



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper

**CRYPTO LOSS: COINDCX HACKED, ₹368 CR GONE**  
In a major security incident, CoinDCX, one of India's cryptocurrency exchanges, has confirmed a hacking attack that led to a loss of around \$44 million (nearly Rs 368 crore).

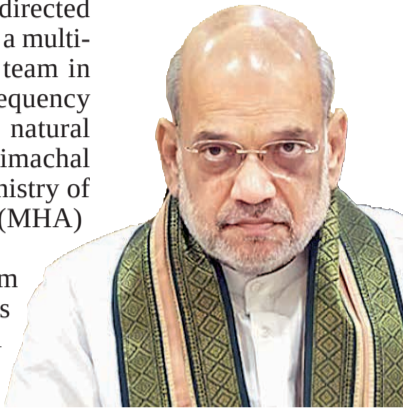
## Shah directs formation of multi-sectoral team for Himachal ...in view of intensity of natural disasters in the hilly state

**ANI**  
New Delhi

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has directed the formation of a multi-sectoral central team in view of the frequency and intensity of natural disasters in Himachal Pradesh, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Sunday.

The Central team comprises experts from the National Disaster Management Au-

thority (NDMA), Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Roorkee, Indian Institute of Tropical



**The central government has also provided all logistic assistance to all states, including Himachal Pradesh, including deployment of requisite National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, Army teams and Air Force support**

Meteorology (IITM) Pune, a Geologist, and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore.

The Union Minister's direction came following a recent meeting in which he was apprised that Himachal Pradesh has

witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides and torrential rainfall, causing widespread loss of life, damage to infrastructure, livelihoods and environmental degradation.

Further, in the wake of floods, flash floods and

landslides during the South West monsoon 2025 in different parts of the state, the Centre has already deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) in advance, without waiting for their memorandum, for on-the-spot, first-hand assessment of the damages. IMCT started their visit to the affected areas on July 18 and will continue their visit till July 21.

Centre has also provided all logistic assistance to all states.



A woman searches for her belongings at a disaster-affected area in Mandi of Himachal Pradesh.

### Parliament's Monsoon Session begins today

## Govt ready for Operation Sindoor discussion, won't shy away: Rijju

● Rijju says the government will discuss key issues; urges ruling, Oppn parties to coordinate for a smooth Session

● Oppn raises Pahalgam attack, Trump's remarks, SIR in session eve meet

● Govt set to introduce 17 new Bills in this Session, says the Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister

**Agencies**  
New Delhi

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijju** on Sunday said the government is ready to hold discussions on key issues, including Operation Sindoor, during the monsoon session of Parliament, which begins Monday, July 21. He assured that the Centre will not shy away from any topic and is committed to running the House smoothly.

Speaking after an all-party meeting, Rijju said, "We are open to discussing important issues like Operation Sindoor in Parliament. There must be coordination between the government and the Opposition to ensure proper functioning of the House."

Rijju also stressed the importance of constructive debate, adding that Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is always present in Parliament whenever important matters arise.

He added that the government is prepared to table 17 bills during the session and will respond to all queries during debates. "We are ready for discussions with an open heart," Rijju said. **P5**



Union Ministers JP Nadda and Kiren Rijju and Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal arrive to attend the all-party meeting ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi.

**THE GOVERNMENT WILL ADDRESS ALL QUESTIONS INSIDE PARLIAMENT, NOT OUTSIDE. WE WILL RESPOND APPROPRIATELY DURING THE PARLIAMENT SESSION**  
**KIREN RIJJU, UNION PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER**

### TOP LEADERS FROM ACROSS PARTIES ATTEND ALL-PARTY MEETING

At the customary meeting ahead of the session beginning Monday, the opposition raised various issues, including voter roll revision in Bihar, the Pahalgam terror attack and Trump's 'ceasefire' claims. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Congress leader **Gaurav Gogoi** said his party sought Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** statement on Trump's claims, "lapses"



Congress MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Jairam Ramesh during the all-party meeting called ahead of the Monsoon Session.

which led to the Pahalgam attack and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of poll rolls in Bihar. He said it was

incumbent on PM **Modi** to give a statement in Parliament on key issues raised by his party.

### PM MODI TO ADDRESS MEDIA BEFORE SESSION

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will brief media on Monday just before the commencement of first day of the Monsoon Parliament session. On the first day of the Fifth Session of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha, PM **Modi** will be briefing accredited media persons, official statement confirmed.



### MOTION TO IMPEACH JUDGE IN CASH ROW

On the issue of Justice **Yashwanth Verma**, accused in cash row, Rijju said that more than 100 MPs have signed a motion seeking his impeachment, which the government plans to bring forward during the current session. Rijju added the timeline for its introduction is yet to be decided.

## Army to get 1st batch of Apache choppers on Jul 22

...after 15-month delay: Sources

**Agencies**  
New Delhi



After a delay of over 15 months, the Indian Army is finally expected to receive the first batch of Apache AH-64E attack helicopters, marking a significant step towards bolstering its combat capabilities along the western border in the wake of Operation Sindoor.

According to sources aware of the delivery schedule, the first three helicopters are likely to be handed over to the Indian Army's Aviation Corps on July 22.

The Indian Army had

signed a USD 600 million deal with the United States in 2020 for six Apache attack helicopters, with delivery initially expected between May and June 2024 but was marred by delays.

## Nepal PM Oli to visit India in mid-September

**PTI**  
Kathmandu

Nepal Prime Minister **K P Sharma Oli** will pay an official visit to India towards mid-September, the Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.



"Preparations for the upcoming visit of the prime minister are underway. However, the date and the detailed schedules of the visit are yet to be finalised," Foreign Ministry spokesperson **Lok Bahadur Chhetri** said.

However, sources at the Prime Minister's Office said that Oli will embark on his official visit to the southern neighbour on September 16.

## Ahead of 4th Test against Eng Akash Deep's injury adds to India's woes

**Agencies**  
Manchester



India have been struck with several injury concerns ahead of the fourth Test against England as fast bowler **Akash Deep** is also facing the danger of being ruled out of the all-important fixture. India are trailing by 1-2 in the five-match series after their heartbreaking 22-run loss at Lord's. Hence, the upcoming fixture becomes extremely crucial for the **Shubman Gill**-led side as the series is on the line.

**Akash** is racing against time to be fit for the fourth Test set to begin from July 23. His injury has added to India's woes as **Arshdeep Singh** has

already injured his bowling hand. The left-arm seamer got a cut on his bowling hand while trying to stop the ball during the team's practice session in Beckenham.

**Arshdeep replacement** Meanwhile, BCCI selection committee has called up Haryana pacer **Anshul Kamboj** as cover for injured **Arshdeep Singh** on the tour of England.

## New Raj HC CJ Sriram to be sworn in today

**Kamal Kant Vyas**  
Jaipur

The newly-appointed Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court, Justice **KR Sriram**, will take oath on Monday. Governor **Haribhau Bagade** will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the 43rd Chief Justice at 4 pm.

The swearing-in ceremony will be held at Raj Bhavan today at 4 pm. Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma**, both the deputy CMs **Diya Kumari** and **Prem Chand Bairwa** and Cabinet ministers will be present during this.



Justice KR Sriram

High Court judges will also attend the swearing-in ceremony.

Justice **Sriram** reached the Pink City from Chennai late on Sunday night via Indigo flight.

### REVIEW MEET TO ASSESS RAIN DAMAGE

## CM Bhajan Lal orders high alert, swift relief

**Aishwary Pradhan**  
Jaipur

Chief Minister **Bhajan Lal Sharma** on Sunday held a high-level review meeting to assess the situation arising out of heavy rainfall in several districts.

**Sharma** instructed officials to prioritise citizen safety and carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected areas with alertness and sensitivity.

He directed officials to remain on high alert and



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma speaks during a high-level review meeting on Sunday.

ensure swift response to emerging situations, particularly in low-lying and

flood-prone areas. "Keep a constant watch on the water levels

of rivers, ponds, and reservoirs. SDRF, civil defence, and home guard

**CM Sharma** instructed officials to prioritise citizen safety and carry out relief and rescue operations in the affected areas with alertness and sensitivity

teams should remain alert and equipped," **Sharma** said.

He also directed for effective operation of district control rooms and widespread promotion of helpline numbers for public assistance. **P8**

## Two girls drown while playing in Ajmer's pond

**Shubham Jain**  
Ajmer

Two girls were drowned after accidentally falling in a pond in Ajmer's **Adarsh Nagar** area on Sunday. Police said that **Aachu (9)** and **Hina (11)** had gone to graze cattle near their house when the incident occurred.

While playing, they slipped on the muddy edge of a nearby pond and fell into deep water. Local residents tried to rescue them but were unable to save them in time. The bodies were sent to the mortuary at **JLN Hospital**.

**Revenue recovery** Only 3 districts in State hit 100% in June excise collection

# Excise collection falls short in June; recovery woes persist

Vinod Singh Chouhan  
Jaipur

After a record-breaking start to the financial year in April, Rajasthan's Excise Department is now struggling to stay on course with its ambitious revenue collection target, largely due to underperformance in several districts.

Only three districts have managed to meet or exceed their monthly collection targets.

The state collected Rs 1,293.56 crore in June against a target of Rs 1,605.53 crore — achieving 80.57 percent of the monthly goal. The annual revenue collection target for FY 2025-26 is Rs 19,720 crore

In April, 18 districts achieved 100 percent of their monthly targets, setting what officials described as a "record performance" under excise commissioner Shiv Pras-

## PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE RECOVERY OF APRIL AND JUNE 2025

District	April	June
Bhilwara	104.51	98.99
Tonk	106.29	77.11
Ajmer	97.38	79.00
Nagaur	93.55	73.26
Sawai Madhopur	101.32	77.54
Bharatpur	92.46	69.00
Dhaulpur	96.84	68.27
Karauli	111.51	74.59
Hanumangarh	92.73	70.22
Churu	111.30	76.10
Sriganganagar	103.70	74.46
Bikaner	91.23	74.26
Jaipur City	85.76	76.46
Jaipur Rural	98.19	77.84
Jhunjhunu	112.38	85.49
Sikar	109.88	70.84
Dausa	107.86	72.91
Alwar	108.67	79.06
Jalore	116.01	103.36
Barmer	95.45	80.52
Jaisalmer	80.30	70.97
Pali	104.75	79.08
Sirohi	128.40	101.01
Jodhpur	91.51	71.81
Baran	103.49	79.93
Jhalawar	101.15	75.18
Bundi	112.15	79.28
Kota	90.49	77.24
Dungarpur	134.57	139.74
Banswara	113.56	98.99
Rajsamand	95.34	84.13
Udaipur	97.46	88.19
Pratapgarh	152.64	97.07
Chittorgarh	94.18	86.09

ad Nakate. However, that momentum slowed in May and weakened

further in June.

Only three districts of

Sirohi have crossed 100 percent of June targets. With 130.74 per-

Crackdown on illegal mining: 3,598 cases filed in 107 days

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

Following instructions of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, a massive campaign has been launched against illegal mining in the state. In the campaign led by Principal Secretary T Ravikant and Director Deepak Tanwar, 3,598 cases of illegal mining, export and storage have been registered in last 107 days.



In all, 427 FIRs were registered in the state and 212 individuals were arrested. The mines department and joint teams seized 77.24 lakh tonnes of minerals and imposed a fine of Rs 553.26 crore while Rs 23.30 crore was recovered.

A total of 290 cases of illegal mining, 3,075 cases of illegal extraction and 233 cases of illegal storage were registered. A total of 3232 vehicles and 177 machines were seized, which is being monitored by Additional Director PR Ameta.

Recently, two men had lost their lives in a rock collapse during illegal mining activities in Bhilwara on June 4. This had caused widespread protests in the area.



## MLA Vikas Chaudhary seeks relief package for rain-hit farmers; writes to CM Sharma

MLA Vikas Chaudhary wrote a letter to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma saying that the condition of the farmers is worrying and the government should issue a special relief package. MLA Vikas Chaudhary demanded immediate Girdawari. "Due to continuous rain, the crops of the farmers have been damaged. The financial condition of the farmers has deteriorated due to heavy rains for the second consecutive year. Most farmers have not received the compensation for 2023 till date due to the arbitrariness of the insurance companies," he wrote.

## NSUI organizational polls to start soon

Congress' National Students' Union of India's (NSUI) organizational elections, which were on hold for many years, are all set to resume soon. This major decision was taken in the working committee meeting of the Congress party held in Delhi. According to the decisions made in meeting, the first phase of organisational elections will be held in those states where there is no state president. In the second phase, elections will be held in the state to complete the 5-yr term.

## Jaipur witnesses huge tourist footfall

Wildlife tourism in the Pink City Jaipur witnessed a huge rush of tourists on Sunday. A maximum of 4,491 tourists reached Nahargarh Biological Park of which 298 tourists arrived for lion and tiger safaris. Leopard Safari in Jhalana ran at full capacity with 144 tourists in both the shifts. DCF Vijaypal Singh, ACF Devendra Singh Rathore and Range Officer Jitendra Singh Shekhawat and Shubham Sharma had a busy day.

## BJP state President Madan Rathore team members' list to be released tomorrow

The list of BJP state President Madan Rathore's team members is likely to be released tomorrow. The list was following suggestions from senior leaders. The future team will have half-a-dozen female faces. Possible names of the team members are Mukesh Dadhich, Shrawan Singh Bagdi, Kailash Meghwal, Motilal Meena, Chandrakanta Meghwal, Santosh Ahlawat, Jyoti Mirdha, Bihari Lal Vishnoi, Mithlesh Gautam, Shailesh Singh, Aidan Singh Bhati, Bhupendra Singh Saini and Apoorva Singh.

Prahlad Paldi to lead Shiv Sena in Rajasthan; gears up for elections

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Shiv Sena inaugurated its new Rajasthan state headquarters at Narayan Vihar in Jaipur on Sunday. After inaugurating the office, party's national secretary Captain Abhijit Adsul said the party would work in Rajasthan with renewed energy and enthusiasm and participate actively in the upcoming elections.



He expressed confidence that under newly appointed state president Prahlad Singh Paldi's leadership, Shiv Sena would establish a strong base in the state. Paldi thanked Maharashtra Dy CM Eknath Shinde for trusting him with the responsibility. MLA Manoj Nyangli, Chandra Raj Singhvi, Jaswant Singh and other leaders were also present on the occasion.

# Forgery accused flees courtroom after being sentenced in Ajmer



First India Bureau  
Ajmer

A man, soon after being sentenced by Ajmer's ACJM court in a case related to forgery in the Pisangan area, managed to flee from the courtroom even amid tight security. According to information, as soon as the sentence was announced, the accused shockingly absconded from the spot before being taken into police custody. This incident reportedly happened on July 18.

