



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



PM Modi writes blog on 10 years of Digital India P6

## PM MODI'S LONGEST FOREIGN TRIP IN A DECADE BEGINS TODAY

# GODSPEED, Mr PM!

THE PM'S 8-DAY TOUR WILL COVER 2 CONTINENTS AND INCLUDE VISITS TO GHANA, TRINIDAD, TOBAGO, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND NAMIBIA



First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a five-nation tour beginning today. This will be PM Modi's longest diplomatic visit in the last ten years. The Prime Minister's eight-day tour, which will last until July 9, will cover two continents and include visits to Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia. Meanwhile, ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit, Brazil has expressed interest in acquiring India's Akash air defence system and 'Garuda' guns other defence systems, which was prominently deployed during Operation Sindoor.

### FIRST LEG

GHANA

In the first leg of the visit, PM Modi will visit Ghana from July 2 to 3. This will be the prime minister's first-ever bilateral visit to Ghana and the first prime ministerial visit from India to Ghana in three decades. The MEA said that during the visit, Modi will hold talks with President of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama to review the strong bilateral partnership and discuss further avenues to enhance economic, energy, and defence.



### SECOND LEG

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

In the second leg of the visit, PM Narendra Modi will travel to Trinidad and Tobago from Ghana, on a two-day visit from July 3 to 4. During the visit, Modi will hold talks with the President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Carla Kangaloo and the Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar. He is also expected to address a joint session of the parliament of the island nation. The visit will impart fresh impetus to the deep-rooted and historical ties.



### THIRD LEG

ARGENTINA

In the third leg of his visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Argentina on an official visit from July 4-5, at the invitation of Argentine President Javier Milei. According to the MEA, PM Modi will hold wide-ranging talks with President Javier Milei to further enhance the India-Argentina partnership in major key areas, including defence, agriculture, mining, oil and gas, renewable energy, trade, and investment.



### FOURTH LEG

BRAZIL

In the fourth leg of his visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Brazil at the invitation of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. The Prime Minister will visit Brazil from July 5 to 8, 2025, to attend the 17th BRICS Summit which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, followed by a state visit, as per statement issued by Ministry of External Affairs.



### FINAL LEG

NAMIBIA

In the fifth and final leg of his visit, PM Narendra Modi will travel to Namibia. This will be the third ever prime ministerial visit from India to Namibia. During his visit, Modi will hold bilateral talks with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. He is also expected to deliver an address at the Parliament of Namibia.



### BRICS LIKELY TO DENOUNCE PAHALGAM ATTACK, CALL FOR UNITED FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

The BRICS leaders' declaration which will be unveiled at the grouping's annual summit in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is expected to forcefully denounce the Pahalgam terror attack and call for a firm approach to unitedly confront the challenge of terrorism in line with India's expectation. During the 17th BRICS Summit, PM Modi will exchange views on key global issues, including reform of global governance, peace and security, strengthening multilateralism, responsible use of artificial intelligence, climate action, global health, economic and financial matters.

### IN BRIEF

**8 dead, 5 hurt in cracker blast in Tamil Nadu; CM announces ex-gratia**  
Sattur: At least 8 people died and five were injured in a cracker blast at Sattur, Virudhunagar District in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. TN CM MK Stalin has offered condolences and announced an ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives.



**Leaked phone call: Court suspends Thailand PM**  
Bangkok: Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office pending an probe over leaked phone call with a former Cambodian leader. The judges voted to take petition accusing her of a breach of ethics.

### In a first, SC brings SC-ST reservation in staff recruitment

New Delhi: For the first time in its history, the Supreme Court of India has formally implemented a reservation policy on Tuesday for the appointment and promotion of its staff belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

### 193 fishermen and 53 Indian civilian prisoners in Pakistan's custody

New Delhi: India and Pakistan on Tuesday, July 1, exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen in each other's custody. Pakistan shared the names of 53 Indian civilian prisoners and 193 Indian fishermen in its custody, MEA said.

## Cabinet clears ₹99k cr ELI scheme to create 3.5 cr jobs

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved an Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme, designed to boost job creation and enhance social security across sectors, particularly in manufacturing. The ELI Scheme, allocated ₹99,446 crore, targets to generate over 3.5 crore jobs nationwide within two years, according to the government release. Of these, 1.92 crore shall be first-time workforce entrants. The scheme benefits shall apply to positions created between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027. This scheme is part of Modi's 5-scheme package aimed at give employment. P5



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs media on Union Cabinet decisions, in Delhi, on Tuesday.

### KHELO BHARAT NITI 2025 APPROVED

In a landmark decision aiming to transform India's global sporting landscape, Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved 'KheLO Bharat Niti-2025 (the National Sports Policy)', which will replace erstwhile 2001 framework and pave the way for a new era of excellence, inclusivity and economic opportunity.

### VAISHNAW LAUNCHES RAILONE APPLICATION

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched on Tuesday the RailOne mobile application, which can help passengers get easy access to multiple services such as ticket booking, train and PNR enquiry, journey planning, rail help services and meal booking.

We will not cancel SI recruitment exam: Raj Govt tells High Court

Kamal Kant Vyas  
Jaipur

The Rajasthan government has informed the High Court that it will not cancel the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment process, despite the controversy surrounding the paper leak scandal. Advocate General Rajendra Prasad submitted an additional affidavit along with report of Cabinet Sub-Committee, stating that committee has recommended continuing with the recruitment and not scrapping it. According to affidavit, the CMO has approved Sub-Committee's recommendations. The HC has directed that copies of submitted report be shared with concerned parties. The final hearing is on July 7.

## BJP picks 6 state heads; eyes national prez post

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The BJP is gearing up to appoint its new national president within next few weeks. Over the past 2 days, party cleared names of 6 new state presidents, paving way for the selection of a successor to JP Nadda, whose extended term has already concluded. As per the party rules, elections must be held in at least half of its state units before a new national president can be elected. BJP crossed that threshold this week. In

the latest round of appointments for BJP State Presidents, Maharashtra to get Ravindra Chavan as its new state president. In Uttarakhand, incumbent Mahendra Bhatt will continue another term, D Purandeswari as Andhra Pradesh President, Ramchander Rao is Telangana BJP chief. In Puducherry, VP Ramalingam is new state chief, Mizoram will now be led by K Beichhua. More appointments are expected in key states such as Madhya Pradesh, Himachal, and West Bengal in the coming days.

### YADAV EMERGES FRONT-RUNNER FOR BJP PREZ

Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhopender Yadav's name has once again emerged frontrunner for the post of BJP's next national president. With a proven track record—Yadav has extensive experience in conducting polls in most BJP-ruled states.



### MANDI CESS

247 mandis in Raj will remain closed till July 5

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Traders have taken to the streets in protest against the mandi cess. From Wednesday till July 5, trading activities across the state's mandis will remain suspended. Business will come to a halt in all 247 mandis of Rajasthan. Supporting the traders' protest, oil mills, pulse mills, flour mills, and spice industries will also remain closed.

The traders have raised several demands, including reducing the Krishak Kalyan Fee to 0.50% for three years and fixing commission on coarse grains at 2.25%. In total, traders have called for a shutdown over half a dozen demands.

## DOCTORS' DAY CELEBRATED AT SMS MEDICAL COLLEGE

### Raj boosting healthcare from villages to towns: CM

Vikas Sharma  
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma stated that continuous efforts by state govt have brought remarkable improvements to Rajasthan's healthcare system, which is now being seen as a model across the country. Quality healthcare services are being ensured from the remotest villages to urban areas, and the vision of 'Niramay Rajasthan' is steadily becoming a reality. He expressed gratitude to doctors for their active contribution to improving public health. CM Sharma was addressing Doctors' Day programme organised by the Jaipur Medical Association at



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma felicitates Dr Suresh Sehgal during the Doctors' Day celebrations at the SMS Medical College on Tuesday. Also present here are State Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar, Dr Deepak Maheshwari, Dr Jagdish Modi, Dr Anurag Tomar and others.

SMS Medical College campus. Extending his greetings on Doctors' Day, he said the day is dedicated to honouring Bidhan Chandra Roy for his unparalleled contribution to humanity as an outstanding doctor. He added doctors are considered equivalent to God, as they save lives, often putting their own at risk, as seen during Covid-19. The CM said in just one and a half years, govt has significantly strengthened healthcare system even in rural areas. P8

## US Senate passes Trump's key "One Big Beautiful Bill"

First India Bureau  
Washington, DC

The Republican-led US Senate approved President Donald Trump's flagship spending bill Tuesday after a marathon voting session on the deeply unpopular package, set to slash social welfare programs and add an eye-watering \$3 trillion to the national debt. The sprawling text, headlined by a \$4.5 trillion renewal of the president's first term tax cuts, now heads to the House of Representatives. P7



### MAJOR HAPPENINGS

- Donald Trump-backed bill may slap 500% tariffs on nations trading with Russia including India
- Trump said Musk, who was born in Africa, would "probably have to close up shop and head back home"
- I was in the room when Vance spoke to Modi, saying Pak is forcing India for ceasefire, EAM S Jaishankar

## Bomb threats create panic in Jpr Collectorate and Session Court



First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Panic gripped the city once again on Monday after bomb threat emails were received at both the Jaipur Collectorate and the Session Court. Security agencies and police teams swung into action following the alerts, launching extensive search operations at both locations. However, no suspicious object was found at either site, bringing some relief to officials and the public.

The first incident occurred when a threatening email was received at the Jaipur Collectorate, warning of a possible bomb. As soon as the information was received, police teams rushed to the spot. A search operation was conducted in the entire Collectorate premises with the help of sniffer dogs and bomb detection equipment. After a thorough check, no suspicious item was recovered.

Shortly after, a similar threat was reported at the Jaipur Session Court, where an email claimed that a bomb had been planted on the court premises.



ATs team conducts search operation after receiving information about a bomb blast threat. **FILE**

### MAN DIES BY SELF-IMMOLATION IN JAIPUR

→ Jaipur: A man named Rajesh, who attempted self-immolation outside Jaipur's Transport Nagar police station on Monday, has died during treatment at SMS Hospital. Rajesh had reportedly been facing intense harassment from money-lenders after borrowing funds at interest. Despite police intervention, he set himself ablaze in distress. A case was registered against one of the accused, Kailash Maheshwari, based on Rajesh's dying declaration. Police have initiated a detailed probe into the incident.

### MAN RAPES 8-YR-OLD DAUGHTER IN SIROHI

→ Sirohi: In a shameful incident, a man reportedly raped his eight-year-old daughter in Pindwara police station area of Sirohi when his wife had gone out for work. The victim's mother registered a complaint after she got to know of the crime. According to information, the incident happened when the girl was at home with her younger siblings and her mother had gone to work. The accused father had threatened the other children and sent them out. CI Bhavani Singh said that the girl was medically examined and referred to Udaipur.

### WOMAN TEACHER HACKED TO DEATH WITH SWORD BY EX-BOYFRIEND

→ Banswara: A 36-year-old woman was brutally killed by her ex-boyfriend with a sword in broad daylight in Banswara district on Tuesday, police said. The incident that took place in Kalinjara town was captured on CCTV, prompting police to launch a manhunt for the accused, Mahipal Bagora, who fled the scene after attacking Leela Tabiyar. The footage captured the accused arriving in a car and striking Tabiyar multiple times with the sword. He then fled the scene on foot, abandoning the vehicle nearby, police said. According to police, passersby rushed her to the district hospital, where she died during treatment.



### HABITUAL OFFENDER ARRESTED IN ATTEMPTED THEFT CASE AT BINDAYAKA

→ Jaipur: Jaipur West Police have arrested a notorious criminal, Nandu Bawariya, in connection with an attempted LPG cylinder theft from a cowshed in Nimeda village on April 30. The accused, along with a group of men and women, tried to break into storage rooms when the complainant, Shiv Shankar, intervened. A case was registered under multiple IPC sections at Bindayaka Police Station. During the investigation, Nandu was traced and arrested from Govindam Colony. His accomplice, Surjana Bawariya, also a history-sheeter, remains absconding along with others.



