

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister



SHRI BHAJANLAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan



Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

Democratizing AI for Public Good

6 Jan 2026 • JECC, Jaipur

सर्वजन हिताय | सर्वजन सुखाय
WELFARE FOR ALL | HAPPINESS OF ALL

Chief Guest

SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW

Hon'ble Union Minister for
Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Presided by

SHRI BHAJANLAL SHARMA

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Rajasthan

Special Guest

SHRI JITIN PRASADA

Hon'ble Union Minister for State
Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Special Guest

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE

Hon'ble Minister
Information Technology & Communication
Government of Rajasthan

AI-led Initiatives in Rajasthan

- AI-powered diagnosis for silicosis patients
- Grievance redressal on Rajasthan Sampark 181 through an AI-powered voice bot
- AI-enabled learning support for academically weak students in 4 lakh government schools
- Real-time application updates for investors through the Raj Nivesh Chatbot
- AI-powered early insights on crop nutrition and diseases to lakhs of farmers

Rajasthan AI/ML Policy 2026

- New AI-based e-Governance platforms
- AI incentives for Industry
- Greater adoption of AI in government services
- Strong focus on AI education in schools, ITIs and universities
- AI training for 50,000+ youth and 20,000+ government officials
- Driving AI adoption through bootcamps, hackathons and innovation challenges



Department of Information Technology & Communication, Rajasthan



DATELINE
LONDON

LOCAL ELECTION BATTLEGROUND WILL ACT AS NATIONAL INDICATORS



Avinash Kalla

The writer is Foreign Correspondent First India News

“This year more of you will start feeling richer,” wrote Sir Kier Starmer in his comment piece for The Times. Fairly optimistic statement by the British Prime Minister at the start of New Year as he argued that decades of decline cannot be erased in months, but his government is providing immediate actions to help with ease of living.

Somber words from the PM, aimed to lift the mood of the nation facing a bitter cold and gloomy mood.

Starmer who after a year and half in 10 Downing Street is facing a tough time and whose political approval ratings are heading southward. According to YouGov merely 18 percent of Britons have a favourable opinion of Starmer and a whopping 72 per cent don't.

Let us look at the key events lined up this year that would decide weather or not Starmer will remain Prime Minister.

Regional Elections

May 7, 2026, is a major political test for all parties as boroughs across London and councils across UK go for elections. Add to that, the Scottish Parliament election where 129 seats are up for grabs.

Results of these will be a barometer of national mood ahead of any future general election.

Strong results (or losses) would weaken UK party leaders and shift policy direction.

The way trends are shaping up, smaller parties like Reform UK, Lib Dems, Greens, look set to gain seats and win local influence.

If Labour loses big, it will affect the position of Starmer, and questions will be asked within the party on his capability to lead a stable government and would challenge his leadership.

It would then be difficult for his team to reshape the narrative on his image and that of the government, which is reeling under pressure as cost-of-living heads northwards and investment in Britain heading southward's.

New data highlight the harm chancellor of Exchequer; Rachel Reeves has inflicted on the economy. In the three months to September, combined public and private investment fell to 18.6 per cent, placing the UK at the bottom of the G7 league table.

As a result, the Starmer government has already shown a willingness to reverse major policy decisions, most notably with its welcome Christmas U-turn on inheritance tax and agricultural reforms. How far attitude this



May 7, 2026, local and Scottish elections for 129 seats to gauge UK voters' mood ahead of general polls and emerging political trends.



UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

goes remains to be seen.

Immigration and Border Control

Migration stays a top political flashpoint and will be a key issue even in the local polls as irregular small-boat arrivals have increased, putting pressure on Labour to deliver tougher border policies.

Public expectations stay high hoping for significant legislative changes.

Rise of Reform UK and Shifting Party Landscape

Traditional Conservative and Labour politics is being challenged, by Nigel Farage's Reform UK. They are making bold local election campaigns with significant spending and

mobilisation efforts; it becomes a force to reckon.

Polls over the past year have shown Reform making significant inroads into voter support, though their long-term durability stays debated.

One should expect debates over realignment on the right of the political spectrum.

Farage has made it clear that he will spend the last cent of the political donations to go big in local elections. He plans to double it up or lose all. Reports suggest that the party plans to push up five million leaflets for the local May election kick off and plans to boost the social media campaign. It is going to be like Reform Blitz across the social media space.

“This year more of you will start feeling richer,” wrote Sir Kier Starmer in his comment piece for The Times. Fairly optimistic statement by the British Prime Minister at the start of New Year as he argued that decades of decline cannot be erased in months, but his government is providing immediate actions to help with ease of living. Somber words from the PM, aimed to lift the mood of the nation facing a bitter cold and gloomy mood

Economics Will Drive Political Debate

Along with immigration political focus in 2026 will link closely to economic performance of the government. While the PM says people will start feeling richer, that might not be enough.

Forecasts suggest slower growth and weak consumer sentiment, potentially affecting public trust in government competence. Inflation and taxes will continue to be central political issues, shaping public opinion and opposition criticism.

Economics and politics feed into one another — poor economic sentiment intensifies political risk for incumbents. People merely feeling rich will not help Starmer.

Brexit and EU Relations May Re-Enter Debate

Brexit is not going away. It has been a decade and the ghost of Britain moving out of the European Union is not going leaving UK. At this time, every year for the last ten years speculations or formulations of how the exit from the union could be renegotiated or set straight haunts Britain.

Some commentators expect renewed debates on EU trade arrangements and customs relations, reflecting shifting public and political opinion.

Whether Starmer's government moves toward a softer stance or holds firm will matter politically, especially with younger voters.

A majority now say Brexit was the wrong choice — a shift from a decade earlier.

Leadership Stability and Internal Party Dynamics

Expect political jockeying within parties, Labour may see discussion about leadership if polls worsen. Some on the commons suggest that Labour might not wait for local elections as with Starmer their options at Scottish elections are bleak and what good will the change be if comes at cost of a loss.

Conservatives are working on recovery strategies, they too fear defections to Reform UK despite a favourable acceptance increase of their leader Kemi Badenoch.

Smaller parties like Reform, Lib Dems, and Greens will fight for profile and relevance.

In a nutshell the Local and involved election battlegrounds will act as national indicators and deciding factor for PM Starmer.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

RIGHTWARD SHIFT

Traditional Conservative and Labour politics is being challenged, by Nigel Farage's Reform UK. They are making bold local election campaigns with significant spending and mobilisation efforts; it becomes a force to reckon.

Polls over the past year have shown Reform making significant inroads into voter support, though their long-term durability stays debated.

One should expect debates over realignment on the right of the political spectrum.

TOP TWEETS

Under PM @narendramodi ji's Make in India vision, Apple ships fifty billion dollars' worth of mobile phones in 2025. Electronics production has increased six times and exports eight times in eleven years, placing electronics among the top three exports. With 25 lakh jobs, 46 component projects and four semiconductor plants, this is just the beginning as Bharat rises across the entire electronics stack.

Ashwini Vaishnav @AshwiniVaishnav

Jai Somnath. Jai Bharat. The sacred Somnath Jyotirlinga, destroyed by invaders a thousand years ago, still stands in full splendour and dignity. Completing 1,000 years of that invasion in 2026 is a testament to our unbroken faith, countless sacrifices, and the immortal triumph of Sanatan consciousness. Just as the Somnath temple was rebuilt, under PM @narendramodi ji's visionary leadership, India is fully capable of reclaiming its ancient glory, cultural strength, and taking a leading role on the global stage.

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia @JM_Scindia

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Perform your duty equiposed, O Arjuna, abandoning all attachment to success or failure. Such equanimity is called yoga.

BHAGVAD GITA



FIRST INDIA

Jaipur, Tuesday | January 6, 2026

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BSE	NIFTY
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RAJ wrapped in FOG!

Mercury drops below 10°C in most parts of Raj

Severe cold conditions intensified across Rajasthan as the night temperatures dipped below 10°C in most regions. IMD said on Monday that chill is likely to persist over next few days. Owing to dense fog and cold wave, schools have been closed in 11 districts. Thick fog was reported from Jaipur, Kota, Sikar, Udaipur and Nagaur.

4.1°C Vanasthali in Tonk	5.5°C Sikar	6°C Alwar	9.9°C Jodhpur
5.4°C Sirohi, Dausa and Sri Ganganagar	5.6°C Pali	6.8°C Jaipur	10.5°C Barmer
	5.8°C Ajmer	7°C Pilani	11°C Jaisalmer



Senior Photojournalist Santosh Sharma captures Bhawani Niketan College and its surrounding areas shrouded in dense fog amid cold conditions, in Jaipur on Monday.

Delhi riots case: SC denies bail to Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam; grants bail to 5 co-accused

'Delay in trial not trump card'

First India Bureau
New Delhi



The SC on Monday rejected bail pleas of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam — lodged in Tihar jail under UAPA linked to 2020 Delhi riots. The bench of Justices Aravind Kumar, NV Anjaria said prosecution material disclosed a prima facie case against Umar Khalid & Sharjeel Imam, thereby attracting statutory bar to bail under Section 43D(5) of UAPA.



Rehman, Mohammad Salim Khan, and Shadab Ahmad. The court held that Khalid and Imam stood on a "higher footing in the hierarchy of participation" in the alleged larger conspiracy. "This court is satisfied that the prosecution material disclosed a prima facie allegation against Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam. Prosecutions under the UAPA, delay in trial does not operate as a "trump card" which automatically displaces statutory safeguards," bench said.

BAIL CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON 5 ACCUSED GRANTED BAIL IN 2020 DELHI RIOTS CASE

Each appellant shall furnish ₹2L personal bond with 2 local sureties, remain within Delhi without court permission, and surrender their passport or file an affidavit if none exists. They must share and update address and contact details, mark attendance twice weekly at Crime Branch, and appear on all hearing dates. The appellants shall not contact or influence witnesses, associate with related groups, publish or circulate any material, or participate in any meetings or programmes linked to case. They must maintain peace and good conduct; any violation or new offence may lead to cancellation of bail.

'AB YAHİ ZINDAGI HAI': UMAR KHALID REACTS AFTER SUPREME COURT REJECTS HIS BAIL

After SC verdict on Monday denying him bail, Umar Khalid said that jail was his life now. His partner Banjyosna Lahiri said that he was happy and relieved for the co-accused who were granted bail, even as he remarked that prison has now become his life. Sharing Khalid's reaction on X, Lahiri quoted him as saying: "I am really happy for the others who got bail. So relieved." When she told him she would come the next day for a meeting, Khalid replied, "Good, good, aa jana. Ab yahi zindagi hai."

Devnani: Rajasthan Assembly session to begin on Jan 28

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The fifth session of the Sixteenth Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will commence on Wednesday, January 28. Assembly Speaker **Vasudev Devnani** said that Governor Haribhau Bagade has issued the notification for convening the session on Monday. Devnani said the session is expected to continue for nearly a month. The proceedings will begin with Governor's address, during session the state government will also present state budget. He further stated that discussions will be held on several important issues concerning the state, legislative business, and matters related to public interest.