The court reader informed Ajmer's Civil Lines police station in this regard and formally registered a case against the accused. After the information about the case came to light, there was a stir in the police department. The police have started searching for the absconding criminal. Police teams have been sent to possible hideouts and CCTV footage from the court are also being scanned.

## CRIME BRANCH SEIZES FLAMMABLE CHEMICALS, BUSTS ILLEGAL BENZENE TRADE IN PALI



Six drums containing approximately 1293.1 Kg of suspected flammable chemicals were seized in the action.

The team of Police Headquarters CID Crime Branch, in a crackdown on wanted criminals and organized gangs, busted a major illegal chemical business. A huge quantity of flammable chemical, benzene (worth lakhs of rupees), has been seized and one person has been arrested. The kingpin, however, managed to escape. A special team has been formed under the guidance of Additional Director General of Police Crime Dinesh MN. The team is being led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Phoolchand Taylor and Police Inspector Ram Singh Nathawat. It is being supervised by DIG of Police Yogesh Yadav and Additional SP Siddhant Sharma. The team had a tip-off about illegal activities near Godara Hotel in Jaipur in Pali district. They saw that a Gujarat tanker and a pickup vehicle were parked on a vacant plot near the hotel and drums were being unloaded from the pickup and chemicals were being filled in blue drums. The tanker driver, Nemaram Dewasi (47) resident of Beawar, was arrested but his accomplice Gainsingh managed to escape. During interrogation, Dewasi said that the chemical was being transported from Bhatinda, Punjab to Dahej, Gujarat. On the way, they tried to sell the chemical at a cheap price.

## CYBER POLICE WARNS AGAINST 'DIGITAL ARREST'

With rising incidents of cyber crimes, the Cyber Crime Branch of Rajasthan Police has issued an advisory regarding digital arrest in which criminals scare people on video calls by posing as officers of CBI, Mumbai Police, Customs, Income Tax Department or Enforcement Directorate (ED) and extort money from their bank accounts by threatening to implicate them in serious crimes. SP Cyber Crime Shantanu Kumar Singh said that cyber criminals make video calls to victims and threaten them with fake warrants. People should immediately contact their nearest police station or cyber police station, register their complaint online on the Cyber Crime Reporting Portal <https://cybercrime.gov.in>, call up Cyber Helpline number 1930 or contact Cyber Helpdesk number 9256001930 or 9257510100.

# Tributes paid to Mohan Sharma's mother at final prayer ceremony



First India Bureau  
Jaipur

A heartfelt condolence meeting was held on Sunday in memory of Kishan Pyari Bhardwaj, the mother of Mohan Sharma, Owner of Evening Plus Newspaper, and wife of Late Pt Ram Sahay Bhardwaj, who passed away suddenly on July 18. The prayer ceremony took place at Anuvibha Kendra, behind WTP, JLN Marg, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur.

CEO and Managing Editor of First India News Pawan Arora along with Harish Sharma, Gopal Sharma, Mohan Sharma and other relatives during the prayer ceremony on Sunday. **NAIM KHAN**

Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, attended the ceremony & offered floral tributes while expressing deep condolences.

Among the dignitaries present were Shanti Dhariwal, former Urban Development Minister; Dr Raghu Sharma and Lal-

chand Kataria, both former Cabinet Ministers; retired IPS officers IG Hari Prasad Sharma and IG Satveer; along with several leaders from both the Congress and BJP.

The grieving family, friends and relatives, all were united in prayer and shared remembrance.

## RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# Sudarsan village sets an example

Narpat Jyoti  
Didwana

Sudarsan Gram Panchayat of Didwana district has emerged as a model gram panchayat with cemented roads in the entire village, street lights lighting up roads at night, high mask lights at the main bus stand and 25 CCTV cameras installed along the village roads and highways.

Village Sarpanch Kesar Devi and her husband Bhagirath Yadav have worked hard to transform this village. Sudarsan, the



CCTV camera & door-to-door garbage collection facility has started in Sudarsan village making it a role model of development.

last village on the border of Didwana and Sikar, is connected to the state highway. Recently, a jeweller was kidnapped in the

village, after which the sarpanch decided to install CCTV cameras. Its control room is in the Gram Panchayat office. This has

been praised by Ajmer Range IG Om Prakash Meghwal and he has called it a good step in preventing crimes.

The CCTV cameras installed keep an eye on every activity of the village within a radius of three kilometres. Besides, a door-to-door facility for garbage collection has begun due to which the village has started looking clean

## Streets echo with faith



Devotees have begun Kanwar processions as the month of Sawan is in full fervor. These devotees carry holy water in ornate containers called "kanwars" which is then offered to Shivalings in local temples. A group of kanwariyas were photographed in the walled city area of Jaipur on Sunday. **SUNIL SHARMA**

## Six-day IT raids on political parties conclude

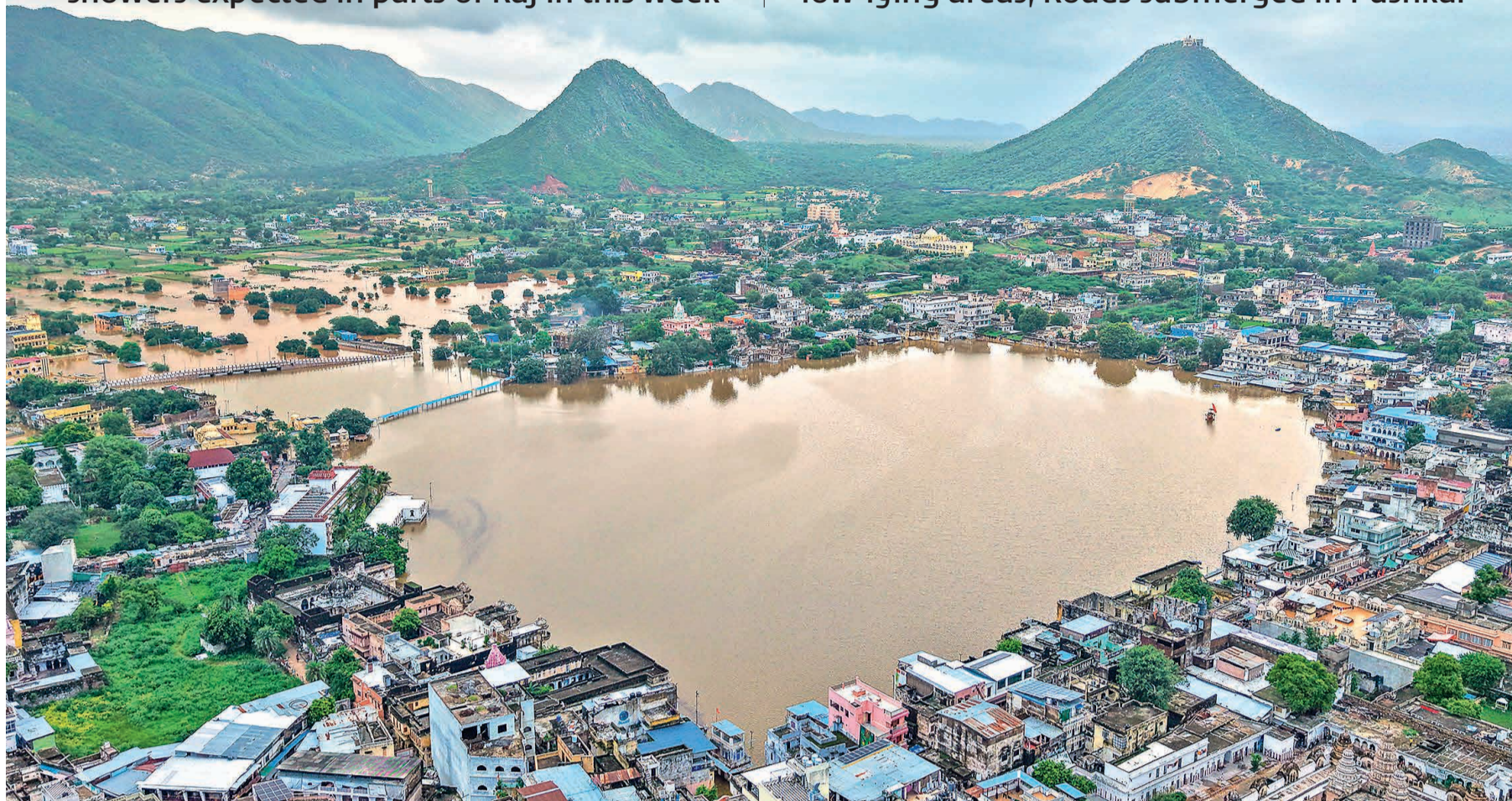
First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Six-day-long raids by income tax department on concluded on Sunday. IT officials uncovered a major tax evasion racket involving fake receipts of donation to political parties, bogus medical and tuition fee claims and falsified rent receipts. In MP, the Indian Social Party, and in Maharashtra, the Yuva Bharat Aatmanirbhar Dal came under scrutiny. During the raids, officials seized around Rs 13 lakh.

## MONSOON SHOWERS SOAK RAJASTHAN

Mt Abu records 145 mm rain; light to moderate showers expected in parts of Raj in this week

Water discharge from Ana Sagar floods Ajmer's low-lying areas; Roads submerged in Pushkar



**PUSHKAR:** Aerial view shows extensive waterlogging in Pushkar after recent rain. Most parts of the town, including several temples at 52 ghats are submerged. Civil Defence teams are actively rescuing the guests stranded in hotels, vacating around five properties and relocating people to safer locations. Most parts of the city are submerged under 5-6 feet of water. **NADEEM KHAN**



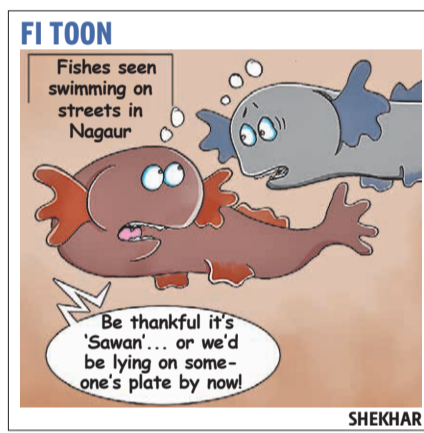
**JAIPUR:** Youths seen risking lives at Prabhatur waterfall in Jaipur on Sunday – one wrong step could mean tragedy. **NAIM KHAN**



**JALORE:** SDRF retrieves body of 20-year-old youth from a dam who had drowned in Paladi Solankiya in Jalore district on Sunday.



**NAGOUR:** Due to heavy rains in Nagaur district, fishes seen spilling out from Lampolai pond and swimming on streets of Riyabadi on Sunday.



First India Bureau  
Jaipur/Ajmer

Rajasthan continues to witness varied rainfall activity, with Mount Abu recording the highest rainfall of 145 mm in the past 24 hours, according to the MeT Department. While eastern parts of the state saw light showers, western regions experienced heavier downpours. Mount Abu's Nakki Lake witnessed a significant rise in water level due to continuous rain. The Met Office predicted that light to moderate rainfall is expected in northern & southeastern districts on July 21-22.

Meanwhile, Ajmer is grappling with severe waterlogging, not from fresh rain, but due to on-going water discharge from Ana Sagar Lake's

**BISALPUR DAM GATES TO OPEN TODAY**

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has given instructions through VC on Sunday to officials for opening the gates of Bisalpur dam today at 9 am. The dam crossed the mark of 315RL metre. A total of 4 cm of water inflow was recorded in the dam in the last four hours. Triveni river is at a flood level of 3.40 metres. The capacity of the dam is 315.50RL m and it is only 50 centimetres short of its full capacity.

escape channel. With lake levels still high, authorities are releasing water to prevent overflow, affecting low-lying areas like Sagar Vihar Colony and Bajranggarh Chauraha. District Collector Lok Bandhu, along with senior officials, inspected the impacted zones.

**ACTIONS DIRECTED BY UDH FOR URBAN AREAS**

- Stop all road digging during rains; barricade and mark exceptions with reflectors, caution boards.
- Identify, repair road settlements & waterlogging caused by trenching and utility works.
- Refill potholes, clear debris, and remove blockages from roads and drains promptly.
- Replace broken manhole covers, drain grills, and maintain park-side electrical junction boxes.
- Trim or remove dead trees and branches obstructing traffic or posing safety hazards.
- De-water and clean underpasses; place caution boards and install extra pumps at vulnerable sites.
- Inspect sewer networks and secure all deep excavation project sites regularly.
- Set up control rooms in low-lying areas; maintain records with before-and-after photos of works.
- Categorise and act on chronic flooding zones with short, mid, and long-term solutions.
- Submit daily implementation reports to the District Collector for monitoring and action.

## RCA announces Senior, Junior Men and Women Selection Committees

Komal Chaudhary, Poonam Yadav and Kritika Kushwaha in women's panel

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) Adhoc Committee Convenor DD Kumawat, on Sunday, announced the constitution of Rajasthan Senior-Junior Men and Women Selection Committee to review the performance of players during the preparations for BCCI domestic cricket season 2025-26 and cricket competitions organized by RCA for various age groups of men



RCA sets up selection panel to evaluate players ahead of new BCCI season. **FILE**

and women. Kumawat said that the announcement has been made after discussing the formation of Rajasthan Senior-Junior (Men) and Women Selection Committee in the RCA Adhoc Committee meeting held in Jaipur on July 17, on the sug-

gestions given by the 14-member committee of former male and female players of the state.

Rajasthan Senior Selection Committee (Men) category includes Rahul Kanwat, Vilas Joshi, Vijendra Yadav, Suryaveer Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Shamsher Singh.

Rajasthan Junior Selection Committee (Men) category includes Naresh Gehlot, Lokesh Jain, Siddharth Joshi, Pranay Sharma, Siddharth Sarraf, Ankit Lamba.

Rajasthan Women's Selection Committee includes Komal Chaudhary, Poonam Yadav, Maya Jat, Kritika Kushwaha, Harshita Makwana.

CM Sharma acts on complaints, 3 RAS put on APO

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In a significant move following a video conference with collectors, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma took swift action after receiving complaints against three officials.

Acting on the CM's directions, the DoP placed Mandal SDO Chhotulal Sharma, Sawai Madhopur SDO Anoop Sharma, and Bagodha SDO Heer Singh Charan on Awaiting Posting Orders (APO) on Sunday. Meanwhile, IAS officer Charu, who was earlier on APO, has been appointed as new SDO of Ranganj Mandi. The DoP issued official posting orders for the same.

**Jai Club votes for new leadership: Nagori becomes Vice President**

**Dr Bomb to lead Jai Club as new prez**

Divya Kanwalia  
Jaipur

The prestigious Jai Club witnessed an enthusiastic turnout as 1,554 out of 2,399 eligible voters casting their votes in the elections held on Sunday at Jai Club, Jaipur.