### 3 HELD FOR SERVING OPIUM DURING EVENT AT HOME IN PALI

→ Pali: In a major crackdown under a special campaign initiated by Jodhpur Range Inspector General of Police Vikas Kumar, three local panchayat members have been arrested for allegedly serving opium to guests during a gathering at their residence. Acting on a tip-off, the Shivpur police raided the premises in the Jadana area, leading to the arrest of the trio and the recovery of 152 grams of opium. Authorities confirmed that the contraband was being distributed during the event. Police have registered a case and launched a detailed investigation.

### Schools reopen, edu dept plans campaign to enroll students

Dimple Sharma  
Jaipur

All government and non-govt schools in the state opened on July 1 after the vacations. The education dept plans a special campaign to connect children to schools. The state govt has directed the department to ensure that there is a 10% increase in enrollment every year. The dept will organize surveys and activities at the rural and urban levels for this.

### Besides, teachers will talk to the parents and guardians of children studying in Anganwadi to get them enrolled in schools

In single shift schools, the timings will be from 7:30 am to 1 pm and the second shift will be from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. In all govt schools from Class 1 to 12, a survey and compilation will start of children between the ages of three and 18 years and a campaign will be launched to connect them to mainstreams.



### After long delay, Congress to start Jaipur office construction work from July 6

The foundation stone for the new Congress office building in Jaipur's Mansarovar was laid on 23 September 2023 by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. However, not a single brick has been placed on the site since then. The Congress office land on Shipra Path, Mansarovar, measuring approximately 6,000 square metres, has remained deserted, resembling a ruin. Now, as the opposition, Congress plans to commence construction from 6 July. The AICC has given the green signal for funding to the PCC.

### Retired IPS Officer mulls political debut

Speculation is growing over the political future of a recently retired senior IPS officer known for his social work. Sources indicate he may enter politics & is considering contesting the LS elections from Sri Ganganagar or a Dalit-dominated seat in Shekhawati or Jaipur. He hails from a prominent Dalit community influential in several Assembly segments and is married into a Congress-affiliated family.

### New DGP signals CM's social outreach

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has strategically chosen Rajeev Sharma as the new DGP of Rajasthan. Rajeev Sharma belongs to the Jangid Vishwakarma community. His appointment has sparked celebrations within the Jangid Suthar Vishwakarma community. The move is being praised as an opportunity for someone from a backward community to hold a top position in the police force.

### Rajasthan government upgrades 177 upper primary schools to senior secondary level

The Rajasthan govt has announced a significant upgrade in school infrastructure. A total of 177 upper primary schools will be upgraded to senior secondary level, allowing rural students to study Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics locally. The government has also decided to introduce science streams in 289 senior secondary schools and instructed the launch of science subjects in 970 Mahatma Gandhi schools, considering adequate student enrolment.

## Rajasthan records 128% more rain than normal in June: MeT Dept

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Heavy rains lashed parts of Rajasthan, with Bari in Dholpur district recording the highest rainfall at 145 mm in the 24 hours until 8.30 am on Tuesday, a Met department official said.

He said the rains are likely to increase in many parts of eastern Rajasthan from Tuesday and heavy to very heavy rains are likely at some places in Kota, Ajmer and Udaipur divisions. Rajasthan also recorded 128 per cent more rainfall than normal during June in the ongoing monsoon season, the weather department officials have said.

Heavy rains are likely to be recorded at one or two places in Baran, Kota, Bundi, Bhilwara and sur-



People carrying plants from Grassfield Nursery on a rainy afternoon in Jaipur on Tuesday. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

rounding districts and light to moderate rains are likely in some parts of Jaipur, Bharatpur, Bikaner divisions, he said.

The Met official said that a low pressure area formed over eastern India has transformed into a circulation system on Tuesday. The monsoon trough

line is passing through Sriganganagar in Rajasthan and Haryana's Rohtak. Rain activities are likely to continue in most parts of eastern Rajasthan for the next one week, and heavy to very heavy rains are likely to be recorded in some parts in the southeast on Wednesday.

### Technocrat KP Verma takes charge as Ajmer Discom MD

Vikas Sharma  
Ajmer

After receiving approval from CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, technocrat KP Verma has been appointed as the permanent Managing Director of Ajmer Discom. Verma had been serving as the acting MD for the past year.

He officially took charge following orders issued by the state energy department. On the occasion, Verma stated that delivering improved services to consumers would remain his top priority. In Ajmer Discom he also worked on various positions like Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer.

## DNT Communities push for commission-based demands

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Expressing deep resentment over the lack of administrative benefits, political representation, and reservation for the Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (DNT) communities, thousands of people from these groups gathered at VT Road Ground in Mansarovar, Jaipur, on Monday. Organised under the banner of the National Pashupalak Sangh and DNT Sangharsh Samiti, the protest saw symbolic burning of government orders, marking the rejection of what they called "half-baked announcements" made by the government.

Lalji Raika, President



Thousands of people from Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (DNT) communities groups gathered at VT Road Ground in Mansarovar, Jaipur, on Tuesday. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

of the National Pashupalak Sangh and DNT Sangharsh Samiti, along with Ratan Nath Kalbeliya, State President of the Vimukt, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Caste Council, stated that ten major demands have been presented to the government for the de-

velopment and inclusion of the DNT community into the mainstream. These demands are in line with the recommendations of the Renke Commission and Idatte Commission, both of which were constituted to address the concerns of these communities.

### Rajasthan bags top spot in GST refunds and CPGRAM rankings

Vimal Kothari  
Jaipur

Rajasthan has won two national awards at the 8th National GST Day celebrations in Delhi for excellence in timely GST refunds and swift redressal of public grievances on the CPGRAM portal. The Jaipur CGST Zone, covering Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Alwar, was recognised for issuing Rs 3,655.77 crore in GST refunds within 60 days and resolving 284 complaints in an average of 3.35 days. Chief Commissioner Anuj Gogia received the awards, dedicating them to late former commissioner Mahendra Ranga and the entire team's efforts during FY 2024-25.

### ACCELERATING GROWTH

## Ajmer gets ₹2,000 cr boost for holistic devp

First India Bureau  
Ajmer

Ajmer is witnessing rapid development with major initiatives across education, culture, healthcare, and tourism. The foundation stone for the new Regional Centre building of Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University was laid in the city, with Assembly Speaker Prof. Vasudev Devnani emphasising the need for employment-oriented short-term, IT, and foreign language courses. He



Vasudev Devnani at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the new Regional Centre building of Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota in Ajmer on Tuesday.

also highlighted the Rs 2,000 crore budget allocated for Ajmer's devel-

opment. Meanwhile, beautification of Varun Sagar Lake



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani inaugurated beautification of Varun Sagar Lake in Ajmer on Tuesday. Also seen is Braj Lata Hada & others.

was inaugurated, with Rs 90 lakh invested in strengthening and beauti-

fying the area. Plans are underway to install a statue of Lord Jhulelal.

### Family of 4 found dead in water tank in Barmer

First India Bureau  
Barmer

In Barmer, the bodies of a couple and their two young children were found in a water tank. Local residents informed the police after the tragic discovery. Villagers and relatives gathered at the spot in large numbers. The incident took place in Undu village of the Sheo police station area. It is still unclear whether it is a case of suicide or an accident. The bodies will be taken out of the tank in the presence of family members.

### Tigress Rani, her 5 cubs shifted to Karal in Nahargarh



Tigress Rani and her five cubs were shifted to Karal in Nahargarh Biological Park on Monday.

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

Tigress Rani and her five cubs were shifted to Karal in Nahargarh Biological Park on Monday. Rani was brought from Orissa. Born on April 27, the cubs include a white tiger cub and two male and two female cubs. Her two cubs named Bhim (white) and

Skandhi (golden) are the biggest attraction of Nahargarh. Under the direction of DCF Vijaypal Singh, vaccination and sex determination of the cubs were done in the presence of Assistant Forest Conservator Devendra Singh Rathore, Range Officer Shubham Sharma and senior veterinarian Dr Arvind Mathur.



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# Trial run begins on Jaipur Bandikui link expressway

The high-speed expressway is 66.916 km long; built at a cost of ₹1,368 cr

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

Trial runs on the much-awaited four-lane Jaipur-Bandikui Link Expressway, which will ease traffic between Jaipur and Bandikui, will start today from 8 am. Built by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), it will be on trial for the next seven to 10 days and no toll will be charged during this time.

NHAI Regional Officer Pradeep Atri said that the high-speed expressway is 66.916 km long and has cost Rs 1,368 crore.

The residents of Jaipur and Bandikui will have



The 66.9-km Jaipur-Bandikui Link, built at a cost of ₹1,368 cr, begins trial runs today with no toll charges for next 7-10 days. The route will ease traffic towards Agra and Alwar and connect Jaipur and Bandikui directly to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

direct connectivity to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which will make

regional traffic faster and smoother.

It will also provide re-

lief to the traffic going towards Jaipur-Agra and Alwar route.

The expressway has a Railway Over Bridge (ROB), two Major Bridges, six Interchanges, 11 Vehicle Underpasses, 18 Service Vehicle Underpasses and 13 minor bridges.

# Govt refuses to cancel SI exam, submits report to HC

Kamal Kant Vyas  
Jaipur

The Rajasthan govt has informed the High Court that it will not cancel the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment process, despite the controversy surrounding the paper leak scandal. During the latest hearing on the matter, Advocate General Rajendra Prasad submitted an additional affidavit along with the report of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, stating that the committee has recommended continuing with the recruitment. According to the affidavit, the Chief Minister's Office has approved the Sub-Committee's recommendations. The High Court has directed that copies of the submitted report be shared with all concerned parties. The final hearing in the case has been scheduled for July 7.



2021 SI PAPER LEAK ACCUSED GETS BAIL FROM SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court has granted bail to Manju Bishnoi, an accused in 2021 Sub-Inspector recruitment paper leak case. The order was passed by a division bench comprising Justice Manoj Kumar Mishra and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh while hearing Bishnoi's bail plea. Advocate Vedant Sharma represented Manju Bishnoi in court and argued on her behalf.

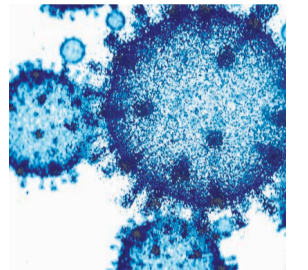
HIGH COURT TAKES COGNIZANCE OF MALNUTRITION IN RAJ

The High Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the issue of malnutrition among children, expressing serious concern over its impact and the role of unhealthy dietary habits. In a significant move, the court has sought detailed responses from several key authorities. The court has directed to submit reports outlining the steps taken to address malnutrition among children.

# Old Virus, new worry: COVID variants kill two in Rajasthan

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Old variant of Covid-19 found active again in Rajasthan. Two deaths have been reported at SMS Hospital in Jaipur due to a variant first identified in 2004. In recent days, a 49-year-old patient lost her life due to the NL-63 variant, while a 70-year-old patient succumbed to the HKU-1 variant. Meanwhile, a 77-year-old patient infected with the 229-E virus has been discharged after recovery. All these variants of Covid-19 were identified even before 2019.



Seven patients are currently admitted – one at SMS Jaipur and two patients each at RNT udaipur, SDMH, AIIMS hospital in Jodhpur

However, a decline in Covid-19 cases is now being observed in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan reported 11 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, with infections from Jaipur, Udaipur, and Churu. Patients include six males and three females from Jaipur and Udaipur, and a 55-year-old woman from Churu. Cases have emerged from hospitals across the state.



Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar unveiling the poster during launch of 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign on Tuesday.

# 'Stop Diarrhoea' drive launched by Khimsar in Jaipur

Vikas Sharma  
Jaipur

Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar launched the 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign on Tuesday at his official residence, unveiling a poster and distributing ORS packets and zinc tablets to children.

The campaign, aimed at preventing and managing diarrhoea across the state, will run from July 1 to August 15, with a focus on promoting clean drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.

Speaking at the event, Khimsar said that approximately 4.1 percent of deaths among children under five are caused by diarrhoea-related complications.