Trump's new tariff warning to India; praises PM Modi

First India Bureau
New Delhi/Washington

US President Donald Trump on Monday warned India of higher tariffs if it doesn't cooperate with America on the issue of Russian crude oil imports. This comes at a time when Indian exports already face heavy trade penalties in US market. Trump said PM Narendra Modi was aware of his dissatisfaction over India's continued purchases of Russian oil, adding that Washington has the ability to swiftly increase tariffs on Indian goods. Trump made comments while speaking to reporters on Sunday aboard Air Force One as he travelled from



PM Narendra Modi with US Prez Donald Trump. FILE

Florida to Washington DC. "They wanted to make me happy, basically. Modi is a very good man; he is a good guy. He knew I was not happy, and it was important to make me happy. They do trade and we can raise tariffs on them very quickly. It would be very bad for them," he said.

IN BRIEF

India issues advisory for Iran, urges citizens to avoid travelling

New Delhi/Tehran: Amid violent protests in Iran, India on Monday issued advisory urging its citizens to avoid the non-essential travel to the Tehran. According to the advisory, the nationals are advised to avoid non-essential travel to Iran until further notice.



US VP JD Vance's home attacked in Ohio, 1 held
Washington: A probe has been launched by the law enforcement authorities in Ohio after local reports suggested that an incident has occurred at the residence of US Vice President JD Vance. One person has reportedly been taken into police custody. P7

'Ghanta' remark enters MP gov records, SDM and typist suspended

Bhopal: In an embarrassing turn of events for the Madhya Pradesh administration, a routine government order that mentioned a controversial remark by Cabinet Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has led to suspension of Dewas SDM Anand Malviya with his typist.

Maduro pleads 'not guilty' to all four charges in NY court

First India Bureau
New York

Deposed Venezuela leader Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores have pleaded not guilty to all the four charges during a court hearing in New York on Monday. "I am innocent, I am not guilty, I was kidnapped, I am decent man, president of my country," Maduro told judge Alvin Hellerstein in court during the hearing. Maduro's lawyer says his client is not seeking to be released on bail, but he may at later time, sources said. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for March 17, 2026. P7



Nicolas Maduro and his wife reach New York on Monday.

Gas leak, fire at ONGC oil well triggers mass evacuation in Andhra village

First India Bureau
Konaseema

A major gas leak from an operational ONGC oil well caused widespread panic in a village in Andhra Pradesh's Konaseema district. The oil well is located in Iru-sumanda village of Konaseema's Razole area. The incident occurred while repair works were underway using a workover rig after the well had



Smoke, flames billow after a gas pipeline leak at a well, in Ambedkar Konaseema district.

temporarily halted production. During the repairs, a powerful blowout released a massive volume of gas mixed with crude oil, which shot high into the air. As a precaution, authorities warned residents of three nearby villages via loudspeakers to avoid using electricity or lighting stoves. Panchayat and district officials urged immediate evacuation, prompting villagers to flee their homes and move cattle to safer areas amid tense conditions.

5th in 3 weeks! Hindu journo killed in Dhaka

First India Bureau
Dhaka

A Hindu business owner, who was the acting editor of a newspaper, was shot dead in Bangladesh by unknown assailants on Monday in the Jashore's Manirampur district in one of nearly half a dozen such incidents that have come to light following unrest that began after student leader Hadi was killed. As per report by Bangla-language daily Prothom Alo, Rana Pratap Bairagi, 45, was shot dead by miscreants.

HINDU WIDOW RAPED IN BANGLADESH, 2 HELD

40-year-old Hindu woman has allegedly been gang-raped by two men, who also tied her to a tree and cut off her hair in central Kaliganj, Bangladesh. Two local men have been held, police said.

IPL TELECAST BANNED INDEFINITELY IN B'DESH

The Bangladesh government has indefinitely banned the broadcast of IPL in country in response to the controversy surrounding Mustafizur Rahman's unpleasant exit from the 2026 season.

MP CM GRACES RAJASTHAN DigiFest TIE GLOBAL SUMMIT 2026

Cooperation between neighbouring states is very essential for development: MP CM Mohan Yadav

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav met at the CMR on Monday. This was a courtesy call on CM Sharma. Yadav was in the city to attend the Rajasthan DigiFest TIE Global Summit-2026. Addressing a session titled 'Destination Mad-



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav calls on Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at CMR, in Jaipur, on Monday.

Talks with CM Bhajan Lal Sharma helped resolve long-pending issues related to water allocation for development & industry, says MP CM Yadav

Madhya Pradesh: India's Next Platform for Scalable Tech and Innovation' during the Summit, Yadav said consensus has been reached between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on water sharing, asserting that cooperation between neighbouring states is essential for development. Yadav said discussions

with Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma helped resolve long-pending issues related to water allocation for development and industry. "If Rajasthan gets water and its future will also improve. Madhya Pradesh is willing to offer even more than the earlier proposed share," Sharma said. P8

76 FIRs, 512 vehicles seized, ₹2.88 cr fine collected across Raj

Jaipur leads illegal mining seizures in statewide ops

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

In the campaign against illegal mining, 76 FIRs have been registered and 17 individuals have been arrested in more than 552 actions in the last seven days. Besides, 512 vehicles, including 25 excavators, JCBs and cranes have been seized and a fine of more than Rs 2.88 crore has been collected.

Mining Engineer Jaipur Shyam Kapri on Monday seized two dumpers in Chaksu, three tractor trolleys of masonry stone near Daulatpura and three in Hath-



Among the ME offices, Jaipur has the highest number of seizures (over 65).

noda Samod. Jaipur recorded the highest seizures with over 65 actions, followed by Bhilwara 61, Ajmer 36, Pali 32, Beawar 28, and Uda-

pur and Tonk 23 each. Principal Secretary Mines T Ravikant reviewed progress and warned against laxity. Kapri's team registered

eight FIRs and recovered over Rs 50 lakh. Alwar, Tonk and Bhilwara also saw major seizures during the ongoing statewide drive.

Mining engineer dismissed over ₹274 crore loss!

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan government has dismissed the then-mining engineer Anil Khimesra from service in connection with an illegal mining case that allegedly caused a revenue loss of Rs 274 crore to the state exchequer.

Despite issuance of notices, neither demand was raised nor were the leases cancelled, resulting in substantial financial loss to government.

An inquiry confirmed continuous negligence during his tenure. The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) also concurred with the state government's deci-

Khimesra, who was posted in Sikar between 2010-2013, was found guilty of serious irregularities related to two mining leases, including the illegal dispatch of minerals without transit permits

sion to dismiss him. The dismissal was carried out through an order issued by the Governor.

The case has triggered debate within administrative circles, with questions being raised over why other officers facing similar allegations continue to remain in service.



Mining department officials under scanner over lease extension irregularities

Serious questions have been raised over the role of mines dept officials in extending the non-dise period of mining leases. Over the past 1.5 yrs, approvals were allegedly granted at directorate level without informing the state govt, despite rules mandating govt clearance. The non-dise period, limited to 3 years, applies when leases remain closed due to court cases or operational hurdles. Officials allegedly approved extensions even where violations warranted cancellation, enabling leaseholders to gain while the state lost potential re-auction revenue.

BJP leaders share humorous exchange

A light moment was witnessed when two members of the BJP core committee met each other. One senior leader remarked to another prominent leader, "Gentlemen, you are in black." In response, the other leader said, "You are also in black." Both leaders were wearing black outfits. The coincidence led to an exchange of humorous remarks between the two leaders.

Big boost for BJP's state gen secy

A BJP state general secretary appeared upbeat on Monday after accompanying national general secy B L Santhosh during his departure from Jaipur. The opportunity was facilitated by state prez Madan Rathore. The leader travelled with Santhosh from the party hq to airport, marking his first such interaction. He introduced himself during the drive, and aides said the experience boosted his confidence.

Six killed, over 14 injured in separate road mishaps

First India Bureau
Jalore

Three people, including an elderly couple, were killed while 12 passengers were injured when a private sleeper bus overturned after hitting a tree in Jalore, police said.

The accident occurred on Sunday night when the bus was on its way from Sanchole to Karauli. The bus was moving at a high speed when it hit a tree and overturned, they said.



In a separate incident in Sikar district, three people were killed and two others injured after a collision between a car and a passenger vehicle on Reengus-"Khatushyamji road in early hours of Monday.

ACB arrests Discom technician while accepting ₹1.45 Lakh bribe in Bikaner

First India Bureau
Bikaner

ACB outpost Churu unit carried out an operation on Monday and arrested Vinod Kumar, a technician posted at the Jodhpur Discom sub-division, Upni headquarters, Shri Dungargarh, Bikaner district, while he was accepting a bribe of Rs 1,45,000 from the complainant. The bribe was



Vinod Kumar

recovered from the pocket of the trousers worn by accused.

Technician Vinod Kumar allegedly demanded

Bribe was demanded for a change of name in an agri electricity connection in the complainant's father's name and to reduce the penalty

a bribe to facilitate a name change in an agricultural electricity connection in the complainant's father's name and to

reduce a VCR penalty. After repeatedly pressuring the complainant, he accepted Rs 1,45,000 on January 5, 2026, at the Discom sub-division office in Shri Dungargarh.

A trap was laid the same day and Vinod Kumar was caught red-handed with the bribe money. Further investigation is underway under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

State orders quality audit for urban works above ₹50 Lakh

The quality of ongoing urban development works will now undergo strict inspection across cities. Senior engineers will conduct divisional-level checks in urban local bodies from January 1 to March 31. Orders have been issued to additional chief engineers and senior engineers of major municipal corporations. Continuous inspections, material sampling and weekly reports are mandatory. Quality audits will cover projects costing over Rs 50 lakh, including works under schemes announced in state budget during current financial year.

Seva Dal key to party's strength: Jyoti

Congress Seva Dal meeting at PCC focuses on training and discipline

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan Congress Seva Dal meeting was held on Monday at the PCC office. Incharge Jyoti Khanna and Govind Bhai Patel reviewed and took feedback on the activities of the organization. State President Hem Singh Shekhawat also attended the meeting.

Leader of Opposition, Tika Ram Jyoti, who also attended the meeting said there were meaningful discussions on various important topics, including strengthening the organization, discipline, training, the role of the Young Brigade and the Seva Dal membership drive. "Congress Seva



LOP Tika Ram Jyoti, MLA Rafeek Khan, State President Congress Sevadal Hem Singh Shekhawat, Jyoti Khanna, Govind Bhai Patel and others during the meeting in Jaipur on Monday.

Dal is not just an organization but the soul of the Congress. It is a symbol of that glorious tradition of service, dedication, discipline and struggle, which has worked selflessly for the party and

the country in every difficult period. Even today, every worker of Seva Dal acts as a backbone of the organization and promotes the party's ideology among the people," Tika Ram Jyoti said.

Civil groups rally against the Unlawful Religious Conversion Act in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A rally and protest were held in the state capital on Monday against provisions of the Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Act, 2025, which participants described as unconstitutional and oppressive. Hundreds from over a dozen social, religious, human rights and civil organisations joined the demonstration at the call of Joint Social Platform, with activists, youth and women participating.

