



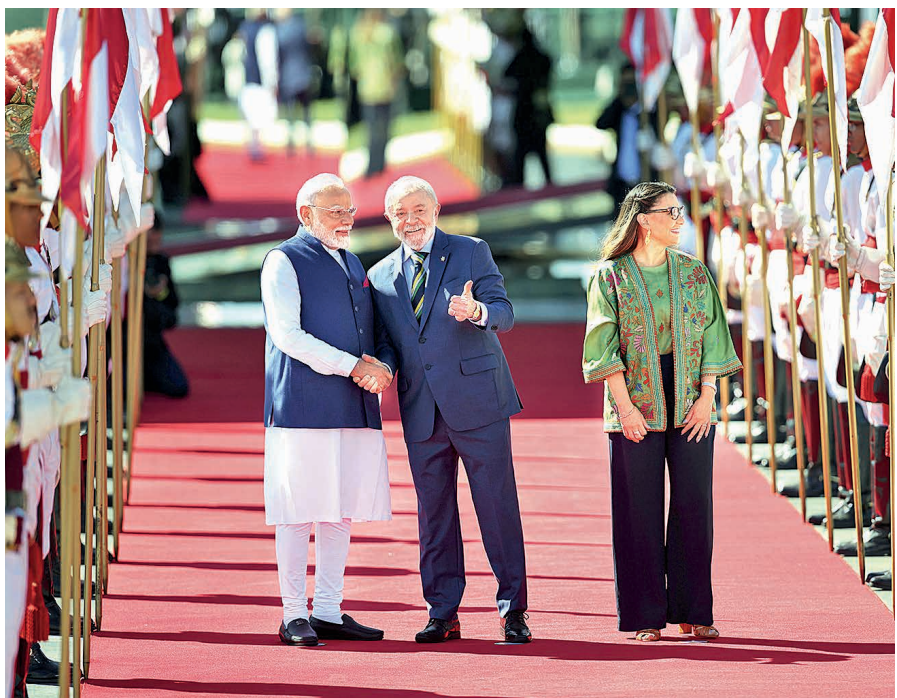
FIRST INDIA

RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 7 | ISSUE NO. 33 | PAGES 12 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper

MODI GETS A GALLOPING 'BEM-VINDO'!

PM Modi receives a unique 114-horse welcome at Brasilia Presidential Palace



Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his wife Rosangela da Silva welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Alvorada Presidential Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, on Tuesday.

26th global award! PM Modi gets Brazil's highest honour

First India Bureau
Brasilia

PM Narendra Modi was accorded a grand ceremonial welcome on Tuesday at the Alvorada Palace, the official residence of the Brazilian President, marking a historic moment as he became the first Indian PM in 57 years to undertake a State Visit to Brazil.

Modi was welcomed with a majestic procession featuring 114 horses—an honour rarely extended and symbolic of



Today, as the world navigates through tension and uncertainty, India-Brazil partnership is vital pillar of stability and balance. We are unanimous that all disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

—INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



Brazil and India are sister nations, sharing common interests in the development of Global South. We will work on food, energy, defence, IT and industrial partnerships in key sectors.

—BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LUIZ INACIO LULA DA SILVA



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi being conferred with the Brazil's highest civilian award, the "Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross," by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during a ceremony, in Brasilia, Brazil, on Tuesday.

IN BRIEF

'Explosive for Pulwama terror attack bought via e-comm platform'
New Delhi: The FATF has raised serious concerns over the growing misuse of e-commerce platforms and online payment services by terrorist organisations, citing cases from India such as 2019 Pulwama attack and 2022 Gorkhath Temple incident as key examples.

Delhi: Fuel ban for EOL vehicles from Nov 1
New Delhi: The Centre's panel on air quality in Delhi-NCR, has decided to put on hold implementation of the fuel ban on overage vehicles until Nov 1. New rule which bans fuelling of 'End-of-Life' (EOL) vehicles will be from Nov, CAQM said Tuesday. **P6**

Nitish govt okays 35% job quota for women



Patna: In a major nari shakti push ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, CM Nitish Kumar Cabinet on Tuesday announced that 35% of all the posts in every category of govt jobs will be reserved for women who are permanent residents of Bihar.

Four of an Indian-origin family charred to death after truck hits car in US

Dallas: An Indian family of four, including two children, was charred to death after a truck crashed into their vehicle in Dallas, United States. Hyderabad-based family, identified as Tejaswini and Sri Venkat and their 2 kids, were reportedly on a vacation in the US.

Ashwini Vaishnav's father passes away



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma consoles Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during the funeral of his father Daulal Vaishnav, in Jodhpur on Tuesday. **DIXIT PARIHAR**

Rajeev Gaur and
Shiv Prakash Purohit
Jodhpur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma & other senior leaders attended the funeral of late **Daulal Vaishnav**, father of Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, at Kaga cremation ground in Jodhpur on Tuesday. He offered his condolences to bereaved family and paid



his respects at cremation ground by laying floral wreath. Daulal Vaishnav, respected ex-sarpanch & advocate in Rajasthan HC, passed away on Tuesday following a prolonged illness. He was 81 years old and undergoing treatment at AIIMS Jodhpur. A native of Jeevand Kalan village in Pali dist, he was widely regarded as humble & principled man. **P3**

Bharat Bandh

25 crore workers to go on strike; banks, transport to be hit today

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Over 25 crore workers from banking, insurance, postal services, coal mining and other sectors are set to join a nationwide strike on Wednesday, called 'Bharat Bandh'. The strike is organised by a joint forum of 10 central trade unions against what they call "anti-worker, anti-farmer and pro-corporate policies" of the government.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addressed public meeting at Gusaisar Bara village in Sridungargarh constituency and in Churu as Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Sambal Pakhwada on Tuesday. Despite intense humidity and challenges posed by Oppn, the CM's public meeting at Gusaisar Bara village turned

Trump slaps new tariffs of up to 40% on 14 countries

First India Bureau
Washington/New Delhi

US President Donald Trump said United States is "close to signing a trade deal" with India, after announcing new reciprocal tariffs on 14 countries — including Bangladesh, Malaysia, Japan, Cambodia and South Korea — setting rates at 25% to 40%, and warning that rerouting foreign goods or retaliating would attract even higher US tariffs.

This comes as Indian negotiators are understood to have offered substantial market access to US products in most sectors, excluding sensitive areas such as dairy and agriculture. The US, in turn, is expected to offer lower tariffs on labour-intensive sectors



INDIA-US 'MINI TRADE DEAL' EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON: GOVERNMENT SOURCES

The August 1 deadline for US tariffs is for countries that have received letters from United States President Donald Trump, and so India is still operating under the July 8 deadline, according to Indian government sources, who added that a mini deal with the US could be announced "in a day or two". However, they also said that India will not push ahead if the deal specifics do not suit India. The full deal is likely to be signed later this year, mini deal is good and would benefit India, sources said.

such as textiles and footwear. As India awaits an interim trade deal with the US, New Delhi was not among 14 countries named in the initial list

released by US as pause on reciprocal tariffs draws to a close. Trump on Tuesday said the US was "close to making a deal with India". **P7**

AAIB submits AI crash prelim report to govt

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Tuesday submitted its preliminary report on the AI171 plane crash to the ministry of civil aviation & concerned authorities.

The report filed is based on the initial findings of probe, govt sources said. However, exact conclusions drawn by the

AAIB remain undisclosed at this stage of the ongoing inquiry. The Ministry of Civil Aviation confirmed that the Crash Protection Module (CPM) from the aircraft's front black box was safely retrieved. Sources added that the team used a duplicate version of black box—known as the "golden chassis"—to cross-verify integrity, accuracy of data recovered.

DREAMLINER AMONG SAFEST AIRCRAFT: AI

Air India, in its submission to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), defended the Boeing Dreamliner aircraft in the wake of the tragic AI 171 crash in Ahmedabad, calling it one of the safest aircraft in operation, sources said. The airline informed the panel that over 1,000 Dreamliners are currently operating globally.

PARL PANEL SEEKS TIMELINE FOR PROBE

Parliamentary committee on Tuesday discussed aircraft safety issues with senior officials from the civil aviation ministry and airline and airport representatives. The committee members enquired about the expected timeline for the investigation report on the crash and the analysis of the aircraft's black boxes.

PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA ANTYODAYA SAMBAL PAKHWADA

Modi doesn't dream, he delivers reality: CM Sharma

Laxman Raghav and
Sanjay Prajapat
Bikaner/Churu



(L) CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses public meeting in Sridungargarh on Tuesday. (R) CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Rajendra Rathore present a cheque of ₹40,000 to Girdhari Singh under Tarbandi Yojana, in presence of Minister Avinash Gehlot, BJP leaders Harlal Saharan and Devendra Jhajharia, during the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Sambal Pakhwada in Churu on Tuesday.



out to be resounding success. "PM Modi doesn't dream, he delivers reality —and that is why the nation continues to choose

him," said the CM. Quoting the PM, CM said, "Blood and water cannot flow together," referencing IWT, and assured that

Bikaner would receive more water under government's initiatives. In Churu, CM Sharma said that the long-pending is-

ssues like removal of encroachments from public paths and land ownership are being resolved at these camps. **P8**

Raj HC stays RUHS-to-RIMS transfer order

Kamal Kant Vyas
Jaipur

Rajasthan govt's plan to develop RIMS in Jaipur, modelled on AIIMS, has suffered a setback. Rajasthan HC's bench of Justice Sudesh Bansal has imposed an interim stay on the Board of Management's decision to hand over RUHS College of Medical Sciences and RUHS College of Dental Sciences to the state govt. On Dr Prakriti's plea, court said that such decision cannot be in wider interest of the university.

Spotted Deer Enclosure Set Up to Strengthen Food Chain

Prey zone for Jhalana leopards

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

In order to strengthen the prey base for leopards in Jhalana Leopard Reserve, a special enclosure has been made on route number 2 here, where 50 spotted deer will be brought soon. These deer, to be brought from Ghana Bird Sanctuary, will be kept in this enclosure for initial period and subsequently be ‘hard released’ in the forest.

Currently, the reserve has more than 35 leopards but due to weak prey base, there have been reports of them straying into residential areas many times.

It is expected that the new enclosure will enable leopards to get adequate prey in the forest



Around 50 spotted deer are expected to be brought soon in the Jhalana Leopard Reserve.

SANTOSH SHARMA

itself. The enclosure has been built at the same place where an enclosure called ‘Chital Bara’ was

made earlier.