Khimsar noted that multifaceted initiatives will be conducted in coordination with departments such as Women and Child Development, School Education, Public Health Engineering, to ensure the campaign's success

To address this, the nationwide 'Stop Diarrhoea' campaign is being implemented from July 1 to August 15 to curb the disease through effective prevention and awareness. He said that the campaign aims to protect young children by combining treatment with preventive measures and widespread awareness.

# Doctors deserve deep respect: GS Dotasra

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

On the occasion of Doctors' Day, the Medical Cell of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee organised a special programme at Totuka Bhawan auditorium in Jaipur. The event saw the participation of Rajasthan Congress President Govind Singh Dotasra, Leader of Opposition Tika Ram Jolly, former PCC President and former Assembly Speaker Dr C. P. Joshi, along with a large number of



PCC Chief GS Dotasra, LOP Tika Ram Jolly, along with Cong leader Dr CP Joshi & others during Doctors' Day celebrations organised at Totuka Bhawan in Jaipur on Tuesday.

doctors associated with the Medical Cell.

Addressing the gathering, Congress President

Govind Singh Dotasra congratulated all the doctors on Doctors' Day and said that the field of med-

icine is one where people come with worry and distress, seeking treatment or diagnosis, but doctors

send them back home healthy and happy. He added that everyone working in this field, who helps ease the suffering of others, deserves appreciation.

Dotasra emphasised that patients approach doctors with hope in their eyes, and doctors play the crucial role of easing their pain, which is why they are considered equivalent to God on earth. Dotasra called upon the doctors to align themselves with ideologies that uphold the Constitution.

# RCDF & NCW sign MoU to empower women

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

RCDF has signed an MoU with the National Commission for Women, marking a significant step towards women empowerment. Under this initiative, women from four milk unions will be provided with specialised training. A three-day training camp will be organised at Banas Dairy in Gujarat from July 4 to 6. Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Vijaya Rahatkar, will also attend the programme.

# JJM chargesheet points out Joshi's fluctuating income

Vimal Kothari  
Jaipur

The Enforcement Directorate, investigating the Jal Jeevan Mission scam under the PMLA, has flagged irregularities in the income of former PHED Minister Mahesh Joshi in its chargesheet. The chargesheet pointed to the fluctuations in Joshi's income tax returns along with other discrepancies in the filings of his alleged associate Sanjay Badaya, his wife Naina and father Harinarayan, who failed



to pay taxes on declared income. The ED alleged that Joshi received Rs 5.40 crore in bribes, facilitated by Badaya, from Mahesh Mittal of Shri Ganpati Tubewell Company for awarding tenders. The bribe was allegedly paid in installments, with Rs 3.30 crore used for property purchases.

# MBC panel holds first meet, seeks reports on demands in 15 days

Dr Rituraj Sharma  
Jaipur

A committee of ministers, formed to address the demands of representatives from the Gurjar and other communities under the Most Backward Classes (MBC), held its first meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday. The committee directed officials to compile factual details regarding the demands raised. The next meeting is likely to be convened within 15 days. Issues including the



Jawahar Singh Bedham, Jogaram Patel, Avinash Gehlot, Aparna Arora, Bhaskar A. Sawant and other officials during the meeting.

resolution of cases related to the Gurjar agitation, roster implementation, reservation in recruitments, compassionate appointments for those affected by the agitation, progress on the Devnarayan Scheme and

inclusion of the 5 percent MBC reservation in the 9th Schedule were discussed in the meeting.

The committee instructed concerned departments to submit factual reports on these matters within 15 days.

## FI YOUTH ICON

# Aryan Singh, powering India's agri-tech future

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The winner of the 'Youth Icon of the Month' competition for June, organised by First India News, was announced on Tuesday, 1 July. This prestigious title has been awarded to 20-year-old innovator Aryan Singh from Kota.

## ARYAN SINGH – A TRUE COMPANION FOR FARMERS

Founder of Mera SATHI AgRoTech, Aryan Singh started his agri-tech start-

up at just 18. His core objective was to empower Indian farmers with advanced, affordable, and easy-to-use technology. Today, his startup is playing a vital role in transforming farming practices and increasing farmers' income.

## AGROBOT: A GAME-CHANGER

Aryan's flagship invention, AGROBOT, is a multi-functional robot powered by AI and IoT. It handles tasks like planting, harvesting, irrigation, and soil testing – all with crop-specific customisa-



Aryan Singh

tion. AGROBOT has made precision farming a reality even for small & marginal farmers.

## NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Aryan's innovations have not only been appreciat-

ed by both President & PM Modi but have also received support from NITI Aayog, Atal Inno-

vation Mission, and Startup India Mission.

## BRINGING CHANGE TO RURAL INDIA Through Mera SATHI AgRoTech, Aryan is driving change in rural India by:

- Boosting farmer incomes
- Creating rural jobs
- Training youth in agri-tech
- Positioning India as a global agri-tech leader

His team has impacted over 25,000 farmers across 15 states. Aryan has won Startup India Award by PM Modi, NITI Aayog Special Grant etc.

1st इंडिया NEWS | 1st INDIA+ | सच बेधड़क

present

**YOUTH ICON OF THE MONTH**

Don't miss your chance! If you are from Rajasthan and aged 18-35, this is your opportunity to become the next Youth Icon of the Month! Step up, shine, and make your mark!

SCAN OR CLICK FOR REGISTRATION



## GST reshaped India's economic landscape: PM

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

On the eighth anniversary of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) roll out, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the indirect tax regime stands out as a landmark reform that has reshaped India's economic landscape.

He said on X, "By reducing the compliance burden, it has greatly improved the ease of doing business, particularly for small and medium enterprises. GST has also served as a powerful

**The gross GST collections in the first year of operation (9 months) were ₹7.40 lakh crore. Over the years, it has witnessed exponential growth, says govt**

engine for economic growth, while fostering true cooperative federalism by making states equal partners in this journey to integrate India's market."

The GST, which was implemented from July

1, 2017, has unified 17 taxes and 13 cesses, creating a seamless national market by simplifying compliance and digitising tax systems. It has also expanded the taxpayer base and strengthened cooperative federalism, the government has said.

In 2024-25, gross GST collections hit a record Rs 22.08 lakh crore, marking a year-on-year growth of 9.4 per cent. This rise reflects the growing formalisation of the economy and improved tax compliance.

### PM GREETES CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, HIGHLIGHTS ROLE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

PM Modi greeted Chartered Accountants on Chartered Accountant's Day, emphasising that their precision and expertise have helped strengthening the country's economy. "Wishing all Chartered Accountants a very happy CA Day! Their precision and expertise are essential for every organisation. By emphasising on compliance and transparency, they contribute to a healthy economy," he said.

### PM MODI PRAISES ALL HARDWORKING DOCTORS ON NATIONAL DOCTOR'S DAY

PM Modi on Tuesday greeted doctors on the National Doctors' Day, and said they are truly protectors of health and pillars of humanity. He said, "Our doctors have made a mark for their dexterity and diligence." He added, "Equally notable is their spirit of compassion. Their contribution in strengthening India's healthcare infrastructure is indeed exceptional."

### PM GREETES EX-VICE PRESIDENT NAIDU ON HIS BIRTHDAY

PM Modi on Tuesday greeted former Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, on his 76th birthday. On this special occasion, the Prime Minister lauded Naidu's service and commitment to nation-building. Taking to his X handle, PM Modi wrote, "Best wishes to our former Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu Garu on his birthday. Praying for his long and healthy life."

## ₹1 LAKH CR SCHEME TO SPUR PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN R&D

The scheme approved at a meeting chaired by PM Modi, aims to encourage the private sector

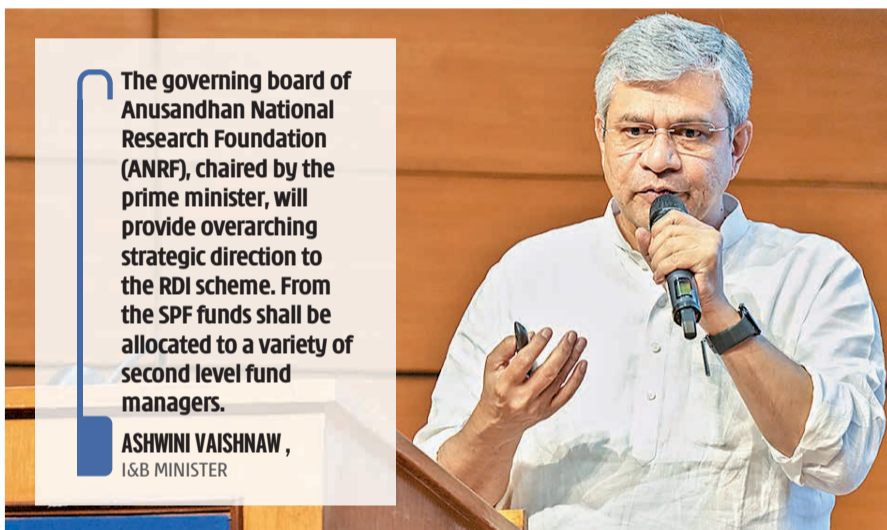
First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Research Development and Innovation Scheme with a corpus of Rs one lakh crore to spur private sector investment in research.

The scheme, approved by the Cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development and innovation in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance.

The scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in research, development and innovation, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

He said the scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of the private sector & seeks to provide growth and strategic capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness. The initiative will finance transformative projects at higher technology readiness levels, support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance.



Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw briefs the media on union cabinet decisions, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

**The governing board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), chaired by the prime minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI scheme. From the SPF funds shall be allocated to a variety of second level fund managers.**

ASHWINI VAISHNAW,  
I&B MINISTER

### CABINET NOD TO FOUR-LANE PARAMAKUDI-RAMANATHAPURAM ROAD PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the construction of four-lane Paramakudi-Ramanathapuram Section of NH-87 in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 1,853 crore. The project will be developed on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a capital cost of Rs 1,853 crore, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in the Cabinet meeting. Currently, connectivity between Madurai, Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram, Mandapam, Rameshwaram, and Dhanushkodi is dependent on the existing 2-lane National Highway 87 (NH-87) and associated State Highways, which experience significant congestion due to high traffic volumes, especially in densely populated stretches and key towns along the corridor. To address these challenges, the project will upgrade approximately 46.7 km of NH-87 from Paramakudi to Ramanathapuram to a 4-lane configuration, an official release said. This will decongest the existing corridor, improve safety, and cater to the mobility needs of rapidly growing towns such as Paramakudi, Sathirakudi, Achundavanayal and Ramanathapuram.

### BIHAR CABINET APPROVES ₹882.87 CR FOR DEVP OF TEMPLE AT BIRTHPLACE OF GODDESS SITA

Patna: The Bihar government on Tuesday approved more than Rs 882 crore for the overall development of 'Punaura Dham Janki Mandir', a Hindu pilgrimage site in Sitamarhi district that is considered the birthplace of Goddess Sita. The state Cabinet decided at a meeting chaired by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar here on Tuesday. "I am extremely delighted to inform that the state Cabinet on Tuesday approved a comprehensive plan, worth Rs 882.87 Crore, for the overall development of Punaura Dham, the birthplace of goddess Sita (Janaki), in Sitamarhi district. The plan includes the construction of a grand temple and other structures," Kumar posted on X soon after the meeting. According to the proposal of the state Tourism department, which was approved by the Cabinet, around Rs 137 crore will be spent on the renovation of the old Punaura Dham Janki Mandir and Rs. 728 crore for the development of tourist infrastructure around the temple. The remaining amount will be spent on the maintenance of the infrastructure.

### Amit Shah on 1 year of New Criminal Laws

## 'New laws will transform criminal justice system'

PTI  
New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday termed the enactment of three new criminal laws as the biggest reform in Independent India and said the Narendra Modi government framed them in such a way that all rights of citizens are protected and no criminal goes unpunished.

Addressing an event marking one year of the rolling out of the three criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), Shah said these laws are going to transform the criminal justice system in the country significantly.

"I assure all the citizens of India that it will



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta during an event titled 'Nyay Pranali Mein Vishwas ka Swarnim Varsh' in New Delhi, Tuesday.

take a maximum of three years for the full implementation of the new laws. I can also confidently say that anyone can get justice up to the Supreme Court within three years of filing an FIR," he said.

