



# FIRST INDIA

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**IN BRIEF**

**Situation in China not unusual, says Ministry amid HMPV spread**

**New Delhi:** The situation in China is not unusual in view of ongoing flu season, a joint monitoring group has said amid reports of a surge in cases of the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in neighbouring country. India is prepared to manage respiratory illnesses with surveillance mechanisms, Health Ministry said.



**400+ flights delayed at Delhi airport due to fog**  
**New Delhi:** Delhi airport on Saturday saw 19 flight diversions, many cancellations and over 400 flight delays as low visibility conditions due to dense fog impacted operations. Of them, 13 were domestic, four international and two non-scheduled flights. **P6**

**2006 Nanded blast case: Court acquits all nine accused**

**Mumbai:** A sessions court at Nanded in central Maharashtra on Saturday acquitted all nine surviving accused in a 2006 blast case. While the detailed order was not yet available, a defence lawyer said the prosecution could not establish that the incident was a bomb blast.

**PM MODI INAUGURATES THE GRAMEEN BHARAT MAHOTSAV 2025**

# MODI 'POWERING' RURAL INDIA!

Boosting infra and empowering youth in rural areas a priority, stresses PM Modi

Villages are becoming modern 21st-century villages with digital infrastructure: Modi

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Emphasising that his vision was to ensure an empowered rural India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Saturday said that strengthening infrastructure, ensuring basic amenities and providing job and business opportunities to youth in villages through various schemes was a priority of his government.

In his inaugural speech at the Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, the PM noted that rural youth are receiving support from schemes like the Mudra Yojana, Start-Up India, and Stand-Up India. He highlighted that every house was provided with a toilet as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, crores of people in rural India were given pucca houses as part of PM



PM Narendra Modi visits a stall during inauguration of Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025, in Delhi on Saturday. (B) PM Modi being felicitated in presence of Nirmala Sitharaman and Pankaj Chaudhary.



**Our government's intentions, policies and decisions are empowering rural India with new energy. We have launched a campaign to guarantee basic amenities in every village of the nation.**

**NARENDRA MODI,**  
PRIME MINISTER

Awaas Yojana and lakhs of houses in villages were ensured safe and clean drinking water through JJM.

"Ensuring a dignified life for the people of rural

India is the priority of my government," he said. Modi added that his vision was to ensure an empowered rural India, provide ample opportunities for villagers, reduce mi-

gration and ensure ease of life of the people in villages. For this, the government has implemented a programme in each and every village to ensure basic amenities.

**PM MODI WILL UNDERTAKE A RIDE IN NAMO BHARAT TRAIN TODAY**

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation for development projects worth over ₹12,200 crore in Delhi today. PM will also undertake a ride in Namo Bharat Train at around 11:15 am from Sahibabad RRTS Station to New Ashok Nagar RRTS Station. PM will inaugurate 13 km stretch of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor between Sahibabad and New Ashok Nagar, worth over ₹ 4,600 crore. Modi will also inaugurate the 2.8 km stretch between



Janakpuri and Krishna Park of Delhi Metro Phase-IV worth over ₹1,200 crore. He will lay foundation of 26.5 km Rithala - Kundli section of Delhi Metro Phase-IV, worth over ₹6,230 crore, lay foundation for the new state-of-the-art building for the CARI at Rohini, New Delhi to be constructed at the cost of over ₹185 crore.

**PM Modi's message of peace...**



**RIJJU PRESENTS MODI'S 'CHADAR' AT AJMER DARGAH**

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju on Saturday offered a ceremonial 'chadar' sent by PM Modi at Ajmer Dargah on the 'Urs' of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. While offering the 'chadar', Rijju said that, "This chadar represents PM Modi's message of peace, harmony, and unity. The dargah is a place where people of all faiths come together, reinforcing the idea of united India." **P8**

**4 soldiers dead as Army vehicle falls into gorge**



Security personnel and people gather near an overturned Army vehicle in J&K's Bandipora district, on Saturday.

First India Bureau  
Srinagar

At least 4 soldiers died and a few others were injured after an Army vehicle skidded off road in J&K's Bandipora district and fell into a deep gorge near Wular Viewpoint on Saturday. Indian Army's Chinara Corps said that the accident took place due to inclement weather and poor vis-

ibility conditions.

"Injured soldiers were promptly evacuated for medical care with assistance from Kashmiri locals, for which we express gratitude towards the citizens in providing immediate succor. Tragically 4 bravehearts lost their lives in unfortunate accident. Army extends heartfelt condolences to bereaved families," Indian Army posted on X.

# BJP releases first list of 29 candidates for Delhi polls

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The BJP has released the first list of its candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi. The party has released names of candidates who would be contesting on 29 seats out of the total 70 seats in the national capital.

Former AAP minister Kailash Gahlot has been fielded from Bijwasan instead of his turf Najafgarh. The BJP has also fielded Dushyant Gautam from Karol Bagh, while Manjinder Singh Saini will contest from Rajouri Garden, and Arvinder Singh Lovely from Gandhi Nagar in the place of MLA Anil Bajpayee. Parvesh Verma had al-



Parvesh Verma, Dushyant Gautam, Kailash Gahlot, Ramesh Bhiduri, Tarwinder Marwah

ready begun preparations to contest from the New Delhi seat, holding meetings with voters and party workers from constituency to devise a strategy for his campaign. Verma said, "There are many works in Delhi like cleaning Yamuna, curbing pollution, when BJP forms govt, we will do these."

**KEY CONTESTS IN DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

- Former West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma from BJP will contest against AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi assembly constituency
- Former South Delhi MP Ramesh Bhiduri, representing the saffron party, will contest against CM Atishi in Kalkaji. Congress has nominated Alka Lamba as its candidate for the constituency
- Former Congress MLA Tarwinder Singh Marwah who is now with the BJP, contest from Jangpura against former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia

**CISF jawan from Jaipur shoots himself dead at Surat Int'l Airport**

First India Bureau  
Surat/Jaipur

A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan stationed at Surat International Airport died by suicide on Saturday by shooting himself with his service weapon. He shot himself inside the washroom of the airport around 3 pm, police said.

Kishan Singh, a 32-year-old from Jaipur, was deployed at the airport as part of his CISF duties. According to the police, Singh shot himself in the stomach with his service rifle. "He was rushed to a private hospital where the doctors declared him dead," said Police Inspector NV Bharwad.

The motive behind this extreme step is being



**He shot himself with his service weapon, motive behind this step is being probed**

probed, police said. The washroom, where Singh took the fatal step, was quickly cordoned off as part of the ongoing probe. The incident caused significant panic among airport staff. Singh joined CISF as an assistant sub-inspector in 2015.

**CM SHARMA, UNION MINISTER PAATIL VISIT DUNGARPUR**

# State govt steps up efforts to improve water availability in Rajasthan: CM

First India Bureau  
Dungarpur

UNION MINISTER CR PAATIL, COMMENDED ERCP-PKC LINK PROJECT THAT WILL CONNECT RIVERS IN RAJ AND MP, PROVIDING AMPLE WATER FOR THE STATE

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma stated that under leadership of PM Modi, the state government has undertaken unprecedented efforts to enhance water availability in Rajasthan during its one-year tenure. "The ERCP-PKC Link Project will provide drinking water and irrigation to 40% of the state's population. The Devasa scheme is being implemented in Udaipur to ensure water availability, and a drinking water and irrigation project has been initiated for Banswara-Dungarpur from the Mahi dam," Sharma



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma with Union Minister CR Paatil, Babulal Kharadi and others dedicates a well with water storage capacity of 55 lakh-liter in Khargada, Dungarpur, on Saturday.

was addressing Shriram Katha event in Khargada, Dungarpur, organized for river conservation and promotion. Union Minister for Water Resources

CR Paatil, commended ERCP-PKC Link Project that will connect rivers in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, providing ample water for the state. **P8**

**R CHIDAMBARAM: 1936 TO 2025**

# ARCHITECT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME DIES

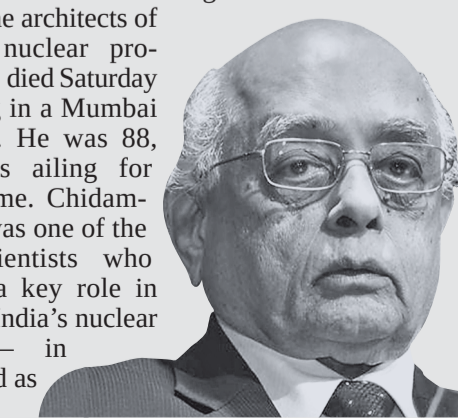
Dr Rajagopala Chidambaram, former head of the Atomic Energy Commission and one of the architects of India's nuclear programme, died Saturday morning in a Mumbai hospital. He was 88, and was ailing for some time. Chidambaram was one of the few scientists who played a key role in both of India's nuclear tests — in 1974 and as

well as in 1998. He was also very closely involved in the finalisation of the civil nuclear agreement with the US

that ended India's isolation in the international nuclear community.

**PM MODI, OTHERS CONDOLE DEMISE**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other leaders, including Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, paid tributes to Chidambaram and praised him for his contributions to India's nuclear weapons programme.



**Seminar on jail reforms** Retired Judge Jasraj Chopra donates record ₹1 cr to RALSA

## Legal system must ensure justice for all: Justice Gavai

Kamalkant Sharma  
Jaipur

Executive Chairman of NALSA and supreme court judge Justice BR Gavai on Saturday said that ensuring no citizen is deprived of justice should be the foremost goal of the legal system. He said that legal services play a crucial role in achieving this vision.

Speaking at a one-day seminar on jail reforms organized by the Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RALSA) at the Rajasthan International Center, Justice Gavai said that the recent advancements in Rajasthan's legal services would significantly benefit the common public. The event focused on key issues such as open jails and various reforms in the prison system.

Justice Sandeep Me-



Supreme court judge Justice BR Gavai addressing the seminar on jail reforms organised by the RALSA at the Rajasthan International Center in Jaipur on Saturday.

hta, also a SC judge, raised concerns about the treatment of prisoners in the state, particularly regarding their labor.

Retired judge Jasraj Chopra was honoured for his exceptional contribution to legal services. Chopra has donated Rs 1 crore to RALSA, a record donation from any judge in India's judicial history.



Supreme Court Justice BR Gavai inaugurated RALSA new building 'Vidhik Seva Sadan'. Also seen are SC Justice Sandeep Mehta, Rajasthan HC CJ MM Srivastava & others.

### BR GAVAI INAUGURATES RALSA'S NEW BUILDING 'VIDHIK SEVA SADAN'

Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority's (RALSA) new building 'Vidhik Seva Sadan' was inaugurated by Supreme Court Justice BR Gavai in the presence of SC Justice Sandeep Mehta and Rajasthan High Court CJ MM Srivastava. The logo of RALSA was also inaugurated. Besides, Vaniki Path was renamed as 'Vidhik Seva Marg' on Saturday. The event was attended by Rajasthan HC Justice Srichand Shekhar, Justice Pankaj Bhandari, Justice PS Bhatti, Justice Birendra Kumar, Justice MK Garg, Justice Indrajit Singh, Justice Avneesh Jhingani, Justice Arun Monga, Justice Narendra Singh Dhadha, Justice Mahendra Kumar Goel, Justice Munnari Laxman, Justice Farzand Ali, Justice Sudesh Bansal, Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand, & others.



Rising cold and dense fog in Delhi have led to multiple flight diversions to Jaipur Airport. On Saturday alone, 12 Delhi-bound flights were rerouted, leaving over 1,000 passengers stranded and facing inconvenience.

## Vanasthali shivers at 6.4°C; light rains likely

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Cold conditions prevailed in the desert state of Rajasthan on Saturday morning, with Vanasthali in Tonk district recording the lowest minimum temperature of 6.4 degrees Celsius, MeT officials said.

Dense to very dense fog was also recorded at some

places in the state, according to the India Meteorological Centre here.

Pilani in Jhunjhunu recorded 6.5 degrees Celsius, while the night temperature was 6.7 degrees Celsius in Dausa, 7 degrees Celsius in Alwar, 7.2 degrees Celsius in Chittorgarh, 7.4 degrees Celsius in Sangaria (Hanumangarh), 7.7 degrees Celsius in Na-

gaur and 8 degrees Celsius in Jaipur.