The move gains significance in the context of maintaining ecologi-

cal balance and reducing human-wildlife conflict. The enclosure has been made under the supervi-

sion of DCF Vijaypal Singh and Range Officer Jitendra Singh Shekhawat.

Raj agriculture dept cancels licenses of 13 firms following raids



Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirori Lal Meena had personally conducted surprise raids at several firms.

Vinod Singh Chouhan
Jaipur

The Agriculture Department’s recent decoy operation has had a major impact, resulting in the cancellation of licenses for 13 firms involved in the manufacturing and distribution of substandard and counterfeit fertilizers and seeds. The decision followed a series of inspections and laboratory tests that confirmed serious violations across multiple locations in Rajasthan, particularly in the Kishangarh and Ajmer districts.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirori Lal Meena had personally conducted surprise raids at several of these firms, exposing the presence of low-quality and fake agricultural inputs. Based on his find-

Laboratory tests of 57 samples collected from Kishangarh showed that 56 samples were non-compliant with quality standards

ings, the department launched a comprehensive investigation.

On June 24, Joint Director of Agriculture (Inputs) Naval Kishore Meena issued official orders suspending the licenses of the involved firms for 14 days and sought explanations. As the companies failed to respond satisfactorily, their licenses were formally revoked. He first notices were issued on June 11, asking firms to provide clarification within seven days. However, most failed to reply.

When will Ram Nagar roads get fixed?

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Despite being one of the main roads in Ram Nagar, this stretch has been lying in a severely damaged state for over three months, causing daily distress to residents and commuters. Large potholes, broken asphalt, and heaps of construction debris occupy what used to be a proper footpath and roadside.

The road, which con-



The damaged roads in Ram Nagar area.

nects several important areas, is now a hazard for commuters.

Rekha Rathore, coun-



cillor ward 47, informed that the pipeline work was completed a few days ago. Now, only the

SOG makes significant arrests in 2021, 2023 paper leak cases

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A junior clerk selected through cheating using a Bluetooth device has been arrested. The SOG has taken Sangeeta Bishnoi into custody. In the 2023 Second Grade Clerk Recruitment Examination, Sangeeta Bishnoi received answers to the questions via a Bluetooth device during the test. SOG has arrested Vijay Kumar Damor, the nephew of former RPSC member Babulal Katara. Investigations have revealed that Katara provided Vijay with the question papers and answer sets for all 3 days of the exam 35 days in advance. Katara allegedly handed over the papers to Vijay at his residence.



Party switch, not ideology change: Congress MLA Vikas Choudhary

Congress MLA Vikas Choudhary appears to still carry the values of BJP leaders. At a recent event, he shared the stage and delivered a speech alongside Vasundhara Raje. Choudhary, who left BJP to join Congress and became an MLA, openly said, “I may have changed my party and ideology, but the values instilled in me are still those of Vasundhara Raje and Sanwarlal Choudhary.” His statement has sparked discussion within Congress circles, as his affection for BJP seems intact even after becoming a Congress legislator.

Silent operator, BJP’s ‘budget guardian’

A low-profile BJP office-bearer, who is usually seen sitting in the far back corner of the party’s state headquarters, is known for keeping meticulous financial records. Despite his quiet presence, he handles all accounting responsibilities and is said to keep a finger on every penny spent. While his working style reportedly irritates some within the party, his grip over financial details is firm.

‘Pandit’ politics in Rajasthan

State BJP President Madan Rathore stirred the pot with a statement on “Pandit” politics, saying the term “Pandit” denotes learnedness and refers to scholars. He responded to former CM Ashok Gehlot’s repeated references to Bhajan Lal Sharma as “Pandit Sharma” in his statements, noting that it was good to see Gehlot acknowledge the scholarly credentials of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Jaipur police, FORTI join hands to rehabilitate crime-affected families

In a significant initiative, Jaipur Police Commissionerate and the FORTI Group have signed an MoU to rehabilitate families affected by crime. Commissioner Biju George Joseph praised DCP West Amit Kumar Budania for initiating the effort, which has now been expanded across the entire commissionerate. Despite feeling unwell, the Commissioner attended the programme to support what he called a noble first-time initiative by Jaipur Police. He extended warm congratulations to DCP Budania for this important step.

Rainfall activity to rise across Rajasthan this week, says IMD

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rain accompanied by thunder was recorded in some parts of Rajasthan on Tuesday. The highest rainfall was recorded in Ganganagar at 24.8 mm. The highest maximum temperature in the state was also recorded in Sri Ganganagar at 38.9°C. According to the mete-

orological department, a significant increase in heavy rainfall activity is expected from July 10 in eastern Rajasthan and from July 12 in western Rajasthan.

On July 10, heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Kota and Bharatpur divisions, while on July 11 and 12, there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy rain-

fall at isolated places in Kota, Bharatpur, Jaipur, Ajmer, and Udaipur divisions. In western Rajasthan, weather is expected to remain mostly dry in Jodhpur division over next 3 to 4 days, while light to moderate rain may occur at isolated places in Bikaner division. Rainfall activity is expected to increase in western Rajasthan from July 12 onwards.



The road at Teen Murti Chauraha, Jaipur, got flooded after brief spell of heavy rain on Tuesday.

SUNIL SHARMA

JDA officials accused of aiding encroachment

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Jaipur’s Nirman Nagar C Block, a private complaint has been filed in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Court No. 6 (Jaipur Metropolitan First) against JDA Commissioner Anandi, Secre-

tary Nishant Jain, Enforcement Officer Shiv Narayan Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Zone 5 Rakesh Meena, and a private individual, Rajendra Khandelwal, for allegedly not stopping illegal construction activity.

The Nirman Nagar Vikas Samiti stated that Rajendra Khandelwal was

carrying out commercial construction on the main road in violation of approved plans and had encroached upon 10 feet of a 30-foot-wide road. Despite repeated complaints to the JDA, the illegal activity was allegedly not stopped due to collusion between Khandelwal and JDA officials.

Poppy husk worth ₹62.75 lakh seized in Pratapgarh; one held



First India Bureau
Pratapgarh

Police have seized a huge cache of poppy husk worth around Rs 62.75 lakh during a blockade in Pratapgarh on Monday and arrested a smuggler. The drug was being smuggled hidden under wheat sacks in a pick-up vehicle.

Action was taken under a campaign against illegal drugs on the instructions of Pratapgarh Superintendent of Police Vineet Kumar Bansal police team stopped the suspected pick-up in front of the Punga Talab police post and arrested its driver Sawaral.

Teams have also been deployed to search for the other smuggler who fled. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act at Devgarh police station and investigation has started.



The accused driver in police custody on Tuesday.

8 JUVENILES AMONG 11 HELD FOR MURDER OF TEEN ON MUHARRAM

In a sensational case involving the brutal murder of a minor during a clash at a Muharram procession in Churu city, Kotwali police solved the case within just eight hours. In a swift and determined operation, police arrested three adult accused and detained eight juveniles in connection with the murder. A 17-yr-old boy, Shahrukh, was beaten to death by a group of 11 during a Muharram procession in Churu. He had suffered multiple serious injuries, particularly to the back of his head and body.

GOLD, CASH WORTH ₹8 LAKH STOLEN FROM SDM’S RESIDENCE

A burglary took place in broad daylight at the residence of SDM Paramjeet Singh in Vijaynagar, Basni Phase 1, under Bhagat Ki Kothi police station. The incident occurred around noon when a thief, after conducting a recce, entered the house. In just five minutes, the thief fled with gold jewellery and cash worth around Rs 8 lakh. The entire incident was captured on CCTV. The complaint was lodged by Bharat Singh, elder brother of the SDM and a resident of Vijaynagar.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Chaturmas a time for self-purification: Guv

First India Bureau
Bhilwara

Governor Haribhau Bagade said that Chaturmas is a special period of self-purification, discipline, and social harmony, during which monks and saints stay in one place to undertake spiritual practices, meditation, and penance, while imparting teachings of moral values to society.

The Governor was addressing the public on Tuesday at a programme



Governor Haribhau Bagade addressing the public at an event organised on the occasion of Chaturmasik Mangal Pravesh at the Jain Sthanak in Subhash Nagar, Bhilwara.

organised on the occasion of Chaturmasik Mangal Pravesh at the Jain Sthanak in Subhash

Nagar, Bhilwara, under the aegis of the Adhyatmik Chaturmas Mahotsav Samiti.

The Governor said that the discourses delivered during Chaturmas awaken the inner self and promote a positive mindset in society

Haribhau Bagade said that Jainism symbolises compassion towards all living beings, non-violence, and inner purification, and that the message of these values is spread among the masses through the observance of Chaturmas. He added that a true monk is one

who works for the welfare of society and that any act done in the interest of others is true spiritual achievement.

This tradition, dating back to the time of Lord Mahavira, aims to instil moral awareness and spiritual consciousness in society.

Referring to the National Education Policy, Bagade said that the new policy emphasises not only the intellectual and physical development of children but also the nurturing of moral and cultural values.

Emotional Farewell to Daulal Vaishnaw

Hundreds gather to pay tribute to Ashwini Vaishnaw’s father

The condolence meeting will be held on Thursday from 4 pm to 6 pm at the Mahaveer Complex premises in Jodhpur

Rajeev Gaur, Shiv Prakash Purohit and Dixit Parihar

Jodhpur

The funeral procession commenced from his residence in Ratanada, accompanied by traditional bands and a moksha vehicle. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and his younger brother Anand Prakash Vaishnaw, both visibly emotional, carried their father’s bier and remained by the moksha vehicle until the very end.

The cremation was attended by hundreds, including senior BJP leaders, public representatives, officers from the Railway and Police departments, local administration, family members, and members of the Vaishnaw community.

Several leaders and dignitaries paid floral tributes at the residence. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur, and Jodhpur



Ashwini Vaishnaw along with family members & several leaders paying floral tributes at late Daulal Vaishnaw's residence in Jodhpur.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, RS MP Rajendra Gehlot, BJP leader Rajendra Rathore, & others during funeral of Ashwini Vaishnaw's father Daulal Vaishnaw, in Jodhpur on Tuesday.

Mayor Vanita Seth.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat expressed profound grief, stating, “Shraddhey Daulal Ji was a simple and dutiful man. I always received fatherly affection from him. May the departed soul rest in peace. My brother Ashwini Vaishnaw and his

family should find the strength to endure this unbearable pain.”

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal also offered condolences, noting, “May God grant eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the grieving family during this difficult hour.”



Union Min Ashwini Vaishnaw, MP PP Chaudhary during funeral of Daulal Vaishnaw, in Jodhpur on Tuesday.