Dr Hari Om Bomb was elected as President with 919 votes, while Rajeev Nagori won the Vice President post with 667 votes. Sanjay Bhansali secured 908 votes for Honorary Secretary, Vikas Jain bagged 1,141 votes for Honorary Joint Secretary (Administration), and Dr Manisha Jain won with 829 votes for Honorary JS (Sports). Ashok Jain



Newly elected President Dr Hari Om Bomb, Vice President Rajeev Nagori, Secretary Sanjay Bhansali, Joint Secy (Admn.) Vikas Jain, Joint Secy (Sports) Dr Manisha Jain, Treasurer Ashok Jain Harkawat, Ram Sharan Gupta and other members after the Jai Club election results in Jaipur on Sunday. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

Harkawat was elected unopposed as Treasurer. Election Officer Ghanshyam Dutta highlighted the implementation of a coupon-based secure voting system

with strict mobile restrictions and security presence.

Congress leader Pratap Singh Khachariyawas also voted. New Executive Committee

members include Robin Kala, Pushpendra Singh Rathore, Amiya Kala, Dr Tarun Patni, Surendra Bhandari, Siddhartha Sharma, Sanjeev Jain, and Dhiraj Vijayvergia.

**INSPIRING ENTIRE VILLAGE...**

## Ladnun girl Seema drives tractor to school

Anup Tiwari  
Ladnun (Nagaur)

In a remarkable display of determination and dedication, Seema Choudhary, a student of Sharda Senior Secondary School in Baldu village, is winning hearts with her daily journey to school on a tractor. The 11th-class student from Geton Ki Dhani in Ladnun covers a distance of four kilometres every day, driving the tractor herself to attend classes—an effort that has left the entire village in-



Student's daily tractor commute to school becomes symbol of determination. **REPRESENTATIONAL**

spired. School director Rajendra Kumar Sharma said that Seema's story reflects her strong will and commitment to edu-

cation. Despite challenges, she has never let circumstances hinder her pursuit of learning. "Her passion and con-

sistency have become a symbol of positive struggle. For the last three years, not only has she ensured her own educa-

tion, but she has also taken along other young students from her locality to school on her tractor," Sharma said.

Seema's father Hanuman Ram and mother Geeta Devi are farmers and it is her father's dream to see his daughter succeed and make the family proud through education.

Seema has been studying at the Baldu-based Sharda Senior Secondary School for the past three years, and ever since, she has been riding her small Sonalika tractor to class without fail.

Stray dog bites 45 people in two hours in Bhilwara

First India Bureau  
Bhilwara

In a shocking incident in Bhilwara on Saturday night, a stray dog attacked around 45 people, including 25 children, within just two hours. Victims were bitten in markets, near homes, and even while in their parents' arms. Panic gripped the hospital as bite cases poured in. Authorities have yet to catch the dog.

Mahatma Gandhi Hospital confirmed that all victims received rabies vaccinations and were advised caution.

**Beniwal raises paper leak issue after all-party meet**

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

RLP chief and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal participated in the all-party meeting held at Parliament House on Sunday ahead of the monsoon session. He raised serious concerns over the paper leak cases in Rajasthan and criticised the state government's handling of the issue. Beniwal urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and BJP President JP Nadda to fulfil their pre-election promises on the matter. He also



RLP MP Hanuman Beniwal interacts with media in Delhi on Sunday.

demanding a special discussion in the House on the paper mafia and systemic corruption affecting youth nationwide. Additionally, he called for the cancellation of the Rajasthan SI recruitment and RPSC restructuring.

# BLAME THE PILOT, BURY THE CODE

## AI-171 Preliminary Report: A Rushed Judgment That Fueled Western Media Bias



**Ajay S  
Jasra**

The writer is an  
Aviation Expert



**I**n the aftermath of aviation disasters, a familiar narrative often emerges - one that places responsibility squarely on pilots who are no longer alive to explain their actions. This tendency to blame the human element rather than mechanical or systemic failure provides a convenient explanation, easing public anxiety and protecting institutional interests. Blaming the pilot offers a simple, emotionally satisfying story. It reassures the public that the aircraft and its systems are fundamentally safe, isolating the incident as an unfortunate exception rather than a systemic vulnerability.

This argument gains fresh urgency in the wake of the Air India AI-171 crash and its preliminary investigation report.

The preliminary investigation into the AI-171 tragedy points to a one-second gap between the shutdown of the aircraft's two engines shortly after takeoff. Investigators hints that the pilots manually switched off both fuel control switches - an interpretation that not only seems unnatural from a human reflex standpoint, but also fails to consider the broader context of automated system influence and prior technical issues.

This early narrative has not only provoked deep resentment within the Indian pilot community, who see it as a premature and biased conclusion, but has also provided a convenient talking point for Western media outlets. Major publications such as the BBC, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times quickly echoed the implications of the preliminary report, subtly reinforcing the idea that the pilots may have inad-

**The preliminary investigation into the AI-171 tragedy points to a one-second gap between the shutdown of the aircraft's two engines shortly after takeoff. Investigators hints that the pilots manually switched off both fuel control switches - an interpretation that not only seems unnatural from a human reflex standpoint, but also fails to consider the broader context of automated system influence and prior technical issues**

vertently shut down both engines. Without questioning the missing technical context or the aircraft's prior fault history, their coverage helped shift attention away from the aircraft and engine manufacturers.

This pattern has raised concerns that the preliminary report is being used—intentionally or not—as a reputational shield for American aerospace giants, deflecting scrutiny from potential systemic failures in the Boeing 787 and its engine control systems. Effectively, the global media narrative has begun to echo the same convenient myth: blame the pilot, spare the machine. Western media coverage of the Air India AI-171 crash has drawn sharp criticism for what many in India see as a biased and premature narrative blaming the pilots. Outlets like BBC and CNN prominently highlighted aspects of the preliminary report that appeared to point toward human error. The BBC, for instance, ran a piece titled “Pilot cut off fuel to engine — no fault with plane,” strongly implying pilot responsibility. Similarly, CNN reported that fuel supply to the engine was deliberately cut just before the crash and emphasized

that such a switch requires intentional activation—again placing the burden squarely on the cockpit crew. This framing has drawn widespread backlash, as the investigation report did not assign blame but only stated that both fuel control switches were moved to the off position before engine failure. What many reports overlooked—or downplayed—was a 2018 FAA bulletin warning of a mechanical flaw in the locking mechanism of these same fuel switches on Boeing aircraft. Indian aviation experts and pilot associations argue that this advisory raises serious concerns about a potential technical malfunction—yet most Western media coverage failed to mention this critical detail.

Additionally, Western outlets disproportionately focused on a single line from the cockpit voice recorder - “Why did you cut off?” and used it as a suggestive clue of pilot error. However, this quote was presented out of context and without the rest of the CVR transcript, which has not yet been made public. The selective use of such details, Indian critics argue, contributes to a narrative that jumps to conclusions without full evidence.

Furthermore, there were instances where speculative narratives about the pilots' mental state began to circulate, with subtle comparisons to incidents like the Germanwings 9525 crash, which involved a suicidal pilot. These insinuations, made without any factual basis, were seen as sensational and deeply irresponsible. They also added fuel to accusations of cultural bias, with many in India feeling that the reporting was shaped by preconceived notions rather than facts.

While BBC, CNN, The Guardian, and The New York Times carried pilot-centric narratives, they offered little space to strong rebuttals from the Indian pilot community, such as The Airline Pilots' Association of India (ALPA-India). ALPA-India raised serious objections, stating the report presumes pilot error without providing a full cockpit voice recorder (CVR) transcript or detailed flight data readouts. Two critical points add weight to the call for a deeper, technically grounded investigation: System-Triggered Uncommanded Transition and the aircraft's troubled past. Media reports quoting unnamed sources suggest the crash may have involved a “system-triggered uncommanded transition to a different operational mode.” In plain terms, the aircraft's own software systems may have autonomously shifted states, possibly triggering the dual engine shutdown without pilot input. Software glitches don't leave scorch marks or broken parts. They hide in millions of lines of code, rare sensor interactions, and edge-case conditions that escape simulation. Investigating them is difficult and politically inconvenient—but essential. Investigators are examining if a malfunction in the Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC), the digital “brain” of the engines, triggered a software bug that misread inputs and caused shutdowns. If this inquiry remains open, why does the preliminary report subtly suggest pilot error?

The Dreamliner has a known history of software anomalies involving FADEC or TCMA. This very aircraft had prior issues: a flight cancelled in Dec 2024 due to an electric snag, a 2015 emergency landing after a CAC surge, and a major fault on Dec 12, 2024. To blame the crew without exhausting the software trail is to abandon truth.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

### IN-DEPTH

## GOOF UP BY META IN TRANSLATION AS A LESSON

**T**he recent apology by Meta to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah highlights the dangers of relying blindly on automated translations. A Facebook post intended to be the chief minister's tribute to the senior actress B. Saroja Devi mistranslated to wrongly announce his death, triggering confusion. Though Meta acted swiftly to apologise, the incident exposes the limitations of machine translations, particularly in a linguistically diverse country like India.

Automated tools have undoubtedly made multilingual communication easier, but they are far from flawless. They often misinterpret context, idioms, or culturally specific expressions — errors that can be embarrassing at best and damaging at worst. In political or sensitive contexts, such errors may spread misinformation or create panic. Technology can assist, but human oversight remains critical, especially in public communication. Social media companies must invest more in region-specific language support and better moderation. Users, too, must exercise caution and not treat translations as gospel. Ultimately, in matters of language, nuance, and sentiment, the human touch still matters most.

## ROBERT VADRA FACES THE ED HEAT AGAIN



**R**obert Vadra in connection with an old land deal has once again brought the controversial businessman into the spotlight. Vadra, the brother-in-law of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, has long faced allegations over questionable land transactions, particularly in Haryana and Rajasthan. The timing of the charge-sheet, coming not long after the new Lok Sabha's formation, ensures the issue is back in the political narrative just when the Congress seems to be gaining some momentum.

Rahul Gandhi, now the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has chosen to stand firmly by Vadra. He dismissed the charge-sheet as politically motivated and part of the BJP's strategy to target his family. While loyalty to one's kin is understandable, defending a relative accused in multiple probes does not help Gandhi's pitch for a cleaner and more accountable political culture, especially when Bihar elections are approaching. He could have waited for court's decision on the charge-sheet.

The Congress has been vocal in accusing the Modi government of misusing central agencies. But the repeated emergence of cases involving party-linked individuals, including the Vadra land deals, dilutes that charge unless backed by a consistent stance on corruption — even within the party ranks.

Rahul Gandhi has a historic opportunity as Leader of Opposition to set a new tone in Parliament — one that favours transparency and fair play over family ties. Standing by due process, even when it involves those close to him, would strengthen his democratic credentials far more than emotional rebuttals ever can. In politics, optics matter — and consistency matters more.

**The Congress has been vocal in accusing the Modi government of misusing central agencies. But the repeated emergence of cases involving party-linked individuals, including the Vadra land deals, dilutes that charge unless backed by a consistent stance on corruption — even within the party ranks**

## SOFTWARE SABOTAGE

There are media reports quoting unnamed sources, that the crash may have involved a “system-triggered uncommanded transition to a different operational mode”. In plain terms, the aircraft's own software systems could have autonomously shifted into a new state - possibly causing or contributing to the dual engine shutdown, without any deliberate action from the pilots.

Software glitches don't leave scorch marks or broken parts. They hide in millions of lines of code, in rare interactions between sensors and control systems, in edge-case conditions that escape simulation. Investigating them is difficult, slow, and politically inconvenient. But if safety is truly the goal, such investigations are not optional, they are essential.

In fact, investigators are currently examining whether a malfunction in the Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) system, the digital “brain” that governs the aircraft's engines, may have triggered a software bug that misinterpreted inputs and initiated uncommanded engine shutdowns. If this line of inquiry is still open, the question arises: why was a preliminary report released that subtly but clearly insinuates pilot error, despite the absence of conclusive findings?

### TOP TWEETS



**X** Pleased to participate in the Guru Samman and Felicitation Program for new Civil Services entrants organised by Samkalp Foundation. Congratulated new entrants along with their families. Underlined the importance of working with a 'spirit of service' in our collective journey towards a #ViksitBharat. Appreciated Samkalp Foundation's efforts in supporting candidates from different parts of India for the Civil Services exam preparation.

Dr. S. Jaishankar@DrSJaishankar



**X** Barukeshwar Dutt ji, with his unparalleled courage and patriotism, scripted a bold chapter in India's freedom struggle. In 1929, by throwing a bomb in the Central Assembly, he not only defied the British Empire but also ignited a stronger desire for independence in the hearts of countless Indians. This act was more than a protest—it symbolized a revolution. Through his sacrifice, Barukeshwar Dutt ji became a lasting inspiration for our nation's journey to freedom. On his death anniversary, I pay my heartfelt tributes to this great freedom fighter. His bravery, struggle, and deep love for the motherland will always inspire generations of Indians.

Dharmendra Pradhan@dpadhanbjp

### SPIRITUAL SPEAK

*This divine wisdom is a direct perception of the truth, much superior to any indirect knowledge of the scriptures or hearsay.*

BHAGAVAD GITA

## 17 Bills ready to be introduced in Monsoon Session: Kiren Rijiju

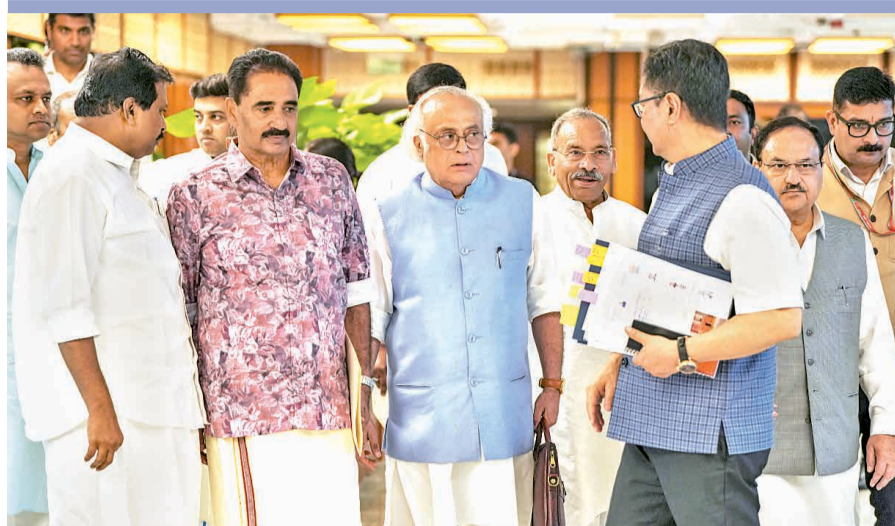
Agencies  
New Delhi

The Monsoon Session of Parliament is set to commence on Monday and will continue until August 21. The Central government has outlined an ambitious legislative agenda for the session.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday said the government is ready with 17 Bills, both new introductions and pending legislation to be introduced in the Monsoon Session which will convene in two parts.