The minimum temperature at other places was above 8 degrees Celsius. The weather conditions are expected to remain the same for the next 24 hours, the MeT department said. Light rains are expected at some places in the Bikaner division during this period, it added.

## Cattle remains found in Jodhpur: Protests erupt, markets shut



First India Bureau  
Jodhpur

Jodhpur witnessed unrest after cattle remains were discovered near Mathania Circle, prompting a large crowd to gather at the site. The incident caused significant agitation among locals, leading youth from the area to shut down Tinwari's main market in protest.

Authorities, including the Deputy Superintendent of Police and the Station House Officer, were deployed along with a heavy police contingent to ensure law and order. Local residents have demanded an immediate and transparent investigation into the matter. Police are currently analyzing CCTV footage to uncover details and identify those responsible as part of the ongoing inquiry.



Grieving family of 5-year-old girl, Ravina outside Jawahar Hospital in Jaisalmer.

### 5-YEAR-OLD DIES AFTER ALLEGED WRONG INJECTION

Jaisalmer: A tragic case of alleged medical negligence has emerged from Jaisalmer, where a 5-year-old girl, Ravina, passed away after reportedly being given the wrong injection. Ravina, who was suffering from cold and fever, was taken to a private clinic for treatment. After receiving an injection from the attending doctor, her condition deteriorated significantly. The incident has led to widespread outrage.

### UDAIPUR: 5 SIs SUSPENDED OVER RECRUITMENT EXAM

Udaipur: In a major crackdown on recruitment exam fraud, the Udaipur Range Inspector General (IG) has suspended five Sub-Inspectors (SIs) for their alleged involvement in tampering with the Sub-Inspector recruitment process. The suspensions come as part of an ongoing investigation into irregularities in the examination system.

## NSUI's 'Hum Badlenge' inspires youth

First India Bureau  
Pali

As part of the ongoing "Hum Badlenge" campaign, the National Students Union of India (NSUI) organized a student dialogue program on Saturday. The event, spearheaded by NSUI worker and former student union president Ganpat Patel, aimed to engage and inspire young minds.

NSUI Rajasthan State



Vinod Jakhar graced the occasion as the chief guest. Also seen are Bhimraj Bhatti, Aziz Dard, Shishupal Singh Nimbada, & others.

President Vinod Jakhar graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the need for students to take proactive steps toward a

brighter future. He highlighted the significance of the "Hum Badlenge" campaign, which focuses on student empowerment and societal transformation.

Speaking on the occasion, Vinod Jakhar stated, "Hum Badlenge" is not merely a campaign but a movement to empower and educate students. It aims to safeguard their interests and inspire them to drive positive societal change.

## Jpr to host free bird treatment camps ahead of Sankranti

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Starting today, Jaipur will witness a unique initiative to safeguard injured birds, as the Eco Rescuers Foundation organizes free bird treatment camps across the city. The event will be inaugurated at 12 PM at Shri Digambar Jain Temple, Malviya Nagar, with the launch of a specialized bird bike ambulance. Dr. Gaurav Chaudhary from the foundation highlighted the pressing need for these camps, citing the surge in bird injuries caused by sharp Chinese manja (kite strings) during Makar Sankranti festivities.

In collaboration with the Forest Department and 16 NGOs, 30 medical camps will be established at various locations to ensure swift treatment for injured birds. Authorities are also urging kite enthusiasts to steer clear of using Chinese manja to protect wildlife.

This initiative aims to address the annual crisis of hundreds of birds suffering severe injuries during the kite-flying season.

### Jaipur dist admn takes over Galta Peeth properties

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Jaipur district administration took possession of all the 24 properties of Galta Peeth and ones in other districts are being identified. The district administration will take possession of the rest of the properties as well. Galta Peeth owns properties across five districts, with the Jaipur District Collector serving as its administrator. The administration is now focused on securing possession of the remaining properties.

## State unveils new mining provisions to boost transparency & growth

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Rajasthan government has introduced a new mining provisions, along with updated regulations, aimed at accelerating mineral exploration, streamlining the allocation of mineral leases and improving the development of mining areas.

The policy focuses on making the mining process more transparent and efficient, enhancing revenue, industrial investment and employment in the mineral sector.



It also includes stringent measures to curb illegal mining and improve the regulation of mining operations and permits.

Principal Secretary of Mines T. Ravikanth said that the state government has issued the necessary notifications

for the Rajasthan Non-Major Mineral Concession Rules, 2017.

According to the new provisions, the e-transparent permit system, which was previously applied to all royalty-paid minerals, will now be limited to materials such as mineral sand, masonry stone gravel, crusher dust and M-sand in line with the e-way bill system.

To curb illegal mining in urban areas, new guidelines for the allocation of mining leases will be issued.

## District admn transfers relief amount to Bhankrota victims

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The district administration has transferred the relief amount to the bank accounts of the dependents of the 20 deceased and 24 people injured in the accident that occurred on Dec 20 near Bhankrota on the Delhi-Ajmer highway. An amount of Rs 1 cr (Rs 5 lakh per dependent) from the CM's Relief Fund to the bank accounts of 20 dependents of the deceased and the compensation amount of Rs 1 cr 20 lakh (Rs 6 lakhs per dependent) payable by

### JAIPUR COLLECTOR ORDERS QUICK ACTION

In Amber, Jaipur District Collector Jitendra Kumar Soni held a public hearing at the IT Center in Ward No. 1 on Saturday. Locals raised issues related to traffic jams, cleanliness, & the nuisance caused by stray animals. The residents apprised the Collector of their daily struggles.

### COLLECTOR SUSPENDS ERRANT PATWARI

District Collector Jitendra Kumar Soni took strict action after a Patwari provided false information regarding open borewells. Shobha Meena, the Patwari of Shri Ram Ki Nangal in Sangarner, was suspended for reporting that there were no open wells or borewells in the area.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has been transferred. The district admin has provided fi-

ancial assistance of Rs 2 lakh per deceased and Rs 50,000 per injured from the National Relief Fund.

## DELHI CAMPAIGN RALLY

### Deputy CM Bairwa hails PM Modi's vision

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa, while campaigning for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the transformative initiatives of the central government. Highlighting the BJP's commitment to the motto, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas", Bairwa emphasized the party's



Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa with BJP candidate Anil Sharma at Swabhiman Sammelan in New Delhi on Saturday.

efforts in improving the lives of youth, women, farmers, and the underprivileged.

He criticized the Congress for failing to honor Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's legacy during its

decades in power, asserting that the BJP, under Modi's leadership, has made strides in uplifting the Dalit community and promoting inclusivity.

Dispelling opposition claims, Bairwa reiterated that the BJP supports reservations, underscoring Prime Minister Modi's historic step of introducing 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. He assured women in attendance that the government remains steadfast in ensuring their empowerment.

Bairwa also highlighted the significant advancements achieved by marginalized communities under the BJP's governance, attributing these developments to Modi's inclusive policies and his ambitious "Developed India 2047" vision. He urged Delhi voters to back BJP candidate Anil Sharma, praising his proven dedication to public service.

Expressing confidence in the party's prospects, Bairwa predicted a resounding victory for Sharma.

# Dotasra accuses State govt of undermining popularity of Cong

Lakhs of girls got free edu in English medium schools under Cong rule

Naresh Sharma  
Jaipur

Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee President Govind Dotasra on Saturday criticised the state government's move to form a review committee for English medium schools while questioning the timing of the committee formation.

He asked why it was formed after one year of the government's tenure. He pointed out that, under the Congress government rule, lakhs of girls had received free education in English medium



PCC chief Govind Dotasra addresses during the press conference with others in Jaipur on Saturday.

schools and the Congress had created a special cadre for these schools.

Dotasra held a press conference and claimed that in the past year, not a single new recruitment

had been made for English medium schools.

He accused the government of attempting to undermine the popularity of Congress. The congress leader also remarked on

the appointment of Premchand Bairwa as the chairman of the review committee, stating that the deputy CM would likely need to distance himself from this committee soon.

## 'CONG GOVT MISLEADING STUDENTS UNDER GUISE OF ENGLISH MEDIUM EDU'

Balotra: Education minister Madan Dilawar said that the decision on English medium school would be taken by the review committee. He accused the previous Congress government of misleading students under the guise of English medium education and said that no new English medium schools were established during their tenure; instead, Hindi medium schools were simply given English nameplates. On the issue of transfers of teachers, Dilawar said that the state government had imposed a ban on transfers due to the Lok Sabha, Assembly elections and by-polls.

Barmer dist tops nation in rainwater harvesting

First India Bureau  
Barmer

Barmer has emerged as a national leader in water harvesting efforts, making significant strides in Rajasthan. The state has constructed 83,000 water harvesting structures in the past year, with Barmer contributing a remarkable 50%, or 43,283 structures, to this total.

Under the vigilant monitoring of District Collector Tina Dabi, Barmer has successfully enhanced water conservation in the Thar Desert region. Each water harvesting structure can store up to 40,000 litres of water, offering a sustainable solution to water scarcity in the area.



## 'AIIMS Jodhpur to have residential houses for patients & relatives'



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with others during a meeting in Jodhpur on Saturday.

First India Bureau  
Jodhpur

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, while interacting with the media said that an amount of ₹100 crore will be spent on AIIMS Hospital and residential houses will be built for patients and relatives on the hospital campus.

Shekhawat said that the matter was discussed with the team of Medical College and AIIMS. He

also stated that fruitful talks were held to start kidney transplants in the medical college.

Shekhawat said that cottage wards will be built soon at MDM Hospital so that women admitted in the maternity wings do not face any problems.

"The work will be done with the money collected in CSR. A framework has been prepared to build 20 cottages and efforts are on to make it the best cancer hospital," he said.

## Central, State governments constantly taking steps to promote sports: Bhupender Yadav

Ashvini Yadav  
Alwar

Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated key matches under the Alwar MP Sports Festival (ASK-U) by tossing the coin for the games.

The matches took place across Alwar, including the final match at Raj Rishi Mahavidyalaya sports ground, the semifinal at LIT College in Chikani and a cricket match in Ramgarh.

He said that the Cen-



Union Minister for Environment and Forests, Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated key matches under the Alwar MP Sports Festival.

tral and state governments are constantly taking steps to promote sports and players and

hailed PM Modi's 'Khalo India Abhiyan' for creating a positive environment for sports.

Yadav said that the MP Sports Festival attempts to inculcate interest in sports among the children. He said that the next phase of Alwar MP Khel Utsav will start soon. He said that CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has started 'Mukhyamantri Atal Prerak Yojana' in the state under which efforts will be made to establish a library in every village. He announced the construction of the boundary wall of Alawada playground in Ramgarh and then developed it as a stadium.

## Businessman held for misusing ITC

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

A businessman from Kishangarh has been arrested for misusing Input Tax Credit (ITC) under the GST law through bogus firms. The Jaipur regional unit of the Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence conducted a raid on Mahesh Sharma's premises.

## IT raids on Utkarsh Coaching in last phase

Vimal Kothari  
Jaipur

The Income Tax raids on Utkarsh Coaching Institute were completed on 17 out of 19 locations. The institute has not given an account of ₹130 crore to the government in four years. IT teams were present till late Saturday night at Utkarsh Coaching's headquarters in



REPRESENTATIONAL

Sardarpura, Jodhpur and the residence of its owner Nirmal Gehlot.

So far, cash of ₹10 lakh

and jewellery weighing about 2 kg have been seized in the raid. Investments made in the property and other jewellery are being investigated.

The final action is scheduled to take place in Jodhpur, where the investigation is in its last phase.

The department is also scrutinizing a deal between Utkarsh Coaching and Physics Wallah.

## District judge Vaishnav removed from service

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

District Judge Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav has been dismissed from the state judicial service.

Vaishnav was suspended while serving as the Additional District Judge (ADJ) of Rajasmand. After receiving the necessary approval from the Governor, the state government took action to remove him from the judicial service.

The termination order was issued by Principal Secretary Law Brijendra Kumar Jain.

## Congress had conspired to ruin future of children: Madan Rathore

Yogesh Sharma  
Jaipur

Ahead of the BJP Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan starting January 11, BJP state president Madan Rathore said that the Constitution is people's pride.

Accusing the opposition of spreading misconception that BJP does not respect the Constitution, he said that a committee has been formed at the state and district level in Rajasthan to take the basic spirit of the constitution to the people and com-



BJP state president Madan Rathore with Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Rajjavaradhan Singh Rathore and singer Prakash Mali.

mittees will be formed at the divisional level.