BEYOND TITLES AND POWER: REMEMBERING DAULAL VAISHNAW WHO LIVED WITH GRACE

In a touching recollection, a deeply emotional moment occurred when Ashwini Vaishnaw had been appointed Union Minister. Instead of a grand celebration, Daulal Vaishnaw quietly handed his son a handwritten letter. In it, he had written, “Never do anything that would bring shame to the family. Always work for the poor and put their needs first.” Despite his son holding one of the highest offices in the Union Cabinet, Daulal Vaishnaw lived his life with humility and never allowed any hint of VIP behavior to show. Those who knew him remembered him as a man of grounded values and moral clarity. His passing marks the end of a deeply respected chapter in public life in Rajasthan.

MINISTERS, PUBLIC TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS FOR DAULAL VAISHNAW'S LAST JOURNEY

Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari called the loss “deeply saddening”. Minister Joraram Kumawat, BJP State President Madan Rathore, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotsara, Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly and other leaders also offered heartfelt condolences. Several dignitaries also took part in the final journey of Dau Lal Vaishnaw, including Pali MP PP Choudhary, Rajya Sabha MP Rajendra Gehlot, Jalore-Sirohi MP Lumbaram Choudhary, Chief Whip in the Assembly Jogeshwar Garg, Rajendra Rathore, MLAs Atul Bhansali and Bhairaram Siyol, along with other public representatives, notable citizens, and a large number of locals.

RVPNL engineer in ACB net for taking ₹30K bribe

First India Bureau

Bharatpur

Acting on the directions of ACB Headquarters, the ACB unit in Bharatpur on Tuesday conducted a trap operation and caught Executive Engineer (Civil) Avneesh Soni of Rajasthan Rajya Vidut Prasaran Nigam (RVPNL), Bharatpur District Office, red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000, of which Rs 5,000 was in legal Indian currency and Rs 25,000 was dummy cash.

Additional Director General of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Smi-



Accused Executive Engineer (Civil) Avneesh Soni

ta Srivastava, stated that the ACB Bharatpur outpost had received a complaint alleging that the complainant—a contractor—was being harassed by the official.

The bribe demand allegedly rose from Rs 15,000 to Rs 36,000 be-

fore settling at Rs 30,000. The trap was carried out under DIG Rajesh Singh’s supervision and ASP Amit Singh’s leadership. A case under the Prevention of Corruption Act has been filed, and further investigation is ongoing.

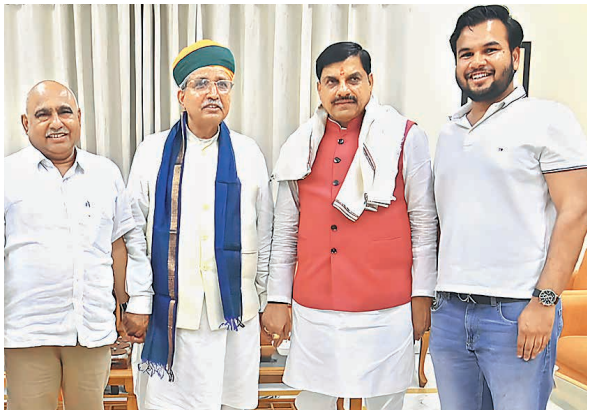
MP CM Mohan Yadav meets Arjun Meghwal, promises visit to Bikaner

Laxman Raghav

Bikaner/New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal at his residence, where the two leaders held discussions on several key issues of national and regional importance.

During the meeting, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) General Secretary Pankaj Agrawal welcomed the Chief Minister and extended a formal invitation for him to visit Bi-



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal at his residence in New Delhi, on Tuesday. Also seen is Pankaj Agrawal.

kaner. Responding warmly, CM Yadav assured that he would soon

visit the Union Minister’s parliamentary constituency.

Assembly Speaker, ministers join Kharra’s birthday celebrations

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Urban Development and Housing (UDH) Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra received warm birthday wishes on Tuesday from colleagues, well-wishers, and political associates.

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani visited the minister’s official residence in Jaipur to personally extend his greetings. He presented a bouquet and wished Kharra good health, a long life, and continued success in his public service journey. The two leaders also held a brief discussion on departmental matters. Minister Joraram Kumawat also conveyed his best wishes,



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani presents a bouquet to Jhabar Singh Kharra on the occasion of his birthday in Jaipur on Tuesday.

praying to Lord Ram for Kharra’s well-being.

Throughout the day, the minister was greeted by a steady stream of supporters, party workers, and friends, turning the occasion into a festive and heartfelt celebration.

e-auction of 12 major mineral blocks begins

Nirmal Tiwari

Jaipur

The Rajasthan govt has started e-auction of 12 major mineral blocks to accelerate the exploitation of mineral resources and allocate mining leases in a fair way. According to the Notice Inviting Bid (NIB) issued by the Department of Mines and Geology, these blocks are rich in minerals like fluo-rite, copper, lead-zinc, manganese, limestone, iron ore and emerald.

The department has started auctioning all the blocks with tender sale on MSTC portal from June 25, the last date of which is the midnight of July 10. The last date for submitting bids for the auction is till 1 pm on July 30.

JDA to set up 10 new regional offices for expanded jurisdiction



File

Abhishek Shrivastava
Jaipur

The JDA is set to establish 10 regional offices as part of its jurisdiction expansion from 3,000 sq km to 6,000 sq km. Five offices will be built within the JDA headquarters, while the other five will be set up across the Jaipur region to improve accessibility.

Each regional office

will oversee 2-5 zonal offices, with 11 new zones proposed. Headed by an Additional Commissioner (IAS or RAS), these offices will have powers for land use conversion (90A), layout approvals, and building sanctions—aimed at reducing public dependency on the central JDA office. To support the operations of these offices, JDA will appoint officers at various levels.

Cricket to be run by cricketers, not politics: Kumawat

Naresh Sharma

Jaipur

DD Kumawat, convenor of the Rajasthan Cricket Association’s newly formed ad hoc committee, has asserted that cricket in the state will now be guided solely by the views and interests of cricketers, leaving no room for political interference.

In an exclusive interaction, Kumawat revealed that the RCA will soon establish a special advisory committee comprising former cricketers. This committee will be tasked with finalizing the association’s upcoming cricket calendar. “The focus is on ensuring that decisions are made by those who have played the game and understand it best,” Kumawat said.

Badi Sadri tense after Shiv temple vandalised



Angry locals set tyres ablaze and torch three carts on the Udaipur Road, Chittorgarh, on Tuesday.

First India Bureau

Chittorgarh

Tension gripped in the Badi Sadri area of Chittorgarh district on Tuesday following an incident of vandalism at an under-construction Shiva temple on the intervening night of Monday-Tuesday, during which the Shivling was desecrated.

Angry locals set tyres ablaze on the road and torched three carts, lead-

ing to a blockade on Udaipur Road that lasted for over five hours.

Protesters demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible.

The police have since brought the situation under control, though security personnel remain stationed as a precaution. The incident took place at a Shiva temple located on the Bhanakhedi Road under the Dugla police station limits.

FOR A PUBLIC CAUSE

Your trust is my strength: Rathore

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Cabinet minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, during a public hearing, interacted with the people and told them that their trust is his biggest strength. While hearing people’s grievances, he called up the officers and instructed them to address the problems soon.

Keenly hearing the people, Rathore said, “The day is not just about public hearing but it has provided me with an



Rajyavardhan Rathore hearing people's grievances during a public hearing and boosting the morale of a sports kid in Jaipur on Tuesday.

emotional connect and strengthened the bond of trust.”

People eagerly shared their issues and thanked

Rathore for the work done on the ground and bringing about a change in their lives. Many said that it was for the first



time that they did not have to fill up any form or make any phone calls to talk to a public representative.

CREDAI polls on July 19; close contest likely

First India Bureau

Jaipur

A close contest is brewing in the upcoming CREDAI Rajasthan elections. Vinod Goyal (Manglam Builders) and Rajendra Pachar (Pachar Group) are emerging as key contenders for the President’s post. Anurag Sharma is being considered for the Chairman’s role, while Ashish Agarwal (Ashish Group) is likely to contest for General Secy. The last date for filing nominations is July 9, and the CREDAI Raj elections will be held on July 19.

SI Paper Leak case: HC amends previous order, hearing today

Kamal Kant Vyas

Jaipur

The Rajasthan High Court on Tuesday resumed hearing the 2021 Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment paper leak case. The single bench of Justice Sameer Jain heard arguments from Advocate General Rajendra Prasad and Additional Advocate General Vigyan Shah. The state was directed to submit complete records of the recruitment process.

Taking this clarification into account, Justice Sameer Jain’s sin-

RAJASTHAN HC GRANTS INTERIM RELIEF TO COLLEGE EDUCATION SOCIETY STAFF



The Rajasthan High Court has granted interim relief to employees working under the Rajasthan College Education Society. Acting on a petition by Ekta Rajpurohit and others, Justice Vineet Kumar Mathur directed that the petitioners continue receiving benefits under the 2023 regulations and not be removed until a new recruitment process is completed. The court also stayed two state government orders dated June 27 and 29, 2025, related to the Vidya Sambal Yojana, barring further action on the petitioners’ posts while the case is pending.

gle bench agreed to amend the earlier directive. The court also reiterated its instruction for the state to produce all

relevant documents pertaining to the SI recruitment process. The next hearing in the case will be held today.

BIHAR POLLS: WHY IS OPPN HAVING A ‘SIR’ DARD



Robin Roy
The writer is Senior Journalist and former Managing Editor, First India



After the pleas filed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the People’s Union for Civil Liberties, attempted to put a brake on poll roll revision exercise, the Supreme Court, finally on Monday, agreed to hear petitions challenging the EC’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar which will witness a crucial Assembly election in November. The SC will hear the matter on Thursday.

The Election Commission’s (EC) decision to conduct a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls has earned enormous wrath from Opposition parties as they fear that this move might be an attempt about possible mass deletion of legitimate voters, especially among the poor and marginalised.

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR)?

The EC began the special revision on June 24, by involving door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The aim has been to add new eligible voters and remove ineligible names. This is the first such comprehensive revision since 2003.

FOUR STAGES OF SIR

- June 25–July 3: Enumeration forms printed and distributed
- Till July 25: Collection of filled forms
- August 1: Draft rolls released
- September 30: Final electoral roll to be published

WHAT WAS THE NEED FOR ‘SIR’?

Among several reasons cited by the poll panel, the notable ones are...