The BNS, BNSS and the BSA replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Crim-

inal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively. The new laws came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The home minister termed the 3 laws as the biggest reform of Independent India and said that the use of technology will ensure that no criminal can escape punishment after committing a crime.

### IN BRIEF

#### South Calcutta College expels 3 accused in gang-rape of student

Kolkata: The authorities of South Calcutta Law College have expelled three accused in the alleged gang-rape of a 24-year-old student from the institute, an official said on Tuesday. Prime accused Monojit Mishra, who was a contractual employee at the college, was among those expelled from the institute. Mishra, along with Zaib Ahmed & Pramit Mukherjee has been arrested.

#### 'I Love You' not sexual intent, rules Bombay HC in molestation case

New Delhi: Bombay HC's Nagpur bench, while quashing conviction of a man under POSCO case, said that saying 'I love you' is only an expression of feeling and does not in itself amount to "sexual intent." A bench acquitted a man accused of molesting a teenage girl. The bench said that any sexual act includes inappropriate touching, forcible disrobing, indecent gestures with intention to insult woman.

## Brutal tool of economic injustice, corporate cronyism RaGa slams GST, calls for reform

PTI  
New Delhi

With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) completing eight years, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that it is a "brutal tool of corporate cronyism" and asserted that a reformed GST must be "people-first, business-friendly, and truly federal in spirit".

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said India deserves a tax system that works for all,



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

not just the privileged few, so that every Indian, from the small shopkeeper to the farmer, can be a stakeholder in the nation's progress.

### 'MODI GOVT'S LOFTY CLAIMS ABOUT DIGITAL INDIA MARRED BY 'UNFULFILLED PROMISES'

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday charged that the government's lofty claims of Digital India are marred by unfulfilled promises and false claims, and asked PM Modi to reflect on his government's "multiple failures and frauds" instead. His remarks came after the prime minister stated that the Digital India initiative launched a decade ago bridged the digital divide between haves and have-nots, and democratised opportunity, stressing that it has become a people's movement. The project's deadline has been revised at least eight times in 11 years & a meagre - 0.73% (766) gram panchayats currently have active Wi-Fi services, he said.



### MURMU INAUGURATES AYUSH UNIVERSITY IN GORAKHPUR

## 'Healthy citizens key to Viksit Bharat by 2047'

PTI  
Gorakhpur (UP)

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday inaugurated the Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath Ayush University, the first such university in the state, and stressed the role of traditional Indian healthcare systems and lifestyle in the nation's progress.

"Today, India's voice is being heard across the world. But to sustain that momentum, every citizen must contribute. We say health is wealth. If we re-



President Droupadi Murmu with Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the inauguration of Mahayogi Guru Gorakhnath AYUSH University, in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday.

main healthy, our dream of making India 'Viksit Bharat' and a 'Vishwaguru' can be realised by

2047," Murmu said, adding that the Ayush University will be a key medium in that journey.

Endorsing the traditional healthcare systems, the President said people must adopt the

Ayurvedic and nature-based lifestyle alongside the modern medicine. "It is important to follow our age-old traditions to maintain health, even after taking conventional medicine," she said.

Murmu said staying healthy requires balance in lifestyle and emphasized 3 principles for good health - Hitbhuk (eat as per your body type), Ritbhuk (eat as per the season) and Mitbhuk (eat less).

Murmu also praised CM Adityanath's efforts in conceptualizing UP's first Ayush University.

PTI  
Bhopal

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rain in most parts of Madhya Pradesh, especially in Gwalior-Chambal, Rewa and Sagar divisions.

The weather department has issued an orange alert for districts -- Gwalior, Bhind, Morena, Sheopur, Datia, Umaria, Dindori, Katni, Mandla and Panna. According to the IMD, an orange alert suggests the possibility of moderate to heavy rainfall. These districts are like-



A vehicle being towed after it got stuck on a waterlogged service road of Delhi-Gurugram Expressway following heavy rainfall, in Gurugram, Haryana, Tuesday.

ly to receive between 2.5 to 8 inches of rainfall in the next 24 hours beginning from Tuesday. Heavy

rainfall is also predicted in districts such as Narmadapuram, Chhindwara, Pandhurna, & Seoni.

## DECADE OF DIGITAL INDIA



## NARENDRA MODI

THE WRITER IS  
PRIME MINISTER  
OF INDIA

Ten years ago, we embarked on a bold journey into uncharted territory with great conviction. While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology. While decades were spent thinking that use of technology will deepen the gap between the haves and the have-nots, we changed this mindset and used technology to eliminate the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

When the intent is right, innovation empowers the less empowered. When the approach is inclusive, technology brings change in the lives of those on the margins. This belief laid the foundation for Digital India: a mission to democratise access, build inclusive digital infrastructure, and opportunities for all.

In 2014, internet penetration was limited, digital literacy was low, and online access to government services was scarce. Many doubted whether a country as vast and diverse as India could truly go digital. Today, that question has been answered not just in data and dashboards, but in the lives of 140 crore Indians. From how we govern, to how we learn, transact, and build, Digital India is everywhere.

## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

In 2014, India had around 25 crore internet connections. Today, that number has grown to over 97 crores. Over 42 lakh kilometres of Optical Fibre Cable equivalent to 11 times the distance between Earth and the Moon now connects even the most remote villages.

India's 5G rollout is among the fastest in the world, with 4.81 lakh base stations installed in just two years. High-speed internet now reaches urban hubs and forward military posts alike including Galwan, Siachen, and Ladakh. India Stack, which is our digital backbone, has enabled platforms like UPI, which now handles 100+ billion transactions a year. Around half of all

India's digital economy is empowering MSMEs and small entrepreneurs like never before. ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a revolutionary platform which opens a new window of opportunities by providing a seamless connection with huge market of buyers and sellers.



Ten years ago, we embarked on a bold journey into uncharted territory with great conviction. While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology.

real time digital transactions happen in India.

Through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), over Rs 44 lakh crore has been transferred directly to citizens, cutting out middlemen and saving Rs 3.48 lakh crore in leakages. Schemes like SVAMITVA have issued 2.4 crore+ property cards and mapped 6.47 lakh villages, ending years of land-related uncertainty.

## DEMOCRATISING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

India's digital economy is empowering MSMEs and small entrepreneurs like never before. ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a revolutionary platform which opens a new window of opportunities by providing a seamless connection with huge market of buyers and sellers.

GeM (Government E-Marketplace) enables the common man to sell goods and services to all arms of the government. This not only empowers the common man with a huge market but also saves money for the Government.

**Imagine this:** You apply for a Mudra loan online. Your creditworthiness is assessed through an account aggregator



framework. You get your loan and start your venture. You register on GeM, supply to schools and hospitals, and then scale up via ONDC.

ONDC recently crossed 200 million transactions, with the last 100 million in just six months. From Banarasi weavers to bamboo artisans in Nagaland, sellers are now reaching customers nationwide, without middlemen or digital monopolies.

GeM has also crossed ₹1 lakh crore GMV in 50 days, with 22 lakh sellers including 1.8 lakh+ women-led MSMEs, who have fulfilled orders worth ₹46,000 crore.

## DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE: INDIA'S GLOBAL OFFERING

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) from Aadhaar, CoWIN, DigiLocker, and FASTag to PM-WANI and One Nation One Subscription is now studied and adopted globally. CoWIN enabled the world's largest vaccination drive, issuing 220 crore QR-verifiable certificates. DigiLocker, with 54 crore users, hosts 775 crore+ documents, securely and seamlessly.

Through our G20 Presidency, India launched the Global DPI Repository and a \$25 million Social Impact Fund, help-

ing nations across Africa and South Asia adopt inclusive digital ecosystems.

## STARTUP POWER MEETS AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

India now ranks among the top 3 startup ecosystems in the world, with over 1.8 lakh startups. But this is more than a startup movement, it is a tech renaissance. India is doing extremely well when it comes to AI skill penetration and AI talent concentration among our youth.

Through the \$1.2 billion India AI Mission, India has enabled access to 34,000 GPUs at globally unmatched prices at

India now ranks among the top 3 startup ecosystems in the world, with over 1.8 lakh startups. But this is more than a startup movement, it is a tech renaissance. India is doing extremely well when it comes to AI skill penetration and AI talent concentration among our youth.

less than \$1/GPU hour making India not just the most affordable internet economy, but also the most affordable compute destination. India has championed humanity-first AI. The New Delhi Declaration on AI promotes innovation with responsibility. We are establishing AI Centres of Excellence across the country.

## THE ROAD AHEAD

The next decade will be even more transformative. We are moving from digital governance to global digital leadership, from India-first to India-for-the-world. Digital India has not remained a mere government program, it has become a people's movement. It is central to building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and to making India a trusted innovation partner to the world. To all innovators, entrepreneurs, and dreamers: the world is looking at India for the next digital breakthrough.

Let us build what empowers. Let us solve what truly matters.

Let us lead with technology that unites, includes, and uplifts.

PM MODI WRITES BLOG ON 10 YEARS OF DIGITAL INDIA

Talks in advanced stages as deadline approaches fast

# Confident of India-US trade deal success: S Jaishankar

Agencies  
New York

India is hopeful of concluding a trade deal with the US soon, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. In a Fireside Chat with Newsweek CEO Dev Pragad, he said, "We are in the middle—hopefully beyond the middle—of a complex trade negotiation. I'm optimistic we can conclude it successfully. I can't promise it, but I believe it's possible." He added, "We'll have to watch this space in the coming days." US President Donald Trump has set a July 9 deadline for imposing reciprocal tariffs.

Trump recently announced a trade agreement with China and hinted at a major upcoming deal with India. "We have one coming up maybe with India. A very big one where we're going to open up India," he said.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday that the agreements are being finalised. Jaishankar's comments came as a trade delegation led by India's Chief Negotiator Rajesh Agrawal is in the US for talks.

Earlier, Commerce



EAM S. Jaishankar in conversation with Newsweek CEO Dev Pragad in New York on Tuesday.

## S JAISHANKAR URGES GLOBAL UNITY AGAINST TERRORISM

New York: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday called on the global community to unite against terrorism, emphasizing that terrorists must face no impunity, should not be used as proxies, and nuclear blackmail must never be tolerated. Speaking during the inauguration of the exhibition 'The Human Cost of Terrorism' at the United Nations headquarters, Jaishankar highlighted India's firm response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack as a clear message of zero tolerance toward terrorism. The exhibi-



Jaishankar speaking at the UN headquarters.

tion, displayed at two UN locations from June 30 to July 3 and July 7 to 11, opened just before Pakistan's Presidency of the UN Security Council in

July. Jaishankar recalled the Security Council's strong condemnation of the Pahalgam attack and its call for justice; hold its perpetrators accountable.

Minister Piyush Goyal said both countries are working to provide preferential market access while addressing tariff

issues on aluminium and steel. An interim agreement is reportedly possible before the full bilateral trade agreement

(BTA) is rolled out. US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said a deal is likely soon, benefiting both nations.

Pak takes on presidency of UNSC for July  
PTI  
Islamabad

Pakistan assumed the UN Security Council Presidency for July with "purpose, humility, and conviction" to promote law and multilateralism. The rotating presidency is part of Pakistan's two-year term as a non-permanent member, which began in January 2025 after securing 182 out of 193 votes. The Foreign Office emphasized Pakistan's commitment to the UN Charter, international law, and multilateralism. Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, presiding over Council meetings, highlighted Pakistan's focus on dialogue, diplomacy, and peacebuilding. He has briefed UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on the Council's July agenda.