Topping the government's list is the Income-Tax Bill, 2025, which was introduced during the Budget Session on February 13. The Bill represents a major overhaul of the Income-Tax Act, 1961, aiming to simplify its language and structure.

It is currently under review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee led by BJP MP Baijayant Jay Panda, which is expected to adopt its report this week. Once cleared, the Bill will be presented for passage during the current session. The session will also take up the extension of President's Rule in Manipur, which was imposed on February 13, 2025.



Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and J.P. Nadda, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran and others leave after attending the all-party meeting ahead of the Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Sunday. **PTI**

### IN PARL, PM MODI AMONG THOSE WITH MOST ATTENDANCE

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju said on Sunday that PM Narendra Modi is one among those who have registered the highest attendance in Parliament, and he makes it a point to attend proceedings unless he is visiting a state to attend an important event or is abroad. Rijiju said, "Whenever there are questions taken up during Question Hour related to PM Modi's ministry, he is there."

### AAP TO GO SOLO IN BIHAR POLLS, SAYS SANJAY SINGH

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh on Sunday, 20 July, confirmed that the party will contest the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections alone, without being part of the INDIA bloc -- the alliance it joined for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Singh, who also serves as AAP's in-charge for Bihar, said the decision aligns with the party's independent approach seen in other states. "The INDIA bloc was only for the Lok Sabha elections, and then we fought alone in Haryana elections, Delhi elections, Gujarat and Punjab by-elections. Now, we will also fight alone in the Bihar elections," he said.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with AAP convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal during a meeting at the Vice President's Enclave, in New Delhi on Sunday. **PTI**

### BJD TO DISCUSS LAW & ORDER SITUATION IN SEVERAL STATES

Regional parties on Sunday raised various state-specific issues at an all-party meeting here on eve of the Monsoon session, with the Biju Janata Dal demanding that a discussion be held in Parliament on the "deteriorating" law and order situation in several states including Odisha. Speaking to media after the meeting, BJD's Rajya Sabha MP and spokesperson Samit Patra alleged "utter lawlessness, anarchy and rise in crime against women" in Odisha under the BJP rule.

### DHANKHAR CALLS FOR BONHOMIE AMONG PARTIES

New Delhi: On the eve of the Monsoon session of Parliament, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday called for bonhomie among political parties for meaningful and serious deliberations, and said words unbecoming of parliamentarians must be avoided. Dhankhar, who is also the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, said suggestions for improvement are not condemnation or criticism, and parties must engage in constructive politics.

## MODI TO VISIT UK FROM JULY 23 TO 24

## PM set to sign landmark India-UK trade deal: MEA

PTI  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a four-day visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives from Wednesday to shore up overall bilateral ties and ink the landmark India-UK free trade deal.

Modi will first travel to the UK on a two-day trip and then will visit the Maldives to grace the island nation's Independence Day celebrations as "guest of honour", according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The prime minister's visit to the Maldives from July 25 to 26 is seen as significant as it marks a reset of bilateral ties that had come under severe strain after Mohamed Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, came to power in November 2023.

In the first leg of his trip, Modi will visit the UK from July 23 to 24 to hold wide-ranging talks with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, the MEA said on Sunday.

India and the UK are expected to formally sign the free trade deal during PM Modi's visit to London, people familiar with the matter said.

In May, India and the UK sealed the free trade agreement that is expected



PM Narendra Modi being greeted with a coffee table book titled TVSM x Rann Utsav 2025 by Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company Venu Srinivasan and others, in New Delhi. **PTI**

### PM MODI APPLAUDS TVS MOTOR COMPANY FOR CHRONICLING THE BEAUTY OF KUTCH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it was a delight to meet top executives from TVS Motor Company and commended them for their efforts in capturing the beauty of Kutch. Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company, and Sudarshan Venu, Managing Director, met the Prime Minister and presented him with the TVSM x Rann Utsav 2025 Coffee Table Book. "Glad to have met Shri Venu Srinivasan Ji and Mr. Sudarshan Venu. I commend them for their effort to chronicle the beauty of Kutch and also encourage motorcyclists to visit the region," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. The executives described the meeting as an honour.

to benefit 99 per cent Indian exports from tariff and will make it easier for British firms to export whisky, cars and other products to India besides

boosting the overall trade basket. It will be PM Modi's fourth visit to the UK. The MEA said he is also expected to call on King Charles.

## Bihar Assembly Monsoon Session Begins

## Nitish Kumar govt to present supplementary budget today

Agencies  
Patna

The monsoon session of the Bihar Legislature is set to commence today, and will continue until July 25. The session is expected to be a lively one, with the opposition preparing to aggressively challenge the government on various fronts.

Today, the first supplementary budget will be presented in the Assembly and copies of ordinances approved by the Governor will be laid on the table of the House.

Following this, the reports from various committees are also slated to be presented to the House today.



Security personal check premises of Bihar Legislative Assembly on the eve of the Monsoon session, in Patna on Sunday. **PTI**

### SESSION AGENDA AND KEY DISCUSSIONS

According to the program released by the Assembly, government bills will be presented and other government work will be conducted on July 22 and 23. The subsequent day, July 24, will be dedicated to the discussion and voting on the first supplementary budget, after which the Appropriation Bill will be presented. The final day of the session, July 25, will feature discussions on non-official resolutions.

## Assam Polls: BJP holds 2-day strategy meet

PTI  
Guwahati

With an eye on next year's assembly elections, leaders of the ruling BJP in Assam brainstormed over two days, drawing up organisational strategies and a roadmap.

The discussions held in the meeting will be the basis for the party leadership to take forward its preparations for the polls, CM Himanta Biswa said.

Key discussions included the state's political scenario, organisational strategies and roadmap for the 2026 assembly polls, he added. Sarma later said, "The meeting focused on preparation for the assembly polls, manifesto preparation, candidate selection, campaign strategy, and various other aspects."

## BJP slams RaGa over Trump's jet remark, calls him 'Pak propaganda campaigner'

The criticism followed Gandhi's reaction to Trump's remarks recently

Agencies  
New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for demanding a clarification from the government over US President Donald Trump's ambiguous statement about five jets being shot down during Operation Sindoor.

Dubbing him as the "star campaigner" for Pakistan, the BJP accused Rahul Gandhi of undermining the bravery of the Indian armed forces



The BJP condemned the Congress leader's post, stating that while opposing PM Narendra Modi, Rahul Gandhi ends up questioning the integrity of the country and its armed forces. **FILE**

and amplifying the narrative pushed by Pakistani media.

The criticism followed Gandhi's reaction to Trump's remarks made on Friday. US President stated that five jets were shot down amid Operation Sindoor, India's military retaliation to the Pahal-gam terror attack in April,

however, he did not clarify whether the aircraft in question belonged to India or Pakistan.

Rahul Gandhi took to X on Saturday to share the video clip of Trump's statement and wrote in Hindi, "Modi ji, what is the truth behind the five jets? The country has a right to know."

### CONGRESS SLAMS BIHAR GOVT OVER UNEMPLOYMENT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday criticised the Nitish Kumar-led BJP government in Bihar, stating that the state's youth no longer want speeches but employment opportunities to secure their future. His remarks came a day after a large crowd gathered at the Mahrozgaar Mela organised by the Youth Congress in Patna. "The massive crowd at the Mahrozgaar Mela is not just a gathering but a message - that the youth of Bihar no longer want speeches, but employment to shape their future. The way the BJP and Nitish government have plunged Bihar into the fire of unemployment, lakhs of youths are forced to migrate for livelihood," he said.

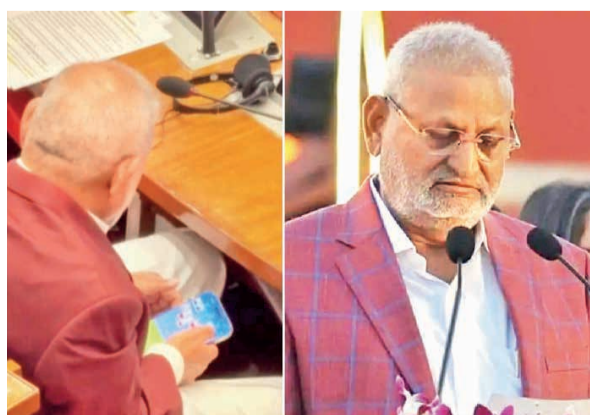
## DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## Maharashtra minister caught playing 'rummy'

Agencies  
Nagpur/Mumbai

Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate landed in controversy after a video surfaced showing him playing an online rummy game on his mobile phone during a session of the state legislative assembly.

The video was shared by Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader Rohit Pawar, who launched a sharp attack on the minister and the government. Rohit, the grandneph-



Maharashtra minister Kokate caught playing rummy during Assembly session on Sunday.

ew of party chief Sharad Pawar, accused the Agriculture Minister of being insensitive at a time when

the state is grappling with a severe agrarian crisis. "Since the Nationalist faction in power cannot

Kokate has dismissed NCP(SP) Rohit Pawar's claim that he was playing rummy in the assembly, clarifying that it was solitaire, an app he said may have been downloaded by a staffer, and had actually opened YouTube to check on lower house proceedings

do anything without consulting the BJP, even with countless agricultural issues pending and eight

farmers committing suicide daily in the state, the Agriculture Minister, with nothing else to do, seems to have time to play rummy," he said.

"Will these misguided ministers and the government ever hear the desperate plea of farmers demanding crop insurance, loan waivers, and price support? Come to the fields of poor farmers sometimes, Maharaj?" Pawar added while sharing the video of Kokate, who belongs to the Ajit Pawar-led NCP faction and represents the Sinnar Assembly constituency.

## Butterfly survey begins in Sariska Tiger Reserve for ecological balance

Shyam Sharma

BJP Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has launched a new initiative to survey butterflies in the renowned Sariska Tiger Reserve, his home constituency.

The colourful butterfly census has fascinated forest staff, especially women employees like Pooja, who are enthusiastically identifying various species.

So far, 40 butterfly species have been spotted, and more are expected as identification continues. The survey is



BJP Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav

conducted early in the morning, when butterflies are most visible.

Butterflies play a crucial role in ecological

balance and biodiversity. Concerned for future generations, BJP Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav is promoting environmental conservation through innovative efforts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign also supports such causes. Known for its tigers and diverse wildlife, Sariska is now witnessing expanded biodiversity documentation.

The butterfly survey marks a significant step, with hopes of more initiatives for endangered species and rare flora.

## Abdullah blames Pakistan for continued terror in J-K

The CM also said BJP tried to sell false narrative that terror in J&K was due to Article 370

PTI  
Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has unequivocally stated that Pakistan's "inimical intentions" remain the most formidable challenge to achieving a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir, cautioning Islamabad that India now views any terror attack as an act of war.

He dismissed the narrative that the abrogation of Article 370 was the solution to terrorism in the region, asserting that the recent Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives, had starkly proven this false. "No matter what we do, if Pakistan's intent is inimical, then we will never fully achieve a terror-free J&K. And I think Pahalgam has proven that," Abdullah said.

"The BJP tried very hard to sell this narrative that terror in Jammu and Kashmir was the result of Article 370. We know that's not true. Terror in Jammu and Kashmir is



Police personnel try to stop Congress workers during a protest march demanding restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, in Jammu, on Sunday.

**Well, obviously, it's not an ideal situation. In spite of repeated promises, commitments in Parliament, commitments to the Supreme Court, the matter has still not sort of been resolved. And we're not asking for something that is not our due. Statehood is the right, it was promised to the people. So, we're not asking for it. It's not something that is out of the ordinary or was not part of the public discourse.** OMAR ABDULLAH, J&K CHIEF MINISTER

**J&K Police has a crucial responsibility to eliminate the support system of terrorists, whether financial, logistical, or otherwise. It is not just the terrorists who must be dealt with, but the entire machinery that supports them. The administration is now actively working to rehabilitate families who have suffered at the hands of terrorists. Many have lost their loved ones.** MANOJ SINHA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR LT GOVERNOR

the result of Pakistan's intentions. And therefore, that's why the removal of Article 370 did not stop terror in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The CM emphasised that the onus is now on

Pakistan to reassess its strategy and highlighted a critical shift in New Delhi's posture, warning that the Indian government has set a "very low bar" for what constitutes an act of aggression.

### J-K: TERRORISTS EXCHANGE FIRE WITH FORCES

Jammu: An exchange of fire took place between terrorists and security forces in a forest in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. The brief gunfight occurred when the police, assisted by the Indian Army, launched a cordon and search operation in the Khankoo forest located between Dachhan and Nagseni, following information about suspected movement of terrorists, the officials said.

### 'PEACE NO LONGER BOUGHT THROUGH APPEASEMENT'

Ahead of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which removed the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said peace was no longer bought through appeasement in the region. Singh also said since the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, there has been greater integration of the people of the region with the rest of the country.

## Action on those who try to defame Kanwar Yatris: Yogi

'After Kanwar Yatra, posters of miscreants will be put up', CM Yogi warns of action

Agencies  
Meerut

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said some people are trying to defame the Kanwar yatra on social media and urged every 'Kanwar sangh' to expose the malcontents.

"We have to keep in mind that where there is enthusiasm and excitement, where there is faith and devotion, some elements are constantly trying to disturb that enthusiasm and to defame this devotion and faith," Adityanath said.

Social media is replete with videos showing apparent Kanwar yatris, wearing the saffron associated with them, creating ruckus on roads, ransacking hotels, damaging vehicles, and beating civilians.

Adityanath claimed these are "miscreants" who infiltrate Kanwar groups and bring them a bad name. "Unmask them, keep them away from you at all costs. Do not allow them to enter your circle. Immediately inform the administra-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath showers flower petals on 'Kanwariyas' during their pilgrimage in the holy month of 'Shravan', in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, Sunday.

### SIX KANWARIYAS KILLED, 20 INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS AS PILGRIM RUSH SURGES

Muzaffarnagar/Haridwar: Six pilgrims were killed and nearly 20 injured in road accidents as the rush of Kanwariyas significantly increased on Sunday on the Kanwar Yatra routes, especially the Delhi-Dehradun highway and the Ganga Canal road, during the final leg of the pilgrimage. Thousands of Kanwariyas (Lord Shiva devotees), heading back from Haridwar in Uttarakhand with 'Gangajal', were greeted by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath with a helicopter showering flowers on them in Muzaffarnagar. Authorities have implemented tight security measures along the Kanwar Yatra routes. The Yatra concludes on July 23.

tion about this," he said. Adityanath said there is an administration to take legal action if any such "miscreant" desecrates the Kanwar, and urged people not to take matters into their own hands. "During the entire period, many troublemakers have resorted to defame this holy pilgrimage. We have CCTV footage of all of

them. We are going to paste their posters after this (Kanwar Yatra) is over. We are going to take very strict action against them," he said.

