



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.

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



Mitali Dusad

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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 with a knuckle guard 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?

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

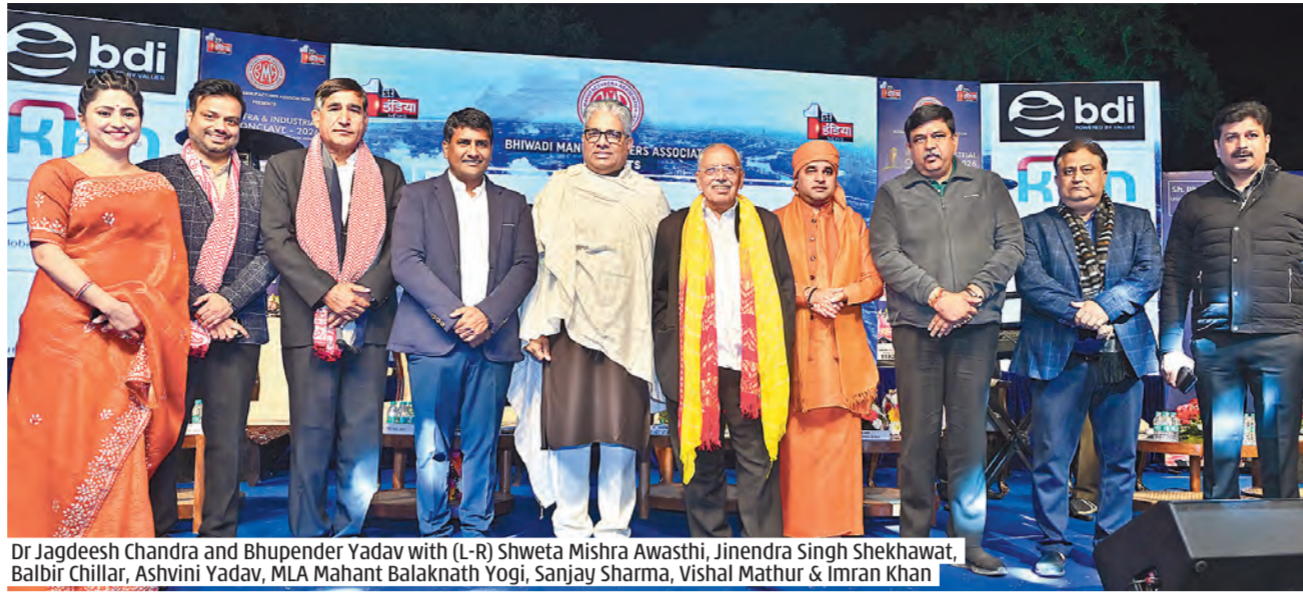
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सबसे पहले सबसे आगे



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



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



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra warmly welcomes Bhupender Yadav



Bhupender Yadav addressed the gathering

FUTURE Infra Vision

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

FROM PAGE 08

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 received a sapling from Imran Khan



Vishal Mathur felicitated 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, Makhn 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 JECC 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

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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.



BRIAN GROUP OF SCHOOLS CELEBRATED 15TH ANNUAL DAY



MLA Gopal Sharma addressed the gathering



A still from the patriotic performance

The 15th Annual Day of the Brian Group of Schools was celebrated with enthusiasm on Monday at the Birla Auditorium, Jaipur. MLA Balmukund Acharya and MLA Gopal Sharma attended as chief guests. They were warmly welcomed by Chairman Bhagirath Prasad Jaiman and Director Kuldeep Jaiman with turbans and garlands. Students presented vibrant cultural performances, including patriotic songs and folk dances from various Indian states. The celebrations featured students from Brian Children's Academy, Brahmपुरi, and Brian International Senior Secondary School, Jaisinghpura Khor.

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, Jaipur, 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 Hathoi 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.