; Chairman of Miraj Group. Additionally, Purohit commended Bharat 24 for its growing popularity and extended his best wishes for its continued success in 2025.



Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf inaugurated the installation of 38 CCTV cameras in Ward 145, Mahesh Colony, funded with ₹35 lakh from the MLA fund on Tuesday. Councillor Naresh Sharma emphasised the initiative's role in curbing crimes like vehicle vandalism. Natwar Kumawat highlighted MLA Saraf's election promise to equip all 26 wards with CCTV cameras within five years, with installations completed in 26 colonies and ongoing in 13. Residents and development committee officials warmly welcomed Saraf during the event.



Former MLA of Churu, Rajendra Rathore, welcomed the new year by seeking his mother's blessings on Wednesday. Sharing this personal moment, Rathore expressed gratitude for her guidance and support, marking a heartfelt beginning to 2025. His gesture reflected the importance of family bonds and blessings as the foundation of a successful year.



Rotary Club Jaipur Royal hosted a grand event at the Rotary Club Auditorium to announce the Executive Committee for 2025-26 on Monday. Rotarian Prashant Sharma was unanimously elected as the President Nominee for 2026-27. The newly elected committee includes Vice Presidents Rotarian Rajesh Vijay and Rotarian Adesh Kanungo, Secretary Ramesh Chandra Goyal, Joint Secretary Ajay Ahuja, and Treasurer Manoj Bansal. Other directors include Rotarians Sandesh Jain, Ashish Anand, and several others. The event, graced by Rev. Arun Bagadia and Club Patron Ravi Kamra, concluded with heartfelt gratitude from Secretary Rev Harshvardhan.