Rathore hits back at PCC chief Govind Singh Dotasra and said that the Congress government took an impractical decision to open English medium

schools as there is no infrastructure and teachers. "Congress had conspired to ruin the future of children. How can children study English from class 6th if they have not studied it till fifth grade," he said.

## DUPLICATE OF NEGLECTANCE OF JDA OFFICIALS

# People struggle to apply for new Atal Vihar & Govind Vihar schemes

Abhishek Shrivastava  
Jaipur

The negligence of JDA officials is causing significant inconvenience to people as many of them are unable to apply for the newly announced Atal Vihar and Govind Vihar schemes.

JDA recently issued a booklet outlining the application process for these schemes. However, the booklet contains outdated rules that are



Jaipur Development Authority

preventing several potential applicants from submitting their applications. According to Point 3.4 under "Eligibility for Application" in the

booklet, individuals who own land or a house in cities with a population of over 1 lakh whether in their own name, their spouse's name, or their

dependents' names are not eligible to apply for land allotment in these schemes.

The applicant is required to submit an affidavit stating that this condition does not apply to them. This rule is based on regulations that were revised by the state government on January 4, 2021.

The booklet also refers to an incorrect provision regarding the construction period on the allocated plots.

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# The Saga of Dressing Room Leaks IS THE END NEAR FOR ROHIT AND VIRAT?

**IN-DEPTH**

## DIDI SHOULD NOT POLITICISE ISSUE OF INFILTRATORS

**W**est Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's accusation against the BSF for allegedly allowing illegal Bangladeshi infiltration has raised eyebrows. The BSF, tasked with securing India's borders, operates under strict protocols and faces immense challenges in preventing cross-border illegal activities. It is, therefore, unthinkable that the BSF will allow infiltration. Banerjee's claims appear to shift blame from her government's own accountability in addressing infiltration issues.

Ironically, Mamata herself has faced allegations of sheltering illegal immigrants to bolster her vote bank, a charge often levelled by her political rivals. Critics argue that her government's leniency towards illegal immigration is a calculated political strategy, prioritising electoral gains over national security concerns. Illegal immigration is a serious issue that demands cooperation between state and central agencies, not political mudslinging. The focus should remain on strengthening border security, streamlining identification processes, and addressing humanitarian concerns responsibly.

## CHINA REVERTS TO ITS OLD TRICKS



**A**fter a brief lull in hostilities, China has once again resorted to actions that strain bilateral ties with India. The recent move to create two new administrative counties - He'an and Hekang - in the Hotan prefecture of Union Territory of Ladakh, an area over which India maintains full sovereignty, is a blatant provocation. India has consistently viewed China's occupation of its territory as illegal and lodged a strong protest with Beijing over this development.

This is not an isolated act. China's unilateral decision to construct the world's largest hydropower dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra) River further exacerbates tensions. The project threatens to disrupt ecological balance and water availability for India's lower riparian states like Assam & Arunachal, which are dependent on the river for agriculture, livelihoods, and biodiversity. India has expressed concern over lack of transparency & consultation on this matter. Although India has urged China to make sure that interests of India's downstream states are not harmed, it's yet to respond.

China's actions reflect a disregard for international norms and a pattern of undermining India's territorial and sovereign interests. For India, the response must be firm yet measured. India must also continue to bolster its infrastructure and defence in border areas while seeking alliances with like-minded countries to counter China's expansionist policies. New Delhi cannot afford to let provocations go unanswered, as maintaining sovereignty and regional stability remains paramount.

**Diplomatic protests are essential, but they must be accompanied by intensified global outreach to build pressure on China for its disregard of trans-boundary water-sharing principles**

India (BCCI). The huge physical and mental toll of such expectations, combined with the inevitable effects of age, has raised questions about their longevity at the top level.

The BCCI must tread carefully in handling the futures of these icons. Indian cricket has a history of mishandling the retirements of its greats. Players like Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman, despite their immense contributions, exited the game under abrupt and less-than-ideal circumstances. Such scenarios have often left fans and the players themselves with a bitter aftertaste.

Phasing out Rohit and Virat, if necessary, should be managed with sensitivity. These players have redefined Indian cricket and deserve a farewell befitting their stature. The younger generation of Indian cricketers is knocking on the door, eager and hungry to seize opportunities. This intensifies the pressure on Rohit and Virat to deliver or step aside. Beyond individual performances, they must consider their legacy and how they wish to be remembered by the millions of fans who have supported them unwaveringly for years.

Their contributions to Indian cricket are unparalleled, and their exit, whenever it comes, should leave behind a legacy of grace, dignity, and inspiration for the next generation. Whether they decide to step back now or fight through their slump, their choices will significantly impact how Indian cricket evolves in the coming years.

The dressing room leaks saga and the subsequent fallout highlight deeper issues within the Indian team. Beyond the question of Rohit and Virat's future, it underscores the need for unity and clarity in the team setup. The role of the coach, the captain, and the support staff must align to build a cohesive strategy that transcends individual egos and fosters collective success.

As the SCG Test unfolds and Team India battles both on-field challenges and off-field controversies, it's clear that Indian cricket is now at a crossroads. Decisions now will shape not just the careers of Rohit and Virat but the future trajectory of Indian cricket itself.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



**Siddhaarth Mahan**

The writer is a specialist on Sports and Cinema who works as an actor in the Hindi film industry

### CAREER OF TEAM

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**T**he start to 2025 has been anything but happy for Indian cricket. Amid New Year celebrations worldwide, the Indian cricket team finds itself entangled in a huge row that has shaken its image as a cohesive unit. An incisive report, based largely on dressing room leaks, has stirred significant unrest, suggesting that head coach Gautam Gambhir reprimanded top players for selfish performances during the Australia series. Adding to the drama, captain Rohit Sharma's decision to "rest" himself from the crucial final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) has raised more questions than answers.

As if losses in Adelaide and Melbourne were not enough, on the eve of the Sydney test, India were hit by media reports that suggested massive Dressing Room frictions. According to these reports, head coach Gautam Gambhir gave the Indian cricketers quite a dressing down in the dressing room and slammed several players for putting personal goals over the needs of the team.

After the reports triggered a Social Media storm, captain Rohit Sharma was under intense pressure as one of the journalists who wrote the original report is considered close to Rohit - and that

**The start to 2025 has been anything but happy for Indian cricket. Amid New Year celebrations worldwide, the Indian cricket team finds itself entangled in a huge row that has shaken its image as a cohesive unit. An incisive report, based largely on dressing room leaks, has stirred significant unrest, suggesting that head coach Gautam Gambhir reprimanded top players for selfish performances during the Australia series**

led to massive speculation that Rohit was linked to the leaks! Though 'officially' Rohit is said to have opted to 'rest', the cricket world is buzzing that the Indian captain has paid a price for his links to the leaks - and may well have played his last test at Melbourne. Some say that even Virat may face the axe if he fails to produce a big knock at Sydney

Given this storm, it was no surprise that India began on a shaky note in the Sydney test, pivotal for India to level the series. A familiar collapse saw India managing only 185 in their first innings, with Rishabh Pant's gritty 40 and Jasprit Bumrah's unexpected 22 saving them from complete humiliation. Repeated failures of Rohit and Kohli have worsened the team's struggles and now fans and critics alike are questioning whether it's time for these giants of In-

dian cricket to step aside. India's historic 3-0 loss to New Zealand at home had already sparked debates about the future of RoKo as the Rohit-Kohli duo are often called. Once the pillars of India's batting, their inability to deliver in crucial moments in recent months has been glaring. Against New Zealand and now Australia, both players have faltered in high-pressure situations, failing to produce the consistent brilliance that once defined their careers.


While occasional flashes of their former glory have surfaced, a sustained impact has been missing. Their struggles are further magnified by the sheer volume of expectations they carry. For over a decade, Rohit and Virat have been the face of Indian cricket, shouldering immense pressure from fans, the media, and the Board of Control for Cricket in

**TOP TWEETS**



Hon. PM Shri @narendramodi ji's vision of #ViksitBharat@2047 is not only guiding but also motivating all of us to work towards a country where the citizens have affordable, easily accessible, quality, inclusive and comprehensive healthcare.

Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda



Farmer welfare is the top priority of the Central Government. Under the leadership of the respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji, the agriculture sector has set new standards in the last 10 years, and a new dawn of happiness and prosperity has come in the lives of farmers.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj

**SPIRITUAL SPEAK**

All that we are is the result of what we have thought: it is founded on our thoughts and made up of our thoughts.

**BUDDHA**

War of words begin before Delhi assembly polls

# After PM Modi, now Amit Shah's 'sheeshmahal' jibe at Kejriwal

Agencies  
New Delhi

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attack on Arvind Kejriwal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday took the 'sheeshmahal' jibe at the former Chief Minister, alleging he built a luxurious home for himself using people's money instead of building infrastructure in Delhi.

Shah also said that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor will have to give an account of his deeds.

The Home Minister listed out different kinds of luxurious items and appliances that Kejriwal used in the Chief Minister's residence during his 10-year tenure in office, saying that he had never heard about some of those things.



Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah distributes a hostel room's key to a beneficiary during the inauguration program of the new working women hostel block 'Sushma Bhawan' and veterinary hospital built by NDMC, at Laxmibai Nagar in New Delhi on Saturday. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj and NDMC chairperson, Keshav Chandra and Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Chahal are also present.

Shah's attack came while he was addressing an event after inaugurating a working women's hostel - Sushma Bhawan - of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation. "Some children came to meet me at my home.

I asked them what Arvind Kejriwal had done for Delhi. One of the children said that he built a big sheeshmahal for himself. When he came into politics, he used to say that he would never take a government car or a

government bungalow. Today, he built a sheeshmahal spanning 50,000 yards using Rs 45 crore from Delhiites' money. Kejriwal ji, you will have to give an account to the people of Delhi," the home minister said.

## SHAH INAUGURATES SUSHMA SWARAJ BHAWAN IN DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated the working women hostel - Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Veterinary Center and also recalled her 'fighting spirit' as an Opposition leader. The Minister of Co-operation said that those staying in the working women hostel will proudly associate themselves with late Sushma Swaraj. Addressing the public after inauguration, the Home Minister remembered late BJP veteran's contributions not just as high-profile minister in BJP-led NDA government but also leaving behind her imprint as a 'fighting' Opposition leader.

# BJP is matchstick that burnt Manipur: Kharge

The Cong chief said the BJP has vested interest in keeping Manipur on the boil

Agencies  
New Delhi

After fresh violence erupted in Manipur, the Congress on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said he could not escape the constitutional culpability of not following "rajdharm".

In a post on X, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the BJP had some vested interest in keeping the border state on the boil.

"The BJP is the matchstick which burnt Manipur!" he said in his post. He also shared a screengrab of a news report about the latest violence. The Congress chief said in the post, "Narendra Modi ji, your last visit to Manipur was for seeking votes for the



## KHARGE SENDS 'CHADAR' FOR AJMER SHARIF DARGAH WITH MESSAGE OF PEACE, BROTHERHOOD

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday sent a 'chadar' on his and the party's behalf to be offered at Ajmer Sharif dargah on the occasion of Urs of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. He referred to the Ganga-Jamuni culture of the country and a chadar for spreading love and affection and defeating the forces of hatred. Kharge said the roots of national unity and brotherhood are so deep that they cannot be shaken by a few people with distorted mindset. Kharge wrote, "With utmost devotion and respect, I feel fortunate to send a chadar on behalf of myself and the Congress party on the occasion of the 813th Urs of Khwaja Garib Nawaz Moinuddin Chishti."

BJP, way back in January 2022. Violence erupted in the state on May 3, 2023."

"More than 600 days have passed, and media

reports through satellite images have now revealed that villages after villages have been wiped off in the state," Kharge added.

# President Murmu lauds Ayushman Bharat's impact on cancer care

Agencies  
Belagavi

In her address at the inauguration of a state-of-the-art cancer hospital in Belagavi, President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the Government of India's concerted efforts to improve healthcare access and affordability, particularly through the Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana.

She emphasised the transformative impact of the scheme in enhancing cancer treatment accessibility for millions of Indians, especially those from low-income groups.

"Under Ayushman Bharat, we have seen a significant reduction in the time between cancer diagnosis and the commencement of treatment, ensuring timely intervention that is critical for better outcomes," President Murmu stated on late Friday evening.