Adityanath alleged that before 2017, the year he came to power, the governments in UP did not allow these holy pilgrimages to happen and created obstacles in their path.

## India leads the world in fast payments: IMF

Agencies  
New Delhi

India has become the world's top player in real-time digital payments, largely due to the rapid growth of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), according to a recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) note titled 'Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability'.



Launched in 2016 by the National Payments Corporation of India, UPI has revolutionised the country's payment ecosystem by enabling users to link multiple bank accounts to a single mobile app and make instant transactions with ease.

It has not only simplified peer-to-peer payments but also enabled millions of small businesses to accept digital payments at minimal cost.

According to data PIB, UPI now processes over 18 billion transactions every month, accounting for 85 per cent of India's total digital payments.



Torrential rains continued to pound Kerala on Sunday, triggering waterlogging in low-lying areas.

## Heavy rains lash Kerala, IMD issues orange alert for 9 dists

PTI  
Thiruvananthapuram

Incessant rainfall across several parts of Kerala on Sunday led to rising water levels in rivers and dams and caused waterlogging in low-lying areas, prompting the IMD to issue an orange alert for nine districts in the state.

The India Meteorological Department issued an 'orange alert' for the following districts: Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod.

**The IMD has forecast moderate rainfall across Kerala, with gusty winds reaching up to 40 kmph in isolated locations**

A 'yellow alert' was issued for the remaining five districts of Kerala. An 'orange alert' indi-

cates "very heavy rainfall" between 11 cm and 20 cm, while a 'yellow alert' indicates "heavy rainfall" between 6 cm and 11 cm.

The IMD also forecast moderate rainfall, with strong surface winds occasionally gusting up to 40 kmph, likely at one or two places in all districts of the state.

In Palakkad, as water levels in various dams rose, shutters were opened to release excess water.

## BJP MLA writes to govt, demands law against religious conversion

First India Bureau  
Lucknow

BJP MLA Dr Rajeshwar Singh has written to the Central Government demanding a stringent national law to curb religious conversions, calling them a threat to India's existence. "Religious conversion is not 'freedom of religion', it is an attack on India's very identity," Dr. Singh said, warning that "anti-national conspiracies in the name of conversion will no longer be tolerated."

Terming illegal conversion as "emotional and cultural terrorism," the MLA stressed the need for a strong central law to protect the dignity of women. "Our daughters' honour is invaluable. We now need a nationwide anti-conversion law," he urged.



BJP MLA Dr Rajeshwar Singh

Raising sharp questions on political silence, Singh asked, "Why are secular parties quiet on those who trade in our daughters' dignity?" Singh also said, "Love Jihad is not a myth; it is a tool of radical infiltration." He called for political unity beyond vote-bank politics. "Rise above politics, this is the time for national policy, not appeasement," he added.

## Delhi police seizes 411 Kg Ganja worth ₹1.9 cr, nabs 4

PTI  
New Delhi

The Delhi Police has busted an interstate drug syndicate and seized 411 kilograms of cannabis worth around Rs 1.9 crore, an official said on Sunday. Three alleged drug traffickers were arrested from Dwarka, while their supplier was nabbed from Odisha, he said.

The operation was conducted by a team of crime branch following tip-off about the syndicate's movements.

"Acting on the tip-off, the team intercepted a truck and a car near Sector 19 in Dwarka," said the police officer.

Those arrested from the spot were identified as Lokesh Bhardwaj (27), Ashish Khasa alias Ashu (20), and Moeen Khan (24), police said.

## Fauja Singh: Oldest marathoner cremated with full state honours



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann lays a wreath on the mortal remains of Fauja Singh in Jalandhar district, Sunday.

PTI  
Jalandhar

World's oldest marathoner Fauja Singh, known by the nickname 'Turbaned Tornado', was cremated on Sunday with full state honours here in Beas, his native village.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann,

Minister Mohinder Bhagat and several other politicians attended the funeral. Fauja Singh's son Harvinder Singh lit the funeral pyre. Punjab Police gave a gun salute before the pyre was lit.

Fauja Singh was 114 when he was hit by an SUV being driven by Canada-based Amritpal Singh Dhillon on July 14.

### WITH LAUNCH OF KASHI DECLARATION

## Youth Spiritual Summit culminates in Varanasi

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Youth Spiritual Summit on the theme Nasha Mukta Yuva for Viksit Bharat culminated at the Rudraksh International Convention Centre in Varanasi with the formal adoption of the Kashi Declaration. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Summit brought together more than 600 youth leaders, representatives from over 120 spiritual and socio-cultural organ-



We have reflected deeply over the last three days across diverse thematic sessions, said Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, on Sunday.

izations, academicians, and domain experts.

This gathering represented a national convergence of youthful energy, spiritual vision, and institutional resolve. The Sum-

mit featured 4 focused plenary sessions exploring key dimensions of substance abuse: its psychological and societal impacts, the mechanics of drug trafficking and sup-



ply chains, strategies for grassroots awareness campaigns, and the role of spiritual and cultural institutions in rehabilitation and prevention. These deliberations formed the

foundation of Kashi Declaration which is a visionary commitment to collaborative action against drug addiction, rooted in India's civilizational wisdom and youth leadership.

## Former CJ Chandrachud strongly condemns Viceroy report on Vedanta

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

A detailed legal opinion given to Vedanta Ltd by former Chief Justice of India Dr DY Chandrachud finds no wrongdoing by the company and, in turn, questions the credibility of the Viceroy report. The company has also filed this opinion with the stock exchanges.

The 20-page opinion states that the recent report by US short-seller Viceroy Research Group is reprehensible, lacks credibility, and is designed to manipulate the



Former Chief Justice Dr DY Chandrachud

market for unlawful financial gain. The report will not stand legal scrutiny under Indian jurisprudence. The opinion further states that Vedanta will be well placed to approach Indian courts

for adequate protection and redress in respect of defamation.

Dr Chandrachud's opinion raises serious questions about the credibility of the researchers and the report, as well as the timing of its release. The former Chief Justice has said that the questionable credentials of the researchers raise initial concerns about the credibility of the report. He has also noted that several litigations have been filed in India and globally against similar reports published by Viceroy with respect to other companies.

# 73 people killed while waiting for humanitarian aid across Gaza

Agencies  
Gaza

At least 73 people were killed while attempting to access aid at locations across Gaza on Sunday, the Health Ministry in the Palestinian territory said.

The largest toll was in northern Gaza, where at least 67 Palestinians were killed while trying to reach aid entering northern Gaza through the Zikim crossing with Israel, according to the ministry and local hospitals. More than 150 people were wounded, with some of them in critical condition, hospitals said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether they were killed by the Israeli army or armed gangs or both. But some witnesses said that the Israeli military shot at the crowd.

The killings in northern Gaza didn't take place near aid distribution points associated with the Gaza Humanitarian Fund, or GHF, a U.S.- and Israel-backed group that hands out food packages to Palestinians. Witnesses and health workers say hundreds of people have been killed by Israeli fire while trying to access the group's distribution sites.



People queue up outside humanitarian aid centres in Northern Gaza.

## ISRAEL ISSUES NEW EVACUATION ORDERS IN CENTRAL GAZA AS HUNGER WORSENS

→ CAIRO: At least 67 people were killed by Israeli fire while they waited for U.N. aid trucks in northern Gaza on Sunday, the territory's health ministry said, as Israel issued new evacuation orders for areas packed with displaced Gazans, some of whom began to leave. The ministry said dozens of people were also wounded in the incident in northern Gaza, in one of the highest reported tolls among repeated recent cases in which aid seekers have been killed, including 36 on Saturday. Six other people were killed near another aid site in the south, it said.

## POPE LEO XIV RENEWS HIS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

→ Pope Leo XIV renewed his call on Sunday for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, asking the international community to respect international laws and the obligation to protect civilians. "I once again call for an immediate end to the barbarity of this war and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict," the pontiff said at the end of his Sunday Angelus prayer from his summer retreat in Castel Gandolfo.

Three killed in Washington shooting; police launch manhunt for suspect

Agencies  
Washington

A tragic shooting incident in Washington state of the US claimed the lives of three people, the local media reported on Sunday, 20 July.

According to the Renton Police Department, authorities have cordoned off the area and launched a manhunt for the suspect who remains at large. The shooting occurred near Meadow Crest Playground, the Meadow Crest Pickleball and Tennis Court, and the Meadow Crest Early Learning Centre.

Reports indicate that three individuals have lost their lives in the shooting, but the police have not officially verified the number of fatalities at this time. A spokesperson confirmed to KOMO News that a shooting occurred and that three victims had died.

"Officers are investigating a shooting with multiple victims near Kirkland Ave NE and NE 18th St that occurred just after 7:30 pm. This is an active scene, so expect a heavy police presence. Please avoid the area. PIO is en route," the police said.

The identities of the victims have not been released yet.

# India taking steady steps towards oil self-sufficiency



Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Agencies  
New Delhi

India is taking steady and confident steps towards oil self-sufficiency, and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the country is securing its energy future, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday.

With one million square kilometres of offshore area now open for oilfield exploration and 99 per cent of 'No-Go' areas cleared, the minister announced on social media platform X that the groundwork is being laid for major energy progress.

The oil and gas blocks offered under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) have already attracted interest from both global and domestic energy players,

**The oil and gas blocks offered under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme have already attracted interest from both global and domestic energy players and expected to set new benchmarks**

and Round X is expected to set new benchmarks for participation and investment.

"25 blocks under OALP-X; 154 exploration blocks active; 14 new oil and gas discoveries; Rs 792 crore invested in Mission Anveshan; 6,200 GLKM of seismic data already collected; ONGC producing 34,000 BOPD oil and 3 MMSCMD gas," he said.

Over 11 national highways in Nepal blocked by floods

Agencies  
Kathmandu

Floods and landslides following the incessant rain since Saturday has led to the complete blockage of over 11 national highways across Nepal affecting daily life for far flung hilly areas, officials said on Sunday.

In view of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology forecast of heavy rainfall across the country till July 21, Nepal's Independent Power Producers Association has urged all hydro-power projects to remain on high alert to minimise potential human and material losses. The Home Ministry officials have warned people near major rivers to be careful and follow caution.

# Russia forces strike Ukrainian military-industrial complex

Agencies  
Moscow

Russian forces carried out a massive strike on enterprises of Ukraine's military-industrial complex, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

The attack involved high-precision air-, ground- and sea-launched weapons, as well as drones, and all designated targets were hit, the ministry said in a statement. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Telegram that Russia launched more than 300 drones and over 30 cruise missiles overnight, killing one person and injuring six others in Odesa. Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry said its forces shot down 71 Ukrainian drones overnight.



The mangled remains of the building after the attack.

## UKRAINE PROPOSES FRESH TALKS WITH RUSSIA NEXT WEEK, SAYS PRESIDENT ZELENSKY

→ Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday that Kyiv has sent Moscow an offer to hold another round of peace talks next week, and that he wanted to speed up negotiations for a ceasefire. Ukraine and Russia have held two rounds of talks in Istanbul over the past five months. They have agreed to swap prisoners but made no breakthroughs in ending almost three and a half years of conflict that started with Russia's 2022 invasion. "Everything should be done to achieve a ceasefire," Zelensky said in his evening address to the nation. "The Russian side should stop hiding from decisions," he added.

14 killed, 12 missing after days of torrential rain batter S Korea

Agencies  
Seoul

The nationwide death toll from heavy rainfall in South Korea has risen to 14, authorities said, as fears grow of more deaths, with 12 more people missing since the disaster began.

Two people died and four went missing in the resort town of Gapyeong on Sunday after a landslide engulfed houses and flooding swept away vehicles, the AFP news agency reported, citing government officials.

A woman in her 70s was killed when her house collapsed in the landslide, while the body of a man in his 40s was found near a bridge after he drowned, said South Korea's news agency.

## Powerful quakes in Russia

# Tsunami alert; three earthquakes including 7.4 magnitude rock region

Agencies  
Moscow

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) says there is no longer a danger of tsunami waves on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula after three earthquakes – the larger with a magnitude of 7.4 – struck in the sea nearby.

The warning was issued earlier on Sunday after the quakes were recorded off the Pacific coast of Russia, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The epicentres of a series of earthquakes – the others measuring 6.7 and 5 – on Sunday were about 140km (87 miles) east of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka, capital of Russia's



Kamchatka region, which has a population of more than 160,000.

According to the USGS, the quakes hit the same area off the coast of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka within 32 minutes.

The magnitude 7.4 earthquake was at a depth

of 20km (12 miles). There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The PTWC initially said there was a danger of major tsunami waves but later downgraded its warning before finally saying the danger had passed.

## VIRAL 'KISS CAM' VIDEO AT COLDPLAY CONCERT

# Astronomer CEO Andy Byron resigns

Agencies  
Boston

The CEO of the technology firm Astronomer Inc. has resigned after being caught canoodling on camera at a rock concert with a woman who was not his wife, the company said on Saturday.

The company posted a written statement on its LinkedIn profile stating that its leaders "are expected to set the standard in both conduct and accountability, and recently, that stand-



ard was not met."

The statement said that Andy Byron had offered his resignation as CEO and that the board of directors had accepted it.

Byron had been placed on leave on Friday, and Chief Product Officer Pete DeJoy is serving as the interim CEO. Byron and Astronomer's chief people officer Kristin Cabot were caught on camera at the Coldplay concert on Wednesday in Massachusetts in an awkward clip

**The statement said that Andy Byron had offered his resignation as CEO and that the board of directors had accepted it. Byron had been placed on leave on Friday. CPO Pete DeJoy is serving as interim CEO.**

that quickly went viral.

A spokesman for the company said that the pair were the only employees of the firm caught on camera. The spokesman did not respond to a request for comment on Cabot's job status.

After the video went viral, Byron's wife, Megan Kerrigan, who serves as an Associate Director of Lower School and Hope Graham Program Admissions at the Bancroft School, dropped her surname from her Facebook profile. She later deactivated her profile.

# 37 tourists confirmed dead in cruise ship accident in North Vietnam

Agencies  
Ha Long Bay

A total of 47 people have been recovered, including 10 survivors and 37 confirmed dead, after a cruise ship capsized in Ha Long Bay, northern Vietnam, Vietnam News Agency reported on Sunday. The wreck was salvaged and towed ashore on early on Sunday morning for further investigation. The ship sank on Saturday afternoon while carrying 48 Vietnamese tourists on a sightseeing tour.