# FM Sitharaman meets Spanish leaders to boost ties

Agencies  
Seville (Spain)



FM Sitharaman at the International Conference on Financing for Development organised by the United Nations in Seville, Spain.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held multiple bilateral meetings during the International Business Forum Leadership Summit, discussing cooperation in defence, education, technology, agriculture, and other sectors. She met Dr. Shane Reti, New Zealand's Minister of Science, Innovation, Technology, Universities, Statistics, and Pacific Peoples. They emphasized shared democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, focusing on defence, education, technology, and agriculture cooperation. Sitharaman highlighted opportunities at GIFT-IFSC in banking, bullion exchange, capital markets,

FinTech, and insurance sectors. Both agreed to strengthen educational ties, with New Zealand sharing its Pacific engagement experience. Sitharaman also discussed enhancing India's partnership with Pacific Island countries via the Pacific Islands Forum. She met Peru's Foreign Minister, Elmer Schialer Salcedo, to deepen strategic partnerships in FinTech, trade, mining, investment, defence, and

infrastructure, especially railways. Sitharaman shared India's expertise in rail link construction and rolling stock manufacturing; Salcedo welcomed Indian participation in Peru's railway projects. India expressed interest in expanding exports to Peru, including automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, and IT services, while valuing imports of critical minerals like copper and lithium.

# Israeli leaders to discuss Gaza ceasefire in Washington amid rising conflict

Agencies  
Jerusalem



Benjamin Netanyahu

Israeli aircraft and tanks carried out intense strikes across northern and southern Gaza on Tuesday, reducing numerous residential clusters to rubble. The bombardment coincided with a Washington visit by a close ally of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanya-

hu amid talks of a possible ceasefire. Following fresh evacuation or-

ders, thousands fled as tanks advanced into eastern Gaza City and moved into Khan Younis and Rafah, according to residents. Local health authorities reported at least 20 deaths and widespread housing destruction in Shejaia and Zeitoun districts of Gaza City, as well as areas east of Khan Younis and in Rafah. The Israeli mili-

tary had no immediate comment. Israel's Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, a Netanyahu confidant, is in Washington to meet White House officials, while Netanyahu is scheduled to visit the US in the second week to discuss a trade deal with Prez Trump, who voiced support for winding down the Gaza conflict.

# India's rape crisis deepens: 86 cases a day, low convictions, and rising public outrage

Pari Tikkiwal  
Jaipur

India continues to battle a persistent rape crisis, with high incident rates, low convictions, and growing public frustration despite significant legal changes and social awareness campaigns. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported 31,677 rape cases in 2021 and 31,516 in 2022, which has not changed for any better with an average of 86 reported rapes per day. Shockingly, 89% of victims knew their assailants, indicating a deep rooted cultural and institutional breakdown.

International comparisons paint a grim picture. India ranks fourth glob-



ally in crimes against women, underscoring the epidemic's scale, even as the country portrays low per capita rates in some perspectives. Experts stress that legal reforms without robust enforcement and societal shift remain inadequate.

Official data also masks the larger reality. Studies, including those by Madiha Kark, suggest 54-71% of rapes in India go unre-

ported, with survivors deterred by fear, stigma, or dead-end investigations. Globally, only 11% of sexual assaults are reported, according to the United Nations.

The year 2025 has already yielded multiple shocking incidents like in Ajmer, a 5 year old girl was raped by a railway staff member, in Kolkata, a law student was gang-raped on campus, in

Pune, a female counselor was assaulted inside a public bus and in Pahalgam, a 70 year old tourist was raped in her hotel room. These cases ignited public outrage. On social media, hashtags like #FastTrackJustice, #CriminaliseMaritalRape, and #JusticeForSurvivors trends as protests erupt in Delhi, Jaipur, & Kolkata.

Legal reform in the aftermath of the 2012 Nirbhaya case included fast-track courts, harsher sentences, and broader definitions of sexual assault, including death penalties for rape of minors. Yet conviction rates remain stuck at approximately 27%. "Rapists don't fear the system, because the system is inconsistent

and poorly enforced," said senior criminal lawyer Rebecca M. John in Reuters report. Mahua Moitra, TMC MP, added criticism in June 2025, quoting, "Misogyny in India cuts across party lines...we condemn these disgusting comments no matter who makes them," in response to victim-blaming statements from political figures.

The issue is no longer about passing laws, it's about implementing the laws and transforming culture. The survivors and accountability advocates warn that without enforcement, sensitivity, and equality, justice will just remain a privilege for the few and it will not be a right for all.

Militaries of India, France hold joint drills

PTI  
New Delhi

Indian and French militaries carried out a two-week wargame in France that focused on boosting joint operational preparedness to deal with security challenges. About 50 armoured and tactical vehicles and fighter jets were deployed in the Indo-French army exercise Shakti that was held from June 18 to July 1. The exercise involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the French Army, the Foreign Legion, as well as the French Air and Space Force, and the French Navy, according to a French readout.

# Army's Chetak Corps celebrates 47th Raising Day



47th Raising Day celebrated at Bathinda Military Station.

First India Bureau  
Bathinda

Chetak Corps celebrated its 47th Raising Day at Bathinda Military Station, marking its formation on 1st July 1979 under Lieutenant General M.L. Tuli. Upholding the motto 'Fight Forward, Fight Aggressive', the Corps has transformed into a battle-ready and professional formation.

In a solemn ceremony, Lt. General Shamsher Singh Virk and all ranks paid tribute at the 'Yodha Yaadgar' War Memorial, honouring fallen soldiers. Corps Commander commended troops for their readiness during 'Operation Sindoor', urged continued dedication, and reaffirmed commitment to Army traditions; he expressed gratitude to veterans.

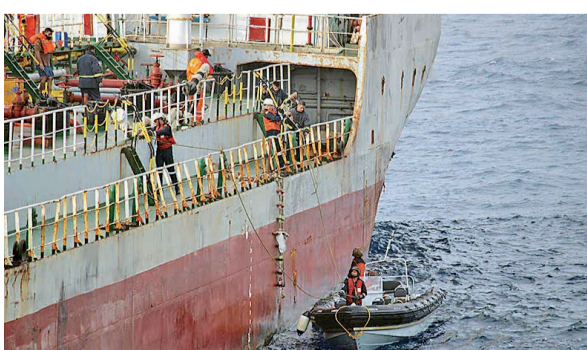
## INDIAN NAVY LEADS FORWARD

# Indian Navy leads critical firefighting and rescue operations on MT Yi Cheng 6

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Demonstrating swift operational readiness and commitment to seafarer safety, the Indian Navy executed a high-risk firefighting and rescue operation aboard the Palau-flagged tanker MT Yi Cheng 6 on 29 June 2025 in the North Arabian Sea. The fire was successfully contained, and all 14 Indian crew members were declared safe.

INS Tabar, on mission-based deployment,



Swift action and operational readiness ensured safety of Indian crew in the North Arabian sea.

responded to a Mayday call reporting a major engine room fire around 80 nautical miles east of Fujairah, UAE. The

ship rushed to the scene, established contact with the vessel's Master, and began firefighting operations.

Seven crew members were promptly evacuated using INS Tabar's boats and examined by the ship's medical team. The remaining crew, including the Master, stayed aboard to assist. A six-member naval firefighting team with equipment boarded the vessel, supported later by 13 additional personnel. Joint efforts significantly reduced the fire, confining smoke to the engine room. Continuous monitoring is underway, and INS Tabar remains on station.

# INS Tamal commissioned in Russia, symbolising Indo-Russian naval partnership

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Tamal (F 71) on 01 July 2025 at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia, in the presence of VAdm Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. Also attending were senior Indian and Russian naval officials, including VAdm Rajaram Swaminathan and VAdm Sergie Lipin. INS Tamal is the eighth multi-role stealth frigate



INS Tamal (F 71) was commissioned on 01 July 2025 at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia.

of Project 1135.6 and the second of the follow-on Tushil class. The first, INS Tushil, was commissioned in December

2024. All previous ships are part of the Western Fleet, the Indian Navy's 'Sword Arm'. INS Tamal is commanded by Capt

Sridhar Tata. The event began with a joint Guard of Honour, followed by speeches from Russian dignitaries and VAdm Swaminathan, who described Tamal as a symbol of Indo-Russian strategic partnership.

Tamal is the 51st ship produced through this collaboration over 65 years.

Following the signing of the Delivery Act, the Russian Navy flag was lowered, and the Indian Naval ensign hoisted with ceremonial honors.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

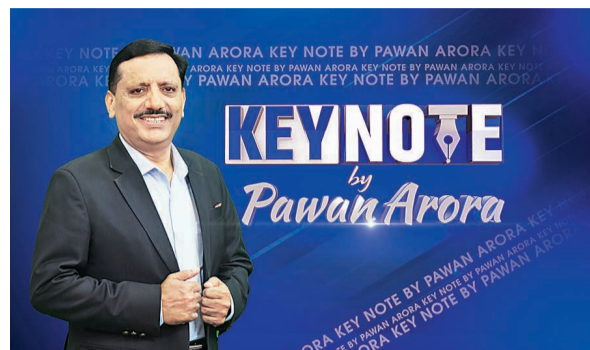
Good leaders create trust, teamwork, and constant growth.

Dr JAGDESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

# 'ASTROLOGY IS METAPHYSICAL SCIENCE; ALL DISCIPLINES ARE ROOTED IN DIVINE GRACE'



In a tête-à-tête with First India News CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora, renowned astrologer Pandit Rajkumar Sharma shared insights on his spiritual journey, roots of astrology, & its role in overcoming life's challenges. He amazed anchor Shweta Mishra Awasthi by identifying her family through face reading, while calling astrology a divine, karma-based science rooted in spiritual discipline

**Q Tell us about your early life and education.**

**A** I hail from Bagdi village in Peepalu Tehsil of Tonk district. My great-granduncle Pandit Ramkumar Sharma was a remarkable Brahma Rishi who shared a spiritual connection with the Goddess. From childhood, I could feel his divine presence. My father served in the Bisalpur project. We lived in Deoli, where I did some of my schooling. Later, after my father's transfer, I spent three years studying in our village. I completed my formal education in Tonk and earned my B.Ed. from Jammu. I passed the RPSC exam and became a government teacher in 2008 and have been teaching ever since.

**Q How did you come in contact with your Guruji, Kachidawale Babaji, whose ashram was in Kachida,**

**Ranthambore?**

**A** By the grace of Brahma Rishi, I was spiritually inclined from a young age. When I first visited Kachidawale Babaji, he called me by name—"Come, Rajkumar, tonight you must stay here." Residing at Kachida Mata Temple in Zone 4 of Ranthambore, he was sought by world leaders, bureaucrats, and corporates. Tigers would encircle him protectively, and a giant serpent stayed with him—though I didn't witness this, my fellow disciple, Fateh Singh Rathore, the "Tiger Man of India," did. My spiritual sister, Padmini Rathore, and he had visited Babaji since childhood. He was an extraordinary saint who spent his life in the forest and left his body in 2012.

**Q Is there a specific ritual for worshipping Goddess Baglamukhi?**

**A** I established Sadguru Ashram in Tonk in October 2020, starting from a simple tent. Its aim was to provide shelter to all, regardless of caste, gender, status, or identity. Our Guruji used to say that 90% of people fear religion. A husband may have de-



Pawan Arora in conversation with astrologer Pandit Rajkumar Sharma during the 'Keynote' by Pawan Arora. © SANTOSH SHARMA

sires unknown to his wife, and vice versa. So we resolved to innovate. Over the past four years, Baba guided us through many rituals for the Goddess and our Guruji. Sadly, Baglamukhi is often misrepresented—linked to maran, mohan, uchchatan, vashikaran—as if she's a demoness. But even if a son is flawed, a mother is never evil.

**Q People approach astrology for court cases, disputes, or delays in marriage and property. What's your experience with such cases?**

**A** As the saying goes, "Sur, mun, muni jan ki yah hai reeti, swarth

bin kare na koi preeti." No one loves God without self-interest. Our scriptures are deeply scientific. Life's troubles are already written in our texts. If we follow those paths, success is assured, and we find solutions and relief.

**Q Astrology has many branches—palmistry, horoscope matching, tarot, KP method, numerology. How do you practice?**

**A** Our astrology is a metaphysical science. There are large universities dedicated to astrology. Even a Rs 50 almanac (Panchang) foretold a recent plane crash. It mentions astronomical

events 50 years in advance. Tarot, numerology—all of it is based on divine grace.

**Q How important is a shubh or Abhijeet muhurat for starting a task? Can one find it themselves, or is an astrologer needed?**

**A** This is a scriptural tradition rooted in the Vedas and Shastras. What's written in them is the truth. If an astrologer says otherwise, reject it. We are shaped by scriptures, not the other way around. Believe in them, and success will follow. Tools like Choghadiya Panchang are now easily available online.