"The inclusion of senior citizens aged 70 and above in the scheme's coverage will further strengthen the support for the elderly in accessing affordable



The inclusion of senior citizens aged 70 and above in the scheme's coverage will further strengthen the support for the elderly in accessing affordable healthcare, including cancer care: Murmu

healthcare, including cancer care," she said.

The newly inaugurated cancer hospital, equipped with cutting-edge technology, is poised to provide comprehensive care under one roof. The hospital's advanced treatment facilities will ensure swift and precise cancer treatment, offering a beacon of hope for patients facing this devastating illness.

## 'FACTUALLY INCORRECT, BASELESS'

# Poll officer denies voters' name deletion

ANI  
New Delhi

Refuting "factually incorrect and baseless" allegations of voter name deletions made by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Sanjay Singh, the Delhi District Election Officer (DEO) on Saturday said ECI norms were strictly followed to maintain the "integrity and accuracy" of the electoral roll.

On Friday, AAP MPs Sanjay Singh and Raghav Chadha met the New Delhi District Mag-



istrate at Jam Nagar House to lodge a complaint over alleged voters' name deletion.

In a post on X, the DEO, New Delhi, said, "The allegations of San-

jay Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha, that District Election Officer (DEO), New Delhi, did not provide details of objectors and claimed that DEO is deliberately deleting names

of electors from the electoral roll are factually not correct and baseless."

The DEO further highlighted that as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the summary of Form 7, which includes the names of both the objectors and objectees, is shared with all recognised political parties including AAP on a weekly basis through Form 10.

"The statement that objectors' names are not being shared is factually not correct," it said.

# BJP and Congress should formally declare alliance for Delhi polls: Kejriwal

PTI  
New Delhi

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Congress and the BJP should formally declare their alliance, amid the two opposition parties sharpening their attacks on the former chief minister ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls. Kejriwal also took a dig at the Congress, saying barring a few mediapersons, people had stopped taking the party "seriously".

He alleged a "covert, behind-the-scenes" collaboration between the two parties for the assembly polls.

Relations between AAP and the Congress, both partners in the opposition INDIA bloc, soured after the two sides failed to seal an alliance for the Haryana elections.

AAP has also demanded action against senior Congress leader Ajay Maken for allegedly calling Kejriwal "anti-national" and threatened to approach other parties of the INDIA bloc for re-



## 'WILL WAIVE INFLATED WATER BILLS IF WE WIN'

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday vowed to cancel the "inflated" water bills faced by Delhi residents if his party regains power in the upcoming assembly elections. "I have said this earlier, but today I am making a formal announcement: when AAP comes back to power after the assembly polls, these inflated bills will be waived. Those who think their bills are incorrect need not pay them," he said.

moving the grand old party from the grouping.

Earlier on Saturday, some women protested outside Kejriwal's Firozshah Road residence, demanding payment of a monthly honorarium of Rs 1,000 in Punjab, which is also governed by AAP.

## STOCK MARKET FACES CONTINUED VOLATILITY

# Focus on strong fundamentals and upcoming IPO opportunities



**Vimal Kothari**

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

While the first week of the new calendar year may have seen a positive start for the stock market, the current market situation is not indicating any clear direction. For new investors, it can be said that the period of volatility will continue. Investors should continue to look for companies with strong fundamentals and invest in small portions. Last week, the market saw a sharp surge one day, followed by a collapse the very next day, which has raised caution

among experts. They believe that the next major trigger for determining the direction of the Indian stock market will be the Union Budget and the news surrounding its preparations, which could lead to continued volatility in the market.

Technically, the Nifty index closed above 24,000 points, but it was just 5 points higher. Experts across global markets are also focusing on the inauguration of Donald Trump's government on January 20 and the new U.S. policies, which



could be a significant factor influencing the market's volatility.

Despite continued selling by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), the BSE index saw a correction of 524.04 points (0.67%) last week, closing

at 79,223.11 points. The NSE Nifty index also rose by 191.35 points (0.80%) and closed at 24,004.75 points. The correction in the market did not affect the Midcap and Smallcap indices, which closed in the red,

while the main indices showed positive movement. The weakness in Midcap and Smallcap stocks suggests that there are still opportunities for investors, as any future rally will likely begin with these stocks.

Regarding this week's outlook, market traders are predicting continued volatility. They believe that the market's direction will be influenced by the interest of Foreign Institutional Investors, but with the influx of investments through SIPs and mutual funds, liquid-

ity in Indian markets does not seem to face any major crisis. A significant obstacle to the market's momentum is the rapidly growing public offerings and the funds being raised from them.

It is noteworthy that every small and large IPO is not only being fully subscribed but also trading at a premium, which could indicate potential financial irregularities. Traders suggest that risk-taking investors should focus on stocks of banking, automobile, and pharmaceutical compa-

nies. Some investors may also consider limited investments in companies such as Vodafone Idea, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, JSW Infra, and government companies that regularly pay dividends. For investors looking to invest through IPOs, this week will offer opportunities to apply for IPOs from three companies on the main board and seven companies that have already launched or are about to launch on the MSME platform.

THESE ARE THE PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE AUTHOR



## Journey to the heart of Sanatan dharma

Maha Kumbh transforms into a celestial journey, a 'triveni' of devotion, meditation and spirituality

First India Bureau  
Prayagraj

The Maha Kumbh, a festival revered as the pinnacle of Sanatan Dharma, will unfold its grandeur in Prayagraj in 2025.

Known as the "King of Pilgrimages" or Tirthraj, Prayagraj is a city where mythology, spirituality, and history converge, making it a timeless

embodiment of Sanatan culture.

This sacred land, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati rivers unite, serves as a spiritual magnet for millions seeking divine blessings and salvation. Here, the Maha Kumbh transforms into a celestial journey - a 'triveni' of devotion, meditation, and spirituality.

Among the spiritual



A 'Sadhv' of Shri Niranjani Akhara takes part in a procession towards Sangam ahead of Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj.

gems of Prayagraj stands the revered Baba Loknath Mahadev temple in the

bustling Loknath locality. Revered as a 'pratiroop' (reflection) of

Kashi's Baba Vishwanath, Baba Loknath's temple is steeped in the echoes of timeless devotion.

References to this self-manifested Shiva Linga can be found in the Skanda Purana and Mahabharata, underscoring its ancient roots.

Pilgrims believe that seeking Baba Loknath's blessings can alleviate worldly struggles, and during the grand Maha Kumbh, thousands will gather at this sacred site

to experience the divine. The temple's cultural legacy is further enriched by its association with luminaries like Madan Mohan Malviya.

Its iconic Shiv Barat procession on Shivratri and vibrant Holi celebrations add to the vibrant tapestry of Prayagraj's spiritual fervor. As the city prepares for Maha Kumbh, Baba Loknath's temple will undoubtedly become a focal point for devotees from across the globe.

## Chilly winds, thick blanket of fog engulfs Punjab, Haryana

PTI

Chandigarh

A thick blanket of fog enveloped most parts of Punjab and Haryana on Saturday morning and visibility in several places in the states, including Amritsar, Ludhiana and Ambala, dropped to zero, the MeT department said.

Large parts of the two states have been experiencing thick fog for the past few days and on Saturday, visibility dropped to zero at many places including Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Ambala, Hisar and Karnal, while Chandigarh was also blanketed by heavy fog in the morning hours.

Meanwhile, biting cold weather conditions prevailed in most parts.

In Haryana, Narnaul was the coldest place, recording a minimum tem-



WHERE'S THE TAJ? A tourist poses for photos as she visits the Taj Mahal during a cold and foggy winter morning, in Agra on Saturday.

perature of 4.4 degrees Celsius.

Hisar recorded a low of 5.5 degrees Celsius, while both Gurugram and Bhiwani registered identical temperatures of 6 degrees Celsius.

Jind shivered at 6.6

degrees Celsius and Karnal recorded 7.6 degrees Celsius

Biting cold swept through Sangrur and Bathinda in Punjab, both recording minimum temperatures of 5.1 degrees and 5.2 degrees

respectively.

Amritsar and Faridkot recorded respective minimums of 7.3 degrees, 6.2 degrees Celsius.

While Patiala and Gurdaspur registered identical temperatures of 7.5 degrees Celsius,

### FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN SRINAGAR RESUME

Flight operations at the Srinagar airport resumed after dense fog that had engulfed parts of Kashmir hit air traffic to and from the valley for several hours on Saturday. Operations resumed after the morning's first flight landed at 11:13 am. Air traffic was restored after the visibility improved. Flight operations were going on normally after some delays, officials said. A thick layer of fog engulfed Kashmir, including Srinagar, in the morning, resulting in poor visibility.

Barnala shivered at 7.6 degrees.

Ludhiana and Mohali recorded respective minimums of 8.4 degrees and 8.6 degrees. Chandigarh, the common capital, recorded a low of 7.8 degrees Celsius.

### Weapon and Equipment Display



Visitors at the Indian Army's 'Weapon and Equipment Display' stall during the curtain-raiser event for the 77th Indian Army Day celebrations, at the Terminal 1 of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Saturday.

## Retest held for select Bihar PSC aspirants at 22 centres in Patna

PTI

Patna

The retest for a select group of candidates who had appeared in the recent Bihar PSC exam, which has been embroiled over allegations of question paper leak, was held on Saturday afternoon at 22 centres here, officials said.

Altogether, 12,000 candidates were scheduled to sit for the re-examination that started at 12 pm and continued till 2 pm, they said. The 70th



Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) held on December 13 has been in the eye of a storm over allegations of leak of question papers, which has been denied by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC),

though a fresh test was ordered for 12,000 candidates, who had appeared for the exam at the Babu Pariksha Parisar centre here.

"The re-exam took place at 22 centres in Patna. Out of a total 12,000 candidates, around 8,200 aspirants had downloaded their admit cards. The authorities concerned will later provide the exact number of students who appeared for the retest," District Magistrate Chandrashekar Singh told reporters.

## Manipur Gov reviews security situation in state

PTI

Imphal

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Saturday chaired a meeting with senior police, CRPF, BSF, Assam Rifles officials and reviewed the comprehensive security situation in the state, an official release said.

"Taking stock of the prevailing law and order situation, the Governor reviewed the security apparatus, with a particular focus on border areas," the release said.

## JPC chairman PP Chaudhary meets Kovind, discusses 'One Nation One Election' Bill

Gopendra Nath Bhatt

New Delhi

Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) of Parliament constituted on the "One Nation One Election" bill, MP PP Chaudhary from Pali (Rajasthan) paid a courtesy visit to former President Ram Nath Kovind at his official residence in Delhi.

As the chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted on this bill, Chaudhary discussed and deliberat-



Pali MP and JPC chairman PP Chaudhary greets former president Ram Nath Kovind at his official residence in Delhi.

ed in detail with him regarding One Nation One Election and sought guidance. It is noteworthy that former President Ram Nath Kovind has been the chairman of the committee formed by the Government of India to consider One Nation One Election.

The Kovind Committee had sent its report to President Draupadi Murmu. Thereafter, the Modi government presented the bill in the Parliament but on the opposition's demand, it was sent to JPC.

### POSES AS US MODEL ON INDIA TRIP

## Delhi man scams 700 women on dating apps

Agencies

New Delhi

During the day, he works as a recruiter at a private company in Uttar Pradesh's Noida. At night he turns into a US-based model on a soul-searching trip to India. His day job offered him security, and his nocturnal activities brought in the money through manipulation and blackmail. Tushar Singh Bisht, 23, was arrested from the Shakarpur area of East Delhi on Friday for defrauding



Tushar created fake profiles on popular dating and social media platforms such as Bumble and Snapchat.

over 700 women by posing as a model on dating platforms.

A resident of Delhi, Tushar has a bachelor's degree in business ad-

ministration (BBA). For the past three years, he had been employed as a technical recruiter at a private company in Noida.

He posed as a US-based freelance model visiting India, using a fabricated persona with photos and stories stolen from an actual Brazilian model. His targets were primarily women aged 18-30

His father works as a driver, his mother is a homemaker, and his sister is employed in Gurugram. Tushar, despite holding on to a stable job,

descended into the world of cybercrime, largely motivated by greed and lust for women.