The rally began from Shaheed Smarak and passed through MI Road, GPO Circle, Jalupura and Sansar Chandra Road before returning to Shaheed Smarak, where a public



The rally began from Shaheed Smarak in Jaipur on Monday.

meeting was held. Protesters carried placards and raised slogans demanding withdrawal of the Act and protection of religious freedom. After the meeting, a memorandum addressed to the President was submitted through the Governor and the Chief Minister.

Speakers at the meeting criticised the law as violating the Constitution's basic structure.

Winter holidays extended for pre-primary to class 8

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Due to the cold wave, most of the district collectors including Jaipur have extended the winter break by two more days. Jaipur District Collector Jitendra Soni on Monday issued orders for holidays in schools from pre-primary to 8th grade.

Holidays will be observed until January 10 for pre-primary to 5th grade and until January 8 for grades 6 to 8. The holidays on the said dates will be applicable only to students, and all teaching and non-teaching staff will ensure their presence at the school. Examinations will also be conducted as scheduled.

Farmers getting daytime power in 22 Raj districts: Energy Minister Nagar

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar held a workers' hearing at the BJP state office in Jaipur on Monday. Addressing the media, he said the purpose of the hearing is to ensure prompt and effective resolution of the problems of party workers and the general public.

Nagar said that 75 cases related to transport, energy and self-governance departments were raised during the hearing and most of them were resolved. The remaining cases have been forwarded to the relevant departments. He clarified that serious action should be taken at the departmental level to ensure that the



Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar

cases resolved today do not come up for hearing again.

Nagar stated that the Bhajan Lal government has improved the power scenario in the state. "Farmers in 22 districts across the state are receiving electricity throughout the day. Our goal is to ensure 100% daytime power supply to farmers, with no power cuts," he said.

TRANSPARENCY, FASTER CITIZEN SERVICES

Launch e-public hearing at the earliest: JDC

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Jaipur Development Commissioner Siddharth Mahajan made several important decisions to strengthen services provided to citizens and ensure administrative transparency during a review meeting held in the JDA's Manthan auditorium on Monday.

JDC Mahajan urged the immediate launch of the e-public hearing service. Under this, people will no longer need to



JDC Siddharth Mahajan addressing the review meeting at JDA's Manthan auditorium on Monday.

visit the JDA office to address their complaints. Complainants will be sent a link via SMS or WhatsApp, allowing

them to connect and communicate online with relevant JDA officials. Mahajan instructed officials that the objective

was not merely to reduce pendency to zero but to ensure quality disposal of cases. He directed that leasehold, title transfer, lease release certificates and subdivision matters received through the Citizen Service Center be resolved within stipulated time lines. Retired administrative officers and senior officials will audit cases disposed of in the last three months. To streamline processes, complaints must go directly to zone deputy commissioners or cell in-charges thereafter.

TEAM TO VISIT GUJ FOR LAND POOLING SCHEME

JDC Siddharth Mahajan has directed a high-level team of JDA officials to undertake an official visit to Gujarat to speed up the state's first land pooling scheme. This team will conduct an on-ground study of the land pooling schemes currently operating successfully in Gujarat. The team will gather detailed information on the process followed by the High Court of Gujarat in resolving land pooling cases, so that legal hurdles facing Jaipur's scheme can be resolved expeditiously.

First Pushya Nakshatra of 2026



The first Pushya Nakshatra of the New Year was observed on Monday with special religious fervour at the Ganesh Mandir in Moti Dungri. Lord Ganesha was ceremonially bathed with pancharmit by Mahant Kailash Sharma and adorned in a sindoori attire. Mahant also blessed devotees with sindoor.

SUNIL SHARMA



Ahead of Army Day Cardiac, orthopaedic, diagnostic services under one roof

Medical camp for ex-servicemen held at Military Hospital in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

As part of the lead-up to Army Day celebrations, Military Hospital, Jaipur organised a two-day Mega Medical Camp for ex-servicemen and their families on January 5 and 6, 2026. The camp was inaugurated by Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari in the presence of senior military and civil officials.

The initiative aimed to provide comprehensive, free medical care to veterans and marked a significant step towards addressing their long-term healthcare needs. The camp offered integrated services, including a Bone and Joint Wellness Clinic with on-the-spot X-ray and bone mineral density testing, consultations by orthopaedic specialists, and personalised physiotherapy with live exercise demonstrations. Cardiac care services were also provided through cardiologist consultations, supported by on-site ECG and ECHO facilities, along with same-day availability of prescribed medicines.

Addressing the gathering, Army Commander Sapta Shakti Command, Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, stated that



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari inaugurates two-day Mega Medical Camp for ex-servicemen and their families at Military Hospital, Jaipur, on Monday. Lt Gen Manjinder Singh and Sapta Shakti AWWA Regional President Barinderjit Kaur are also present.



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari takes a selfie with one of the beneficiaries at Military Hospital, Jaipur, on Monday.



Army missile vehicle showcases strength and readiness during Army Day parade rehearsal at Jagatpura in Jaipur, on Monday.



Army soldier demonstrates robotic dog technology during Army Day parade rehearsal in Jaipur, on Monday. **© MUKESH KIRODOO**

The Command has nearly 3.7 lakh ex-servicemen and 7.3 lakh dependents, with around 31,000 cardiac and nearly 16,000 orthopaedic patients. He said the camp was designed to

meet these specific healthcare requirements. He also highlighted earlier initiatives by Military Hospital Jaipur, including a mega cataract surgery camp and the establish-

ment of a cardiac lab.

The camp functioned as a one-stop centre for diagnostics, medical advice and health guidance, while also encouraging veterans to maintain an active and

healthy lifestyle. Military Hospital Jaipur reiterated its commitment to the welfare of serving and retired personnel through such community-focused healthcare initiatives.

RSHRC takes suo motu action after dog attacks in Jodhpur, Bikaner

First India Bureau
Jodhpur

The Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (RSHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of dog attacks on a 9-year-old boy in Nehru Colony, Jodhpur, and the killing of 15 sheep and goats in Pugal, Bikaner. Notices have been issued to District Collectors and Municipal Commissioners to submit compliance reports by January 30.

Chairman Justice GR Moolchandani directed authorities to ensure stray dogs are controlled, provide compensation to victims, set up animal shelters, and ensure availability of anti-rabies vaccines in government and private hospitals.

HC refuses to quash FIR against filmmaker Vikram Bhatt, others in ₹30 cr fraud case

First India Bureau
Jodhpur

Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt

The Jodhpur bench of the Rajasthan High Court has dismissed a petition seeking to quash an FIR registered in Udaipur against Bollywood filmmaker Vikram Bhatt and his associates in a Rs 30 crore fraud case. Justice Sameer Jain held that the matter appeared prima facie to involve financial embezzlement and not merely a breach of contract, allowing the police investigation to continue.

The FIR was lodged by Udaipur resident Dr Ajay Murdia against Bhatt, his wife Shwetambari Bhatt and others, alleging misappropriation of funds collected for a film project. The petitioners argued that the

dispute was civil in nature, stating that one film under the agreement had been completed.

However, the court noted that the first instalment of Rs 2.50 crore was allegedly diverted to other accounts. It observed elements of dishonesty, lack of transparency, fake invoices and concealment of facts, and declined to interfere in the case.

SC DISMISSES PLEA ON AJMER DARGAH CHADAR OFFERING

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has dismissed a petition challenging the state-sponsored ritual of offering chadar at the Ajmer Dargah Sharif. The court found the demands raised in the plea to be unjustified. The petitioners had argued that the ceremonial offering amounted to symbolic recognition and was unconstitutional, arbitrary and contrary to the constitutional values, dignity and sovereignty of India. The apex court rejected the contentions and declined to interfere in the long-standing practice.

SC CLEARS WAY FOR PANCHAYAT POLLS IN RAJASTHAN

Jaipur/New Delhi: The Supreme Court has refused to interfere in Rajasthan's panchayat delimitation and reorganisation process, giving major relief to the State Government and ensuring elections can proceed as scheduled. The apex court dismissed a special leave petition filed by residents of Singhania and other villages challenging the delimitation exercise, upholding the November 14, 2025, High Court judgment that validated the statewide process. The bench, comprising the Chief Justice of India and Justice Joyimala Bagchi, stated that judicial intervention was not warranted at this stage. Panchayat elections are now set to be completed by April 15, 2026.

HC lawyers boycott work over 2 working Saturdays

First India Bureau
Jaipur/Jodhpur

Lawyers of the Jaipur and Jodhpur benches of the Rajasthan High Court boycotted work on Monday to protest the decision to hold two working Saturdays every month and night courts.

Bar Associations, led by President Rajiv Sogarwal and other office bearers, demanded reconsideration, citing adverse effects on advocates' mental health and family life.



Lawyers, staff hold sit-in at Jodhpur High Court premises, on Monday.

Diya reviews tourism projects, inaugurates ration plant in Jaipur



Deputy CM Diya Kumari reviews tourism projects, heritage conservation, and other works at State Secretariat, on Monday.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari on Monday reviewed the progress of various tourism projects across Rajasthan, focusing on heritage conservation, infrastructure strengthening, and making the state a more attractive destination. The meeting aimed to boost employment and economic activity through tourism.

Diya also inaugurated a 'Take Home Ration' (THR) plant in Jaipur,

which produces three tons of nutritious food per shift for children and mothers under ICDS standards. She praised the role of women, Anganwadi workers, and self-help groups, highlighting the initiative's contribution to women's empowerment, skill development, and building a healthier generation in Rajasthan.

So far, nearly 2,000 mt of THR have been produced and distributed to children and mothers through Anganwadi centers in the Jaipur region.

STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND UK

Speaker Devnani, Dy CM Diya meet British MP

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari met British Member of Parliament and Padma Shri awardee Bob Blackman in Jaipur on Monday. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations between India and the United Kingdom, with special emphasis on the historical and cultural ties between Rajasthan and Britain.

Discussions were also



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani felicitates British MP Bob Blackman at the State Assembly premises in Jaipur. LoP Tika Ram Jolly is also seen.



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari with British Member of Parliament Bob Blackman in Jaipur.

held on education reforms, academic exchange programmes and expanding cooperation between educational in-

stitutions in Rajasthan and the UK. Both sides explored new avenues for future collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

Blackman, a known supporter of India in the British Parliament, met Devnani at the Assembly premises. The interaction

was seen as an important step towards enhancing parliamentary dialogue, democratic values and mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Former Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, LoP Tika Ram Jolly, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel, Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg, Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf, Kapasan MLA Arjunlal Jingar, Adarsh Nagar MLA Raifeek Khan and Assembly Principal Secretary Bharat Bhushan Sharma were present during the meet.

CM Sharma to inaugurate 2-day Police Conference on Thursday

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A two-day state-level conference of senior Rajasthan Police officers will be held in Jaipur on January 8 and 9, following the recently concluded DG-IG conference in Raipur. The event aims to discuss decisions taken at the national level for effective implementation within the state.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will inaugurate the conference and provide guidance on strengthening the police system, improving law and order,



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

and enhancing public confidence in security.