Five crew members were also on board.



The tourist boat that capsized is towed back to the port in Ha Long bay, Quang Ninh province, on Sunday.

ers, from police and border guards to divers and navy personnel, were battling limited visibility hours before the expected landfall in northern Vietnam of Typhoon Wipha, which is now approaching Hong Kong.

## NAME CHANGE

I, Ramsukh Jaat S/o Shrawan Ram, Caste Jaat, Age 19 Years, R/o Village Mangalwasi, Tehsil Sujangarh, District Churu, Rajasthan-331518 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that I have changed my name from Ramsukh to Ramsukh Jaat. In future I should be known and recognized as Ramsukh Jaat only for all purposes.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Teamwork turns tasks into success.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



CM reviews rain-induced situation in the state

# CM: No shortage in essentials, basic services must continue

CM Sharma directs relocation of rain-hit people and livestock to safer areas

He directs Collectors to put up flood warnings, inform public on relief efforts, and ensure student safety

Aishwary Pradhan  
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Sunday held a high-level review meeting to assess the situation arising out of heavy rainfall in several districts. He instructed the officials to ensure safe relocation of affected people and livestock and maintain uninterrupted availability of essential services in flood-affected areas.

He stressed that there should be no shortage of drinking water, food supplies, or other essentials. Directions were also issued for repairing damaged roads and restoring power. District Collectors were instructed to install warning signs at flooded roads, bridges, and riverbanks,



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma chairs a review meeting with district collectors via video conferencing to review the situation of rainfall and heavy downpour in various regions of the state at the Chief Minister's Residence in Jaipur on Sunday. CS Sudhansh Pant, DGP Rajeev Sharma & other senior bureaucrats including Abhay Kumar, Praveen Gupta, Vaibhav Galiya and others were present.

and to keep the public updated on disaster response. Officials informed that Rs 20 lakh each has been released to divisional headquarters districts and Rs 10 lakh each to other districts for flood relief. State Emergency Centre active; 36 districts saw excess rain, 5 above-normal. Dams 67% filled of 13,027 MCM capacity.

**Ensure uninterrupted services and adequate resources in affected areas. No shortage of drinking water, food, or essentials in waterlogged zones. Expedite road repairs, restore power, and closely monitor and repair damaged dams and canals.**

**Prepare constituency-wise reports on damaged buildings, roads, and waterlogged areas. Ensure timely, sensitive compensation for rain-affected victims.**

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER

### RAIN RELIEF: ₹20L FOR DIVISIONAL HQS, ₹10L FOR OTHER DISTRICTS

It was informed in the meeting that Rs 20 lakh each has been released to divisional headquarters districts and Rs 10 lakh each to other districts for flood relief. The State Emergency Operation Centre at the Secretariat is functioning regularly. As per available data, 36 districts have recorded excessive rainfall and 5 districts above-normal rainfall. The total storage capacity of all major and minor dams in the state is approximately 13,027 MCM, of which 67% is currently filled.

# Award shows trust, not just a medal: Shekhawat

Youth are the bright future of India, says Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani

201 Sindhi students, including CAs, doctors & engineers were honoured

Shiv Prakash Purohit  
Jodhpur

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani on Sunday underlined the vital role of youth education in driving the nation's progress.

Addressing the 'Sindhi Pratibhavan Vidarthi Samman Samaroh' in Jodhpur, Devnani said the Sindhi community has earned global recognition through its values, hard work, and focus on education.

"If every student resolves to excel in their field, both the community and the nation can move ahead on the path of progress," he said.

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat extended his wishes to the students, stating that awards are not just medals but symbols of the community's trust and aspirations. He



Union Minister GS Shekhawat, Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani & Rajya Sabha MP Rajendra Gehlot felicitate a meritorious student during the 10th 'Sindhi Pratibhavan Vidhyarthi Samman Samaroh 2025' in Jodhpur on Sunday.

### SHEKHAWAT REVIEWS RAIN IMPACT, STRESSES NEED FOR DRAINAGE FIX

Jodhpur: Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Sunday reviewed the rain-affected situation in Jodhpur with District Collector Gaurav Agarwal. At the Circuit House, Shekhawat took feedback on the widespread waterlogging caused by inadequate drainage in various city areas. Expressing concern over the lack of proper water discharge, he directed officials to work on a permanent drainage solution to avoid future disruptions. The District Collector briefed him on the current conditions and steps taken by the administration to tackle the aftermath of incessant rainfall. Shekhawat emphasised swift action and long-term planning to ensure better flood resilience in the city.

praised the Sindhi community for its unity, generosity, and dedication to education.

Rajya Sabha MP Rajendra Gehlot said that such programmes serve as inspiration for the

younger generation. Highlighting key features of National Education Policy, he encouraged youth to become responsible citizens, committed to societal & national development.

# Tribal community is soul of India, not vote bank: Min Yadav

Ashvini Yadav  
New Delhi

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Sunday, inaugurated Block-A of the Adivasi Educational and Cultural Research Institute in Delhi, constructed by the Akhil Bharatiya Jan-Jati Vikas Sangh. Rajasthan Minister Dr Kirodi Lal Meena also attended the event. Addressing the gathering, Yadav said the Modi government, unlike past Congress regimes, sees the tribal community not as a vote bank but as the soul of India. He said multiple initiatives are being executed in a structured manner to empower tribal populations.

MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri praised Dr Kirodi



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav and MoS Dr Kirodi Lal Meena inaugurate the Block-A of the Tribal Educational and Cultural Research Institute, established by the Akhil Bharatiya Jan-Jati Vikas Sangh in New Delhi on Sunday.

Lal Meena for his swift action to prevent large-scale crop losses in Rajasthan. "We kept receiving reports about widespread counterfeit fertiliser production in the state. Dr Meena's timely intervention protected

farmers, and we thank him on behalf of the government," Bidhuri said in his address during the programme.

Several community leaders and stakeholders from tribal belts also participated in the event.



PCC Chief GS Dotasra greets people during the Congress 'Samvidhan Bachao Sabha' in Chomu on Sunday. Chomu MLA Dr Shikha Meel Barala, AICC in-charge Rajasthan, Chiranjeev Rao, District Prez, Gopal Meena and other local leaders were present.

### BJP undermining Constitution, misusing agencies: Dotasra

Manoj Saini  
Jaipur

At a 'Sanvidhan Bachao Rally' in Chomu, PCC Chief Govind S Dotasra accused the BJP of violating constitutional norms. He said the Modi government is denying basic rights like timely local body elections in Rajasthan despite expiry of terms, calling it a direct breach of the Consti-

tution. Dotasra also alleged misuse of ED, CBI, and Income Tax against only Congress leaders. "Why are these agencies blind to BJP leaders?" he questioned. Slamming state governance, he cited Minister Kirodi Meena's claim of daily illegal gravel mining worth Rs 8 crore. He urged party workers to unite and ensure Congress wins civic & panchayat polls.

# Rajasthan shines in solar drive under CM Sharma's leadership

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Rajasthan is steadily advancing toward energy self-reliance, becoming a key hub for both grid-connected and decentralised solar power under CM Bhajan Lal Sharma. In the past year, the state has seen strong grassroots implementation of the PM-KUSUM scheme. Of the 684 decentralised solar plants set up so far (total capacity 1,305 MW), 592 plants with 1,190 MW capacity were installed in the last year alone.

Under Component-A, farmers or developers can set up solar plants up to 2 MW, while Component-C allows up to 5 MW. The Centre pro-



Farmers turn energy producers as state leads in decentralised solar growth

vides Rs 1.05 crore/MW (30% subsidy) under Component-C. Farmers are setting up these plants on their non-arable land, marking a shift from food producers to energy entrepreneurs.

So far, 354 plants (457 MW) were commissioned under Component-A, and 330 plants (848 MW) under Com-

ponent-C. Owing to Rajasthan's success, the Centre raised its allocation to 397 MW (2024-25) and 5,000 MW (2025-26), along with 2 lakh solar pumps under Component-C.

The total target is now 5,500 MW and 4 lakh pumps, reinforcing Rajasthan's green energy leadership.

## INTERESTING TALES FROM BUREAUCRACY!

# From IAS Pathak to Director Mines, several changes in the offing

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

Small but noticeable and interesting news have emerged from the State's bureaucratic circles. IAS Dr Krishna Kant Pathak (2001 batch), currently serving as Secretary DoP, is shifting to New Delhi and the State government has accorded NoC for this. He is also handling the additional charge of Secretary, Devasthan department since January 2025.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

is reportedly impressed with Pathak's functioning in the Devasthan department as he had performed well during the Kumbh mela also. However, this is the last chance of Central deputation for Pathak as his junior IAS officers of 2006 batch have also become Joint Secretaries in the Centre.

It is keeping in mind career of Pathak that the CM is learnt to have given nod for the Central deputation to one of his favourite officers. As per official sources, Pathak may soon get a call from Delhi.

Three IAS - Rajendra Singh Shekhawat, Om Prakash Bunkar, and Prakash Chand Sharma are retiring on July 31. Shekhawat is posted as Kota divisional commissioner since January 2025. Om Prakash Bunkar was posted as Special Secretary, Home department in jumbo transfers of IAS on June 22. Bunkar has been transferred 4 times in the present regime. Prakash Chand Sharma, a promotee IAS was made OSD to CM in July 2024 and he is retiring after one year stint on the post.



KK Pathak

It is worth noting that three officers have departed from CMO in two months. These are Principal Secretary Alok Gupta, IG Gaurav Srivastava, and

now Prakash Chand Sharma. Director Mines Deepak Tanwar, an important position, is retiring on Aug 31. He is not an IAS but technical expert of mines. This post has notably always been assigned to an IAS officer but in February 2025 a non-IAS Tanwar was positioned there. The position had remained vacant for six months due to controversy either to post an IAS or technical head of the Mines Department. It is learnt that many mines operators had also become a party in this controversy.

However, Tanwar bagged the post amid the row.

It is said that there is no technical head in the Mines Dept as a successor of Tanwar. Under such circumstances, the Director Mines post is likely to be occupied by an IAS & several young IAS are learnt to be making efforts in this direction. In the past, however, the charge of Director Mines has remained with Excise Commissioner. Another key IAS post, MD RSM, is vacant in Udaipur with several contenders in the race for it.

### DINESH MN MAY GO ON CENTRAL DEPUTATION

An interesting news is related to IPS cadre also. There are talks that senior IPS of 1995 batch Dinesh MN, currently ADG Crime, is set to go on Central deputation soon. He is likely to be posted in ED or a similarly sensitive posting. The report has emerged after Union Home Minister Amit Shah had specially called Dinesh MN to meet him at the recently held rally at Dadiya. The duo had one-on-one discussion for nearly 10



minutes. Dinesh MN had reportedly come closer to Amit Shah during the Sohrawuddin & the Tulsiprajapat encounters. Nevertheless, Dinesh MN is known as an effective and hard taskmaster in the police circles.



**HARMONY IN RAGAS!**

A captivating musical evening, hosted by AISPA with Jawahar Kala Kendra and SBI, featured Kaustubh M Kunj's spellbinding classical and light music performances.

P11

**Miss Universe India 2025 Sashing Ceremony Dazzles at Unwind Resort, Indore**



The journey begins: Nikhil Anand and Rhea Singha with the 53 finalists of Miss Universe India 2025, during the elegant sash ceremony



**Crowning**  
Dreams Begin

**T**he road to the Miss Universe India 2025, presented by Glamanand with Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India Newspaper as media partners, crown officially commenced with a breathtaking sashing ceremony hosted at the opulent Unwind Resort, Indore, on Saturday. The glittering affair witnessed the unveiling of 53 finalists from across the nation—each symbolising India's rich cultural fabric, beauty and ambition.



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

The evening was graced by Rhea Singha, reigning Miss Universe India 2024, who looked radiant as she sashed the finalists. Sharing her inspiring journey and heartfelt advice, she ignited a spark in every contestant present. "This crown isn't just a symbol of beauty," Rhea remarked, "it's a voice, a purpose, and a platform to redefine possibilities."

The prestigious ceremony was led by Nikhil Anand, National Director of Miss Universe India, whose vision and leadership continue to transform the pageantry landscape in India. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Miss Universe India is a celebration of empowered womanhood. These 53 young women stand as representatives of the country's diversity, ambition and excellence. They are not just beauty queens, but changemakers in the making."

The event also saw the gracious presence of Yashraj Tongia, Owner of Unwind Resort, who played a vital role in curating the resplendent setting for the ceremony, and Ankit Tamang, known for his contribution to talent and fashion initiatives.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra conveyed his best wishes virtually and extended a heartfelt welcome to all the contestants, inviting them to Jaipur for the upcoming leg of the Miss Universe India 2025 journey through a special personal message.

The lush ambience of Unwind Resort, with its tranquil landscape and world-class amenities, served as a picture-perfect stage for the ceremony, blending glamour with nature's serenity.

The finalists, resplendent in their designer sashes and ensembles, marked the beginning of a life-changing journey filled with training, personality development, runway mastery, and philanthropic missions. As the countdown to the grand finale begins, anticipation brews across the nation to discover who will carry India's pride to the global Miss Universe stage.

The Miss Universe India 2025 edition promises to be a remarkable celebration of aspiration, elegance and womanhood—one crown, 53 dreams and a nation watching.



Rhea Singha received a warm floral welcome by Yashraj Tongia and Amit

The official sashing ceremony of Miss Universe India 2025, presented by Glamanand with Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India Newspaper as media partners, was held on Saturday at the luxurious Unwind Resort in Indore, marking the grand unveiling of 53 finalists embarking on their journey toward the coveted national crown. City First brings to you some glimpses!

Top to Bottom: Vaamshi Uday, Sheena Parashar, Manika Vishwakarma & Mehak Dhingra

**RANDOM RAMBLINGS- XVII**

**UNSETTLING THE UNIONS**



**Anirban Mukhopadhyaya**  
Retd. IAS officer

(As recounted by an army friend after he'd had quite a few!)

The City Magistrate smiled at his newly wed bride as he reached for the biryani over the luncheon table. His joy was all too fleeting however. Even as he put a spoon of the steaming aromatic on his plate, the phone jangled and very shortly thereafter, in marched the office peon with the telephone on a long cord and tray holder. "MIA Police Station, sir," he announced.

MIA referred to the Matsya Industrial Area which had come up recently near Alwar town and was part of the City Magistrate's domain. As new industrial units started coming up on the largely vacant plots of the estate, so did the labour unions affiliated to the major political parties, each vying for supremacy in terms of new membership. What was problematic for the district administration in all of this however was that these warring 'tribes' had increasingly begun to confront each other and worse still, the City Magistrate thought bitterly as he rushed to his jeep, the confrontations all seemed to happen just about the time set aside for lunch. This hadn't bothered him overmuch in his bachelor days, where lunch at the office or even his bungalow, consisted of little more than sandwiches and coffee, but now, well, this was a different matter altogether. This scourge needed to be handled. Why, this was the fourth day in a row that he had to abandon his luncheon table for the "jhamela" at the MIA.