Voters who migrate often “register themselves at another place without getting their names deleted from the electoral roll of the initial place of residence”, which raises the chances of “repeated entries” in the rolls

- Migration and urbanisation have outdated voter records
- Deaths of voters remain unrecorded
- Concerns over illegal immigrants on rolls
- Constitutional obligation to ensure only Indian citizens vote

The commission insists this update is critical for electoral integrity.

Justifying its order, the Election Commission said that over the past two decades, large-scale additions and deletions, driven by rapid urbanisation and frequent migration, have significantly altered electoral rolls. Migrants often register at new locations without deleting previous entries, leading to duplication. The EC said this warrants an intensive verification drive to ensure each enrolment is valid. It also cited its constitutional duty to prevent non-citizens from being added to the rolls.

WHICH DOCS WILL DO

Around 2.93 crore voters in Bihar, whose names were not on the 2003 electoral rolls, have been asked to submit at least one of 11 documents proving their date and place of birth — for themselves and their parents — along with an enumeration form. Accepted documents include a passport, birth certificate, SC/ST certificate, educational certificate from recognised boards/universities, permanent residence certificate, family register, forest rights certificate, or a

government-issued land/house allotment certificate. The Election Commission has excluded Aadhaar and PAN, stating that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity, not address or date of birth.

POWER GIVEN BY CONSTITUTION

Article 324(1) of the Constitution empowers the Election Commission with the “superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of” elections to Parliament and state legislatures.

The electoral rolls are prepared by the EC as per the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RP Act).

PLEASE NOTE

Section 21(3) of the RP Act states that the ECI “may at any time... direct a special revision of the electoral roll for any constituency or part of a constituency in such manner as it may think fit”.

According to the Registration of Electors’ Rules, 1960, the revision of electoral rolls can be carried out “either intensively or summarily or partly intensively and partly summarily, as the [ECI] may direct”.

DOCS ARE BEING DEMANDED?

Voters on the 2003 electoral roll only need to provide that entry. Others must provide proof from a list of 11 documents, depending on date of birth:

- Born before July 1, 1987:

Own date/place of birth -Between July 1, 1987 – December 2, 2004: Own and one parent’s date/place -After December 2, 2004: Own and both parents’ date/place

Accepted documents include government IDs, bank/LIC records, board mark sheets, birth certificates, domicile certificates, land or housing documents, and NRC-related papers.

WHAT DID THE EC SAY IN ITS DEFENCE?

The EC maintains it is fulfilling its constitutional duty, not targeting anyone, and has no intent to disenfranchise genuine voters. BLOs have been instructed to assist vulnerable groups, and political parties are invited to oversee the process and report issues. However, experts fear a repeat of the 2019 Assam NRC fallout, where many poor and marginalised citizens were excluded due to lack of documents. In Bihar, similar concerns arise amid high migration and illiteracy, raising the risk of wrongful voter deletions.

NEXT STEPS IN ROLL UPDATE?

The revision timeline is as follows:

- Until July 26: Door-to-door verification by BLOs -Until September 1: Claims and objections may be submitted -*September 30: Final publication of electoral rolls
- Opposition parties have signalled possible legal challenges if concerns are not resolved. With elections looming, the outcome of this revision may shape the credibility of Bihar’s democratic process.

CONG OUTBURST

Congress leader Pawan Khera said the party, along with nine others, has challenged the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the Supreme Court, calling it flawed and disenfranchising. He expressed faith that the Court will ensure justice, with a hearing scheduled for July 10. The EC, meanwhile, reiterated its commitment to constitutional provisions under Article 326 and the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav urged the EC to halt the revision until after Bihar’s Assembly elections, citing voter anger and the exclusion of widely held documents like Aadhaar and MNREGA job cards. He questioned the logic of rejecting Aadhaar, which involves biometric verification and is set to be linked to voter IDs.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

ON TARIFFS PREZ TRUMP DOESN’T SPARE ALLIES

President Donald Trump’s decision to extend the deadline for imposing reciprocal tariffs to August 1 offers only a brief reprieve in what is fast becoming a bruising trade battle. The surprise, however, came with a sting — a steep 25 percent tariff imposed on imports from Japan and South Korea, two of America’s staunchest allies. By targeting friendly nations while warning them not to retaliate, Trump has chosen a confrontational path that risks undermining long-standing strategic partnerships.

The rationale for ‘reciprocal tariffs’ — to correct trade imbalances and protect American industries — may play well domestically, but it carries the potential for significant geopolitical fallout. Japan and South Korea are not just major trade partners; they are pivotal to US interests in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in the context of a rising China and a belligerent North Korea.

Washington may view this move as leverage, but such brinkmanship with allies could backfire. Mutual respect, not coercion, must underpin enduring trade relationships, especially among trusted partners.

A TIMELY OUTREACH TO SOUTH AMERICA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Argentina and Brazil marks a strategically important step in India’s efforts to diversify and deepen its global trade partnerships. At a time when geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and economic uncertainties are reshaping global alliances, India’s outreach to Latin America’s two largest economies is timely and significant.

Brazil and Argentina, both members of the influential Mercosur trading bloc comprising Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay as full members, offer immense opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. For India, which has long relied heavily on the US and the Gulf countries for trade, Latin America remains an underexplored but promising region. From energy and agriculture to pharmaceuticals and technology, there is potential for mutual gain. Modi’s visit could help accelerate trade negotiations, improve market access for Indian products, and encourage investments in critical sectors like green energy and digital infrastructure. Politically, this visit also signals India’s intent to be a more assertive global player in the Global South. Brazil and Argentina have often shared India’s concerns on issues such as climate justice, equitable global trade rules, and the reform of multilateral institutions like the UN Security Council and WTO. Strengthening these partnerships could bolster India’s leadership in forums like BRICS and the G20.

However, to translate diplomatic goodwill into tangible outcomes, trade agreements must be backed by clear roadmaps, easier regulatory environments, and sustained private sector engagement. If handled well, Latin American outreach could rebalance India’s trade ties, unlock long-term gains. The visit holds promise—if it results in durable, action-driven partnerships.



For India, which has long relied heavily on the US and the Gulf countries for trade, Latin America remains an underexplored but promising region. From energy and agriculture to pharmaceuticals and technology, there is potential for mutual gain

POLL TUSSLE

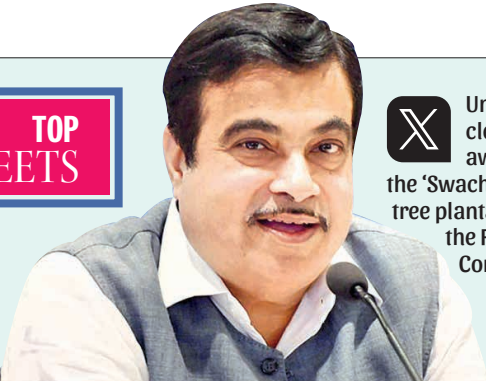
The EC has said it will scrupulously adhere to the constitutional and legal provisions as laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in carrying out the revision

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday urged the Election Commission to put on hold the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls till the assembly elections in Bihar

He made the demand at a press conference in the presence of the INDIA bloc partners

“This exercise should be put on hold till elections. The EC will do well to have a word with its booth-level officers who are facing the ire of voters while collecting data,” claimed Yadav, the former deputy CM

TOP TWEETS



Understanding the importance of cleanliness and with the aim of creating awareness about it, I inaugurated today the ‘Swachhata Hi Seva 2025’ campaign under the tree plantation drive ‘Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0’ at the Faridabad-Noida International Airport Corridor (Faridabad-Jewar Expressway).

Nirin Gadkari @nirin_gadkari



Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy, and farmers are its soul. Serving farmers is like worshipping God for us. Therefore, any agreement we make with any country in the world will be done while safeguarding the interests of Indian agriculture and farmers.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

BUDDHA

'BJP a vast movement of ideas, values and service'

Nadda provided guidelines to MPs and MLAs for upcoming action plans

PTI

Mainpat (Chhattisgarh)

The Bharatiya Janata Party is not just a political organisation but a dedicated movement of ideas, values and service, party president JP Nadda said.

Addressing BJP MPs and MLAs from Chhattisgarh after inaugurating a three-day training session for them in Kamleshwarpur village in Surguja district's Mainpat tehsil, Nadda advised them to work at the grassroots level by having more coordination with the organisation.

"The BJP is not just a political organization, but a dedicated movement of ideas, values and service. The training session is not just a formality, it is a medium to prepare the leadership, strengthen the organization and motivate the workers," a party statement quoted him as saying.

"He not only stressed on social awareness, but also provided guidelines to MPs and MLAs for the upcoming action plans and discussed in detail the ideology of the party, the role of the organization, the responsibility of workers and the spirit of public service," the release said.

Nadda appealed to all



Union Minister and BJP National President J.P. Nadda, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva during a theatrical presentation based on the life of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, in New Delhi on Tuesday.



Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and State BJP President Kiran Singh Deo in Chhattisgarh.

the lawmakers of the party to take the development works and initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to every village

and every house of Chhattisgarh.

On the occasion, an in-depth discussion was held on the strategy to strengthen the party's presence at

the booth level, to take the public welfare schemes of the Central and state governments to the people, and to give a factual answer to the propaganda of the opposition, the release said.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai, state BJP president Kiran Deo Singh, BJP national joint general secretary (organisation) Shiv Prakash, state BJP in charge Nitin Nabin, Union Minister of State Tokhan Sahu and Deputy CMs Arun Sao and Vijay Sharma were present.

Earlier, Nadda and other leaders planted saplings under the 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam' campaign in Kamleshwarpur.

Minorities get what Hindus don't, claims Kiren Rijju

Agencies

New Delhi

Union Minority Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijju**'s assertion that "minorities get more support and funding than Hindus" has stirred a political storm, drawing strong reactions from both ruling BJP leaders and the opposition.

Reacting to Rijju's statement, senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi defended the government's record on minority welfare.

"In the last 11 years, Narendra Modi's government has ended the atmosphere of communal polarisation and demolished it on the strength of inclusive empowerment. Work has been done to bring happiness in the eyes and prosperity in the life of the needy and the person standing at the last rung of society," he said.

Echoing a similar sentiment, BJP MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said the country is more secure now than during the UPA regime.



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari holds a review meeting to assess the progress of Maharashtra National Highway projects, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Gadkari reviews progress of NH projects in Maha

ANI

New Delhi

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari held a detailed review meeting in New Delhi on Monday with officials to assess the progress of National Highway projects in Maharashtra.