Officers from the Director General of Police to the Additional Superintendent of Police level will participate in the conference. Inspectors General of Police from all ranges and Superin-

tendents of Police from all districts will attend the conference, which aims to make the Rajasthan Police's operations more modern, technologically advanced and people-centric.

The RPA event will have 10 different sessions on the first day. There will be a special session on cyber crime. Other topics to be discussed include, strengthening police stations, policing roadmap and counter terrorism, women's safety, mass movements and forensic capabilities and disaster management.

COLD WAVE, DENSE FOG TO PERSIST IN NORTH INDIA TILL JANUARY 11

Railways utilises over 80% of FY26 GBS by December

Akshay Rai
New Delhi

enhancement, infrastructure modernization, & passenger amenities.

Indian Railways is delivering faster, safer, and world-class rail travel at affordable cost across India by transforming itself into a future-ready organisation aligned with the vision of a modern and connected nation. Demonstrating this focused approach, Indian Railways has maintained a strong trend in the utilization of allocated Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) outlays for 2025-26.

As of the end of December 2025, Indian Railways has spent 80.54 per cent, i.e., Rs 2,03,138 crore of the total GBS of Rs 2,52,200 crore. This represents a 6.54 per cent increase in GBS utilization compared to the same period last year (Dec 2024). The expenditure has primarily focused on safety measures, capacity

In the category of safety-related works, 84 per cent of the allocated funds have been utilized. For capacity augmentation, out of Rs 1,09,238 crore allocated, Rs 76,048 crore (69 per cent) has been expended. Customer amenities have seen 80% utilization, with expenditure amounting to Rs 9,575 crore till December 2025.

Consistent capital expenditure over the past decade has delivered visible outcomes for Indian Railways, including 164 Vande Bharat and 30 Amrit Bharat train services, near-complete electrification of the broad-gauge network, the rollout of the Kavach safety system, and major investments in new lines, track doubling, PSUs & metro transport.



A man sits near a bonfire to keep warm on a cold winter morning, in New Delhi, Monday.



A commuter moves through dense fog on a winter morning, in Ranchi, Monday.

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Cold wave and dense fog conditions are set to persist across large parts of north, central and eastern India over the coming days. The minimum temperatures are expected to fall further in several regions, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The weather office said there would be no significant change in minimum temperatures over northwest India over the next two days, followed by a gradual decline of 2-3 degrees Celsius during the subsequent two days. Temper-

BHADERWAH WITNESSES SURGE IN TOURIST FOOTFALL

→ Srinagar: A thin layer of fog covered Srinagar on Monday morning as a cold wave continued to grip the Kashmir Valley, reducing visibility across the city. The iconic Dal Lake was shrouded in mist, and chilly weather conditions prevailed throughout the region. Despite the cold, tourists were seen exploring the city and enjoying the winter atmosphere. Sharing her experience, a tourist said the scenic beauty of Srinagar remained captivating despite the cold.

DELHI WAKES UP TO LAYER OF FOG AS AQI REMAINS IN 'POOR'

→ New Delhi: Several Indian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai and Guwahati, woke up to a layer of fog on Monday morning. Air quality varied from 'poor' to very 'poor' category across several parts of the national capital, while several flights were delayed at the IGI Airport. Chandni Chowk remained one of the worst-affected areas, recording an AQI of 337 under the 'very poor' category. The reduced visibility due to fog and smog disrupted flight operations at Delhi's IGI Airport.

COLDWAVE GRIPS JHARKHAND, GUMLA AT 3.4 DEGREES CELSIUS

→ Ranchi: Coldwave conditions gripped parts of Jharkhand on Monday as the mercury dropped below 10 degrees Celsius in 10 districts of the state, the IMD said. Lohardaga recorded the lowest temperature in the state at 3.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Gumla at 4.1 degrees Celsius. Ranchi Meteorological Centre's Deputy Director Abhishek Anand said, "North-westerly winds prevailing in the lower tropospheric levels have caused the drop in mercury."

pected to remain steady. No significant change in minimum temperatures is forecast for the remaining parts of the country.

The IMD has issued a series of dense fog warnings, with northern states likely to be the worst affected. Dense to very dense fog is very likely to continue during night and morning hours at some places over Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh till January 7, and over east Uttar Pradesh till January 8.

Isolated dense fog conditions are expected over west Uttar Pradesh till January 5, and over Madhya Pradesh and Odisha till January 6.

atures are likely to stabilise thereafter. In central and eastern India, minimum temperatures are expected to fall gradually by 2-4 degrees Celsius

over the next three days, with no major change anticipated over the following four days.

Over Maharashtra, minimum temperatures

are likely to remain largely unchanged over the next 24 hours before declining by 2-3 degrees Celsius during the subsequent four days. In con-

trast, Gujarat may see a gradual rise of 2-3 degrees Celsius in night temperatures over the next five days, after which conditions are ex-

Court sends Ahmed Dar to judicial custody



Delhi blast case accused Yasir Ahmed Dar being taken from Patiala House Court, in New Delhi on Monday.

PTI
New Delhi

A court here on Monday sent Yasir Ahmed Dar, an accused in the Red Fort blast case, to 11-day judicial custody. Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra sent Dar to the judicial custody till Jan 16 after he was physically produced in the court.

On December 26 last

year, the court had extended Dar's NIA custody for 10 days. The National Investigating Agency had on December 18 arrested Dar, the ninth accused in the case. According to NIA, Dar, a resident of J&K, was a close associate of Umar-un-Nabi, the suicide bomber who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10.

Mamata to move court against SIR today

PTI
Gangasagar

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced that the state govt will move court against the Election Commission's SIR of electoral rolls, alleging harassment, arbitrariness and lack of transparency in the process. She claimed the exercise had caused fear among people and led to deaths and hospitalisations. Speaking at a government programme at Sagar Island, Banerjee alleged that opaque digital tools, including AI, were being used to arbitrarily delete voters' names, undermining democracy. The BJP hit back, saying Banerjee was trying to shield "infiltrators" who form her vote bank.

BJP MLA Rajeshwar Singh distributes 10,000 blankets

First India Bureau
Lucknow



BJP MLA Dr. Rajeshwar Singh launched a large-scale blanket distribution drive at his Ashiyana residence on Monday.

Amid biting cold conditions, a wave of warmth and public service was witnessed in the Sarojini Nagar constituency. On Monday, BJP MLA Dr. Rajeshwar Singh launched a large-scale blanket distribution drive at his Ashiyana residence. During the programme, 10,000 blankets were handed over to more than 150 party office-bearers, workers from all six mandals, and eminent members of society, who will further distribute them among the needy in the area.

Notably, Dr. Rajeshwar Singh has been conducting this annual winter initiative consistently. This year alone, over 25,000

blankets have already been distributed. The campaign uniquely involves party workers, Tara Shakti Kendra operators and socially conscious citizens, giving it the shape of a mass movement.

The MLA reaffirmed his resolve to ensure that

no person at the lowest rung of society feels helpless during the harsh winter. A party workers' interaction programme was also held to address public grievances. On the occasion, meritorious student Pallavi Gautam from Sarenaya, Chandrawal was honoured with a laptop.

Delhi HC refuses to stay trial against Lalu Yadav

PTI
New Delhi



The Delhi HC on Monday refused to stay for now the trial against RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav, & asked the CBI to file its response to his plea challenging an order framing charges against him in the alleged IRCTC scam case. Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma said it cannot pass an order on the stay application without hearing or going through the reply of the probe agency.

The court issued notice to the CBI on Yadav's petition and stay application, and listed the matter for further hearing on Jan 14. It also called for the trial court record of the case. During the brief hearing, senior advocates

Kapil Sibal and Maninder Singh, representing Lalu Yadav, said they are seeking stay on the trial court proceedings and two witnesses have been examined in a month. The HC said it will consider the stay application on January 14 after the CBI files its reply. "Let them file a reply. You should have come earlier, you didn't come. The trial court order was passed earlier," Justice Sharma said.

FIRST INDIGENOUS POLLUTION CONTROL VESSEL

Singh commissions ICG's 'Samudra Pratap'

PTI
Panaji

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) first indigenously designed and built pollution control vessel 'Samudra Pratap' in Goa on Monday.

The 114.5-metre vessel, built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), has over 60 per cent of indigenous content. The 4,200-tonne vessel boasts a speed of more than 22 knots and an endurance



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, during the Commissioning Ceremony of Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Pratap, India's first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited, on Monday. Goa CM Pramod Sawant also present.

of 6,000 nautical miles, officials said.

It will serve as a critical platform for enforcing

marine pollution control regulations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and safeguarding India's Exclusive Economic Zone.

As the largest and most advanced pollution control vessel built in India, Samudra Pratap stands as a testament to the nation's shipbuilding excellence and long-term vision for a cleaner, safer, and self-reliant maritime future, the ICG said in a statement.

The vessel was formally delivered in December to the Coast Guard at GSL.

Defence Minister Singh on Monday commissioned the ship at GSL, Vasco, in South Goa.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani were present on the occasion.

Singh said this occasion is connected to India's great maritime vision.

"India believes that marine resources are not the property of any one country; they are the shared heritage of humanity," he said.

A New Wave of Agniveers



The Passing Out Parade of the 02/25 batch will be held at INS Chilka on 8 January 2026, marking 16 weeks of training for 2,700 trainees, including Agniveers. VAdm Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command, will be the Chief Guest.

Crisis looms ahead Calls for dialogue, condemns unilateral use of force

UN: Venezuela instability could worsen after Maduro capture

Agencies

United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday voiced concerns over potential instability in Venezuela following the U.S. capture of President Nicolas Maduro. The 15-member Security Council convened in New York just hours before Maduro was due in a Manhattan federal court on drug and narco-terrorism conspiracy charges, which he denies. "I am deeply concerned about possible intensification of instability, regional impact, and the precedent it may set for state relations," Guterres said, delivered by U.N. political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo. He urged all Venezuelan actors to pursue inclusive, democratic dialogue and welcomed efforts supporting a peaceful resolution. Guterres also criticized the U.S. operation in Caracas as disregarding international law. Colombia, which requested the meeting, condemned the action as violating Venezuela's sovereignty calling unilateral use of force "a serious violation of international law and the U.N. Charter."



UN Security Council meets in New York, discussing Venezuela's instability, calling for democratic talk after US capture of Maduro.

'US WON'T GOVERN VENEZUELA BUT WILL PRESS FOR CHANGES'

Washington: Secretary of State Marco Rubio suggested Sunday that the United States would not govern Venezuela day-to-day other than enforcing an existing "oil quarantine" on the country, a turnaround after President Donald Trump has insisted that the US would be running Venezuela following its ouster of leader Nicolás Maduro. Rubio's statements seemed designed to temper concerns that the assertive action to achieve regime change in Venezuela might lead the US into another prolonged foreign intervention.