Using a virtual international mobile number, Tushar created fake profiles on popular dating and social media platforms such as Bumble and Snapchat. He posed as a US-based freelance model visiting India, using a fabricated persona with photos and stories stolen from an actual Brazilian model. He targets primarily women aged 18-30, whom he befriended via these platforms.

## Techie Atul's wife, in-laws get bail in abetment of suicide case

Agencies

Bengaluru

The wife and in-laws of Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash have been granted bail by a Bengaluru court today in the abetment of suicide case against them. Atul Subhash died by suicide on December 9 after alleging harassment by his wife and her family.

Subhash's wife Nikita Singhania, her mother Nisha Singhania and brother Anurag Singhania had approached the session court in Bengaluru for bail in the case.



File photo of Atul Subhash's wife Nikita Singhania, her mother Nisha, and brother Anurag in police custody.

They had earlier appealed to the Karnataka High Court to direct the session court to dispose of their bail Petition. The High Court directed the session court to dispose

of the petition today. On December 14, Nikita Singhania was arrested from Gurugram while her mother and brother Anurag were picked up from UP.

## Israeli strikes kill 15 in Gaza as new ceasefire talks begin

Israeli strikes kill 62 Palestinians in last 24 hours, the Gaza health ministry said

Agencies  
Cairo/Gaza

An Israeli military strike killed 15 people in a house in Gaza City early on Saturday, bringing the death toll from strikes across Gaza to 62 over the last day, Palestinian medics said, as mediators launched a new ceasefire push in Qatar.

Residents and medics said at least 14 people had been in the house of the Al-Ghoula family when the strike took place in the early hours, destroying the building.

People scoured the rubble for possible survivors trapped under the



(L) Palestinians gather around a dead body recovered from under the rubble at the site of an Israeli strike on a house, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Gaza City, Saturday. (R) Palestinians walk at the site of an Israeli strike on Saturday.



debris and medics said several children were among those killed. A few flames and trails of smoke continued to rise from burning furniture in the ruins hours after

the attack.

"At about 2 a.m. (00:00 GMT) we were woken up by the sound of a huge explosion," said Ahmed Ayyan, a neighbour of the Al-Ghoula

family, adding that 14 or 15 people had been staying in the house.

"Most of them are women and children, they are all civilians, there is no one there who

shot missiles, or is from the resistance," Ayyan told media agency.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the incident.

Agencies  
New Delhi

Outgoing US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will travel to India on January 5 and 6 for a final round of talks with his counterpart Ajit K Doval and other top government officials on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues and to finalise some ongoing initiatives.

His visit to India comes as the Joe Biden administration prepares to wrap up its four-year term.

Sullivan, 48, the youngest national security advisor when President Biden appointed him on January 20, 2021, would also deliver a major India-centric foreign policy speech at IIT, New Delhi during his last trip to India before leaving office.

Congressman Michael Waltz would succeed



US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan

him on January 20, when Donald Trump is sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.

"National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will be travelling to New Delhi, India, on January 5 and 6 for a capstone meeting with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval," White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby said on Friday.

"It will span a range of issues across the breadth of our partnership with India, from space, defence, and strategic technology cooperation, all the way also to shared security priorities in the Indo-Pacific and beyond," he said.

During the visit, Sullivan will also meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and other Indian leaders.

## 'Wake up call' for US: Soldier who blew up Tesla leaves note

Agencies  
Las Vegas

A highly decorated Army soldier who fatally shot himself in a Tesla Cybertruck just before it blew up outside the Trump hotel in Las Vegas left notes saying the New Year's Day explosion was a stunt to serve as a "wake up call" for the country's ills, investigators said.

Matthew Livelsberger, a 37-year-old Green Beret from Colorado Springs, Colorado, also wrote in notes he left on his cellphone that he needed to "cleanse" his mind "of the



brothers I've lost and relieve myself of the burden of the lives I took."

"This was not a terrorist attack, it was a wake up call. Americans only pay attention to spectacles and violence. What better way to get my point across than a stunt with fireworks and explosives," Livelsberger wrote in one letter found by authorities and released Friday.

## Biden to present Presidential Medal of Freedom to Hillary Clinton, George Soros & Lionel Messi

The Presidential Medal of Freedom will be awarded to 19 people this year

Agencies  
Washington

President Joe Biden will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to a group of entertainers, former government officials, athletes and philanthropists for their contributions to public service. Nineteen people will be honored at a White House ceremony, the lat-



Joe Biden names Lionel Messi, Hillary Clinton, and George Soros, for highest US civilian award.

est in a series of events Biden has held in the final weeks of his presidency as he tries to enshrine his legacy.

Among those receiving the medal are former

Secretary of State and US Senator Hillary Clinton, retired basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, fashion designer Ralph Lauren, soccer player Lionel Messi, phi-

lanthropist George Soros, longtime fashion editor and media executive Anna Wintour and the film star Denzel Washington.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made "exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or other significant societal, public or private endeavors," according to the White House.

Judge sets Trump's sentencing in hush money case for January 10



Agencies  
New York

President-elect Donald Trump will be sentenced on Jan. 10 in the criminal case in which he was convicted on charges involving hush money paid to a porn star, but is unlikely to face jail time or other penalties, a judge said.

Justice Juan Merchan's ruling means Trump will be required to appear at a court hearing just 10 days before his inauguration - an unprecedented scenario in U.S. history. Before Trump, no U.S. president - former or sitting - had been charged with or convicted of a crime.

The judge said Trump may appear at his sentencing either in person or virtually. He wrote that he was not inclined to sentence Trump to jail, and that a sentence of "unconditional discharge" - meaning no custody, monetary fine, or probation - would be "the most viable solution."

## India 141-6 at stumps, lead by 145 runs against Aus

PTI  
Sydney

Rishabh Pant smashed a whirlwind 32-ball 61 as India reached 141 for six at stumps after dismissing Australia for 181 on the second day of the final Test here on Saturday.

Ravindra Jadeja (8) and Washington Sundar (6) were at the crease with India leading by 145 runs. Pant hit the second-fastest fifty for India in Test cricket, reaching the landmark off just 29 balls as the visitors opted for



Jasprit Bumrah appeals successfully for the wicket of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne during play on the 2nd day of the fifth test against Australia. (R) Rishabh Pant during the test match on Saturday.

an attacking strategy in their second innings.

Earlier, India domi-

nated the post-lunch session with Mohammed Siraj (3/51), Prasidh

Krishna (3/42), and Nitish Reddy (2/32) stepping up in the absence of



Jasprit Bumrah (2/33), who had left the field for scans due to an unspecified injury, to dismiss Australia for 181.

For Australia, Beau Webster (57) scored a half-century on debut, adding a quick 57 with Steve Smith (33) but once he was dismissed, India swiftly dismantled the tail. Resuming the day at 9/1, Australia lost Marnus Labuschagne (2) early.

Mohammed Siraj then removed Sam Konstas (23) and Travis Head (4) in one over.

### TO STRENGTHEN NETWORK EXPANSION

## Jio extends its 4G and 5G services to more than 45,000 villages in Rajasthan

Jio is the only pvt telecom service provider in 54 remote villages

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In a transformative step for rural digital connectivity, Reliance Jio has made significant strides by extending its 4G and 5G services to over 45,000 villages in Rajasthan. Out of these, in 54 remote villages across districts like



Bikaner, Jhalawar, and Udaipur, Jio is the only private telecom operator providing digital services.

Villages such as Modiya Manasar, Ramsara, Mithriya, Dholiya, Laifal, Rampuriya, and Majawad now enjoy reliable inter-

net access. This expansion is already proving life-changing, bringing crucial services like online education, e-governance, and agricultural technologies to these remote areas.

Meharban Singh, 24,

from Luhariya village in Jhalawar, shared, "Before Jio, our village had no network. Now, online education and new livelihood opportunities are easily accessible."

In villages like Sikarali (Ladnun), Takhatpura

(Bikaner), Ranora (Sirohi), Mada, and Patia (Udaipur), Jio's connectivity has become a lifeline. Manmohan, 29, from Koharijhar in Jhalawar, noted, "We used to leave the village just to access the internet. Now, services like e-Mitra are creating new job opportunities right here."

Sunil Kumar Meena, 25, from Dehlawas village in Alwar, added, "Jio's 5G network has not only made studying easier but also opened up new career avenues for us."



### BJP MLA Darshan in Cong panel's list

The name of BJP MLA Darshan Singh Gurjar has been included in the Karauli Dehat Congress Committee's executive list. Darshan Singh Gurjar had earlier joined the BJP after leaving Congress. However, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) released the list without any proper verification or background check. The list, signed by the Organisation's General Secretary Lalit Toonwal, featured the name of Gurjar. The block president explained that the names had been submitted two years ago and the same list was issued.

### 141 members in Jpr Cong Exec panel

The Jaipur City Congress Executive Committee is set to be expanded as Rafiq Khan, Ameen Kaghazi, and Pratap Singh submit names for the new committee. Rafiq and Ameen each proposed 17 names, while Pratap Singh sent in 15 names. Initially, these three leaders were hesitant to send any names for the committee, but after intervention by in-charge Rohit Bohra, they agreed. The new executive committee will consist of around 141 members in total, with the first list of 101 names likely to be released soon.

### Errors in official booklets show negligence of JDA officials

Atal Vihar and Govind Vihar schemes by the JDA are marred by numerous errors in their official booklets. According to point 10.3 under "Other Important Conditions," the booklet mentions that "the allottee must complete construction within 5 years," and failure to do so will lead to the cancellation of the allotment. However, JDA allocates land based on the Land Settlement Rules of 1974, which were amended on September 17, 2021, making it mandatory to complete construction within 7 years. Despite this, the booklet refers to the outdated 5-year rule. This raises questions about the awareness and competence of JDA officers in keeping up with regulatory changes. Are the responsible officials truly unaware of the rule changes, or does this reflect negligence and inexperience?

### Water from RPS directed to Bisalpur

A major development has been announced in the water resources sector, with surplus water from Rana Pratap Sagar (RPS) being directed to Bisalpur. The water will be channelled through Brahmani, covering a distance of 140 km, without requiring any lift. The Water Resources Department (WRD) has entrusted the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to Webkas, which is expected to complete the report within 6 months. The project aims to deliver 400 to 500 million cubic meters (MCUM) of water.

### Concerns over violation of orders

Recent forest department postings in Jaipur have raised concerns over the violation of orders regarding the posting of officers in their home districts. In several cases, rangers were posted to locations other than their home districts in what appears to be an effort to benefit political supporters. Among the controversial postings are Amit Saini (Ranger Grade II), Vijaylaxmi Jat (Ranger Grade II), Deepak Kumar Sahu (Ranger Grade I), and others. This sparked questions on whether the Forest Minister, Sanjay correct the situation.



## Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL



By Tridib Raman

The author is a journalist and political commentator and views expressed are his personal

### RSS EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER INFLUENCE OF MISSIONARIES IN BIHAR

Amidst political changes in Bihar, concerns within the RSS regarding upcoming assembly elections are becoming more evident at the grassroots level, especially after CM Nitish Kumar adopted a changed persona. Reports indicate that before the Jharkhand elections, RSS had submitted a confidential report to BJP leadership. The report highlighted that winning in key constituencies like Rajmahal, Lohardaga, and Palamu would be extremely difficult for the BJP due to the significant influence of Christian missionaries in these areas. The report further noted that while missionaries have traditionally focused on converting Dalit and tribal communities, their recent strategies have shifted to target backward castes, especially Dhanuk, Malla, Koiry, Kurmi, and Yadav communities, which have been BJP's reliable voter base. The question now arises: will the Church replicate this "Jharkhand model" in Bihar, where these caste groups are prominent? Sources suggest that rise of new churches in areas like East Champaran, Gaya, Aurangabad, and Buxar signals an increase in missionary activities. The RSS believes that regions influenced by the church are leaning towards anti-BJP parties, as seen recently in Jharkhand. Historically, Christian missions have been more active in South India, but now there is a noticeable shift towards northern states. Churches have expanded rapidly in Punjab, Bihar, and MP. In Punjab, there is a significant Christian population, and many converts wear turbans while regularly attending church. The RSS believes that poverty-stricken areas are fertile grounds for missionary outreach as they offer basic services like healthcare and education. Additionally, report claims that an American-funded foundation provides full scholarships for higher education. Initially, most beneficiaries were from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, but now more students from northern states are receiving these scholarships. Despite these concerns, BJP leadership remains cautious and is not prepared to upset the Church.