Arriving on location, he was met by the local DySP, (Deputy Superintendent of Police), a veteran of the force, with salt and pepper hair and a magnificent moustache which he could twirl to telling effect when facing lawbreakers. With no time for pleasantries, the two men nodded to each other in greeting and then turned and strode over to the adversaries who were already engaged in a shrill verbal altercation.

On seeing the officers, the two leaders from the competing unions detached themselves from their followers and walked over for the inevitable parlaying that had become a feature of this daily drama. On and on went the tirades, the two union leaders shouting at each other and then at the officials while their target audience of the faithful, standing a little way away, watched their champions in open admiration.

The City Magistrate had had enough of the farce. "Stop this playacting immediately," he roared, hoping to be heard above the din. It worked. The two protagonists fell silent. "I'm tired of this drama. If the two of you can't live and let live, I suggest you settle it now. I see many of you are carrying sticks. Why don't you use them? Let's see which among you is left standing after you've finished."

The two union leaders looked at each other and then at the DySP who continued to twirl his moustache. This was the ultimate role reversal. Here were the guardians of law and order inciting them to violence. At length one of the leaders spoke. "What will you do, Magistrate saab?" he asked at last. The City Magistrate looked at his DySP who was still twirling his moustache. Then he turned back to the union leaders. "Why, we'll hammer any of your lot left standing," he said pleasantly. "We're tired of your daily lunchtime drama."

Both the union leaders looked incredulous. "You mean you won't stop us fighting," one of them exclaimed at last. "Why bother," replied the City Magistrate. "We don't seem to have managed this so far. This way we end it for good." He paused, and then added, "Unless....". "Unless what?" — the question was too quick to spell defiance. "Unless," continued the City Magistrate inexorably, "you agree to consult each other and take permission from the MIA Thanedar saab so that your rallies and processions don't cross each other. You'll have to do this, you know, sooner or later."

The leaders looked at each other and then their flocks. The inevitability of the outcome finally seemed to hit home. "Oh, all right," said one reluctantly. The other silently nodded. They began to turn back towards their groups. "Oh and one more thing," the City Magistrate's voice, though still pleasant, had a steely undertone to it. "No more tamashas during lunch hour please. You'll find Deputy saab less amenable next time you do this." Both leaders glanced at the DySP. He, for his part, continued to stare back at them steadily, almost reflectively. Then silently, they turned back towards their groups.

As he walked back to his jeep, the City Magistrate pondered one of the maxims of his Academy instructors — "Never let the best become the enemy of the good."

**WHEN LUXURY LABELS OVERLOOK OUR ORIGINS, INDIA SHOULD WALK AWAY**



**Sundeep Bhutoria**

Author and Culturist

**HERITAGE HIJACKED**

Step into any global luxury store today — from Paris to Las Vegas to Hawaii—and you are likely to find a quiet but unmistakable presence shaping its future: the discerning Indian consumer. No longer on the periphery, Indians are now at the heart of the luxury equation, driving demand not just with spending power, but with a deep appreciation for craftsmanship, heritage, and prestige. India's influence in the luxury market is more visible than ever — whether it's at the world's only open-air designer shopping mall in Hawaii or at the ultra-fine dining experience at Louis Vuitton's Gaggan in Bangkok. The era of the Indian window shopper is a thing of the past.

In 2023, India's domestic luxury market stood at roughly \$17 billion, with projections to triple by 2030. Yet, when international brands borrow from India's cultural treasure troves without acknowledging their source, the admiration of Indian buyers can turn to indignation — and even boycott.

**PRADA'S CULTURAL APPROPRIATION**

A few days ago, luxury fashion house Prada found itself in hot water after unveiling its Spring/Summer 2026 menswear collection in Milan. Among the showcased items was a pair of "leather sandals" that bore an unmistakable resemblance to Kolhapuri chappals — traditional handcrafted footwear deeply rooted in Maharashtra's cultural and artisanal heritage.

However, the show notes made no mention of their Indian origin. The omission sparked immediate backlash across India's fashion community, with artisans and cultural advocates accusing Prada of cultural appropriation and possible violation of geographical indication (GI) rights.

In response, Lalit Gandhi, president of the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MAC-CIA), wrote to Prada demanding public acknowledgement and fair engagement with the artisan communities who have preserved this design over centuries. "Kolhapuri chappals represent centuries-old craftsmanship rooted in the cultural fabric of Maharashtra.... These products are not only symbolic of regional identity, but they also support the livelihoods

of thousands of artisans and families in the Kolhapur region and surrounding districts," Gandhi stated, urging the brand to explore collaboration or compensation.

Prada's Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Lorenzo Bertelli, replied, acknowledging that the footwear was indeed inspired by "traditional Indian handcrafted footwear, with a centuries-old heritage". He added that the designs were still in early stages and had not been confirmed for production. Bertelli expressed a willingness to engage further with Indian artisans and emphasised Prada's commitment to "responsible design practices" and "meaningful cultural exchange".

Despite this statement, many in India viewed the response as too little, too late — more of a PR gesture than a sincere attempt to credit or uplift the communities involved. Meanwhile, BJP MP Dhananjay Mahadik led a delegation of Kolhapuri artisans to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, seeking state-level intervention to protect both their livelihood and India's cultural patrimony.

The episode has reignited long-standing concerns about global luxury brands profiting from traditional designs without acknowledgement, credit, or ethical reciprocity.

**BUYING POWER MEETS CULTURAL CONSCIOUSNESS**

Luxury spending is no longer a fringe indulgence — Indians are increasingly major players. Forecasts anticipate consumer spend on luxury goods to climb to \$32 billion by 2030, with India's affluent base ballooning to hundreds of millions of consumers.

At the Prabha Khaitan Foundation, we remain deeply committed to fostering cross-cultural understanding and celebrating India's rich artistic legacy. Our curated mementoes from tribal bamboo masks of the North-East to terracotta handicrafts of Central India, Dhokra metalwork from the East, and Kathputli string puppets of Rajasthan are not only artistic treasures but en-



Dhokra Handicraft

At the Foundation, we remain deeply committed to fostering cross-cultural understanding and celebrating India's rich artistic heritage. This commitment is reflected in our curated mementoes—each a tribute to the diverse traditions of India's master artisans:

Tribal Bamboo Masks from the North-East evoke ancestral spirits and mythological beings, crafted by artisans from Nagaland, Assam, and Meghalaya using organic materials and age-old symbolism.

Terracotta Handicrafts from Central India blend tradition with innovation, drawing from tribal life and rural folklore, with influences from regions like Madhya Pradesh, Bengal, and Rajasthan.

Dhokra Art from Eastern India is a 4,000-year-old metal casting technique, practised by tribal communities in Bengal, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, known for its folk motifs and lost-wax precision.

Kathputli (String Puppets) from Western India, especially Rajasthan, celebrate India's vibrant storytelling legacy through intricately crafted puppets adorned in vivid traditional attire.

Each of these pieces is more than a keepsake—they are living expressions of India's cultural mosaic and the enduring legacy of its artisans.



Terracotta Handicraft



Puppets

Tribal Masks

during symbols of our cultural continuity. Each handcrafted piece supports the artisans and communities behind it, honouring tradi-

tion through thoughtful engagement and storytelling.

At the same time, Indian-origin brands are staking strong global claims. Designers like Sabyasachi Mukherjee have collaborated with Christian Louboutin, H&M, and Estee Lauder — garnering acclaim across New York, London, Dubai and beyond. Indian design houses like Falguni Shane Peacock have established a presence in international couture and bridal markets. The broader Indian apparel sector is experiencing robust growth, with a projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10-12 per cent.

Yet this growing recognition of Indian brands makes acts of appropriation all the more jarring. When Western luxury houses strip cultural artefacts from their context, they erase labour, lineage, and livelihood, while Indians fund their own invisibility. This stand-alone rebranding without due credit undermines artisan identities and robs local economies of recognition and potential revenue.

Contrast that with the collaborative model embraced by Indian designers like MY FRIEND Sabyasachi, who publicly credits the weavers of Murshidabad, Kotpad, and Andhra Pradesh, reinvesting his saree initiative into those communities. His collaboration with Louboutin in 2015 reinvigorated vintage techniques like acid-dyed zardozi, offering not just aesthetic luxury but artisan dignity. Similarly, Rahul Mishra, the first Indian designer to showcase at Paris Haute Couture Week, has consistently spotlighted the craftsmanship of Indian karigars, integrating their stories into the global fashion narrative and ensuring they share the success of his collections.

The difference lies in reciprocity, narrative, and agency, not mere visual reference.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF INDIA SAYS NO?**

Luxury brands need India more than ever; it's high time they acknowledged it. With Chinese consumption sagging and Western markets plateauing, India represents the next frontier. But unless brands reform their cultural conduct, they risk alienating a growing, confident, socially-conscious consumer class. For



Indian artisan handcrafting Kolhapuri chappals



Sundeep Bhutoria and Sabyasachi Mukherjee

India, opting out is not about trench warfare. It's about negotiation: ethical purchase, cultural credit, and artisan upliftment.

An Indian consumer boycott would not come from knee-jerk nationalism. Instead, it would stem from a refined expectation — Indians will pay if our money honours more than a logo. Prada may survive a one-off backlash. But recycled imagery without investment, storytelling, or profit-sharing could be poor business in the long-term luxury market.

This debate isn't binary. Cultivating global appeal does not require cultural exclusion. Indian brands have already shown how it's done. Iconic Indian labels like Sabyasachi, Rahul Mishra, Anita Dongre, Ritu Kumar, Tarun Tahiliani, Rohit Kamra, Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla, and Manish Malhotra are catalysing luxury narratives from India, not just about India. They blend tradition with innovation, ethics with exclusivity, and, most critically, give artisans both credit and livelihood.

Globally, India holds considerable cultural capital. But true sophistication lies in storytelling that credits lineage, ensures fair pay, and builds sustainable design ecosystems. Whether it's paisley embroidery, hand-block prints, or chappal leatherwork, the label on the sandal begins with a social contract, not a marketing spin.

India's love for luxury is real — but so is its heritage and pride. If brands like Prada wish to continue their relationship with India, they must weave cultural sensitivity into their value chains, not just their designs. Because today's discerning consumer wants more than allure. They demand authenticity.

By choosing consciously, Indians can affirm that luxury isn't just about opulence — it's about respect. Own it, brand it, share it. Then, and only then, can luxury have global appeal with Indian integrity.

# LOVE STORY CRAFTED WITH SINCERITY



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## Saiyaara

**DIRECTOR**  
Mohit Suri

**CAST & CREW**  
Ahaan Panday,  
Aneet Padda

**RATING: ★★☆☆**

**M**ohit Suri's Saiyaara is a poignant musical romance that explores the fragile intersections of love, memory, and healing. At its heart is the story of Krish, an emotionally scarred musician struggling with stage anxiety, and Vaani, a gifted lyricist hiding her early-onset Alzheimer's diagnosis. Their chance creative collaboration soon blossoms into love, only to be challenged by time and fate. Debutant Ahaan Pan-



day impresses with a sensitive performance, balancing vulnerability and intensity. Aneet Padda is the film's emotional anchor, bringing grace and quiet power to a role that could easily have turned melodramatic. Their chemistry is tender and believable, enhancing the story's emotional weight. The soundtrack—anchored by the haunting title track "Saiyaara"—is a standout, blending soulful melodies with evocative lyrics. The cinematography by Vikas Sivar-

aman opts for moody, intimate frames over glamour, matching the film's introspective tone. While the film occasionally falls into predictability and the pacing



slackens in the second half, Saiyaara succeeds in what it promises: an emotionally honest story with heart, pain, and music. It's not a revolution-

ary love story, but it's a beautiful one, crafted with sincerity. A promising debut for both leads and a win for lovers of musical romance.

## ECHOES IN SACRED CEREMONY



A grand Sahastraghat Abhishek of Lord Shiva was recently performed at Gvaleshwar Mahadev Temple, Pinjrapole Gaushala, Sanganeer. Led by Vedic scholars, the ritual sought blessings for declaring the cow as the 'State Mother', supporting Rajasthan as an organic state, and thanking the PM for the Dhan-Dhanya Scheme. Devotees participated emotionally in Abhisheks, Vedic recitations, Maha Aarti, and an organic herb exhibition. Notable dignitaries attended, voicing support for cow protection and organic farming initiatives.

**SANTOSH SHARMA**

## FILMY PRESCRIPTION



In a grand announcement held in Jaipur, filmmaker Ejaz Ahmed introduced his upcoming Hindi film Aaj Ke Sholay, a sequel to the 1975 blockbuster, on Friday. Jaipur's Dr Saksham Bijani, an MBBS student from NIMS University, will play Jai's next-gen avatar, while Fayyaz Ali will portray Veeru. The film, set for completion by December, will premiere at Rajmandir Cinema. Its first song, Teri Maa Ka Damad, sung by Nakash Aziz, was also launched during the event.

**SUNIL SHARMA**

## WHEELCHAIR AID FOR NEEDY PASSENGERS



Rotary Club Jaipur Royal donated two foldable wheelchairs to Jaipur Junction Railway Station to aid senior citizens and differently-abled passengers. The initiative was inspired by a Dainik Bhaskar report highlighting a porter carrying a woman on a trolley. Station Superintendent Mathew, Harish Kumar, and other officials attended the handover, along with Club President Rtn. Poonam Bagaria, Secretary Rtn. Ramesh Chandra Goyal and members. Bagaria emphasised the club's service values, while Goyal expressed gratitude to all supporters present.

## JAIPUR GAINS GLOBAL TRADE SPOTLIGHT



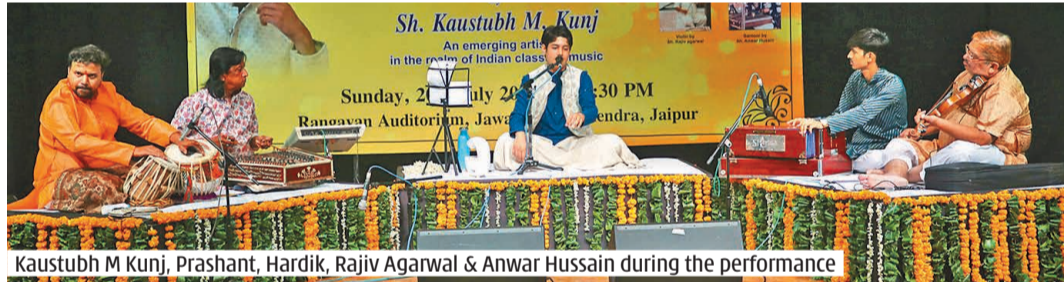
Acolyte Technologies Pvt Ltd signed a strategic MoU with the Commerce Chamber of International Trade, Guangzhou, China, to strengthen India-China trade ties on Saturday at Galaxy Avenue, Jaipur. The event emphasised cross-border facilitation, direct access to verified Chinese goods, and bilateral trade programs. Founder Shwetank Soni stressed Jaipur's growing role in global trade. The Global Innovation & Technology Platform (GITP) will align stakeholders as Acolyte expands its global footprint, including a new London office.