The review was focused on the road projects, including Mumbai-Goa Highway (Package I, VI, VII), National Highway 353C from Choudampalli to Sironcha, National Highway 161A from Mudkhed to Nanded, National Highway 166G from Talere to Gaganbawda to Kolhapur, National Highway 52 and Kharwandi Kasar Junction, and National Highway 652 from Naldurg to Akkalkot.

Advancements in warfare technology have dramatically altered the "dimensions of war" and said that the current situation is a serious problem that demands urgent attention and discussion at global level

NITIN GADKARI,
UNION HIGHWAYS MINISTER

Earlier on Sunday, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari expressed deep concern over the ongoing conflicts worldwide and stated that the situation has become so grave that tensions between countries could potentially escalate into a third world war soon.

The Union Minister also highlighted that advancements in warfare technology have dramatically altered the "dimen-

sions of war" and said that the current situation is a serious problem that demands urgent attention and discussion at the global level.

"There is an atmosphere of conflict around the world, between Israel and Iran, as well as the war between Russia and Ukraine. The situation is such that there is a possibility of a third world war anytime in the backdrop of these wars," said Nitin Gadkari while addressing a book launch event in Nagpur on Sunday.

"Due to the increasing technology of war, the dimensions of war have changed, and the use of missiles and drones has increased in the war, due to which the relevance of tanks and other types of aircraft is decreasing," he said.

BJP reappoints Samal as its Odisha unit president

PTI

Bhubaneswar

The ruling BJP on Tuesday reappointed Manmohan Samal as its Odisha unit president.

Samal's reappointment to the post was announced by the BJP's central election observer Sanjay Jaiswal in the presence of senior leaders at the party's state headquarters here. He was the lone leader to file the nomination for the post and therefore was elected unopposed, Jaiswal said.

This will be Samal's second consecutive term and fourth term in all. His earlier three terms were from November 1999 to October 2000, October 2000 to May 2004, and March 2023 to July 2025.

The party also announced the names of 32 leaders as BJP National Council members.

While responding to a rousing felicitation from the party workers and leaders, Samal said that the BJP, which was once dubbed as a "signboard" party by opponents, has formed the government on its own in Odisha after a long struggle.



Manmohan Samal

Commander, UAE Naval Forces visits India



Chief of the Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan with UAE Naval Force Commander Major General Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alremeithi during a meeting, in New Delhi. (Right) Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi with UAE Naval Force Commander Major General Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alremeithi, in New Delhi on Tuesday.



'JDU-BJP govt left no stone unturned to make Bihar crime capital'

PTI

New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday accused the "double engine" government in Bihar of destroying the law and order situation in the state and claimed that change is certain in the upcoming assembly polls. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged that the JD(U)-BJP alliance has left no stone unturned to make Bihar the "crime capital" of the country.

"The opportunistic double engine government has destroyed the law and order situation in Bihar. In the last six months, eight businessmen have been killed and 5 times the police have been beaten up," Kharge claimed in his post in Hindi on X. Just yesterday, five members of a family were killed due to superstition, he said.

Even innocent children were not spared, Kharge added.



Mallikarjun Kharge

Five members of a family, including three women, were allegedly killed and their bodies burnt on suspicion of practising witchcraft in Bihar's Purnea district, police said.

Two persons were arrested in connection with Sunday night's incident that invited a barrage of criticism from the opposition parties.

The Modi government's own statistics show that poverty is at its peak in Bihar, the situation of social and economic justice has gone from bad to worse and due to the stagnant law and order, investment has remained limited on paper only, Kharge said.

ANTI-INCUMBENCY SENTIMENT HIGH: PRE-POLL SURVEY

Tharoor most preferred CM candidate in Kerala

Agencies

Thiruvananthapuram

In a pre-poll survey conducted by the Mumbai-based VoteVibe, Thiruvananthapuram Congress Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor is the most preferred candidate for the Chief Minister's post in the State and the anti-incumbency sentiment is high.

Assembly polls will be held in Kerala in April/May 2026 and the survey was conducted to gauge the mood of the people in



Assembly polls will be held in Kerala in April/May 2026 and the survey was conducted to gauge the mood of people in the state.

the state ahead of the crucial elections.

The survey has found that both major political fronts (the ruling

CPI(M)-led Left and the Congress-led UDF) face significant leadership challenges that could impact their electoral

The most significant finding is that there is an overwhelming anti-incumbency wave against CM Vijayan's administration

prospects.

However, within the UDF, the charismatic Shashi Tharoor emerges as the preferred choice of voters with 28.3 per cent support. But the concerning factor is that 27.1 per cent of voters remain uncertain about the UDF's leadership in the State.

Significantly, the leadership crisis is even more pronounced within the ruling LDF and former Health Minister KK Shailaja tops the preference list with 24.2 per cent support, while current Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan receives only 17.5 per cent support.

Most alarming for the LDF is the massive 41.5 per cent uncertainty among voters about their preferred leader.

Nearly half of the surveyed population (47.9 per cent) demonstrates a high anti-incumbency.

LAND DEAL BEHIND BUSINESSMAN GOPAL KHEMKA MURDER, CLAIMS BIHAR POLICE

Bihar Police on Tuesday claimed to have achieved a breakthrough in the Gopal Khemka murder case and blamed the killing of the renowned businessman on a land deal that went awry. At a press conference here, DGP Vinay Kumar, among others, said the handgun used to shoot Khemka has been recovered from a hideout of the alleged shooter. Khemka, reportedly associated with the BJP, was shot dead by a bike-borne assailant at 11.40 pm on July 4, seven years after miscreants had gunned down his son in Hajipur. The incident had taken place near the gate of Khemka's house in Gandhi Maidan locality as he was about to alight from his car. "As stated earlier, gunman Umesh Yadav was arrested yesterday, besides Ashok Shaw, by whom he was paid an advance amount of Rs 50,000 for murdering Khemka," he said.

NO RELIEF IN SIGHT AS SHOWERS CONTINUE TO LASH ACROSS NATION

Himachal rains mayhem: 7 districts face flash flood risk, 225 roads closed



Locals carry their belongings as they walk amid the debris at a flood-affected area, at Thunag in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh.



Former Himachal Pradesh CM Jairam Thakur interacts with residents of an area affected by the recent cloudburst and flash floods, at Seraj Valley in Mandi district.



An anti-smog gun on a multi-purpose vehicle sprays water droplets to curb air pollution, at South block on Raisina Hills in New Delhi.

Fuel ban for overage vehicles in Delhi, NCR from Nov 1

Agencies
New Delhi

Days after the Delhi government lifted the ban on diesel cars above 10 years and petrol cars above 15 years, an order issued on Monday said that no fuel will be given to vehicles falling in these categories from November 1.

The fuel restrictions will also be implemented in the five districts of the National Capital Region (NCR) on the same day.

A meeting of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) was held on Tuesday after the Delhi government wrote to them to review their decision towards “no fuel” for the End of Life vehicles from July 1.

Keeping the request in mind, the commission decided that it would be judicious to implement the fuel ban in all the six cities of the Delhi-NCR simultane-

The “no fuel” scheme will also apply for Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Sonapat from November 1. On July 1, Delhi government launched a major campaign to combat air pollution

ously from November 1. The “no fuel” scheme for EOL vehicles will also be implemented in Gurugram, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Sonapat from November 1.

On July 1, the Delhi government launched a major campaign to combat air pollution by banning fuel supply to end-of-life vehicles.

As per the government order, petrol pumps would not provide fuel to diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years.

PTI
Shimla

With heavy rain pummeling several parts of Himachal Pradesh, the local meteorological department on Tuesday warned of a risk of low to moderate flash floods in parts of seven districts in the next 24 hours.

These districts are Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Kullu, Shimla, Solan and Sirmaur. The meteorological department also issued a ‘yellow’ alert, warning of heavy rains at isolated places in the state till next Monday.

A total of 225 roads, including 153 in the worst-hit Mandi district, are closed while 163 transformers and 174 wa-

RAINS HIT GONDIA, BHANDARA DISTRICTS OF MAHA; ROADS INUNDATED, VILLAGES CUT OFF

Incessant rains lashed Gondia and Bhandara of Maharashtra on Tuesday, inundating roads in several parts of the districts and cutting off remote villages, officials said. The Wainganga River in Bhandara crossed the danger mark, and authorities have urged people to remain alert and avoid venturing near water bodies. According to the administration, all 33 gates of the Gosikhurd Dam in Bhandara and four gates of the Pujaritola Dam in Gondia district were opened. A landslide hit the movement of vehicles on the Nagpur-Raipur National Highway 53 at Masulkasa Ghat, and efforts are on to clear the debris, police said. Heavy rains and flooding affected movement on roads connecting Jawari-Kidangipaar in Amgaon tehsil, Girola-Ghatagaon in Sadak Arjuni tehsil and Ghatkuroda-Ghogra in Tirora tehsil of Gondia, while roads were closed in Bhandara.

ter supply schemes are affected in the state, according to the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC). Himachal Pradesh has

received 203.2 mm of rain against the normal of 152.6 mm from June 1 to July 8. Mandi district recorded 110 per cent excess rain,

HEAVY TO VERY HEAVY RAINS TO LASH GUJARAT, BORSAD TOPS RAINFALL CHART

Heavy to very heavy rains are likely in Narmada, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Daman, and Dadra & Nagar Haveli on Wednesday. Heavy rains on Wednesday across: Panchmahal, Dahod, Vadodara, Chhotaudepur, Bharuch, Dang, Tapi, Amreli, Bhavnagar and Botad. Light thunderstorm with lightning and surface wind 30-40 kmph accompanied with light to moderate rain likely across Banaskantha, Patan, Mehsana, Sabarkantha, Gandhinagar, Aravalli, Kheda, Ahmedabad, Anand, Panchmahal, Dahod and Mahisagar, Vadodara, Chhotaudepur, Narmada, Bharuch, Surat, Dang, Tapi, Navsari, Valsad, Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Junagadh, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Morbi, Dwarka, Gir Somnath, Botad, Kutch and Diu. Borsad in central Gujarat receiving the highest downpour at 99 mm, said officials on Tuesday.

Shimla 89 per cent and Una 86 per cent during this period. The monsoon hit Himachal Pradesh on June 20. Parts of the state have

been receiving moderate to heavy rain since Monday evening. Gohar has recorded 85 mm of rainfall, followed by 84.5 mm in Sarahan,

60 mm in Baijnath, 54.2 mm in Nahan, 48 mm in Poanta Sahib, 46.2 mm in Naina Devi, 37 mm in Kasauli, 28 mm in Jogindernagar and 27.2 mm in Palampur and 19 mm in Shimla, according to the weather office.