UKRAINE DIDN'T TARGET PUTIN RESIDENCE IN DRONE STRIKE AS KREMLIN CLAIMS: TRUMP



President Trump on Sunday said that US officials have determined that Ukraine did not target a residence belonging to Prez Vladimir Putin in a drone attack last week, disputing Kremlin claims that Trump had initially greeted with deep concern. Russian Foreign Minister last week said Ukraine launched a wave of drones at Putin's state residence.

'VENEZUELA'S VP COULD FACE FATE WORSE THAN MADURO IF SHE RESISTS THE US'

Washington: US President Donald Trump told on Sunday in a telephone interview that Delcy Rodríguez, Venezuela's vice president, could "pay a very big price" if she doesn't do what he thinks is right for Venezuela. That contrasted with Trump's comments about Rodríguez on Saturday when he said Marco Rubio had spoken with her and that she was willing to do what the US thinks is needed.

OIL PRICES FALL BACK AFTER US CAPTURE OF VENEZUELAN LEADER

Bangkok: Oil prices fell back Monday while the prices of precious metals surged as markets reacted calmly to the US capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in a weekend raid. Asian shares rallied on heavy buying of tech-related stocks after modest gains on Friday on Wall Street. The future for the S&P 500 was up 0.2% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was virtually unchanged. In early European trading, Germany's DAX was up 0.8% at 24,728.94, while the CAC 40 in Paris picked up 0.3%.

JD Vance's residence targeted overnight

Gunfire at US Vice Prez's home; suspect arrested

Agencies

Washington

US vice president JD Vance's home in Cincinnati was attacked at night, with several windows smashed, prompting a response from the secret service and local police. Secret service agents rushed to the East Walnut Hills residence in the early hours of Monday, and a suspect has been taken into custody, though authorities have not confirmed whether charges have been filed. Police told local outlet WCPO that the suspect was detained, but provided no further details. The Vance family, an



Secret Service & local police respond to nighttime attack at US Vice Prez Vance's Cincinnati home; suspect taken into custody.

official said, was not home at the time of the incident, and authorities do not believe the person entered the vice president's home, according to preliminary inquiry,

reported to media.

Last week Vance did not join Trump and other senior administration officials at Mar-a-Lago to watch the America's operation in Venezuela.

FI TOON



France cuts 15% flights amid Paris heavy snowfalls

Agencies

Paris

France's civil aviation authority on Monday asked airlines to cancel 15% of flights until later in the evening at Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports following heavy snowfalls in the capital city of Paris. The airlines are free to choose which flights they cancel so long as they reduce the number of takeoffs and landings, a spokesperson told media in Paris.

Canadian ex-Dy PM appointed as economic adviser of Ukraine

Agencies

KYIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday he had appointed Canada's former deputy prime minister **Chrystia Freeland** as his economic development adviser, citing her experience in attracting investment.

"Right now, Ukraine needs to strengthen its internal resilience – both for sake of Ukraine's recovery if diplomacy delivers results as swiftly as possible, and to reinforce our defence if, because of delays by our partners, it takes longer to bring this war to an end," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

Bhomia Sangh claims ownership of Rajput Hostel, presents records

First India Bureau
Jaipur

At a press conference held in Jaipur on Monday, Jagendra Singh, secretary of the Amarsarwati-Torawati Bhomia Sangh, presented detailed historical records and official documents to assert the Sangh's ownership and management rights over the Rajput Boarding House, also known as the Rajput Hostel, located on Station Road.

Addressing the media, Jagendra Singh stated that during the period of the erstwhile Jaipur princely state, the excise rights of Rajputs from the Amarsarwati Torawati Bhomia Sangh region were withdrawn. In lieu

of these rights, the Rajput Boarding House was allotted to the Bhomia Sangh. He said that from 1934, the hostel was operated by the Sangh at Vijay Kunj on Gopal Ji Ka Rasta. In 1942, on the orders of the Prime Minister of the Jaipur State, the hostel was shifted to Majisa Dharamshala on Station Road, which remains its current location.

He stated that Bhomia Sangh, registered under the Indian Registration Act in 1957, legally owns the Rajput Boarding House and Hostel. A Rajasthan government cabinet order dated 2 December 1958 paid compensation through the excise department, confirming Sangh's ownership.

'Don't play games': US issues firm, unequivocal warning to Iran

Trump threatened against Iranian security forces against protesters

Agencies

Washington

The US State Department issued an unusual warning to Iran's leadership as nationwide unrest escalates, posting a sharply worded Persian-language message emphasizing President Donald Trump's willingness to act. "President Trump is a man of action. Don't mess with President Trump," the post stated. Trump also threatened intervention if Iranian security forces use deadly force against protesters, who are demonstrating amid soaring inflation, currency collapse, and



growing civil disobedience—the largest unrest since 2022. "If Iran violently kills peaceful protesters, the United States will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded," he wrote. Videos show crowds chanting "Death to Khamenei!" and clashing with security forces. While Trump did not specify actions,

US has previously imposed sanctions against Iranian nuclear facilities. However, in June, Trump ordered airstrikes against Iranian nuclear facilities. Videos circulating online show demonstrators chanting slogans such as "Death to the Dictator" and "Death to Khamenei" while clashing with security forces.

'Bullying': Xi angry over Maduro capture; takes veiled shot at US

Agencies

Beijing

Chinese Premier Xi Jinping on Monday criticised "unilateral and bullying acts" in global affairs, urging major powers to respect international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. His remarks came after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was arrested by US forces.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin in Beijing, according to state-run Xinhua. His comments came amid mounting international reactions to Washington's pre-dawn military operation in Venezuela over



Chinese Premier Xi Jinping

the weekend.

"All countries should respect the development paths chosen by the peoples of other nations, and fully abide by international law, as well as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, with major countries actively taking the lead in doing so and setting a positive example," Xi said.

GLOBAL WATCH INTENSIFIES

North Korea runs Hypersonic Missile test

Agencies

Seoul

North Korea said Monday that leader Kim Jong Un observed test-flights of hypersonic missiles and underscored the need to bolster the country's nuclear war deterrent, as the country displays up weapons displays ahead of its major political conference.

North Korea reported on the drill a day after its neighbours said they detected multiple ballistic missile launches and ac-



North Korea's Kim Jong Un personally oversees hypersonic missile test, warns of 'geopolitical crisis' escalating rapidly.

North Korea reported on the drill a day after its neighbours said they detected multiple ballistic missile launches and accused the North. The tests came just hours before South Korean President departed for China for a summit

said Sunday's drill involving a hypersonic weapon system was meant to examine its readiness, enhance mis-

sile troops' firepower operational skills and evaluate operational capabilities of the country's war deterrent.

"Through today's launching drill, we can confirm that a very important technology task for national defense has been carried out," Kim said. "We must continuously upgrade the military means." The possession of a functioning hypersonic weapon would give North Korea an ability to penetrate the US and South Korea's missile defense shields.

Root and Head's batting mastery highlights Day 2 of 5th Ashes test

Agencies

Sydney

Joe Root made his second hundred of the series, while Travis Head closed in on his third, as Day 2 of the final Ashes test between Australia and England closed evenly poised on Monday. England was bowled out just before tea for 384 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, with Joe Root leading with a masterful 160 for his best test score in the country from his four Ashes tours.

At stumps, Australia was 166-2 in reply in its



Joe Root scores 160 as Travis Head nears century, Ashes Test evenly poised at stumps in Sydney on Monday.

first innings, with Travis Head again in imperious form as he slashed his way to 91 not out from 87 balls and nearing his

third hundred of the five-match series. Ben Stokes had both wickets for the tourists, which struggled to stem the flow of runs.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY
Hope lights the horizon when
the year turns its page.

DR JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit - 2026

Marwaris excel at converting challenges into opportunities, says Dr Mohan Yadav

• DigiFest is providing the state's startups and innovations a global platform, says Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa

• Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani and former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag also attend the TiE Global Summit on Monday

First India Bureau
Jaipur

At the Rajasthan DigiFest TiE Global Summit-2026 on Monday at JECC, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav addressed a session titled 'Destination Madhya Pradesh: India's Next Platform for Scalable Tech and Innovation'.

He said that despite geographical challenges, Rajasthan has built a strong identity in trade, industry, and healthcare, crediting the Marwari community for turning challenges into opportunities. Both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are emerging as investment destinations in AI, technology, software, and IT, driven by innovation and sustainable growth. Re-



Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav addresses during a session on 'Destination Madhya Pradesh: India's Next Platform for Scalable Tech and Innovation' during the Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit-2026 held at JECC, Sitapura in Jaipur on Monday. Prerita Baheti (Director, GCC Cleanisupplies), Dharmendra Jain (CFO, Yash Technology), Siddharth Sethi (Co-founder, Infobeans), Sanjeev Agrawal (CFO, Impetus), and Ajay Data (MD, Data Group) were also present.

ferring to national development, Yadav called India's present phase under Prime Minister Narendra Modi a golden era with equal opportunities. MP Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa and ACS Sanjeev Dubey highlighted Rajasthan's digital innovation, start-up support, and investor-friendly ecosystem.

Despite geographical challenges, Rajasthan has carved a distinct identity in trade, industry, and healthcare. The Marwari community's ability to find opportunities amid challenges has taken business and industry to new heights.

DR MOHAN YADAV,
CM OF MADHYA PRADESH

The Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit showcases the state's commitment to digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development, creating a bridge between government, industry & startups to bring our innovations to the global stage.

DR PREM CHAND BAIRWA,
DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

MY VICTORY IS WRITTEN IN LOSSES, TEACHING ME RESILIENCE, GROWTH & GRIT: SMRITI IRANI

Former Union Minister Smriti Irani shared her professional journey at the Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit-2026, saying, "My victory is written in losses, teaching me resilience, growth & grit." She highlighted that opportunities for service allow people from any background to drive meaningful change. Recalling her tenure as Union Textiles Minister, she spoke about enabling domestic PPE kit production during COVID-19, giving technical textiles formal recognition in India for the first time, & contributing to the foundation document of the National Education Policy. She said she does not fear defeat, adding, "After a loss, I chose to begin again," and that setbacks shaped her future. She highlighted her top TV & OTT shows, growth at 49, & initiatives for women entrepreneurs in 300 cities.



Former Union Minister Smriti Irani in conversation with TIE Global Convener Mahaveer Pratap Sharma during a session on 'Leadership Beyond Labels: Women, Power and Public Service' at the Rajasthan DigiFest Tie Global Summit being held at JECC in Sitapura, Jaipur on Monday.

CS reviews PM SHRI Schools, directs reforms



Chief Secretary V Srinivas chairs a meeting to review the status of PM schools in the state with senior education officials including State Project Director Anupama Jorwal, Commissioners Sitaram Jat, Vishwamohan Sharma, OP Bairwa, Shweta Phagedia, Priyanka Jodhawat, and Joint Secretary Mukesh Sharma.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Chief Secretary V Srinivas on Monday, reviewed the status of PM SHRI schools across Rajasthan and directed officials to make the school education system more outcome-oriented through focused reforms and stronger monitoring.