Religion should not be politicised; act with sincerity, free from pretension; Karma is the true definition of destiny

**Q What about Karn Pishachini, Preta Yogini, Brahma Rakshas—do astrologers use such supernatural methods?**

**A** Some claim that invoking such entities allows them to predict. I believe if one cannot master his own wife, how can one control the Supreme? The Divine cannot be "mastered"—one can only receive grace through selfless devotion.

**Q With your growing online presence, are large-scale spiritual events on your agenda like Dhirendra Shastri's?**

**A** My Guruji once said, "Son, I know neither tantra nor mantra—only surrender to my Guru and Ishta." I leave everything to the Divine. Many suggest going live or expanding outreach, but without Guruji's command, I do nothing—even if the PM is present.

**Q Many astrologers make political predictions. Leaders like Bhajan Lal Sharma, Devnani, and Poonia have visited you. Do you see a political role for yourself?**

**A** Politics should be guided by dharma, but dharma must not be

politicized. Whoever comes to me, I fulfill my duty with integrity and try to contribute to nation-building. I advise leaders, bureaucrats, and industrialists to use their strengths for public good, not personal ambition. I have no political agenda.

**Q Do you plan to host events like Shiv Puran or Ram Katha?**

**A** All my plans and intentions are surrendered at the feet of the Mother. I am her servant and act only on her command.

**Q Do you suggest any mantras or prayers to ease suffering and improve life?**

**A** We must face the results of past and present actions, but Vedic remedies can ease the pain. Material intellect can't fully grasp spiritual power. Drop pretence, follow your duty—karma alone shapes destiny.



Scan or Click to watch Keynote by Pawan Arora

## Rebuild a broken health system: CM



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses the Doctor's Day event at SMS Medical College in Jaipur. SMS Medical College Principal Deepak Maheshwari, JMA President Jagdish Modi, Secretary Anurag Tomar & others were present.

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

At a Doctors' Day event, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma criticised the previous government for poorly planned health schemes like Chiranjeevi Yojana, which lacked funding and coverage. He detailed the launch of the

Rs 3,500 cr MAA Yojana, 24,000 appointments, new hospitals, and Rs 15,000 cr infra works. Over 6.23 cr ABHA IDs and free sonography vouchers were also noted. Health Minister GS Khimsar said the government is committed to doctors' safety and rural-urban healthcare reforms.

## CM'S VISION AIDS 2 MILLION ELDERLY VIA RAMASHRAY WARDS

Jaipur: Under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's sensitive initiative, Ramashray Wards have been established in all district hospitals across Rajasthan to provide free and dignified healthcare to the elderly. Launched on March 14, 2024, under the guidance of Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar, the initiative has benefited nearly 2 million senior citizens. These wards offer OPD, IPD, lab tests, and physiotherapy services. So far, over 1.22 million lab tests and 27,000 physiotherapy sessions have been conducted. Each ward has 10 reserved beds, nursing alarms, privacy partitions, and modern physiotherapy equipment. Geriatric Clinics also ensure separate counters for registration, diagnostics, and medicines, reducing hospital hardships.



## PROMOTEE IAS MEET CM

A delegation of officers recently promoted from RAS to IAS cadre, pay a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma at the Chief Minister's Residence in Jaipur on Tuesday. The delegation included Avadhesh Singh, Rakesh Sharma, Sukhveer Saini, Mahendra Kumar Khinchii, Brijesh Kumar Chandolia, Rajesh Verma, Rakesh Rajoria, Jagveer Singh, Jugal Kishore Meena, and Suresh Chandra.



## RCA OFFICIALS MEET CM

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being felicitated by the newly appointed members of the RCA Ad-hoc Committee, led by Convenor Deendayal Kumawat, at CMR on Tuesday. They expressed their commitment to promoting cricket activities in the state and continuously encouraging young players. Dhananjay Khimsar, Ashish Tiwari, Mohit Yadav, and Pinkesh Porwal were also present.

## AWARENESS EFFORT

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma unveils the poster for a blood donation camp to be organised by the Youth Wing of the International Vaishya Mahasammelan Rajasthan on July 6, at CMR in Jaipur on Tuesday. Dhruvdas Agrawal, State In-charge of youth wing, Gopal Gupta, State General Secretary, Manish Gupta, President of the youth wing and Kedar Gupta, the General Secretary were present.



## SPIRITUAL EXCHANGE

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma felicitates Maharaj Vedantacharya Dr Dhyanamam by presenting him with a stole during a meeting at CMR in Jaipur on Tuesday. They discussed issues related to the social and educational upliftment of the Rajpurohit community and spiritual matters. Ahoor MLA Chhagan Singh and office-bearers of the Brahmham Asotra Trust were also present.

## Gehlot slams detention of Cong workers

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday condemned the detention of Congress workers ahead of a Union Minister's visit to Anupgarh, calling it a "murder of democracy." He alleged the BJP was misusing police to suppress peaceful protests demanding district status for Anupgarh. Gehlot urged the release of all detained workers and warned such actions threaten democratic values and reflect growing intolerance.

## PUBLIC CONNECT

# Meghwal pledges district status push, stresses unity

Bhavish Garg  
Sri Ganganagar/ Anupgarh

Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal visited Anupgarh on Tuesday, where he was warmly welcomed by BJP workers and public representatives. At a meeting with farmers at Raj Vilas Palace, he heard concerns regarding irrigation shortages, 6A land issues, and the long-pending demand for Anupgarh to be made a district. He assured prompt ac-



Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurates development works worth Rs1.82 crore at the Anupgarh Municipal Council premises on Tuesday. Anupgarh Municipal Council Chairperson Priyanka Balan Meghwal, former MLA Santosh Bawri, Shimla Bawri, Balveer Luthra & others were present.

tion, stating farmers' welfare is a top priority. Meghwal inaugurat-



Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal with meritorious students during the inauguration of the newly constructed classrooms at PM Shri Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Anupgarh. Anupgarh Municipal Council Chairperson Priyanka Balan Meghwal, former MLA Santosh Bawri, Shimla Bawri, Balveer Luthra & others were present.

Senior Secondary School and lauded the school's infrastructure improvement. He felicitated meritorious girls and planted

## DoP fills posts after Kishnani, Ratnoo retire

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The DoP has issued orders assigning additional posts of two IAS-level posts following the retirement of senior officials Shelly Kishnani and Meghraj Singh Ratnoo. RAS officer Jai Singh has been given additional charge of ADG, HCM RIPA. IAS officer Manish Goyal has been assigned the post of Director of Literacy. The official order regarding these appointments was released by the Department of Personnel.

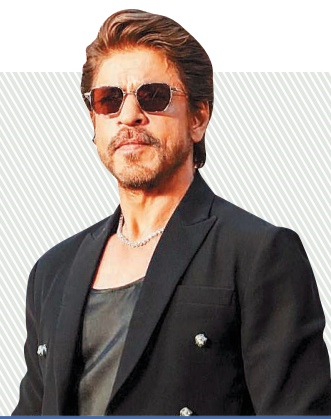
trees under the 'Hariyalo Rajasthan' drive. Impressed by the school's initiative of girls wearing traditional turbans, he announced Rs 23 lakh for a new hall & promised to share the idea with PM Narendra Modi.

He laid the foundation stone for Rs 2.12 crore projects including a community hall, road works, and boundary walls, and announced a sewerage system. At a traders' meet, Meghwal backed the district demand and urged unity, recalling the 1975 Emergency.



# City First

JAIPUR, WEDNESDAY | JULY 2, 2025



**BOLLYWOOD IN COLOMBO!**  
South Asia is set to witness a grand celebration as Bollywood's beloved superstar, Shah Rukh Khan, will grace the grand opening of City of Dreams Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 2, 2025. **P11**



A captivating still from "Amba Bari ke Baccho ki Sholay," a playful act choreographed by Khushal Anand and Kunal Hada

## STAGESAGA!

Fusion 2025, the 30th annual dance showcase by Buskers Dance Institute, was held on Saturday at BM Birla Auditorium, Jaipur. Supported by media sponsors Bharat 24 and First India Newspaper, the event celebrated youth talent, culture and dynamic performances!



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

from across 11 branches of Buskers in Jaipur. These students had been rigorously training for three months under expert guidance to present an unforgettable showcase of talent. The event featured a stunning blend of dance forms including contemporary, jazz, hip-hop and Bollywood, all presented through powerful themes and adorned with vibrant costumes and imaginative props.

Under the direction of Brijesh Saxena and Hemendra Singh Gajawat, Fusion 2025 not only celebrated dance but became a platform for meaningful storytelling and cultural reflection. Speaking on the occasion, Hemendra Singh Gajawat shared, "At Buskers, we believe in offering young dancers a space to dream, create, and shine. Fusion is more than a performance, it is our tribute to

the passion, perseverance and creative brilliance of our students."

Some of the standout performances included a deeply impactful act titled 'Bhagat Singh-Ek Soch' by the senior batch of Bani Park, which brought alive the revolutionary's ideology on stage. Another performance based on the 'Lagaan' theme captivated the audience with its cinematic grandeur and emotion.

The spiritual highlight of the evening was the dance rendition of the 'Hanuman Chalisa', which merged devotion with dynamic choreography, leaving the audience spiritually uplifted. 'Operation Sindoor' was another powerful act, blending patriotism with intensity, showcasing a mission-driven performance that left a lasting impression. **Turn to pg 11**

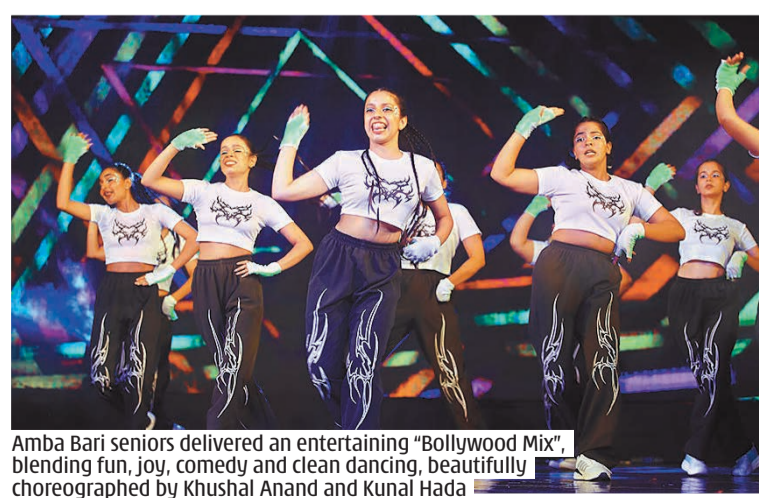
**J**aipur came alive with rhythm, colour, and cultural brilliance as Buskers Dance Institute presented its 30th Annual Event—Fusion 2025. Held on Saturday at the iconic BM Birla Auditorium, located at Statue Circle, the event drew a massive crowd of dance enthusiasts, proud parents and cultural connoisseurs. With the enthusiastic support of media partners First India News and Bharat24: Vision of New India, the celebration was nothing short of extraordinary.

Fusion 2025 was held in two enthralling sessions, the first from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM and the second from 7:45 PM to 10:00 PM. The highlight of this grand annual affair was the participation of over 400 students between the ages of 4 and 22

Stills captured Top to Bottom: Amba Bari seniors entertained with Bollywood Mix," Tilak Nagar kids presented a lovely sequence and Bani Park kids showcased the Lagaan theme



A thrilling hip-hop sequence presented by Rohit Saini and his talented team from Malviya Nagar



Amba Bari seniors delivered an entertaining "Bollywood Mix", blending fun, joy, comedy and clean dancing, beautifully choreographed by Khushal Anand and Kunal Hada



"Heart to Heart" came alive on stage as Malviya Nagar's team performed under Rohit Saini's creative choreography

SUNIL SHARMA



**WHAT'S NEXT?**



**Rath Yatra 2025 Festival:** An evening of soulful Kirtan and vibrant Garba will be held with a Yoga Nilayam session from 6 to 8 AM, led by Megh Singh Chawhan, filling the space with devotion.