### ARIF'S STRATEGIC MISSION IN BIHAR

Head of the Bihar elections, BJP leadership sent former Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan to Patna for a specific purpose. Understanding the nuances of politics, Arif quickly launched his campaign after sensing the BJP leadership's intentions. During the discussions surrounding Nitish Kumar's potential political shift around Makar Sankranti, Arif visited Rabri Devi under the pretext of wishing her a happy birthday, but he directly reached Lalu Prasad Yadav's house in Patna. In their conversation, Arif subtly warned Lalu that if his party RJD forms another 'incompatible alliance' with Nitish's JD(U), President's Rule will be immediately imposed in the state and strict measures will follow. Arif also conveyed this message to Nitish Kumar during his visit to Kalyan Bigaha, on the 14th death anniversary of Nitish's mother, the late Parmeshwari Devi. Sources claim that the Governor hinted to Nitish that a wrong move could entangle him in investigations ranging from the 'Srijan Scam' to the collapsed bridges, suggesting that maintaining relationships would help avoid unnecessary trouble.

### STALIN'S FAVORITE TRIO

Recently, the Tamil Nadu government, led by Stalin, canceled a tender awarded to the Adani group for smart meters, stating that it was a central decision, and that Stalin had never met Adani. Now, three companies in Tamil Nadu have caught Stalin's attention—



'Tata Power,' 'Reliance Power,' and 'Hiranandani Group.' With the collaboration of Blackstone, the Hiranandani Group is working on a Rs 1500 crore 'logistics park' project in Chennai, which is linked to 'Green Base,' supported by Elon Musk's company. Reliance is also entering the 'renewable energy' sector as its income from 'crude oil refineries,' which currently contributes 45-50% to its revenue, may decrease in the future. As for Reliance's retail business, it is eager to exit this sector as the profit margin is only 12-13%. However, Reliance is keen to push forward with its e-commerce platform 'Ajo.'

### JAISHANKAR'S DIPLOMACY AND LEGAL STRATEGY



During External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to the U.S., there was one detail that went largely unnoticed but was far more important. A significant event related to Indian businessman Gautam Adani occurred. In the U.S., three criminal cases against him were consolidated and transferred from "legal counsel" to the "federal court." It is crucial to note that legal advisors work independently of the U.S. President's influence, whereas federal court decisions can be swayed by the President. The President has the authority to overturn federal court rulings and grant pardons to defendants. In fact, during his previous term (2017-2020), President Trump issued pardons in 144 cases, some involving convicted individuals. In this context, can Jaishankar's diplomatic efforts be seen as a victory? This entire episode can be viewed as an example of how personal diplomacy can shape international legal outcomes.

### Dungarpur to benefit from ₹1,500 cr investments and key development projects

## CM appeals for collective efforts to preserve traditional water sources

First India Bureau  
Dungarpur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma appealed to the public to work together for the preservation of traditional water sources like wells, ponds, and rivers. He emphasized these efforts would ensure access to clean drinking water for present and future generations. Sharma also highlighted that PM Modi is working on connecting rivers to provide water to common people. He recalled how Lord Ram connected two shores to win over the truth and compared this to PM's efforts to connect rivers.

Regarding the "Karmabhoomi Se Janbhoomi" initiative, CM mentioned the support of migrant Rajasthanis who are helping with groundwater recharge in villages.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil being felicitated during the event in Dungarpur on Saturday.

The state govt is also working to provide water connections to every home under the Jal Jeevan Mission, he said.

Additionally, CM announced that important development projects are underway in Dungarpur district, including a 125 crore rupee project to irrigate 19,224 hectares under the Som-Kamla-Amba Bhikabhai Sagwada

feeder project. Dungarpur will also see construction of a Rs 44 crore Shilpgram to promote local artisans and tourism. He highlighted an MoU for investments worth nearly 1500 crore rupees in Dungarpur. He also spoke about the transparency in conducting exams by the RPSC and RSSB, assuring that over 81,000 jobs will be provided soon.



The programme concluded with presentation of a bow and arrow as a symbol of valor to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma.

### BUDGET SUGGESTIONS INVITED, MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON JAN 16

The state govt is preparing the framework for upcoming budget year 2025-26, keeping the resolve of "Developed Rajasthan 2047" at its core. In this regard, suggestions are being solicited with the aim of ensuring the participation of various groups, citizens, youth, women, farmers, laborers, entrepreneurs, and NGOs. In this context, CM Sharma will hold discussions with various stakeholders during pre-budget meetings from Jan 16-22. On Jan 16, discussions will be held with employee unions, on Jan 17 with the medical and tribal sectors, on Jan 20 with industry & services, tax consultants, and industry sectors. Similarly, on Jan 21, discussions will be held with youth and sports representatives.

### CS reviews flagship schemes, and welfare schemes in West Raj



CS Sudhansh Pant during the meeting with Collectors, Sps of Barmer & Jaisalmer on Saturday. Tina Dabi and other officials are also seen.

Suryaveer Singh Tanwar  
Jaisalmer

Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant reviewed implementation of state govt's flagship schemes and public service delivery in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts in Collectorate auditorium on Saturday. He also discussed the progress of welfare programs on the ground.

Pant said that everyone associated with the government system should work for the common people with sensitivity. Praising the successful organization of the GST Council meeting held in Jaisalmer, he said that the

district administration of both districts will have to promptly implement all the MoUs signed during Resurgent Rajasthan.

Pant called the e-file a revolutionary step towards good governance. He instructed the officials to provide relief to the complainants by resolving the cases registered in the Sampark portal in time. He instructed all the district magistrates to give time daily to the Rajasthan Sampark Portal. CS Pant directed that District Collector should ensure that budget announcements are completed before next budget is presented.

### Rijju offers PM's chadar, launches Dargah's portal

Shubham Jain  
Ajmer

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju on Saturday offered a ceremonial 'chadar' sent by PM Modi at Ajmer Dargah. The minister also launched the web portal of the dargah, the 'Garib Nawaz' app for pilgrims and an operations manual for the conduct of 'Urs'.

At the dargah, he read out the prime minister's message which called on people from across religions to work together in harmony. People from every religion are welcome here at the dargah, said Kiren Rijju.



Union Minister Kiren Rijju and others at the event for PM Modi's Chadar presentation & Dargah Portal launch on Saturday.

### CHADAR FROM RAJE & OWASI OFFERED IN AJMER

BJP executive member Majeed Malik presented Vasundhara Raje's chadar at the Dargah Sharif, and her message was read from Buland Darwaza. Besides, AIMIM national president Asaduddin Owaisi's chadar was also presented at Asthana Sharif, and his message was also read from Buland Darwaza. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge offered a chadar at Pratapgarhi Dargah. A group of about 250 Pakistani pilgrims is likely to participate in the Urs on January 6. The administration is busy with preparations.

### Courtesy meet

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra met former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot during a courtesy visit at the latter's residence in Jaipur on Saturday.

SANTOSH SHARMA



## CONFUSION MOUNTS OVER DIRECTOR MINES APPOINTMENT AMID DoP'S AMBIGUOUS ORDER

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

The recent order issued by the Department of Personnel (DoP) on January 2nd has further complicated the situation regarding the Director of Mines position. The order mentions that IAS officer Bhagwati Prasad Kalal has been given the additional charge of this post, although Bhagwati Kalal was transferred to the post of MD of RSMM, no official appointment had been made for his replacement, nor had the DoP issued any order granting him the additional charge of Director of Mines. Instead, Kalal had been overseeing the post based on "verbal orders from higher authorities," a practice considered irregular

Bhagwati Kalal was transferred from this role.

FIRST INDIA had raised the issue in detail in its October 9, 2024 edition, emphasizing that although Bhagwati Kalal was transferred to the post of MD of RSMM, no official appointment had been made for his replacement, nor had the DoP issued any order granting him the additional charge of Director of Mines. Instead, Kalal had been overseeing the post based on "verbal orders from higher authorities," a practice considered irregular

### EXPERTS STRESS NEED FOR DEDICATED OFFICERS FOR KEY 'RISING RAJASTHAN' ROLES

IAS officer Rohit Gupta, who had been handling dual posts as Commissioner of Industries and Commissioner of BIP, has taken a long leave for overseas study starting Jan 1. Following this, the DoP assigned charge of Commissioner of Industries to Akash Tomar and charge of Commissioner of BIP to Inderjeet Singh. According to administrative experts, given large-scale MoUs signed under 'Rising Rajasthan' initiative, the responsibility to implement them effectively is critical. Therefore, it is essential that both posts are handled by 2 separate, dedicated, and result-oriented IAS officers. Relying on additional charges for these crucial roles will not be in best interest of 'Rising Rajasthan.' Moreover, both Inderjeet Singh and Akash Tomar already bear significant responsibilities regarding the implementation of MoUs.

and fundamentally wrong. The key issue is that since September 5, 2024, this important post has

been left vacant without any official head. The latest January 2nd order from the DoP, however, mentions Kalal holding the additional charge of Director of Mines, with the charge temporarily assigned to Pragya Kewalramani (Commissioner TAD, Udaipur) during his training. This move has created confusion within the administrative circles, as it raises the question: who is currently the Director of Mines in the state? The DoP order is seen as misleading and confusing. A crucial question arises:

why hasn't the government appointed a permanent Director for Mines? Reports suggest that influential mining businessmen are pressuring the government to appoint one of department's Additional Director as the new Director of Mines, even though this post has traditionally been held by an IAS officer. Notably, over the past five years, seven different IAS officers have held this post. Sources indicate that the government itself is in a state of confusion and is unable to make a decision on this matter.

### Om Birla visits Mandhata Balaji Temple in Bundi

Bhanwar S Charan  
Kota/Bundi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla visited to the revered Mandhata Balaji Temple during his tour to Kota-Bundi parliamentary constituency. He was accompanied by the state minister Avinash Gehlot. During the visit to Tiger Hill, Birla engaged in discussions with district officials about the development plans surrounding the Balaji Chhatra area.

In Bundi, Speaker Birla arrived at Ganesh Baori, where he was warmly welcomed by local offi-



Om Birla offering prayers at the Mandhata Balaji on Saturday.

cial and party workers. He also participated in a "Samajik Nyay Adhikarita" programme, where he interacted with the locals and listened to their concerns and problems. Om Birla also attended Meena Samaj Talent Award Ceremony in Bundi.





Dr Jagdeesh Chandra along with Pawan Arora and the First India family greet Virendra Choudhary. Seen here are Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr Devendra Pathak, Shishir Awasthi, Lalit Gangwani, Dinesh Mathur, Ghanshyam Karol, Vijender Solanki, Deepika Singhal, Shikha Sharma, Indu Rathore, Dr Jayati Mishra, Tripti Gautam, Poonam Sharma Solanki, Kavita Pant, Nandini Agrawal, Rainu Singh, Nirmal Tiwari, Kailash Choudhary, Vinod Singh Chouhan, Jatin Sharma, Rituraj Sharma, Mukesh Advani, Mohd Fahad, Ashish Aman, Deepak Sain, Rohit Gaur, Sanjeev Kumar & Hemant Sharma

The First India News office in Jaipur celebrated New Year 2025 with a vibrant ceremony, attended by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary and Pawan Arora, emphasising hyper-local reporting, youth empowerment, and fitness as key focus areas for 2025!