Chairing a meeting of senior education officials at the Shiksha Sankul, Srinivas said the data sets of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra should be strengthened and monthly reviews and rankings of PM SHRI schools made regular and effective. "PM SHRI schools should be developed as model institutions so their academic and administrative frameworks can be replicated in other government schools," he said.

He directed deployment of Joint Secretary-level officers in all 41 districts and in-depth in-

CS FIXES VIDEO CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CS V Srinivas issued an order via the Department of Administrative Reforms, directing that ACS/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries can hold video conferences with Collectors only on Wednesdays from 4 PM to 6 PM. Meanwhile, he also held a closed-door meeting with investors from India and abroad at JECC on Monday during the DigiFest.

specions of two PM SHRI schools per district within the next 15 days. Officers will stay overnight, interact with teachers, students, and parents, and a review meeting will follow.

Meeting reviewed seven stages of school improvement in line with recent decisions.

CS V SRINIVAS PUSHES PM KUSUM YOJANA, TARGETS 10 GW PPA'S BY OCTOBER 2026

Chief Secretary V. Srinivas held a meeting regarding the PM KUSUM Yojana and took key decisions on Monday. Instructions were given to commission 3000 MW by March 2026. Central financial assistance will be provided for Component C of PM KUSUM. Instructions were given to submit pending claims worth Rs 908 crore on time and to achieve the target of 10 GW of PPA's by October 2026.

Courtesy Visit



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade being greeted by the Acting Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, who called on the Governor at Lok Bhavan in Jaipur on Monday. They held discussions on various issues during the meeting.

Cong MPs misused MPLADS funds in Haryana: Min Bedham

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham on Monday accused Congress MPs Sanjana Jatav (Bharatpur), Rahul Kaswan (Churu), and Brijendra Singh Ola (Jhunjhunu) of misusing Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MP-LADS) funds for political purposes, alleging that money meant for Rajasthan was being spent in Haryana.



Jawahar S Bedham, MoS, Home

He claimed the MPs were diverting funds to Kaithal Assembly constituency, represented by Aditya Singh Surjewala, son of Congress

leader Randeep Singh Surjewala, violating MPLADS rules.

Each MP is entitled to Rs 5 crore annually, with a maximum of Rs 25 lakh outside their constituency. Bedham alleged that Sanjana Jatav allocated Rs 45 lakh, Rahul Kaswan Rs 50 lakh, and Brijendra Singh Ola Rs 25 lakh for works in Kaithal, while local projects remained incomplete.

Of 142 sanctioned works in Bharatpur, only 37 were completed, all in Alwar constituency.

INFRA & INDUSTRIAL CONCLAVE-2026 BY FIRST INDIA NEWS IN BHIWADI

MANY THANKS TO CM SHARMA FOR VISIONARY DEVP PLAN FOR BHIWADI: BHUPENDER YADAV

THE BHUPENDER YADAV-BHAJAN LAL SHARMA COMBINATION IN RAJASTHAN IS REMARKABLE AT THIS TIME: Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, MoS Sanjay Sharma and Tijara MLA Mahant Balaknath during the 'Infra & Industrial Conclave-2026: Opportunities, Challenges and Awards' organised by First India News at Tree House Hotel, Ashiana Village, Bhiwadi.

also recognised outstanding contributions by individuals and organisations

in the infrastructure and industrial sectors through awards presented during

the conclave.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Bhu-

pender Yadav said that Bhiwadi is not only an industrial city but also a spiritual centre associated with Baba Mohan Ram. He said he begins every important work from Bhiwadi and therefore believes that if Bhiwadi is to be developed, the area around the sacred site of Baba Mohan Ram must first maintain ecological and environmental balance. He said that many sages have performed penance on the land of the Aravallis.

However, he said that Bhiwadi is no longer just an industrial city and has now also become a comfortable place to live near Delhi after retirement, attracting people seeking peace and a better quality of life.

He said that he requested the Chief Minister to take Bhiwadi out of a purely industrial frame-



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addresses the esteemed gathering during the Conclave in Bhiwadi in the presence of Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, MoS Sanjay Sharma, Tijara MLA Mahant Balaknath, Alwar Zila Pramukh Balbir Chhillar & Senior Editor of First India News Jinendra Singh Shekhawat.

work, noting that multiple bodies including BIDA, RIICO, the Housing Board, the municipal council, the district council and KBAR are currently involved in its administration. He said that, similar to the Jaipur Development Authority, a Bhiwadi Development Authority should be constituted. He said it was a matter of happiness that

the Chief Minister accepted this request. Yadav said he expressed heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for this visionary plan and for the support extended to them.

Referring to the budget announcement made on the day, he said that the kind of cooperation being received from the Chief Minister gives confidence

that in the coming budget session, BIDA will also be seen being implemented on the ground.

In his address, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra said that a central minister can succeed in their region only when there is strong coordination with the CM, & that Rajasthan currently has an effective combination of Bhupender Yadav and Bhajan Lal Sharma. He said the CM understands the value, talent and relevance of individuals, ensures respect and recognition, and that decisions are taken smoothly. He said this combination ensures that no work gets stuck at the State Secretariat.

Dr Chandra said that Bhupender Yadav is counted among those leaders in the BJP who practice politics with strategy. He said Yadav is a trusted face in both govt & organisation, known for accountability in decision-making and a near-certain record of electoral success. He said that among those who script victories behind the scenes, Yadav's name ranks at the top.

More on P11



ART AND CULTURE!

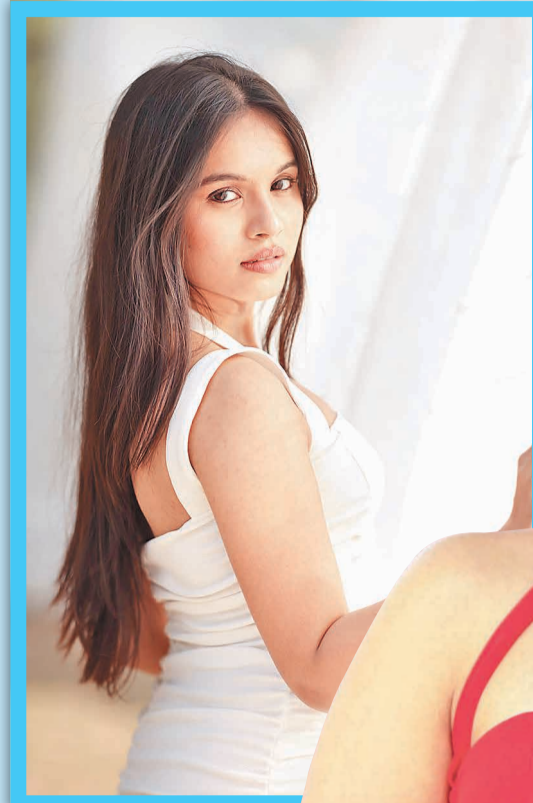
The ongoing National Women Folk Art and Craft Workshop at Samvidhan Park, witnessed a vibrant and engaging fourth day marked by an insightful talk show and interactive Q&A session. **P12**



Asmita Chowdhury



Priyan Sain



Crowned with Purpose: Priyan Sain and Asmita Chowdhury on Ambition, Balance & Belief

Two Journeys, One Vision

City First highlights the inspiring journeys of Priyan Sain, Miss Earth India 2023, and Asmita Chowdhury, Top 20 finalist at Miss Universe India 2025, while bringing exclusive glimpses from their recent Goa photoshoot that beautifully reflects their evolution, confidence and purpose-driven presence!

Against the sun-kissed backdrops of Goa, two rising stars of Indian pageantry and fashion, Priyan Sain, Miss Earth India 2023 and Asmita Chowdhury, Top 20 finalist at Miss Universe India 2025, recently came together for a striking photoshoot that reflected confidence, individuality and purpose. The shoot not only captured their evolving personas but also symbolised the changing face of the Indian fashion and entertainment industry, where substance now walks hand in hand with style.



Mitali Dusat

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Born on September 8, 2002, in Sikar, Rajasthan, Priyan Sain had already carved a unique identity by balancing two demanding worlds. A final-year MBBS student at Government Medical College, Kota, she pursued medicine alongside acting and pageantry with remarkable discipline. Being crowned Miss Earth India 2023, under the mentorship of Miss Rajasthan Founder and Director duo Yogesh Mishra & Nimisha Mishra, proved to be a defining milestone, placing her on a national platform rooted in responsibility and representation. Reflecting on the Goa shoot, she shared, "The coastal energy and creative freedom felt refreshing. It allowed me to express a

confident, evolved side of myself."

Raised in Jaipur, Priyan drew strength from the city's cultural richness, which shaped her grace and humility. While navigating academic pressure and public expectations, she relied on consistency, self-belief and the unwavering support of her family and mentors. She firmly believed that Indian representation on global platforms was growing stronger, driven by authenticity and intelligence rather than surface glamour.

Equally compelling was the journey of Asmita Chowdhury, born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with Bengali roots and currently based in Mumbai. A Computer Science Engineering graduate, she pursued a Master's in Fashion Management at NIFT Bangalore and had earlier trained at ISRO, an experience that sharpened her analytical and

creative thinking. Her recent achievements—including Top 20 finalist at Miss Universe India 2025, 1st Runner-Up at Miss Universe Gujarat, and 1st Runner-Up at Miss Universe Karnataka, under the mentorship of Nikhil Anand, National Director of Miss Universe India and Chairman of Glamanand Group, marked a steady rise built on resilience.

Standing at 5'2", Asmita challenged conventional standards with conviction. "My purpose was always larger than myself, inspire and prove that belief outweighs limitations," she said. The Goa shoot, according to her, allowed a seamless expression of strength and softness, mirroring her inner evolution.

As the evening sun faded over Goa's shores, the collaboration stood as a quiet statement, Indian models today were storytellers of depth, culture and courage. With journeys grounded in discipline, education and authenticity, Priyan Sain and Asmita Chowdhury emerged not just as faces of fashion, but as voices of a generation redefining success on its own terms.



Poetry in Gold

Gold Breathes on Glass like Poetry: Thewa, Rajasthan's Luminous Inheritance



Tanusha Nagrath

Content Writer, Media Freelancer

AN ART ROOTED IN THE SOIL OF RAJASTHAN

Some art forms are created; others are cultivated slowly by land, lineage, and lived memory. Thewa belongs to the latter. Born in the 17th century in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan, this extraordinary jewellery tradition is inseparable from the region that nurtured it. It carries the patience of skilled hands, the warmth of desert light, and the quiet dignity of royal patronage that once shaped Rajasthan's cultural imagination.

Thewa evolved within Rajput courts, where refinement was not excess but precision, and ornamentation was expected to carry meaning. Kings admired the art for its elegance, translucence, and distinct identity - so unlike any other jewellery technique known at the time. Over centuries, Thewa became a symbol of the patience of skilled hands, regal taste and cultural confidence, firmly owned, refined, and protected by Rajasthan's artisan families. The name itself reveals its philosophy... Thewa comes from "Thana," meaning setting, and "Wa," meaning



joining. It is an art of union - gold joined with glass, skill joined with patience, and history joined with the present.