When: July 3, 2025, 7:00 PM  
Where: Brij Nidhi Temple, Jaipur



**Mehfil E Sartaaj:** Grab this golden opportunity to meet and hear Dr Satinder Sartaaj live in Jaipur and experience his soulful voice and poetic brilliance in an unforgettable Mehfil-e-Sartaaj concert.

When: July 5, 2025, 7:00 PM  
Where: Zee Studios, Jaipur



**Telling Lies No Papa:** Aashish Solanki is back with comedy packed with real moments, hearty laughs, family drama, and the perfect blend of humour and emotion. Come, be part of this unforgettable laughter ride!

When: July 26, 6:00 PM  
Where: Knighthouse, Jaipur

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



Lindsay Lohan  
**CANCER**  
JULY 2

Lucky Number: 2

Lucky Colour: Black

You may feel surrounded by ordinary, conformist people and crave connections with those who stand out from the crowd. Don't worry—they exist nearby. You just need to step out, explore new spaces, and open yourself to discovering truly unique individuals. Enjoy your day!

# Can local skills change lives?



**Pradeep S Mehta**

Secretary General of CUTS International



**Madhvendra S Panwar**

International Relations, CUTS

**I**n Barmer, Rajasthan, over 300 rural women trained in handloom weaving now supply fabrics to national brands, earning stable incomes and dignity. Their success shows the power of local skilling. What if Rajasthan's entire workforce could be similarly empowered to meet industry demand?

Rajasthan's economy is expanding in sectors like textiles, tourism, mining, and renewable energy. Yet nearly 45% of the workforce in gems and jewelry, textiles construction and mining comes from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal as per a report of the Labour Bureau published in 2022. This heavy reliance on migrant labour exposes a local skills gap. Training locals ensures that wages remain within Rajasthan, stimulating local consumption and boosting rural economies. A study by the Institute for Human Development shows that every ₹1 lakh earned and spent locally generates a multiplier effect of ₹2.5 lakh. This enhances income stability and commu-

nity resilience. Thousands of youth migrate from Rajasthan to cities like Mumbai or Delhi for informal jobs. With skill training at home, they can access formal jobs without leaving their families. This curbs urban migration and supports local development.

Key sectors are hungry for skilled labour. Rajasthan contributes over 25% of India's solar energy, requiring trained technicians for operations and maintenance. The textile and garment sector, with ₹10,000 crore in exports (2023-24), needs skilled operators, designers, and quality checkers. Women in rural Rajasthan face limited work options. Skilling in hospitality, handicrafts, or home-based indus-

tries can economically empower them while preserving traditional art forms. The Rajasthan Rural Livelihoods Mission has already trained 1.2 lakh women in such trades. Yet challenges remain. Many young people and their families still prefer conventional degrees, unaware that vocational courses can also lead to high-paying jobs. A 2023 Rajasthan Skills University survey showed that 58% of students lack awareness of career paths in skilled trades.

Infrastructure is another issue. With just 250 ITIs and 60 polytechnic colleges for over 7 crore people, access remains limited—especially in tribal and remote districts. Vocational education is also unfairly seen as a second-tier option compared to formal education. Some employers still favour migrant labour, assuming they are more flexible or productive. This perception can be changed by co-designing courses with industries and introducing apprenticeship models. NSDC data shows such programmes have 70% better placement and retention rates.

To address these gaps, Rajasthan should align its vocational courses with market needs. Courses in solar energy, safe construction, textile de-

sign, and tourism management are highly relevant. Soft skills like communication and teamwork must also be embedded. Successful Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can play a pivotal role. Companies like Tata Motors and Bosch have run skill centres nationwide. Rajasthan's industries can replicate such models by partnering with ITIs and offering certified, job-linked training.

Mobile skill vans and digital modules can help reach remote populations. With growing smartphone access and BharatNet connectivity, youth in semi-urban and rural areas can take courses in welding, tailoring, or digital marketing via online platforms like Skill India Digital. Government support is available. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY) offers free training, while the Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) runs placement-linked programmes.

These schemes need better outreach and employer incentives. Real-life examples show what is possible. In Jaipur, 200+ artisans trained in gemstone polishing saw earnings rise by over 40%. In Jodhpur, a solar technician course placed 90% of graduates in jobs across

renewable energy firms. Local talent, when trained, thrives.

Upskilling will also ease pressure on overburdened cities and bring prosperity to rural areas. As India builds a skill-driven economy, Rajasthan has the potential to lead this movement. Local workers can drive local growth.

The way forward includes expanding ITIs in under-served districts, running awareness drives on vocational careers, and building strong industry partnerships. A mindset shift is needed—valuing skill at par with formal education. Rajasthan must now harness its greatest asset—its people. Vocational education is not a fallback; it is a foundation for progress, dignity, and resilience. A skilled workforce can turn the state into a model for inclusive and sustainable development.

For youth: explore skill training—it may be the path to a better career. For industries: hire and train locals—it builds loyalty and community strength.

For policymakers: invest in skills infrastructure—it's the key to long-term growth.

Together, Rajasthan can reduce dependency, retain talent, and build a future led by its own people—one trained worker at a time.



Police  
**100**

Fire  
**101**

Ambulance  
**102/108**

Child Helpline  
**1098**

Help in Suffering  
**2760012**

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**WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?**

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



**Movie: HOUSEFULL 5**  
Director: Tarun Mansukhani  
Cast & Crew: Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Jacqueline Fernandez, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets

**Movie: MAA**  
Director: Vishal Furia  
Cast & Crew: Kajol, Ronit Roy, Indraneil Sengupta



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<https://www.makemytrip.com/>

# Fusion 2025 Ignites Jaipur Stage

FROM PAGE 09

Shyam Nagar's youngest batch of dancers, aged between 4 to 10, brought infectious energy to the stage with a vibrant Pushpa-themed performance. Meanwhile, Malviya Nagar's juniors performed adorable Bollywood numbers and their senior counterparts stunned the audience with a captivating light-based dance act that redefined visual storytelling.

Each Buskers center brought unique flavors to the stage. Mansarovar's hip-hop act showcased high-energy acrobatics, while Tilak Nagar's little dancers had the audience tapping their feet to Bollywood blockbusters. Ambabari center's juniors also lit up the stage with performances rooted in contemporary themes but executed with remarkable clarity

and flair. The students from Chitrakoot displayed an incredible fusion of dance styles, reflecting Buskers' vision of cultural diversity and inclusivity.

Behind the scenes, a skilled team ensured the program's seamless execution. The choreography and performance training were led by Anuj Jain, Ankush Ojha, Pranay Mathur, Kushal Anand, Yash Rajoria, Prem Halduniya, Rohit Saini, Rahul Yogi, Ram Sharma, Anshika Sharma, Chetan Sharma, Kunal Hada, Nilesh Kuldeep, Ajay Leel, Vanshika Hada, He-

mant Singh, Manish, Bhanu, Mohit and Vedyanshi. Their commitment and creativity shaped each performance into a memorable spectacle. The meticulous event planning and management were handled by Kishan Singh Gajawat and Bhavani Singh, who ensured that every detail—from stage setup to security and logistics—was flawlessly executed.

Speaking on behalf of the institute, Director Brijesh Saxena expressed heartfelt pride in the growth of the event. "It's overwhelming to see how Fusion has evolved into one of Jaipur's most anticipated cultural celebrations. This platform not only showcases talent but also instills confidence, discipline, and a sense of purpose in our students."

Fusion 2025 was not just an annual dance showcase; it

was a vibrant celebration of youth potential, creative freedom and cultural expression. With every beat, move and message, it reaffirmed Buskers Dance Institute's commitment to empowering the next generation of artists and leaders through the transformative power of dance.



Tishika Khandelwal



A beautiful still from the Heart to Heart performance



A cute kid from the "Current Laga" performance presented by Buskers Queens Road kids under Ram's choreography



(L-R) Meera Saxena, Brijesh Saxena, Mansi Saxena and Hemendra Singh Gajawat



A powerful still from Hanuman Chalisa performance



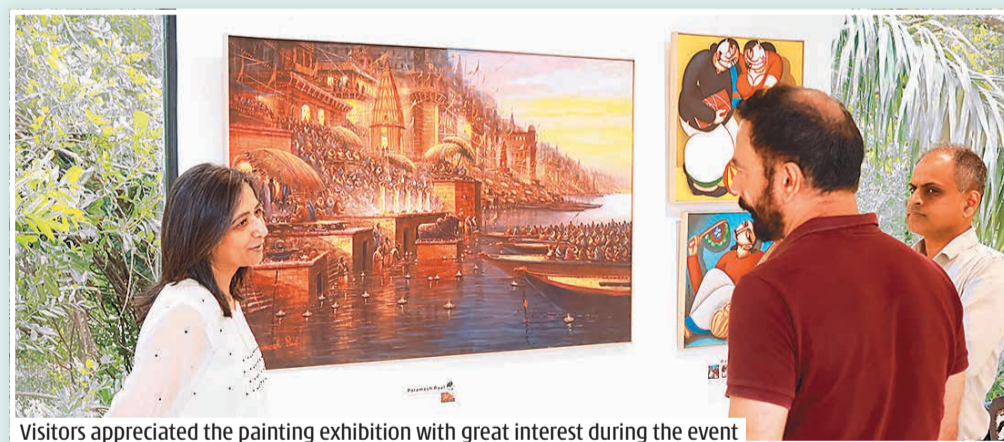
Bani Park seniors captivated the audience with "Bhagat Singh - Ek Soch," a dynamic act choreographed by Prem Halduniya

SUNIL SHARMA

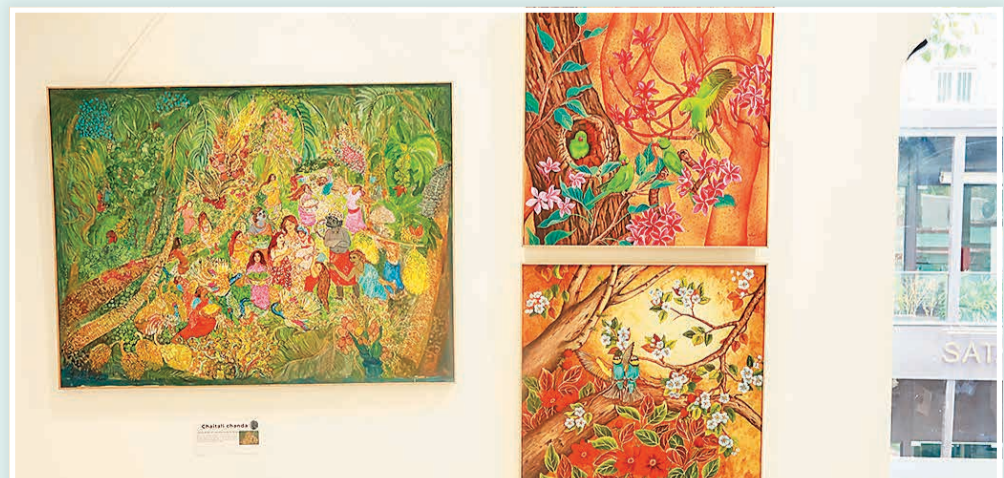


Tilak Nagar's senior kids batch delivered a powerful Hanuman Chalisa performance, beautifully choreographed by Yash Rajoria

## PAINTING STORIES ON CANVAS



Visitors appreciated the painting exhibition with great interest during the event



Amora Galleria, in collaboration with House of Hidden Treasures Jaipur, recently hosted a captivating painting exhibition curated by renowned art curator Hem Rana. The exhibition showcased 35 remarkable artworks by 23 celebrated artists from Kolkata, Delhi, Manipur, and Mumbai, bringing diverse cultural expressions under one roof. A key highlight was the powerful artwork of National Award-winning artist Buddhi Thapa from Manipur. Other notable participants included Paramesh Paul, Debashree Shashmal, Ranjit Sarkar, and Sameer Sarkar, whose paintings explored vibrant themes like the ghats of Banaras, Indian folk traditions, and women's empowerment. The entire collection embraced a figurative style, with several works beautifully capturing the festive moods of Janmashtami and Sawan. The exhibition's creative richness and cultural depth left visitors enthralled. Scheduled to conclude today, the exhibition continues to draw art lovers, leaving a lasting impression with its creative depth and cultural richness.