Himachal Pradesh has witnessed 23 flash floods, 19 cloudbursts and 16 landslides since the onset of monsoon on June 20, and 52 people have died in rain-related incidents in the state so far, officials said.

In Mandi district, search and rescue operations have been intensified. Drones and sniffer dogs are being used to trace 28 people who went missing last week in Thunag, Gohar and Karsog subdivisions, they said.

BSE Sensex advances 270 points on fag-end buying

PTI
Mumbai

BSE Sensex closed higher by 270 points on Tuesday, helped by late-day buying in banking and select IT shares as well as positive trends in the Asian markets.

After moving in a narrow range for most of the session, the 30-share barometer rose by 270.01 points or 0.32 per cent to close at 83,712.51. As many as 18 of its constituents ended higher and 12 lower.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 61.20 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 25,522.50, after



a muted trading session. Stock markets moved in a range for most of the session before the emergence of value buying in the pre-close session. Investors are awaiting definitive progress on the proposed India-US trade even as the US extended the suspension of reciprocal tariffs until August 1, experts said.

From the Sensex firms,

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal, Asian Paints, NTPC, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Adani Ports, Infosys and State Bank of India were among the major gainers.

However, Titan tumbled over 6 per cent. Trent, Axis Bank, Maruti and Hindustan Unilever were also among the laggards. The US is close to making a trade deal with India, President Donald Trump has said.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the positive territory.

Secunderabad Cantonment

Singh approves ₹303 cr for devpt

Agencies
Hyderabad

In a significant boost to infrastructure in the Secunderabad Cantonment area, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the utilisation of Rs 303.62 crore for various development works, following the efforts of Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy.

This funding is linked to the proposed transfer of cantonment lands to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to facilitate the construction of elevated corridors in the region.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

In an important departure from the usual procedure, the land transfer compensation—provided by the Telangana state government—will not go into the Consolidated Fund of India. Instead, it will be deposited into a newly established escrow account attached to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board.

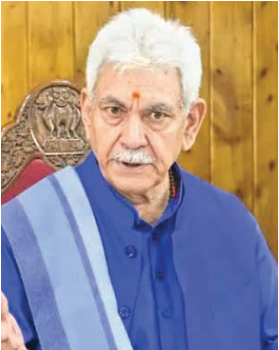
‘Terrorists’ bid to sustenance from society should be foiled’

PTI
Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that ordinary citizens were taking a stand against Pakistan-backed terrorism through street protests which was a good sign for establishing peace in the Valley.

Stressing that the development of the tourism sector is possible only in a peaceful and secure environment, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should ensure that terrorists’ attempts to draw sustenance from society are foiled.

Sinha was addressing a



J&K LG Manoj Sinha

two-day tourism conference at SKICC that is also being attended by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

“Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pakistan-backed terrorists is a good sign to

establish permanent peace in the valley.

“Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful Union Territory,” Sinha posted on his official X handle.

This conference is a befitting reply to terrorism and reflects J-K’s march towards peace, progress and prosperity. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J-K is an unstoppable force and it will continue to flourish, the LG said.

He said J-K’s tourism sector has undergone a phenomenal transformation in the last few years.

SHUKLA TELLS STUDENTS

‘Many of you can become astronauts’

Agencies
New Delhi

Many of you can become future astronauts, even walk on the Moon, Shubhanshu Shukla told a bunch of excited school students during an interaction through amateur radio from the International Space Station on Tuesday.

Group Captain Shukla, who has now spent 12 days at the orbital laboratory, was interacting with students of seven schools from Meghalaya and Assam who gathered at the



“Robotics and AI are integral to our mission. We use robotic arms for many internal and external tasks, making our work safer and more efficient on the Space Station,” astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station, said.

North East Space Applications Centre (NESAC) in Shillong for the rare

opportunity to talk to an astronaut in orbit. The students had sub-

mitted 20 questions to Group Captain Shukla, and he used a 10-minute window to connect with them via Ham radio to share his experiences on the ISS, training as an astronaut, and staying healthy while in space.

“I will be back, and I will guide you. Many of you will become future astronauts. Stay curious, work hard, and believe in yourself, someone from you could even walk on the Moon,” Group Captain Shukla said.

He said life onboard the space station is not

guided by sunlight, but by the clock set to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). “We don’t follow the Sun. On the ISS, we see 16 sunrises and sunsets every day because we circle the Earth every 90 minutes. Our activities aren’t guided by sunlight, but by GMT,” Group Captain Shukla said.

“Microgravity causes muscle and bone loss. So, we exercise every day using treadmills, cycles, and strength training machines. It’s essential to stay fit for the mission and for our return to Earth,” he said.

FI TOON

SHEKHAR



There is no place for double standards on terrorism: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in Brasília on Tuesday.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva witness exchange of agreements between EAM S Jaishankar and Brazilian minister during a joint press meet after their meeting, in Brasília, Brazil, Tuesday.

First India Bureau
Brasilia/New Delhi

PM Narendra Modi received a warm welcome at the Brasilia airport on his arrival, with the Bata-la Mundo band performing traditional Afro-Brazilian compositions.

Our thinking on fight against terrorism is aligned - zero-tolerance and zero-double standards, says Modi after talks with Brazilian President. We are unanimous that all disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, PM Modi after talks with Brazilian President Lula.

India and Brazil strongly oppose terrorism and those who support it, PM Narendra Modi said on Tuesday while asserting that there is no place for double standards on terrorism, in a veiled reference to Pakistan and its all-weather ally China.

“Our thinking on the fight against terrorism is aligned - zero-tolerance and zero-double standards,” Modi said during a joint press statement with Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva after their delegation-level talks.



PM Narendra Modi being welcomed by members of the Indian community, including Director of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Jyoti Kiran Shukla in Brasília, Brazil.



PM Modi appreciated the artists, who performed a traditional Brazilian Samba Reggae performance to welcome him.



The ceremonial welcome was also paired with the powerful 'Shiv Tandava' - a hallmark of Indian cultural heritage.



PM Modi with President of New Development Bank and former President, Brazil Dilma Rousseff



PM Modi with President of Chile Gabriel Boric Font.



PM Modi with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

US: Netanyahu nominates Prez Trump for Nobel Peace Prize

Agencies
Washington

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu has nominated US President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in “forging peace”. During their dinner at the White House, Netanyahu also handed a copy of the nomination letter that he sent to the prize committee.

“The President has already realised great opportunities. He forged the Abraham Accords. He’s forging peace as we speak in one country, in one region after the other. So, I want to present to you, President, the letter I sent to the Nobel Prize Committee. It’s nominating you for the Peace Prize, which is well deserved, and you should get it,” Netanyahu said.

He also praised Trump’s efforts to pursue peace and security, especially in the Middle East.



Asian economies in rush to cut tariff deals with US

Agencies
Washington/Tokyo

Powerhouse Asian economies Japan and South Korea said on Tuesday they would try to negotiate with the U.S. to soften the impact of sharply higher tariffs that President Donald Trump now plans to impose from the start of August.

Stephen Miran, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said he was optimistic that more trade deals could be struck before the end of the week.

“However, it’s incumbent upon the other countries to make the concessions that convince the president that the deals are worth taking for America,” Miran said.

Japan wants concessions for its large automobile industry, top trade negotiator Ryosei Akazawa said on Tuesday.

Global stocks showed muted reaction on Tuesday, as investors took in their stride the latest twist in the tariff saga, but the yen slid on the prospect of duties on Japanese goods.



Japan wants concessions for its large automobile industry, top trade negotiator said on Tuesday.

GERMAN WARNING

→ The European Union, which is the largest bilateral trade partner of the U.S., aims to strike a deal before August 1 with negotiations focused on “rebalancing” and concessions for certain key export industries, a European source familiar with the negotiations said. German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil warned that the EU was prepared to retaliate if necessary. “If we don’t reach a fair trade deal with the U.S., the EU is ready to take counter measures,” Klingbeil said on Tuesday, speaking in lower house of parliament.

BRICS COUNTRIES TO BE CHARGED 10%: TRUMP

→ US President Donald Trump on Tuesday reiterated his warning of an additional 10% tariff on BRICS nations, including India. When asked about India’s position, considering its status as a significant US trade partner and BRICS member, Trump clarified that no exceptions would be made. Trump explicitly stated that India’s membership in BRICS means it would be subject to the same additional 10% tariffs planned for the entire bloc.

LAOS AND MYANMAR WORST-HIT BY TARIFFS

→ Trump administration singled out Laos and Myanmar due to what the president described as unfair trade practices and regulatory barriers. The 40% hike marks the most aggressive move in the current tariff round. Japan vows to seek U.S. auto tariff concessions.

THE US RESPONDS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

→ The White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said that more countries would be informed of looming tariffs this week. Trump was “close” on other deals, she added, but “wants to ensure these are the best deals possible”.

X claims it received order to block 2,355 accounts in India, govt denies



Agencies
New Delhi

A fresh row has erupted between the Indian government and social media platform X over the temporary blocking of prominent international news handles, including Reuters and ReutersWorld, with both sides offering sharply differing versions of events.

X, in a public statement, claimed that on July 3, 2025, it received a government order under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act to block 2,355 accounts in India. The platform said the directive included global news organisations and came with a stern warning of criminal liability for non-compliance. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY),

X: PRESS CENSORSHIP IN INDIA ‘CONCERNING’

→ Elon Musk-owned social media platform X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday expressed deep concern about “ongoing press censorship” in India, days after global news agency Reuters’ account was ‘withheld’ in the country. X expressed deep concern over the move and said that it is exploring all legal options possible.

according to X, demanded action within an hour and offered no justification for the blocks.

However, following a public outcry over the temporary restriction of news accounts such as @Reuters and @ReutersWorld, the government allegedly asked X to lift the blocks on these handles.

Indian nurse on death row, set to be executed on July 16 in Yemen

Agencies
New Delhi

Nimisha Priya, the Indian nurse who is on death row after being convicted for the murder of a Yemeni national, will be executed next week on July 16. Last year, the President of Yemen approved the death sentence of Nimisha Priya, who is from Kerala.

Sources in the Ministry of External Affairs told the media that they have been closely following the matter since then and have been in regular touch with local authorities and her family members, and have rendered all possible assistance. The sources said the ministry is closely following the matter.

Nimisha’s family claimed that she had allegedly injected Mahdi with sedatives to retrieve her confiscated passport. However, an overdose led to his death. She was arrested while attempting to flee the country.