THE MAKING OF STILLNESS: PROCESS AS DISCIPLINE

Thewa is not produced; it is practiced. The process begins with the careful preparation of coloured glass, which forms the foundation of the artwork. A 23-carat gold piece is then beaten into a sheet so thin it demands reverence in handling. Using fine chisels, artisans carve motifs directly onto the gold, guided only by hand, eye, and inherited knowledge.

The carved gold is fused onto the glass using natural resin, then gently heated. This stage allows no margin for error. Once bonded, the relationship between gold and glass becomes permanent. Final detailing refines the surface, and the piece is framed into its intended form - pendants, necklaces, bangles, rings, or cere-

monial objects. Each creation may take days or even weeks. In a time obsessed with speed, Thewa insists on stillness. Every piece carries the quiet tempo of the hands that shaped it.

FILIGREE: THE POETRY OF FINE METAL

Filigree is ornamental work created using extremely fine wire of gold, silver, or copper, applied chiefly to metal surfaces to form delicate, lace-like patterns. In Thewa, this sensibility finds a unique expression. Though not wire-based in the conventional sense, the carved gold sheets achieve a filigree-like effect - intricate, airy, and impossibly precise.

This visual lightness is deceptive. Each line is deliberate, each cut irreversible. The strength of Thewa lies in this contradiction: fragility that endures, delicacy that survives centuries. It is craftsmanship where restraint becomes luxury.

GOLD THAT FLOATS ON GLASS THAT GLOWS

What makes Thewa incomparable is its material poetry. Unlike conventional jewellery, Thewa uses ultra-thin sheets of 23-carat gold, beaten until they are almost weightless. These sheets are then hand-carved with astonishing precision, transforming gold into lace-like narratives.

The motifs are unmistakably Rajasthani... Elephants moving in ceremonial rhythm, peacocks poised in quiet grace, palace facades

rising in symmetry, and floral vines that seem to grow endlessly. These designs are not decorative accidents; they are visual memories of courts, festivals, and landscapes.

Once carved, the gold is fused onto specially treated coloured glass, most often red, green, or blue, using a natural adhesive resin whose formulation remains a closely guarded secret. When heated and set, the gold appears to float within the glass, creating light, depth, and permanence.

The finished piece does not merely reflect light; it holds it.

To own Thewa is to hold a fragment of Rajasthan's royal history, preserved not just in text or stone, but in luminous form.

A FAMILY CRAFT, PASSED LIKE A BLESSING

Thewa remains, at its core, a family craft. Knowledge is not written; it is observed. Children grow up watching elders work in silence, absorbing rhythm and technique long before they are allowed to practice. Mastery arrives slowly, through repetition and humility.

There was a period when this art stood dangerously close to extinction, with only a handful of artisans left practising it. That it continues today is not accidental - it is the result of devotion, resilience, and the belief that some traditions must be protected simply because they matter.

Thewa artisans have been recognised with na-



tional and international awards, affirming the value of a craft that refuses to compromise its integrity.

FROM PRATAPGARH TO THE WORLD: THEWA IN MUSEUMS

Though deeply regional, Thewa has earned global respect. Its intricate beauty and royal lineage have secured its place in some of the world's most prestigious museums.

The Mehrangarh Museum Trust in Jodhpur houses rare artefacts, including a Persian blade inscribed "HH Raja of Purtabgurh," dating to the late 19th century. The Victoria and Albert Museum in London exhibits Thewa as a singular example of Rajasthani artistry, acknowledging its technical and

cultural significance.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, featured Thewa in its landmark exhibition "Islamic Jewellery in The Metropolitan Museum of Art" (April 22-August 14, 1983), positioning it within a global narrative of fine jewellery traditions. The Amrapali Museum in Jaipur displays a magnificent hexagonal goblet from late 19th-century Rajasthan - an object that speaks silently of mastery, patience, and vision. These collections affirm Thewa's place not just in jewellery history, but in world heritage.

RECOGNITION, PROTECTION, AND CONTINUITY

Thewa has been featured in the Encyclopedia Britannica, a rare distinc-

tion for an Indian art form. It is officially registered as a Geographical Indication (GI) of India under the GI Act, 1999, legally anchoring it to its place of origin - Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.

Often described as UNESCO-worthy, Thewa represents living heritage: a craft that survives only when practised, respected, and passed forward.

THEWA TODAY: TRADITION IN CONTEMPORARY LIGHT

Thewa has adapted gracefully to the present without losing its soul. Today, it appears in necklaces, chokers, rings, pendants, and bangles that speak to modern aesthetics while remaining rooted in tradition. Its appeal lies in

balance - heritage that feels relevant, not remote.

As a wedding heirloom or a festive gift, Thewa carries emotional depth. Owning it is not consumption; it is participation in preservation.

GOLD, GLASS, AND THE ETHICS OF CARE

Thewa reminds us that culture survives through care. Every piece is a quiet assertion that beauty need not shout, that legacy can be worn lightly, and that craftsmanship is a form of ethical responsibility.

In a rapidly changing world, Thewa stands luminous and unhurried; gold set in glass, time set in trust...offering Rajasthan's story not as nostalgia, but as living light.



Jaipur Flight Plan

NEW DELHI - Air India Express, Air India, Indigo

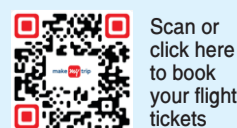
MUMBAI - Air India Express, Indigo, Air India

SURAT - Air India Express, Indigo, Air India

BENGALURU - Air India, Indigo, SpiceJet, Air India Express

GOA - Air India Express, Indigo, Air India, Spicejet

KOLKATA - Indigo, Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, Spicejet



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WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY? <https://in.bookmyshow.com/>



Movie: Tu Meri Main Tera Main
Tera Tu Meri
Director: Sameer Vidwans
Cast & Crew: Kartik Aaryan, Ananya Panday, Neena Gupta, Jackie Shroff



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets

Movie: Dhurandhar
Director: Aditya Dhar
Cast & Crew: Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, Arjun Rampal, R Madhavan, and Sara Arjun



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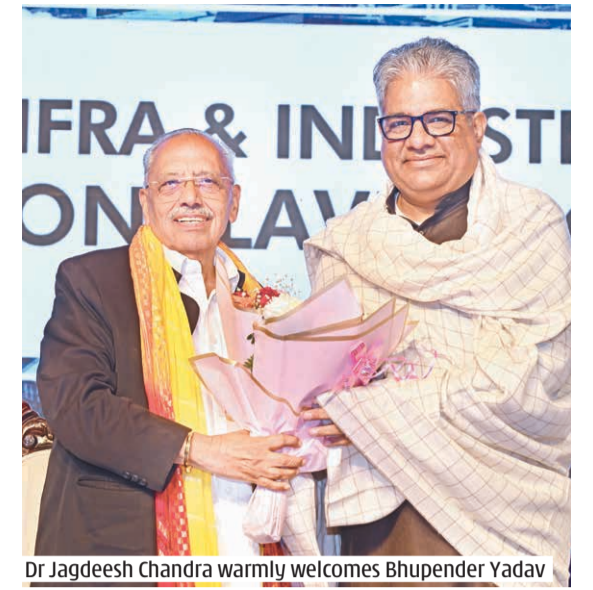




Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Bhupender Yadav with (L-R) Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Balbir Chhillar, Ashvini Yadav, Mahant Balaknath Yogi, Sanjay Sharma, Vishal Mathur & Imran Khan



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra warmly welcomes Bhupender Yadav



Bhupender Yadav addressing the gathering

FUTURE Infra Vision

BHIWADI & ALWAR DRIVE RAJASTHAN'S NEXT PHASE OF INDUSTRIAL AND CIVIC GROWTH

FROM PAGE 8

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra said that victories in states such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra reflect this record, and that in his view, after Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, Bhupender Yadav has one of the highest electoral strike rates. He said that this is a golden period for Bhiwadi and that no one in the past has been able to attract as much investment for Alwar and Bhiwadi as is being done now. He added that since Yadav is likely to remain associated with the region for the next 15 to 20 years, this momentum will continue.

He said that he had read that within one and a half years, development works worth ₹1,400 crore have been executed, calling it a significant achievement. He referred to the ERCP water project, saying it has brought water to the region, likening Yadav's role to that of Bhagirath for Alwar. He said that connectivity is improving through roads, including the six-laning of the Bhiwadi-Khazaria stretch, expansion of railway connectivity, upgrading of railway stations, and proposals to connect Rajgarh, Khairthal and Alwar, as well as Neemrana, Alwar and Mathura. He also said that discussions are underway to establish UITs in



Shweta Mishra Awasthi hosted the event with grace and elegance

Neemrana and Bhiwadi.

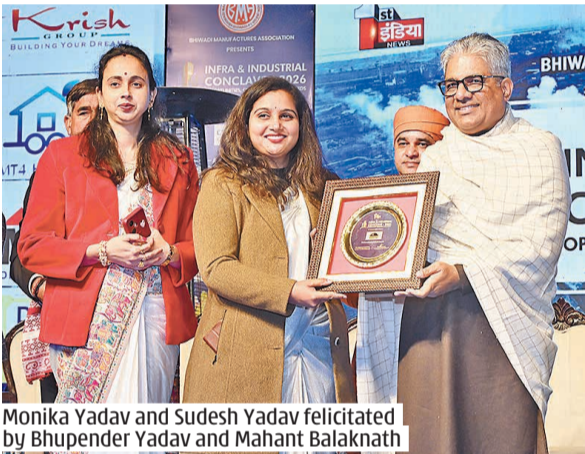
Bhupender Yadav also informed the audience about major development works carried out in the Bhiwadi and Alwar areas during the tenure of the Bhajan Lal government, which he said have transformed the region and addressed long-standing issues. He said a DPR has been prepared to develop an international biological park in Karahni, where hills are located, and that once implemented, it will promote both environmental conservation and tourism in Bhiwadi.

He said that the Nagar Van near the Baba Mohan Ram site, spread over 102 hectares with an outlay of ₹50 crore, has already been announced, and that a DPR worth ₹35 crore has been prepared for the development of the Baba

Mohan Ram site. He said that there had been a long-standing demand for a government hospital in Bhiwadi, and that while progress had earlier been slow, the hospital will become fully operational by June 2026. He said that an additional proposal for a 50-bed critical care block, particularly for accident cases, has been approved as an extra addition in the district.

He said that Phase One of the Bhiwadi stadium has been completed, and that the work of the new polytechnic college in Khairthal-Tijara has also been completed and will be inaugurated. He said that through the efforts of Balaknath Yogi, girls' colleges are also set to open in Tijara and Khairthal.

Yadav said that work on anicuts in the Bhartrinagar district is also being taken forward. He said that a new bypass will connect the area to the KMP corridor, and that efforts are ongoing to advance the DPR for the Bhiwadi-Neemrana link road. He said that while the BIDA area earlier extended up to Neemrana and Behror, development of Behror is also necessary. He said that the Chief Minister has given in-principle approval for the future creation of a unified UIT by combining Behror and Neemrana.