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

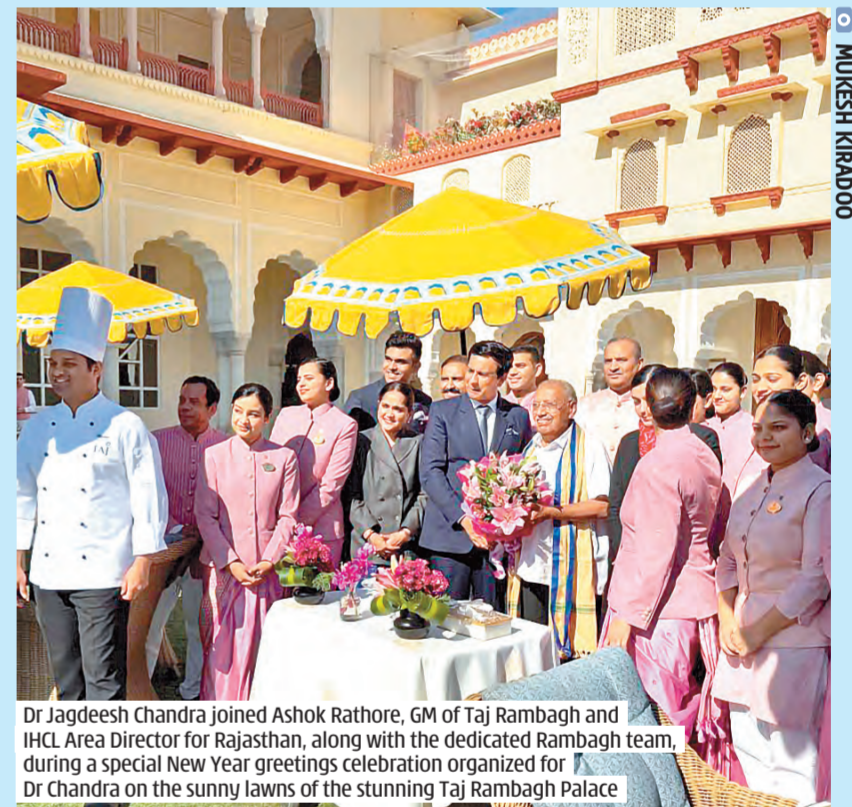
## FIRST INDIA NEWS USHERS IN 2025 WITH A PROMISE OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

**A**s the nation embraced the arrival of 2025 with joy and enthusiasm, the First India News office in Jaipur hosted a vibrant New Year celebration. The event, marked by a spirited cake-cutting ceremony, was attended by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra; Virendra Choudhary, Director of First India; and Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News. The celebration brought together the entire First India family, including Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Manoj Mathur, Rainu Singh, among other editors, journalists and staff members, to welcome the new year with fresh hope and determination. MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati also graced the occasion as exchanged warm greetings with Pawan Arora, making the day more memorable.

Shweta Mishra Awasthi warmly welcomed all and highlighted the organisation's achievements, stating, "2024 has been a vibrant year for First India, covering all news stories across platforms, successfully launching First India Plus Entertainment, and our addition of the Hindi daily newspaper 'Sach Bedhadak. Dr Chandra extended heartfelt wishes for the New Year to the viewers of First India News. Reflecting on the channel's success, he said, "We deeply value the immense love and trust our audience has shown us. As we step into 2025, our commitment remains unwavering—to bring you the first and most accurate news. Dr Chandra further emphasised the growing competition posed by hyper-local YouTube channels in reporting remote news. He urged the team to prioritize breaking hyper-local stories, particularly from small towns and villages, ensuring First India maintains its edge in grassroots journalism. This new year is an opportunity for all of us to strive



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary and Pawan Arora cut the celebratory cake together. Also seen are Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Rainu Singh, Nandini Agrawal, Nirmal Tiwari, Kailash Choudhary & Rituraj Sharma



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra joined Ashok Rathore, GM of Taj Rambagh and IHCL Area Director for Rajasthan, along with the dedicated Rambagh team, during a special New Year greetings celebration organized for Dr Chandra on the sunny lawns of the stunning Taj Rambagh Palace

harder and maintain our leadership as the voice of Rajasthan." Director Virendra Choudhary expressed his vision for the year, stating, "In 2024, First India met every expectation of its viewers by prioritizing both urban and rural news. Highlighting the hyper-local challenge, Choudhary stated that regional channels often limit their coverage to metropolitan areas. "Our competition lies in covering remote villages and towns first. We must rise to this challenge," he asserted. In 2025, we will further enhance our focus on hyper-local reporting, ensuring that every corner of Rajasthan feels connected to us. First India News will continue to act as a trusted bridge between the government and the public."

CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora shared his thoughts, saying, "2024 was a year of challenges, but challenges bring opportunities. We embraced

these challenges, turned adversity into achievement, and emerged victorious." Reflecting on the year's accomplishments, he shared, "First India News continued to lead as the foremost and most-watched

channel. Our OTT platform, First India Plus, completed its first year with great success, hosting landmark events like 'First India OTT Super Singer Plus,' with Alka Yagnik as our Brand Ambassador, and

winners of Super Singer Plus now being given opportunities in Bollywood industry, along with organising Youth Festival in Rajasthan, which received tremendous appreciation." In 2025, we aim to

surpass those achievements by delivering news faster and with greater accuracy. We remain committed to highlighting every important story, from the smallest villages to the largest cities, with creativ-

ity and dedication." Looking ahead, he announced, "2025 will be celebrated as 'First India Youth Year,' dedicated to recognising and nurturing one outstanding youth across diverse fields like sports, education, technology, and art, especially from rural areas, by awarding them the title of First India Star." Arora also unveiled a fitness program for the First India team, including gym facilities, yoga trainers, and dieticians, aimed at fostering a healthy and happy work environment.

The event concluded with Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary, and Pawan Arora applauding the efforts of the entire team. They encouraged everyone to continue First India's tradition of excellence in journalism, ensuring that viewers remain informed with credible, timely and in-depth reporting. With a renewed resolution to serve as the most trusted news source, the First India family welcomed 2025 with hope, determination, and a promise to live up to its name—First in every news.



(L-R) Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary and Pawan Arora during their remarkable wishes & visionary ideas shared on the occasion

**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



**The Nanhe Kalakar Festival 2024:** It celebrates Rajasthan's culture with performances by Indian Ocean, Rahgir, Neeraj Arya Kabir Cafe and Yugam Band, folk dances, art workshops and a talk show by influential speakers, promoting youth involvement and art.

When: January 05, 4:00 PM

Where: Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur



**Mehfil:** Join Mehfil, a lively event to connect, build friendships, and explore meaningful discussions. With icebreaker games, networking, and shared experiences, it's the perfect space for fun.

When: January 05, 2:30 PM

Where: Code Black, Jaipur

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



**Deepika Padukone**  
**CAPRICORN**  
**JANUARY 5**

Love and romance take centre stage today. Strengthen bonds with your partner and friends, fostering a sense of unity. Your sharp judgment on life's values makes this the perfect moment to make meaningful decisions and embrace deeper connections.

Lucky Number: 5

Lucky Colour: Maroon



**Jaipur Flight Plan**

- UDAIPUR-** Air India, Indigo
- AHMEDABAD-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- KULLU-** Air India, Alliance Air, Indigo
- GOA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Spicejet
- SHIMLA-** Air India, Alliance Air
- SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA-** Air India, AirAsia Berhad, AirAsia X, All Nippon Airways, Asiana Airlines
- NAGOYA, JAPAN-** Air India, All Nippon Airways, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines, Japan Airlines
- ISTANBUL, TURKEY-** Air Arabia, Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Qatar Airways
- VIETNAM-** Air India, Air India Express, AirAsia Berhad, Indigo
- BANGKOK, THAILAND-** Air India, Air India Express, AirAsia Berhad, Indigo, Bhutan Air, Spicejet



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**GAS GEYSER RISKS YOU CAN'T IGNORE**

**Silent Danger**



**Dr Ankush Agarwal**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**W**ith the arrival of winter, the demand for hot water increases significantly. Many households rely on gas geysers to meet this need. However, while gas geysers are convenient, they also pose serious risks. Numerous incidents of fatalities have been reported due to the toxic gases emitted by gas geysers. This article highlights the dangers of gas geysers and outlines essential precautions to ensure safety.

**UNDERSTANDING THE RISK: CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING**

Dr Ankush Agarwal from the Government District Hospital in Hindaun emphasizes that gas geysers use LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) to heat water. During this process, harmful gases like carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) are released. When these gases accumulate in poorly ventilated bathrooms, they can displace oxygen, leading to suffocation.



**THE SILENT KILLER: CARBON MONOXIDE**

Carbon monoxide, often called the "silent killer," is an odourless and colourless gas that can be deadly when inhaled in significant amounts. Prolonged exposure to this gas can result in:

- **Unconsciousness:** Spending extended time in a bathroom with a gas geyser can cause fainting.
- **Seizures:** The gas can trigger convulsions or seizure-like symptoms.
- **Cardiac Arrest:** Severe cases may lead to a complete halt of heart activity.
- **Fatality:** Without timely intervention, prolonged exposure to carbon monoxide can lead to death.

**CHOOSING SAFER ALTERNATIVES**

For those concerned about the risks of gas geysers, alternatives like electric geysers or solar water heaters are worth considering. These options are not only safer but can also be more economical in the long term.

**CONCLUSION:**

While gas geysers are a popular choice for heating water during winter, they come with significant risks that should not be ignored. Adopting the safety measures outlined above can help prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of your family. Raising awareness and staying vigilant are key to avoiding potentially life-threatening situations. A little precaution can go a long way in safeguarding lives and preventing tragic incidents.



**COMMON MISTAKES IN USING GAS GEYSERS**

- **Using Geysers in Enclosed Bathrooms:** Lack of ventilation causes harmful gases to accumulate, leading to suffocation.
- **Keeping the Geyser On While Bathing:** This increases the concentration of toxic gases in the bathroom.
- **Leaving Children Alone:** Allowing children to bathe unsupervised in bathrooms with gas geysers can be extremely dangerous.
- **Consecutive Bathing by Multiple People:** This can significantly increase the accumulation of carbon monoxide in the bathroom.



**SAFETY MEASURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS**

Dr Ankush Agarwal and other experts suggest adopting the following precautions while using gas geysers:

- **Install the Geyser Outside the Bathroom:** If possible, fit the gas geyser and LPG cylinder outside the bathroom. Use a pipeline to channel hot water into the bathroom.
- **Ensure Proper Ventilation:** Bathrooms must have windows or other ventilation systems to allow harmful gases to escape.
- **Install Exhaust Fans:** An exhaust fan can help expel the toxic gases from the bathroom.
- **Turn Off the Geyser Before Bathing:** Never bathe while the geyser is on. Turn it off after heating the water.
- **Supervise Children:** Always supervise children while they are bathing and avoid leaving them alone in the bathroom.
- **Allow Bathrooms to Ventilate:** After someone uses the bathroom, leave the door open for a few minutes to let the gases dissipate before the next person enters.
- **Limit Time in the Bathroom:** Avoid spending excessive time in the bathroom while the geyser is running.
- **Pre-fill Water:** Before entering the bathroom, fill a bucket with hot water so the geyser doesn't need to be on while bathing.



Police 100

Fire 101

Ambulance 102/108

Child Helpline 1098

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**Director:** Kalees  
**Cast & Crew:** Varun Dhawan, Jackie Shroff, Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi



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



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Shweta Mishra Awasthi addressing the audience. Also seen are Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary, Pawan Arora, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr Devendra Pathak, Nandini Agrawal, Nirmal Tiwari, Satyanarayan Sharma, Dilip Solanki, Kailash Choudhary, Vinod Singh Chauhan, Bharat Dixit, Dr Rituraj Sharma & Shivangi Singh Rao



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Shikha Sharma, Tripti Gautam, Deepika Singhal, Dr Jayati Mishra, Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Poonam Sharma Solanki, Vijender Solanki, Indu Rathore, Dimple Sharma & Rainu Singh



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted by Vijender Solanki and Poonam Sharma Solanki

**FIRST INDIA CHARTS BOLD PLANS FOR 2025**

# NEW YEAR, New Resolutions!

The First India News office in Jaipur ushered in 2025 with a vibrant New Year celebration, marked by a spirited cake-cutting ceremony. The event was attended by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary, and Pawan Arora, who outlined key focus areas for the year, including hyper-local reporting, youth empowerment and fitness. Reflecting on the channel's success, Dr Chandra expressed gratitude for viewers' trust, while Virendra Choudhary emphasized connecting every corner of Rajasthan. Pawan Arora announced 2025 as the "First India Youth Year," aimed at nurturing talent across fields. The team welcomed 2025 with a determination to maintain excellence in journalism. City First highlights some more glimpses of the event.