**SANTOSH SHARMA**



Koustubh M Kunj enthralled the audience with his soulful voice

## CLASSICAL MUSIC SOIREE



Koustubh M Kunj, Prashant, Hardik, Rajiv Agarwal & Anwar Hussain during the performance

A soulful musical evening was hosted by the All India Service Pensioners Association in collaboration with Jawahar Kala Kendra and SBI. Renowned singer Koustubh M Kunj captivated the audience with classical and light music. He opened with Chota Khayal and Bada Khayal in Raga Madhuvanti, followed by Thumri "Naina More Tars Gaye" in Raag Kirwani. His heartfelt bandishes, bhajans and ghazals created an enchanting aura. Accompanied by Prashant (tabla), Hardik (harmonium), Rajiv Agarwal (violin), and Anwar Hussain (santoor), Koustubh's talent shone throughout the evening.

## ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS DRIVE



An inspirational organ donation awareness program was organised by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Jaipur South, on Thursday at RUHS Medical College, Jaipur. Aimed at encouraging medical students to support organ donation, the event featured interactive sessions, real-life stories, educational videos, and pledge forms. Over 50 students pledged to donate organs. Led by Dr Sudhir Sachdeva and team, the event emphasised that organ donation is not just a gift of life, but a service to humanity.

## SAMARTH'25 CELEBRATES STUDENT EXCELLENCE



The two-day "National CA Student Talent Hunt - Samarth 2025," hosted by ICAI's Board of Studies (Operations), recently concluded at the Rajasthan International Centre. Featuring 82 participants from across India, the event aimed to sharpen students' analytical and presentation skills. Contests were held in Debate, Essay Writing, Quiz, Allocation, and Pitch Deck. Winners received accolades and ₹21,000 in prize money. Chief Guest Puneet Karnavat lauded the initiative. Winners will represent India at the upcoming SAFA competition.

## GLOBAL CONFERENCE



A two-day International Conference on "Research, Resilience and Revenue" began at the Faculty of Commerce and Management, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, in collaboration with WTC Jaipur on Sunday. Chief Guest Prof BP Sharma emphasised entrepreneurship as a key to India's economic future. Navneet Agarwal from WTC Jaipur highlighted their global innovation network. Vice Chancellor Prof Sunita Mishra stressed the role of startups in societal change. The event celebrated research-driven entrepreneurship and honoured WTC Jaipur's contributions with a special memento.

## CANVAS OF EMOTIONS



The three-day sketch exhibition by 77-year-old artist Pratap Kumar Bhatia concluded on Sunday at Jawahar Kala Kendra's Surekh Gallery. Over 100 sketches capturing Lord Ganesha, Radha-Krishna, human moods, monuments, and world icons were on display. IAS Manisha Arora and Additional Transport Commissioner Nidhi Singh visited on the final day. Bhatia, a multi-talented engineer and social worker, announced plans for a future exhibition.

## MPS CELEBRATES 48 GLORIOUS YEARS



Maheshwari Public School, Jawahar Nagar, commemorated its 48th Foundation Day with enthusiasm and pride in the school auditorium 'Takshshila'. Chief Guest Rajesh Maheshwari and Guest of Honour Anil Somani graced the event. The celebration began with lamp lighting, followed by speeches, academic report presentation, and felicitation of meritorious students. Cultural performances and the launch of the Incubation Centre brochure added charm. The event honoured the school's legacy of academic excellence and holistic education.

## DOCTORS CELEBRATE CULTURE IN STYLE



In a unique celebration of Indian culture and elegance, doctors walked the ramp in Jaipur wearing vibrant sarees under rainbow lights. The event, coordinated by Dr Pooja Rungta, aimed to showcase grace, tradition, and the timeless charm of sarees. Sarees like Chanderi, Patola, Baluchari, and Pethani were styled in diverse ways to promote India's rich textile heritage. The initiative was supported by the global group 'Doctors and Sarees,' which celebrates traditional Indian attire with over 42,000 members.

**MUKESH KIRADOO**

## NATIONAL MEDICAL WORKSHOP



Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital's Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department hosted Mewar's first national-level workshop, focusing on Endoscopy, PICSEP, and PPH. Attended by renowned doctors, faculty, and students nationwide, the event aimed to enhance clinical knowledge and hands-on skills in gynecology. Chief guest Pragya Kevalaramani applauded the initiative. Eminent speakers, including Dr Komal Chavan and Dr Madhubala Chauhan, led sessions. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Anjana Verma.

# MEDIA & POLITICS WITH INSIGHTS

MEET & GREET!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Nitu Kumari, State Director for Bihar for Miss Universe India 2025 & Supermodel Tanishqa Sharma, Miss Teen Earth India 2024, during a courtesy visit at Taj City Centre on Friday in Patna.

CORDIAL MEET



Dr CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa was warmly greeted by Dr Devendra Pathak, National Business Head of Bharat24 - Vision of New India, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Sunday.

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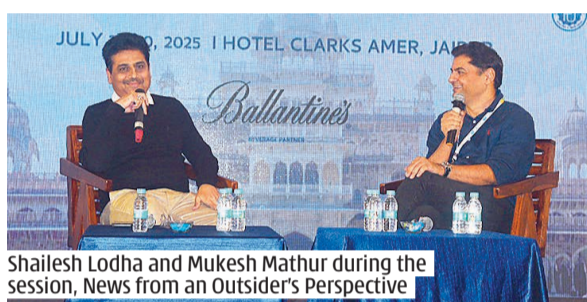
**T**he second day of the prestigious Talk Journalism 2025, held at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur, witnessed a dynamic exchange of ideas on the intersection of journalism, politics, and technology on Sunday. Eminent journalists, political leaders, analysts, and students from across India came together to explore the evolving media ecosystem.

Virendra Choudhary, Director of First India News, joined on the second day of the event and presented a beautifully handcrafted portrait to former Speaker Dr CP Joshi and senior BJP leader Dr Satish Poonia. The presence of Jaipur Mayor Dr Somya added further gravitas to the occasion.

One of the key attractions of the day was the special panel discussion on "Reading Elections", which featured distinguished personalities like Dr CP Joshi, former



Virendra Choudhary presented a portrait to Dr Satish Poonia



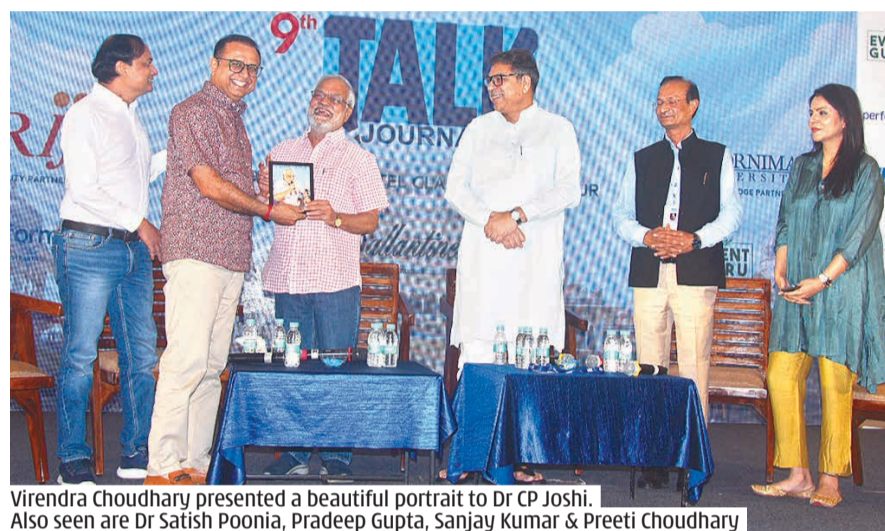
Shailesh Lodha and Mukesh Mathur during the session, News from an Outsider's Perspective

Speaker of the Rajasthan Assembly; Dr Satish Poonia, former BJP State President; Pradeep Gupta of Axis My India; Sanjay Kumar from Lokniti-CS-DS; and senior journalists Rajdeep Sardesai and

Preeti Choudhry Executive Editor from India Today. The session offered deep insights into electoral trends and media narratives. Various thematic sessions enriched



Avinash Kalla, Dinesh Bohra, Ashok Shera, Arvind Chotia, Ramesh Kumawat & Vivek Shrivastava, during the session Rajasthan Disruptors



Virendra Choudhary presented a beautiful portrait to Dr CP Joshi. Also seen are Dr Satish Poonia, Pradeep Gupta, Sanjay Kumar & Preeti Choudhary

the event. Cabinet Minister Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary delivered a session on "Marudhara: Land of Water". A vibrant panel titled "Azad Parinda" featured Sharda Ugra, Kamlesh Singh, Naveen

Choudhary, and Avinash Kalla, discussing journalistic freedom and new media.

The day also saw discussions on topics like language in journalism, AI in newsrooms, youth

and politics, and the rise of digital media and podcasts. The concluding session featured renowned poet-actor Shailesh Lodha in conversation with Mukesh Mathur of Dainik Bhaskar.

## SOCIAL HARMONY



The installation ceremony of Rotary Club Jaipur Midtown for 2025-26 was held on Sunday at Hotel Clarks Amer. Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade, as Chief Guest, highlighted that service to humanity is the greatest religion. He praised the Club's efforts in eye check-up camps, blood donation, medical services, and plantation drives, encouraging continued support to the underprivileged. Bagade urged collective efforts for a developed India and prosperous Rajasthan. Notable attendees included Rtn Tanuja Agarwal, Dr SS Agarwal, Rtn. Aditya Nag, and among others, was also present.

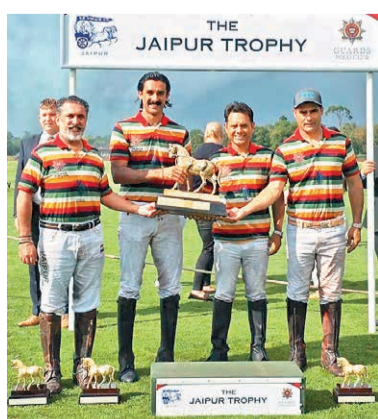
## TRIMURTI MONSOON RUN



Jaipur is ready to celebrate fitness, friendship, and monsoon magic with the 9th Trimurti Monsoon Run on Sunday, August 3. Organised by Jaipur Runners Club and IEMR, in collaboration with Trimurti Builders, the event features 21 km, 10 km, and 5 km categories along a scenic route from Lohagarh Resort to Lohagarh Fort. A Mega Boot Camp was held at City Park ahead of the run, energising participants with yoga and fitness sessions by expert trainers.

## ROYAL POLO VICTORY

Team Jaipur, led by Padmanabh Singh, clinched a thrilling 8-7 win over Guards Polo Club at the revived Jaipur Trophy, held at the iconic Queen's Ground, Guards Polo Club. Despite heavy rain, a packed audience witnessed the gripping finale of the Indian Polo Shield (18-goal) tournament. Sawai Padmanabh's match-winning goal sealed the historic victory. The event also featured cultural performances and was attended by dignitaries, including the Indian High Commissioner to the UK.



Sakhire collection stall by Manogya showcased its elegance at the Shimmer Exhibition

## Shimmering LIFESTYLE SHOWCASE

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**T**he two-day Shimmer Lifestyle & Rakhi Exhibition held at Kesari Bagh Banquet saw an overwhelming response from Jaipur's fashion-forward crowd on Sunday. Organised by Alka Agrawal, the event once

again proved that Jaipur is at the forefront of embracing fashion, trends, and wellness.

This edition focused on healthy living, showcasing innovative products like dry fruits, jaggery and dates-based cakes, millet cake tubs, and immunity boosters. Fashion enthusiasts were drawn to an exclusive range of gold, sil-



Brand Dori by Megha Sharma displayed its exquisite designs at the exhibition



During the event

ver, and anti-tarnish statement jewellery. For kids, stylish ethnic and Western wear gained popularity.

Customised rakhi gift hampers, eco-friendly green plants, and non-biodegradable toys were crowd favourites. A vibrant food court with diverse flavours enhanced the visitor experience.

Photography brand Fotografiya added a memorable twist by providing instant photos using advanced technology. Lucky draws with premium gifts delighted customers, while exhibitors marked high business returns. The event ended with a promise of an even trendier edition ahead.

## TALENT UNLEASHED



Anup Choudhary with Mr Rajasthan 2024 Karan Raj Singh and participants

The first audition of Mr Rajasthan Season 4 was successfully organised by A Infinity Takeovers at Oslo Club on Sunday. Over 100 male participants aged 18-35 from across Rajasthan showcased their talent in dance, singing & acting. Director Anup Choudhary announced upcoming auditions in Jodhpur and Udaipur, followed by a 7-day professional grooming session. Jury members included Mr Rajasthan 2024 Karan Raj Singh, Elite Miss Rajasthan 2023 Pihu Choudhary, Rahul Sharma, Pawan Tank & Avni Sharma.

## DONATION DRIVE

Organ donation awareness activities were organised at Jawahar Circle by SOTTO (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation) in collaboration with SMS Medical College, Jaipur. The event featured a powerful Nukkad Natak (street play) that highlighted the importance of organ donation and encouraged public participation in the noble cause. The initiative aimed to educate citizens, dispel myths, and inspire more people to pledge their organs for saving lives.



## TRADITION with a Twist



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**L**aghu Udyog Bharati Mahila Unit, Jagatpura, organised the vibrant "Swayamsiddha Rakhi and Teej Exhibition" on Saturday at Akshardham Khandelwal Hall. Chief Guest Mayor Dr Somya encouraged the women participants. Akshaya Patra Temple Committee Vice President Radha Priya Prabhu attended the program as a special guest. The exhibition, themed "Vocal for Local," showcased traditional Rajasthan crafts, rakhis, jewellery, décor, and more. Highlights included hand-made rakhis and earrings by Pinky and Kaynaat with their teacher Jeet, crochet creations by Anuradha, and Revti's Sanskrit-themed startup and palm leaf-carving art also drew attention, celebrating creativity and self-reliance among women. Maheendra Khurana, Raveena Srivastava, Priya Doda, Sanchi Rana and Pinky Maheshwari were present.