Monika Yadav and Sudesh Yadav felicitated by Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath



Sahil Jhalani felicitated by Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath



SK Singhal felicitated by Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath



Jinendra Singh Shekhawat receives a sapling from Imran Khan



Vishal Mathur felicitates Sanjay Sharma



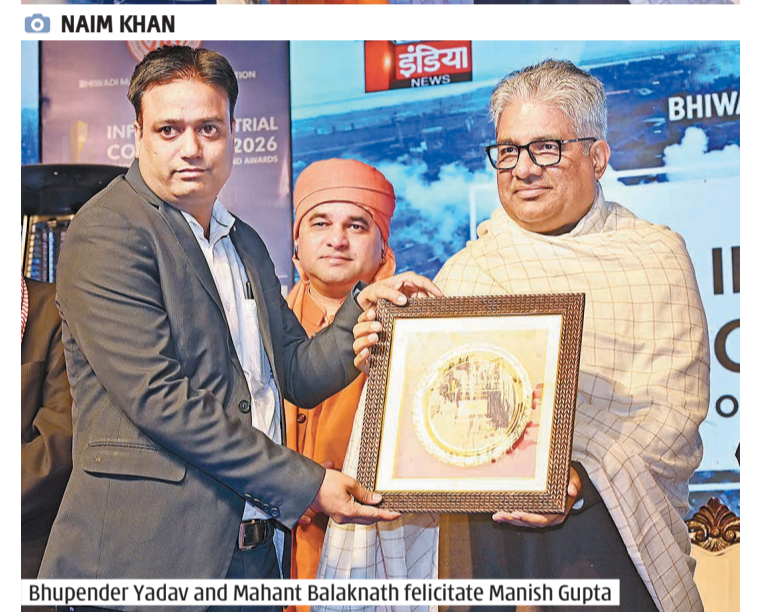
Ashvini Yadav in conversation with (L-R) Surender Singh Chauhan, Jasbir Singh Rana, Ashok Kumar Jain, Nitin Goyal and Sanjeev Kumar Garg during the panel discussion



Ashvini Yadav in conversation with Krishna Kumar, SK Singhal, Sarjeet Yadav, Pradeep Dayma & Manoj Chachan during the panel discussion



Abhishek Taneja felicitated by Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath



Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath felicitate Manish Gupta



Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath felicitate Santosh Yadav

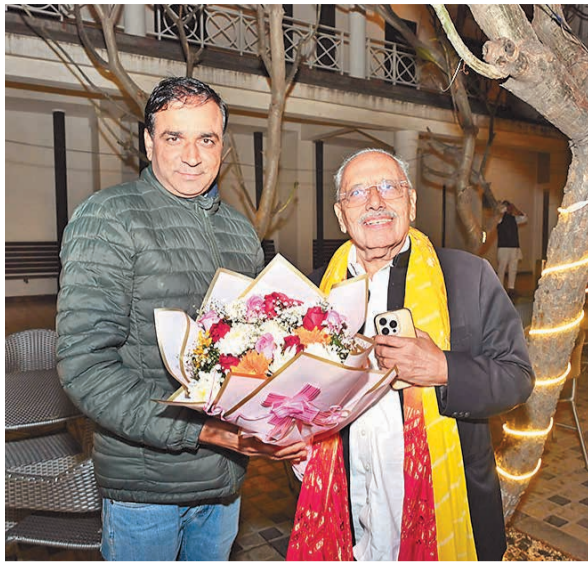


Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath felicitate Sheel Jain



RK Malik felicitated by Bhupender Yadav and Mahant Balaknath

GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Ghanshyam Karol of the First India family, during the Infra & Industrial conclave in Bhiwadi. Dr Chandra further extended his best wishes blessing Karol, as the latter celebrated his birthday, on Sunday.

NEW MEDICAL CENTRE LAUNCHED



A grand inauguration of the Blood Centre, Medicine Distribution Centre, and Cancer Day Care Centre was held at Nawalgarh District Hospital on Monday. MLA Vikram Singh Jakhal inaugurated the facilities, highlighting ongoing development and the government's efforts to fill vacant hospital posts. A voluntary blood donation camp was also organised, with 228 donors participating. The programme was presided over by Rajkumar Saini, Chairman of Nawalgarh Municipality. A voluntary blood donation camp was organised, with 228 donors participating. PMO Dr Mahendra Kumar Sablania, Prithvi Singh Saini, Makhan Lal Saini, Shoaib Khatri, Subhash Lamba, and Mahesh Chaudhary were present.

GRAND LAUNCH OF 'COMIC CON'



The inaugural Jaipur Comic Con, presented by Maruti Suzuki Arena and powered by Crunchyroll, began at JEC on Sunday alongside DigiFest. Organised by NODWIN Gaming with Rajasthan government support under the AVGC policy, Day 1 featured international comic legends Bernard Chang and Yanick Paquette. Indian creators, local Rajasthani artists, vibrant cosplays, gaming zones, comedy by Inder Sahani, music performances, cosplay contests with cash prizes, and fan interactions marked a grand start. The event runs till January 6.

AU JAIPUR MARATHON CALENDAR LAUNCHED



Jaipur geared up for the 17th edition of the AU Jaipur Marathon as the official event calendar was unveiled on Monday at Hotel Sunday Inn. Organised by World Trade Park and Sanskriti Yuva Sanstha in association with AU Small Finance Bank, the month-long fitness movement will feature pre-marathon activities, coaching in four zones, and events for youth, corporates, and citizens. Chief Guest Arun Chaturvedi, Pt. Suresh Mishra, Mukesh Mishra, and other dignitaries highlighted the marathon's vision to promote health, wellness, and community engagement, culminating in the Dream Run with an expected attendance of 1 lakh.

YOUNG ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS



ALLEN Career Institute organised an NSE, VVM and RMO Result Celebration Ceremony to honour the outstanding performance of 63 students in national-level academic competitions, including the National Standard Examination (NSE), Vidhyarthi Vigyan Manthan (VVM) and Regional Mathematics Olympiad (RMO). Meritorious students were felicitated during the event. Centre Head Sachin Singh said these exams assess conceptual clarity and analytical skills, adding that the students' success reflects ALLEN's structured academic system and the dedicated hard work of learners, aimed at preparing them for national and international challenges.

Day 4 of National Women Folk Art & Craft Workshop highlights

Folk Art Connects

Divya Kanwalia
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The ongoing National Women Folk Art and Craft Workshop at Samvidhan Park, UOR, witnessed a vibrant and engaging fourth day marked by an insightful talk show and interactive Q&A session, drawing enthusiastic participation from students.

The workshop is being organised by First India News and the Department of Art and Culture, Rajasthan, in collaboration with the University of Rajasthan. The event was inaugurated by Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade, along with Guests of Honour, Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First



(L-R) Dr Anshu Verma, Amit Kalla, Moderator Swati Vashishth, Dr Namita Soni & Dr Amita Raj



A still from West Bengal Chhau mask workshop



Students participated in the Chhau mask workshop

India News, and Prof Alpana Kateja, VC, UOR.

Suhas Dutta shared that a talk show on the topic 'Lok Kalaye evam Samaj ki Bhumika' (Folk Arts and Their Role in Society) was held and moderated by Swati Vashishth.

The expert panel included Dr Anshu Verma, Amit Kalla, Dr Namita Soni, and Dr Amita Raj. Cash prizes of ₹500 each were awarded to Manav, Anjali, and Vaibhav for the best questions during the Q&A session.

Students also actively participated in Chhau mask-making workshops from West Bengal, learning directly from artisans who travelled from different states across the country, making the day both educational and culturally enriching.

DEVOTEES CELEBRATE PAUSH BADA FESTIVAL

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The 22nd edition of the Paush Bada festival was celebrated with great fervour on Sunday at the Double Shankar Mahadev Temple on Baba Harishchandra Marg, Jaipur, attracting massive crowds. Former Mayor Jyoti Khandelwal warmly welcomed the guests and presided over the festivities. The ceremonial aarti of Lord Shankar was performed with 1,100 lamps, accompanied by band music, conch shells, drums, and bells. Sharad Khandelwal, convener of the temple's Development Committee, highlighted the beautifully decorated tableau and the grand adornment of the deity, while the houses along



Floral tableau radiating divine Shiva grace



Jyoti, Sharad Khandelwal and devotees offered prayers during the aarti



Nimbaram & Sharad Khandelwal

the street shone with festive lights. The event was attended by politicians, administrative officers, public representatives, MLAs, and social leaders, including Mahant Siyaramdas Maharaj, Mahant Sudarshanacharya, Nimbaram Arya, Former MP Mahesh Joshi, Former MLA Mohan Lal Gupta, Ravi Nair, Chandra Manohar Batwara, and other dignitaries. Thousands of devotees also participated in the community meal (prasada), adding to the celebrations.



Singer Shehzad Ali mesmerised everyone with his soulful voice

SARAS FAIR CONCLUDES

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The Saras Rajasakhi National Fair 2025, held from December 18, concluded with grandeur and vibrant celebrations, marking a strong message of women empowerment and entrepreneurship. Organised under the guidance of Cabinet Minister Dr Kirori Lal Meena and ACS Shreya Guha, the closing ceremony saw sponsor banks Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank honoured. SHGs from Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan won Best Seller awards. The evening was mesmerised by singer Shehzad Ali's musical performance.



NATIONAL SHOOTING GLORY



Shooters from Elite Shooting Academy, Chomu, delivered an impressive performance at the 68th National Shooting Championship. Rahul Sherawat clinched the gold medal in the individual senior (civilian) category, while Abhishek Chaudhary secured a bronze medal representing the Rajasthan team in the same category. Coach Sachin Yadav said the academy has quickly emerged as a nursery of national-level talent. On their return to Chomu on Sunday, the medalists received a grand welcome from academy manager Suresh Yadav, with several dignitaries and shooters in attendance.

THRILLING CRICKET FINALE



The Sarv Brahmin Samaj cricket tournament concluded at Veer Teja Ji Stadium, Jaitpura, with Bagda Boys Chomu emerging champions. In the final, they defeated Ramchandrapura Eleven while chasing 118 runs, led by Neeraj Sharma's explosive 50 off 19 balls. He was named Man of the Match and Man of the Series. Bagda Boys won Rs. 1.51 lakh and a trophy, while Ramchandrapura received Rs. 71,000. In the open tournament final, Anantam Hathoj defeated Alwar. Several dignitaries attended the closing ceremony.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE



A blood donation camp was organised under the joint aegis of Yogamatic Foundation, Phoolchand Sharma Self Defence Academy, and Sanwariya Seth Manav Gau Seva Sansthan to mark the 17th death anniversary of Late Phoolchand Sharma. Prominent dignitaries including Pt Suresh Mishra, Ankit Bhardwaj, Juhi Kedia, Ramesh Chand Sharma, Mukesh and Shrawan Saini, were present and encouraged voluntary blood donation. Vitiksha Sharma said that the camp witnessed active participation, with 36 units of blood collected.