## Style Meets Flavour



Reyhna Pandit

The stunning Reyhna Pandit was recently spotted at HITCHKI, the vibrant resto-bar in BKC, Mumbai, creating quite a buzz with her chic and effortless style. Known for her captivating screen presence and striking fashion sense, Reyhna embraced a casual yet elegant look that perfectly complemented the eclectic ambience of the place. She seemed to be thoroughly enjoying her time as she indulged in HITCHKI's signature delicacies, radiating happiness and grace throughout her visit. Fans and onlookers couldn't help but be charmed by her relaxed vibe, while paparazzi eagerly captured her candid moments. Reyhna's presence added a special sparkle to the lively setting, making it a memorable evening for everyone around. Once again, the actress proved why she continues to shine as a style icon, effortlessly blending glamour with comfort in every appearance.



## Colombo Welcomes SRK

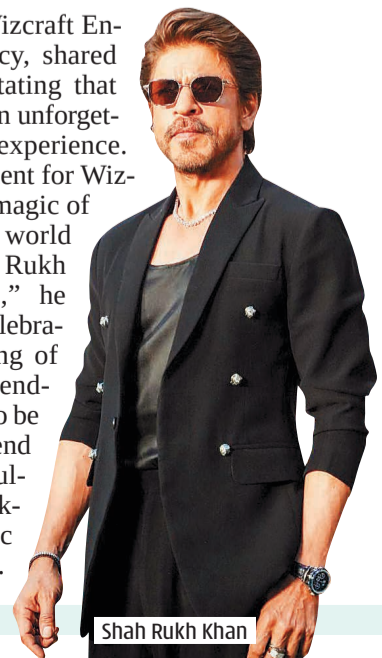


Andre Timmins

South Asia is set to witness a grand celebration as Bollywood's beloved superstar, Shah Rukh Khan, will grace the grand opening of City of Dreams Sri Lanka in Colombo on August 2, 2025. His presence as the special guest marks a significant milestone for South Asia's first integrated resort, which promises to redefine luxury, entertainment, and hospitality in the region. The grand opening also kicks off the "Let's Go, Let Go" campaign, inviting people to embrace joy, freedom, and indulgence like never before.

Andre Timmins, Co-Founder

and Director of Wizcraft Entertainment Agency, shared his excitement, stating that the event will be an unforgettable landmark experience. "It's a proud moment for Wizcraft to bring the magic of Bollywood to the world stage with Shah Rukh Khan joining us," he said. The grand celebration, with the King of Bollywood in attendance, is expected to be a magnificent blend of glamour and cultural vibrancy, making it a historic event for Colombo.



Shah Rukh Khan

## HONOURING THE GUARDIANS OF HEALTH AND FINANCE: Doctors and CAs Felicitated by Lions Club Jaipur Diamond



Pawan Arora felicitates Dr Parul Gupta. Also seen are Dr Ravi Prakash Sharma, Ajay Dogra, Mamta Pancholi and Sudhir Jain

Pawan Arora warmly greeted by (L-R) Dr Ravi Prakash Sharma, Himmat Singh, Preeti Saxena, Mamta Pancholi and Anju

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*“To heal the body and balance the books—both require precision, passion, and a purpose beyond self.”*

# Healing Lives, Balancing Ledgers

**I**n a heartfelt celebration on the occasion of Doctors’ Day and Chartered Accountants’ Day, Lions Club Jaipur Diamond organised a grand felicitation ceremony at which over 70 eminent doctors and chartered accountants were honoured for their dedicated service to society.

Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Club President Mamta Pancholi extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and awardees, while Secretary Preeti Saxena shared that this collective recognition was a tribute to those who continue to serve humanity with unmatched dedication and resilience.

In his stirring address, Pawan Arora lauded both professions, stating, “Doctors are nothing short of the ‘extension counters of God’—their role in saving and sustaining lives, especially amid lifestyle diseases, is divine. Their profession is not a business, but the highest form of service to humanity. Whether it’s diabetes, heart conditions or preventive care,



Pawan Arora felicitates Dr Rakesh Jain. Also seen is Sudhir Jain

today’s doctors guide patients not just to survive, but to live well.”

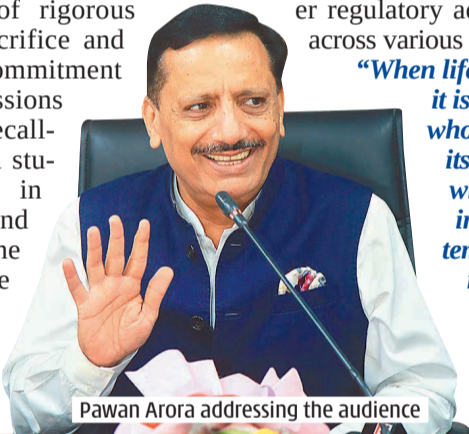
Equally applauding chartered accountants, Arora remarked, “CA’s maintain our financial health, just as doctors preserve our physical and mental well-being. With increasing complexities in compliance, from GST to audit to governance, CAs are no longer confined to tax filings. They have become partners of the government in ensuring economic transparency and accountability. Their role has grown multi-

dimensional, extending far beyond traditional boundaries.” He emphasised the years of rigorous training, sacrifice and ethical commitment both professions demand, recalling his own student years in commerce and the awe he held for these paths.

Among the 70+ awardees

were distinguished doctors such as Dr Ravi Prakash Sharma, Dr Pradeep Chaudhary, Dr Romil Singh and Dr Parul Gupta, along with CAs like Rakesh Gupta, Rahul Sharma and Ashok Jindal. The event saw the presence of dignitaries including Sudhir Jain, Tejinder Singh, Ajay Aggarwal, Sunil Byotra, Shankar Singh Khangarot, Vinay Parashar and others who joined in celebrating this noble confluence of service and expertise. Chartered Accountants introduced enhanced rules focused on Finance, Taxation, Audit, Compliance, and Governance to strengthen transparency, improve financial accountability, and ensure stricter regulatory adherence across various sectors.

*“When life wavers, it is a doctor who restores its rhythm; when trust in the system teeters, it is a CA who restores its balance.”*



Pawan Arora addressing the audience

## First India News Honours Doctors’ Contributions



Dr Minal Sharma, Dr Swati Joshi, Dr Deepak Agarwal, Vijender Solanki, Dr Sanjeev Gupta and Dr Rajendra Singh Chaudhary during the Doctors’ Day discussion program

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**O**n the occasion of Doctor’s Day, First India News Channel organised a special guest discussion program featuring some of the most prominent doctors from across the state. The session was anchored by First India’s

Associate Editor and Senior anchor Vijender Solanki, who held an insightful and detailed conversation with the participating doctors. The panel included Dr Swati Joshi, Consultant – Maxillofacial Prosthodontist and Dentofacial Prosthodontics, Dr Sanjeev Gupta, Senior Consultant Paediatricians, Dr Deepak Agarwal, Senior Con-

sultant – Interventional Radiologist, Dr Rajendra Singh Chaudhary, Senior Consultant – Neurosurgeon, Dr Minal Sharma, Medical Officer – Homeopathy University and Dr Manoj Sharma, Newborn and Child Specialist. The discussion provided valuable perspectives on the evolving medical landscape.

## INSPIRING Medical Tribute



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**O**n the occasion of National Doctors’ Day, Guv Hari Bhu Bagade extended warm greetings and best wishes to doctors across the country, appreciating their selfless service. Senior doctors Dr Ashok Goyal and Dr

Sunita Gupta met the Governor at Raj Bhawan, Jaipur, and presented their inspiring book “Kuch Zindagi Se, Kuch Jahan Se.” The Governor praised the book’s content, lauding its positive message. Dr Goyal shared that the book compiles life lessons and promotes a positive outlook amidst professional stress.



## BRICS Appointment

Mayank Tyagi has been appointed as the Rajasthan Regional Director of BRICS CCI, announced by BRICS Chairman Harvansh Chawla on Monday. His tenure will run from 2025 to 2027. Tyagi will lead BRICS activities in Rajasthan, promoting global partnerships and investments. Harvansh Chawla emphasised that this appointment will boost Rajasthan’s global identity. Tyagi, now with the BJP, pledged to strengthen Rajasthan’s international presence under PM Modi and CM Bhajan Lal Sharma’s leadership.

## TOURISM INSIGHTS



Rajiv Gauba, IAS (Retd) and Member of NITI Aayog, chaired a high-level meeting at NITI Aayog, attended by Rajeev Thakur, IAS, Joint Secretary, on Tuesday. Dr Lalit K Panwar, IAS (Retd), participated as a special invitee and delivered a presentation highlighting tourism development as a transformative socio-economic and cultural driver in India. The meeting witnessed active participation and insightful deliberations, contributing meaningfully to the discourse on sustainable tourism growth.

## NURTURING WOMEN LEADERS



Ruchita, Archana, Seema, Preeti, Ira, Nidhi, Shivani, Seema, Sweta, Monika, Pragati & Smita



household boundaries. Former President Shivani Bohra praised the initiative for building confidence and emotional expression. The workshop, conducted by Shweta Kasliwal and co-facilitated by Pragati Saxena, also highlighted crochet’s mental wellness benefits. The event was coordinated by Secretary Preeti Agarwal.

The Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE) - Rajasthan Chapter has launched a series of skilling and awareness workshops to promote creativity, financial literacy, and artificial intelligence among women and students on Tuesday. As part of this initiative, a Crochet Skilling Workshop was held in Jaipur to encourage home-based entrepreneurship. COWE Rajasthan President CA Ruchita Dhoot emphasised the importance of turning creative skills into sustainable income sources. National President Nidhi Toshniwal encouraged women to step beyond

## CM UNVEILS POSTER OF BAL NIGAM SABHA!



Rajasthan is set to host India’s first ‘Bal Nigam Sabha’ on August 15, jointly organised by Municipal Corporation Heritage, Future Society and Digital Bal Mela. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma released the official poster at his residence, interacting warmly with children and encouraging civic awareness on Tuesday. He praised the ‘Kaun Banega Bal Parishad’ campaign, highlighting its role in realising PM Modi’s Swachh Bharat vision. Janhavi Sharma, Digital Bal Mela Founder, shared that selected children from Heritage Corporation wards will become child councillors and raise cleanliness issues. The campaign, launched on November 26, has engaged thousands of young participants.



## GRACEFUL STEPS OF FAITH

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**T**he Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra festival at Shri Brij Nidhi Mandir, Jaipur, is captivating devotees with a vibrant celebration of culture, spirituality, and devotion. Organised by Shri Jagannath Sevak Samiti and DOLA Foundation, the festival has drawn large crowds since its beginning. On the fifth day, a soulful kirtan was held, followed by an elegant Bharatnatyam performance



Gracefully adorned deities of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balram & Goddess Subhadra

by Jaysree Nair, enthraling the audience with classical grace. Devotees were later served maha prasadam. Earlier, on Monday, Acharya Rajneesh Pan-

dya conducted a meditation session, highlighting its power in overcoming negativity and attaining success. The evening concluded with a mesmerizing Raasleela



Devotees participated in the ‘Anandam’ Yoga session led by Yogacharya Dhakaram

by Gokula and team, portraying the divine pastimes of Lord Krishna with devotion and artistry. The festival began with a grand Rath Yatra, where devotees

joyfully pulled the chariot through the city, chanting and dancing in devotion. Each day continues to deepen the spiritual atmosphere and community spirit.

## HEALTHY LIVING SESSION



St Edmund’s School, Malviya Nagar, successfully organised a Doctor’s Day Conference focusing on the physical and mental health of school students on Tuesday. The event featured renowned doctors, including psychiatrist Dr Anil Tambi, who delivered an insightful session on adolescent mental health. A student presented a heartfelt tribute to the medical community. A key highlight was the panel discussion with Dr Shivi Kataria, Dr Anshu Chaturvedi, Dr Arjay Sharma, and Deputy Director Dipen Singh, followed by an interactive Q&A session with students.