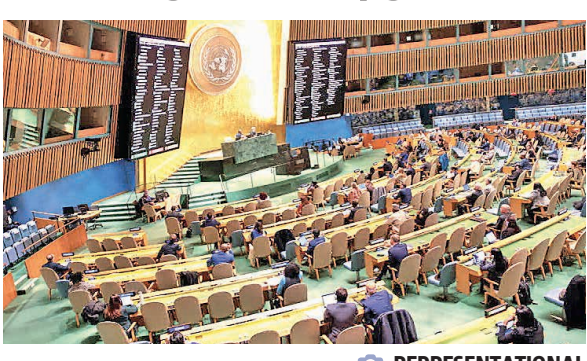
OVER TERROR CONCERNS India abstains from voting on Afghanistan at UN

First India Bureau
Washington

India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, announced that India has abstained from voting on a UN Security Council resolution concerning Afghanistan, citing ongoing concerns about the use of Afghan territory by designated terrorist groups.

“We welcome the strong condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist at-

tack of April 22, 2025, by the Afghan side,” Harish said during his statement at the UN. “The international community must direct its coordinated efforts towards ensuring that entities & individuals designated by the UN Security Council, the Al Qaeda and their affiliates, ISIL and their affiliates, including Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, along with their regional sponsors who facilitate their operations, no longer exploit the Afghan territory for terrorist activities.”



Parvathaneni Harish, India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

India’s abstention comes amid heightened security concerns following the deadly April attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives. New Delhi has consistently



Parvathaneni Harish, India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

raised alarms over terror networks operating from across the region, calling for international accountability and stronger action against those who enable such acts.

Militants kill 5 Israeli soldiers in Gaza and Israeli strikes kill 51

Agencies
Tel Aviv, Israel

Five Israeli soldiers were killed in an attack in the northern Gaza Strip, Israel’s military said Tuesday, while health officials in the Palestinian territory said 51 people were killed in Israeli strikes.

The bloodshed came as Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu was visiting the White House for talks with U.S. President Donald Trump about a ceasefire plan to pause the Gaza fighting. There were also signs of progress toward a deal.



Mourners attend the funeral of victims who were killed in an Israeli bombardment of Gaza Strip, in Nuseirat, on Tuesday.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS ON ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

- An Israeli report on Tuesday said that Hamas used sexual violence as a “tactical weapon of war” in its Oct. 7, 2023, attacks, building on other investigations by international and Israeli rights groups and the United Nations into the militant group’s assault.
- Most victims were permanently silenced, either murdered during or after the assaults or remain too traumatized to talk.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Motivation turns roadblocks into chances to grow.

Dr JADEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

Poorest being empowered via welfare schemes: CM Sharma

CM inaugurates ₹15.38 cr works in Churu; lays foundation stone for agri college

Laxman Raghav and Sanjay Prajapat
Bikaner/Churu

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said his govt's goal is to serve and empower every person. At Sri Dungargarh in Bikaner, he called the Antyodaya Sambal Fortnight a concrete step toward last-mile welfare delivery. He highlighted that essential services—from land disputes to power repairs—are being provided swiftly at one place. He reaffirmed the Yamuna water plan for Shekhawati and said Rajasthan's progress in the past 18 months surpassed the previous gov's five-year term. He also announced a trauma centre for Sri Dungargarh. The coordination between District Collector Namrata and SP Kaverendra Singh Sagar was widely appreciated; ADM Ramavtar Kumawat and ADSP Kailash Sandhu also played key roles. A few were briefly detained in Bikaner for precaution. In Churu, Sharma distributed benefits, praised heritage, and pledged Rs 834 cr for development.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma hands over a Scooty key to a beneficiary of 'Kalibai Bheel Medhavi Chhatra Scooty Yojana' during the 'Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Sambal Pakhwada' in Churu. Former LOP Rajendra Rathore, Churu MLA Harlal Saharan & others were present.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma inspects the blood donation camp held under the 'Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Sambal Pakhwada' in Churu on Tuesday. Former LOP Rajendra Rathore, Churu MLA Harlal Saharan and others were present.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being felicitated during the 'Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Sambal Pakhwada' held at Gusainsar Bara village in Bikaner. MoS Sumit Godara, former LOP Rajendra Rathore, MLAs Tarachand Saraswat, Siddhi Kumari, Dr Vishwananth Meghwal, Anshuman S Bhati & BJP leaders Ramgopal Suthar, Champalal Godara were present.

IG SRIVASTAVA KEEPS VIGIL DURING CM TOUR

IG CM Security Gaurav Srivastava remained on high alert during CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's visits to Churu and Sri Dungargarh. Given the CM's open, people-friendly nature, security challenges increase, demanding extra vigilance and proactive crowd management throughout the programme.



HASHTAGS, SELFIES & SLOGANS: SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM STEALS THE SHOW AT CM'S GUSAISAR RALLY



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's public rally in Gusainsar Bara in Bikaner, saw the BJP social media team capturing major attention. Led by Social Media Regional Coordinator Kojuram Saraswat, the team showcased placards with hashtags like #Rajasthan_Ke_Lal_BhajanLal and #BhajanLal_Meaning_Trust, accompanied by striking visuals of the CM. These became a popular photo-op for the crowd, adding a digital buzz to the event. Team members including District Coordinator Pawan Swami, Ganpat Godara, Mohit Saraswat, Shravan Sharma, and Bhawani Paiwal ensured continuous public interaction and online engagement.

UNION MoS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GIFTS SCIENCE CENTRE TO DHOLPUR

'Science Centre to fuel curiosity, inspire youth'



Union MoS (Ind. Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates the Dholpur Science Centre in Dholpur on Tuesday. MoS, Home, Jawahar Singh Bedham and others were also present.

First India Bureau

Dholpur

A new chapter in science and innovation began in Dholpur with the inauguration of the Dholpur Science Centre by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh. Established with support from the National Institute of Defence Science, the centre aims to foster scientific thinking among youth. Dr. Singh interacted with students, praised their models, and urged linking science with everyday life.

He also planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' drive. At a separate event, he said science centres in aspirational districts reflect the Centre's inclusive inno-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacts with a young student while inspecting the Dholpur Science Centre. MoS, Home, Jawahar Singh Bedham and others were also present.

Science Centres in small towns spark innovation—blending Chandrayaan-3 pride with local tech for a forward-moving India.
DR JITENDRA SINGH,
UNION MINISTER

When children learn science, it shapes their decisions beyond textbooks. This centre will help youth align with the digital age.
JAWAHAR SINGH BEDHAM,
MoS, HOME

vation vision. District Minister Jawahar Singh Bedham said the centre would align students

with the digital age. Students and officials welcomed the initiative wholeheartedly.

Powering ahead: RVPNL clears ₹26,773 cr projects

Vikas Sharma
Jaipur

In a major push for green energy, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPNL) has approved projects worth Rs 26,773 crore during its latest board meeting chaired by the newly appointed Chairman Ajitabh Sharma.

The board cleared 15 key schemes, including 9 new 765 kV GSS, 4 of 400 kV, and 2 of 220 kV. To boost transparency, it was decided that all projects above Rs 300 crore will now be executed



through the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) route—pending since 2022 despite RERC directives.

Monetisation of 13 GSS of 400 kV was also approved.

The meeting at Vidyut Bhawan was attended by Jaipur Discom CMD Arti Dogra, RVPNL MD Siddharth Sihag, and other senior officials.

Om Birla: Public participation key to devp, stadium to reflect people's vision

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

During his visit to Kota's Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasised that its redevelopment must reflect public sentiment and be completed on time. Stressing environmental responsibility, he called for campaigns like 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' to become mass movements. Declaring the stadium a key hub for youth and the community, he inspected its facilities and directed urgent repairs.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla plants a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in Kota on Tuesday.

Birla's Namo Toy Bank urges students to donate toys; he also calls on schools to adopt parks, groom green ambassadors

KOTA GREENFIELD AIRPORT FOUNDATION NEXT MONTH: BIRLA

Kota: LS Speaker Om Birla announced that the foundation stone for a Greenfield Airport in Kota will be laid next month. Addressing the Hadoti Kota Stone Industries Association's oath ceremony, he asserted that regular air services from Kota will commence by June 2028. Birla's remarks signal a major infrastructure boost for the region. New airport to enhance connectivity, fuel industrial growth, and strengthen Kota's education ecosystem.

Swift road works to benefit public directly: Diya

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

Deputy CM Diya Kumari directed PWD officials to ensure prompt monsoon road repairs and avoid transport disruption. In the Ajmer Zone review, she stressed drainage, stalled project resolution, swift execution of 2024-25 works, & tendering for 2025-26. She demanded field-level reporting in next meeting. Roads under NHAI, NH, RSRDC, State Highways were also assessed during the meeting

Sand mafia controls system, CM still learning: Gehlot

Naresh Sharma
Jaipur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP-led Rajasthan government of letting the sand mafia take control through a top-to-bottom nexus. Citing the Riyanbadi violence, he said even police are unsafe. While admitting illegal mining existed under his rule, Gehlot claimed firm action was taken then. He questioned CM Sharma's inexperience and urged an IB survey to assess rising crime and unrest. BJP leaders Madan Rathore,



Former CM Ashok Gehlot pays floral tributes to ex-Union Min, late Dr Girija Vyas, on her birth anniv at PCC HQs, Jaipur.

Arun Chaturvedi, & Rajendra Rathore countered sharply, with Madan accusing Gehlot of misusing intelligence and being rattled by the current govt's welfare outreach.

Another IAS transfer list likely next week; Focus on Collectors & vacant posts

Rajendra Chhabra
Jaipur

Experts anticipate that another list of IAS transfers is imminent, possibly as early as next week. This upcoming list is expected to primarily focus on District Collectors and Heads of Departments (HODs). In the jumbo transfer list of IAS officers issued on June 22, only a handful of Collectors were reshuffled. It is believed that 15 to 20 Collectors may be transferred in the next list.

Two major government campaigns—'Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jal Abhiyan' and 'Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Pakhwada'—have concluded, freeing up District Collectors who were actively engaged in these field cam-

paigns. As the involvement of the district collectors in these campaigns is now over, their reshuffle is likely.

Second most important thing is that the Election Commission is set to begin special intensive revision of the voter list nationwide from the first week of August. Once this process starts, transfers of Collectors will not happen. Therefore, any changes in Collector postings are expected to take place before this.

Thirdly, 16 officers from the Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) have been promoted to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) this month. The Department of Personnel (DoP) will now have to give them new postings. It is expected that at least five of them will be appointed as District Collectors.