A slice of happiness shared between Virendra Choudhary and Dr Jagdeesh Chandra



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted by Manoj Mathur



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Dilip Solanki, Manoj Mathur, Mohd Fahad, Kavita Pant, Lokesh Ola & Himanshu Sharma



Pawan Arora with Ravindra Singh Bhati



Top to Bottom: Deepika Singhal, Dimple Sharma, Kareena Sharma & Tripti Gautam



A heartwarming moment captured as cake is exchanged with smiles all around



A powerful trio Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary and Pawan Arora captured in timeless moment



Pawan Arora with Manish Beniwal, Kedar Raghuvver Sharma, Vaibhav Sharma, Pratiksha Kanwar, Shantanu Varshneya, Sanjeev Kumar, Om Prakash Sharma, Pranjal Jain & Ankit Singh



(L-R) Narendra Sharma, Kedar Raghuvver Sharma, Manish Beniwal, Vaibhav Sharma, Shantanu Varshneya, Om Prakash Sharma, Sanjeev Kumar, Saurabh Aggrawal, Ankit Singh Rathore, Pranjal Jain, Pratiksha Kanwar, Iqbal Ali & Hemant Sharma

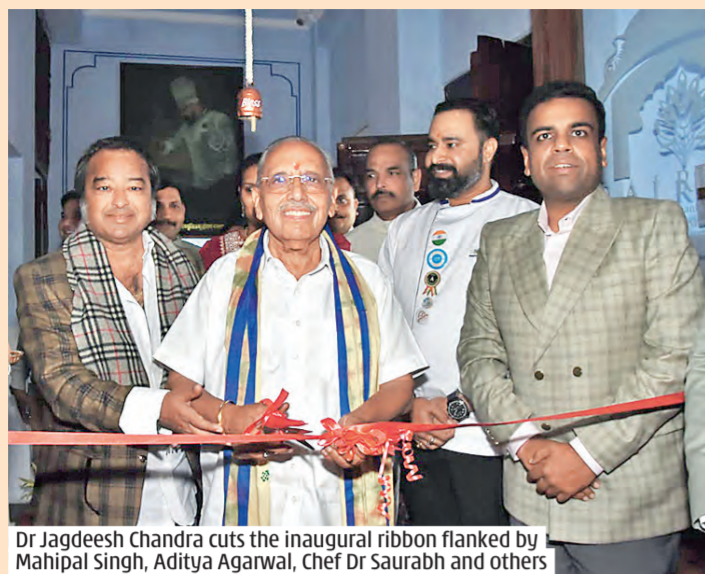
**YOGA IS RENOWNED FOR ITS NUMEROUS**

- Visionary Initiatives for 2025 - First India Star: Monthly recognition of youth excelling in various fields, especially from rural areas.
- Fitness Program: Dedicated facilities for team health, including a gym, yoga trainers, and dieticians.



First India family members joyfully participated in the New Year celebration

# CULINARY ROYAL REVIVAL!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra cuts the inaugural ribbon flanked by Mahipal Singh, Aditya Agarwal, Chef Dr Saurabh and others



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Mahipal Singh, Aditya Agarwal, Chef Dr Saurabh & Chef Prateek



Vipin, Swapnil, Prateek, Madan, Dr Chef Saurabh Sharma, Ajay, Bhavani, Rakesh, Deepak, Devendra, Puran & Bharat

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**J**aipur's culinary enthusiasts witnessed a grand celebration of

Rajasthan's rich heritage at 'Raj Rasa,' India's first Rajasthan fine dining restaurant, curated by celebrity chef Dr Saurabh Sharma. Located on Amer Road, the launch event featured Chef Saurabh

sharing his culinary journey, with prominent guests enjoying authentic Rajasthani delicacies. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the event as the chief guest and lauded Chef Saurabh's efforts to preserve Ra-

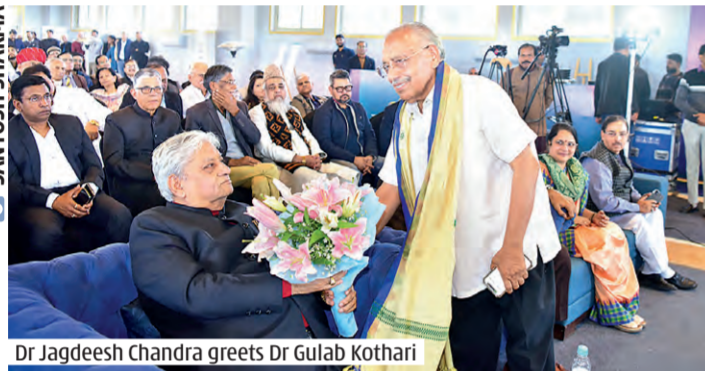
asthan's culinary heritage. Chef Saurabh emphasized that Raj Rasa revives authentic Rajasthani recipes inspired by royal traditions, desert landscapes, and local communities. Prepared using

slow-cooking techniques, pure desi ghee, millets, and spices sourced from farmers, the dishes offer an authentic culinary experience. The gourmet menu includes iconic dishes like Chandi ki Dal,

Marwar's Rabodi Sabzi, Jodhpur's Gulab Jamun Sabzi, and Shekhawati's Panchkuta. Ayurvedic-inspired recipes, such as Methi Kishmish and Bajra Roti, also feature prominently.

The concept, born from Chef Saurabh's 2014 research, aligns with PM Modi's Millet Promotion Scheme, transforming dining into a cultural journey through Rajasthan's royal flavours.

# Celebrating Brilliance



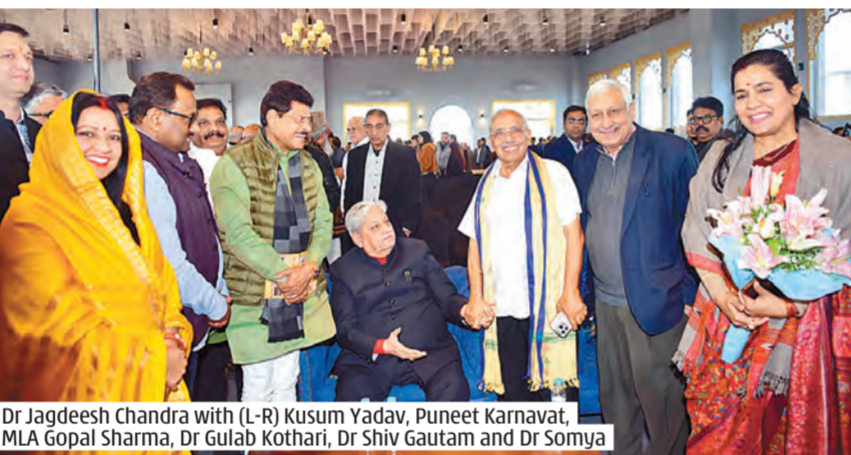
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets Dr Gulab Kothari



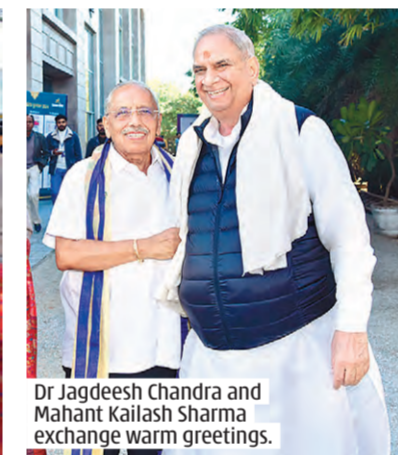
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Dr Gulab Kothari, Rajendra Rathore, Jyoti Khandelwal, Arun Chaturvedi among other captivated audience

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**T**he 34th Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma Memorial Lecture and Creative Literature and Journalism Award Ceremony, organised by Rajasthan Patrika on Saturday, brought together prominent figures from various fields. The event saw participation from Rajasthan Patrika's Editor-in-Chief Dr Gulab Kothari, BJP leaders Rajendra Rathore, Arun Chaturvedi and others. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra also graced the event as the chief guest. Padma Shri Pratap Pawar, Chairman of Sakal Media Group, was the main speaker and expressed concerns about the free schemes in the country, stressing their impact



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Kusum Yadav, Puneet Karnavat, MLA Gopal Sharma, Dr Gulab Kothari, Dr Shiv Gautam and Dr Somya



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Mahant Kailash Sharma exchange warm greetings.

on citizens' productivity. Creative literature and journalism awards were presented during the event. Kuldeep Singh Bhati won first place in the poetry category for "Poornata Ki Aur," while Ankit Sharma secured second place. In the story category, Uma's "Sapna" won first prize, and Sanjay Dubey's "Antim Sanskar" placed second.



Awardees during the ceremony

Rajasthan Patrika Director Bhuvnesh Jain highlighted the group's commitment to fearless journalism, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding the interests of readers despite ongoing challenges in the industry. The ceremony celebrated literary and journalistic excellence, underscoring Rajasthan Patrika's significant role in the media landscape.

# A Joyous Celebration



Naman, Rohit, Samveg, Ashok Singhi, Rini, Nilesh, Vivaan, Nimit, Sanchita, Runam, Anita, Anju, Neeta, Richa, Anjali & Ankita

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**T**he air was alive with joy and excitement as little Vivaan celebrated his first birthday in grand style on Friday at The Lalit Jaipur, Malviya Nagar. Vivaan, son of Nimit Singhi and Dr Sanchita Lekhi Singhi and grandson of Ashok Singhi and Anju Singhi was surrounded by loving family and friends who made the occasion unforgettable.



Birthday Boy Vivaan Singhi with mother Dr Sanchita Lekhi Singhi

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the event with his presence, offering blessings to the young boy. Prominent guests including Naman, Rohit, Samveg, Rini

and Nilesh, joined the festivities, making it a truly special day. The event was a heartwarming blend of laughter, love, and togetherness, as everyone came together to cherish this precious milestone in Vivaan's life.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with baby Vivaan, Nimit Singhi and Dr Sanchita Lekhi Singhi

## GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Sub-inspector Hemlata Sharma, Mrs India Glam 2025, as she reached the former's residence during a courtesy visit on Saturday.

## CULINARY CELEBRATION!



The Poornima Institute of Hotel Management (PIHM) ushered in the New Year with a grand Turkey Brunch on Saturday, bringing together students, faculty, staff, and prominent figures from Jaipur's hospitality sector. The event allowed students to showcase their culinary talents to industry leaders, with Rajneesh Maller, General Manager of ITC Mementos, attending as the guest of honour. The delicious menu featured dishes like Shepherd's Pie, Mexican Wrap, and roasted turkey, along with delightful desserts. Director Sunil Bhargava emphasized the event's role in providing students with essential hands-on experience in hospitality.

## THEATRICAL BEAUTY!



The third day of the 7th Rajaragam, organised by the Ministry of Culture and Actors Theatre Rajasthan, featured the play Chitrangada, based on Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's story. Directed by Sanket Jain, the play depicted the love story of Arjun and Chitrangada, conveying the message of embracing true beauty. The performance was enhanced with unique costumes, lighting, and expressive dialogue. Garima Pareek played Chitrangada, while Vikrant Ratanpal portrayed Arjun. The play explored the theme of real beauty beyond physicality.

## MEET & GREET!



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh was warmly greeted by Poornima Mishra of the Bharat24: Vision of New India family, during an informal luncheon interaction at his residence in New Delhi on Saturday.

SANTOSH SHARMA



Captivated performance by the Nanhe Manganiyars

# RHYTHMS OF RENEWAL

**N**anhe Kalakaar, a fundraised art festival was organised by Abhyuthanam Welfare Foundation and AU Small Finance Bank at Jawahar Kala Kendra on Saturday, dedicated to the mission of Aranya Ropan (Forest Plantation) and funding the Free Oxygen Campaign. The event was inaugurated by MLA Balmukund Acharya and Dr Niraj K Pawan. Cultural highlights included performances by the Bhopang ensemble

led by Zahoor Khan, mesmerizing Rajasthani dances, soulful music and musical concerts of Rahgir, Nanhe Manganiyars led by Devu Khan Manganiyar and Yugm Band. Sessions by Rahgir and RJ Kartik explored content creation journeys. Panel discussions covered youth as cultural ambassadors, the relevance of Sanskrit and promoting sports through the Khelo Rajasthan Abhiyan. Activities for children were the main attraction. **DIVYA KANWALIYA**



Rahgir delivered an electrifying performance



Jaipur witnessed an enchanting violin recital by renowned artist Gulzar Hussain in the Mangal Dhvani program at Net Theat on Saturday. Beginning with Raga Bihag, he captivated the audience with intricate Tihais, Gamak and three-octave Taane. Accompanied by young tabla maestro Meraj Hussain, Gulzar also showcased his unique five-stringed violin and discussed its history, linking it to Indian roots. The event, coordinated by Naval Dangi, featured impeccable stage decoration and mementos presented by music patron Manish Agarwal.