It means that the change of collectors in the due transfer list is almost certain. Experts have also assessed what changes are possible -

As of now, 15 Collectors have been serving in their respective districts since January 2024, completing a full tenure of 18 months. This duration is generally considered sufficient for a Collector in one district. In this context, it is likely that many of them will be transferred, some may be assigned new districts while

others may be moved from field posting.

There are eight Collectors who have been serving in their current roles for the past 10 months. Some of them may also be considered for transfer.

Currently, a total of 12 promotee IAS officers are serving as Collectors. If some of the newly promotee 16 officers are also posted in the districts, maintaining the balance between direct recruit and promotee officers will require many of the existing 12 to be moved

out of field postings.

According to experts, nearly all IAS officers from the 2016 and 2017 batches have had the opportunity to serve as Collectors. Currently, 5 out of 9 officers from 2016 batch and 8 out of 10 from 2017 batch are posted as Collectors. Now, it's the turn for 2018 batch. Of the 13 officers in this batch, only one—Abhishek Surana—has been appointed as Collector so far. The remaining 12, all direct recruit IAS officers, are considered strong contenders for Collector postings. However, three of them—Abhishek Khanna, Ram Prakash, and Nidhi Patel—have already been assigned new postings in June.

Among the current Collectors, Jaipur Collector Jitendra Kumar Soni from 2010 batch is the most senior. He is due for

KEY IAS RESHUFFLE LIKELY NEXT WEEK; FULL-TIME APPOINTMENTS ON CARDS

There is speculation that the upcoming IAS transfer list, expected next week, may include revisions to the jumbo transfer list issued on June 22. These changes could be pertaining to secretaries. At the same time, full-time IAS officers may be appointed to several key vacant positions, including CCT, MD-RSSM, MD-RVPNL, CMD Jaipur Metro, Commissioner DIPR, Commissioner Devasthan, MD RTDC, Resident Commissioner in Delhi and MD RSLDC. In Panchayati Raj Department, both the Secretary and Commissioner posts may be filled with full-time appointments. Currently, Jogaram is holding dual charge of both posts. Similarly, in OTS, the posts of Director General and Additional Director General are being managed through additional charge. The efficiency and functioning of this important government institution could be restored.

promotion to the post of Secretary in the next five months. It is likely that he will be replaced in the upcoming list and assigned a larger, new responsibility. In that case, Sandesh Nayak, Sidharth Sihag, N. Shiv Prasad Madan, Namit Mehta and Gaurav Agrawal are seen as strong contenders for the post of Jaipur Collector.

Recently, the Collector of the divisional headquarters Kota was transferred. It is now likely that changes will happen in Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Ajmer also.

At present, only Jitendra Kumar Soni from 2010 batch and Namit Mehta from 2012 batch are serving as Collectors. The remaining Collectors

belong to the 2013 to 2017 batches. It is possible that some IAS officers who have served as Collectors may be brought back to field postings.

Babu Lal Goyal, Na-sayan Singh and Vasudev Malawat from 2014 batch along with Akash Tomar, Maneesh Goyal, Kesar Lal Meena, Purushottam Sharma, Devaram Saini and Ajay Aswal from 2015 batch have not yet had the opportunity to serve as Collectors. Bachanesh Agrawal (2014 batch) was posted as Collector of Jhunjhunu but was recalled within just three months. A particularly notable case is that of Shubham Chaudhary (2014 batch), who was given charge of four districts in two years but was removed from each posting. She has now been shifted to the Secretariat.



FESTIVE FLAIR!

City is set to host the vibrant Lehriya Fest - Celebrity Edition on August 23 at Mahal Rajwada Resort, celebrating culture with women's empowerment, organised by the Empress Club.

P12



Twirl AND Shine

This season, elevate your style with vibrant Anarkali suits! City First brings bold hues and the timeless charm of Lehariya. Perfect for weddings, brunches, and festive celebrations—stay elegant, stay lively, and stay effortlessly beautiful!



Bhavika Khunteta

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

As the season sets in with festive vibes and a fresh breeze, it's the perfect time to embrace the timeless elegance of Anarkali suits. Flowing with grace and sophistication, Anarkalis have long been a symbol of royal beauty and tradition. This season, they're back in a burst of vibrant colours and contemporary cuts that uplift not just your wardrobe, but also your festive spirit.

From sunshine yellows and bold pinks to deep greens and radiant oranges, Anarkalis now come in shades that echo the vibrancy of Indian celebrations. Whether you're heading to a family gathering, haldi function, wedding, or a festive brunch, these hues add a joyful and refreshing touch to your style. Paired with palazzos instead of churidars, the Anarkali shows off its full silhouette beautifully, making the look modern, free-flowing, and regal.

The versatility



ty of Anarkalis is unmatched—they flatter all body types and suit women of all ages. Crafted in breathable fabrics like cotton, georgette, and chiffon, they provide comfort along with elegance. For a daytime event, opt for light dupattas and minimal jewellery; for evening affairs, choose heavily embroidered or embellished versions.

This season, Lehariya Anarkalis are making a playful comeback. With their bold tie-dye stripes and breezy flair, they're perfect for haldi ceremonies, daytime mehndis, and cultural get-togethers. Designers are adding their twist with gota patti, mirror work, lace borders, floral prints, and even jacket-style overlays or asymmetrical hems.

Whether it's a floor-length classic or a fusion look with palazzos, the Anarkali continues to reign as the queen of festive fashion.

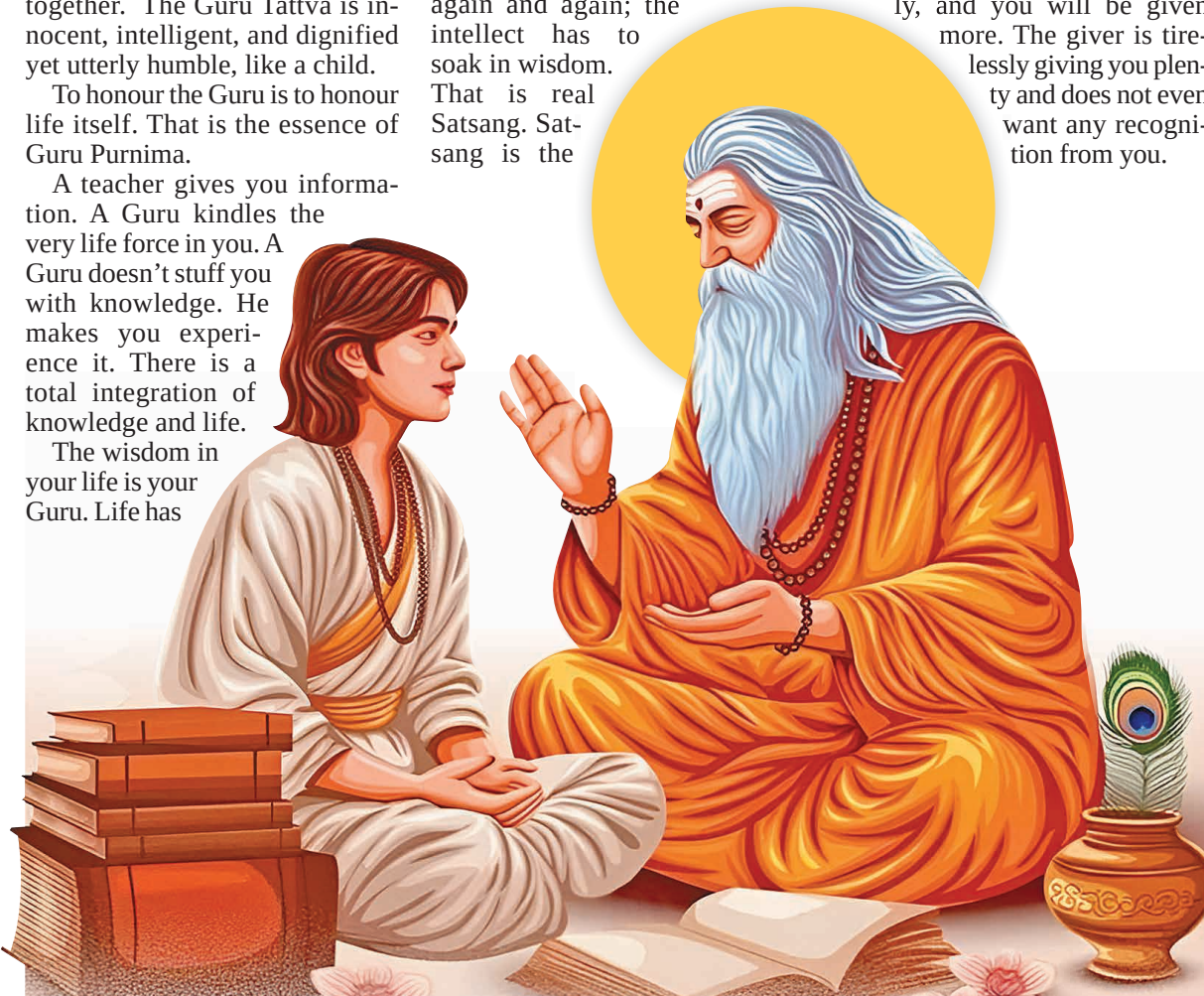
The writer is an Indian yoga guru, a spiritual leader, founder of The Art of Living

Look at the miracle that you are—billions of cells constantly being born and dissolving, each with

The wisdom in
your life is your
Guru. Life has

That is real
Satsang. Sat-
sang is the

The second thing you must take up this Guru Purnima is, to utilize the gift you have been given. If you speak well or you have a good intellect, use it for the benefit of others. You have been bestowed with so many blessings. Use them wisely, and you will be given more. The giver is tirelessly giving you plenty and does not even want any recognition from you.



Do not mistake the Guru for being just a form or a personality. See

There is no escape in life. Do not think knowledge is an escape from life. Knowledge is being in it, being witness to everything, and staying afloat. All you need to do is have this conviction that once you are on the path, know that only the best will happen for you.

A large crowd of men, many in white shirts and dark trousers, gathered on a street. Several police officers in khaki uniforms are visible, managing the crowd. In the background, there is a large tree and a building.

*Secretary General of CUTS
International*



*Senior Communications
Officer at CUTS International*

The Jaipur lawyers' protest highlights the need for effective protest mechanisms that balance the protection of democratic rights with the preservation of civic order. As Indian cities continue to grow, striking a balance between protest and public welfare is no longer optional — it is essential.



- Digital petitions, awareness drives, and symbolic sit-ins can convey dissent effectively without inconveniencing the public.



