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Jaipur, Friday | June 20, 2025

Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper

Welcome back Mr PM!

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PM@G7

RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 7 | ISSUE NO. 14 | PAGES 12 | ₹3.00

Kartikey Dev Singh

rime Minister Narthe 51st G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, marked a defining moment in In-

dia's global leadership journey. Engaging actively in outreach sessions, Modi championed the voices of the Global South, spotlighting inclu-sive energy, responsible AI, and climate justice. He emphasized that democracies must unify against modern challenges—especially terrorism—stating,

phone call from Modi to Trump sharply reinforced India's stance: endra Modi's visit to He condemned claims of third-party mediation in bilateral disputes and made it clear that India treats terrorism as an act of war. Moreover, he also declined Trump's invitation for one-on-one sideline meeting the same day as the Pakistani Field Marshal Asim Munir was hosted by POTUS Donald Trump to the White House for lunch — a tactful move that simultaneously sent a message that there is no friendship between those who are victims of terrorism and those who export it "There must be no ambiguity: If or support a regime that undera country supports terrorism, it takes it as its policy. The Indian must be held accountable," and PM said, "Terrorism is the enemy

of direct military diplomacy. A urging the G7 to apply the same of humanity and threatens all na-rigor to terror as is used for sanc- tions that uphold democratic valtions. The Indian and Canadian ues. There must be no ambiguity: Prime Ministers also took cali- if a country supports terrorism, it brated steps to restore their high must be held accountable. While commissioners, underscoring the we are quick to impose sanctions on various issues, the same urgency must be applied to terror-ism." His refusal, seen as respect for India's national priorities, underscored that when the interests of 1.4 billion Indians are at stake, even personal rapport must give way to principle. Wednesday evening, Modi left for Croatia — a trip hailed as bolstering India's Europe outreach — while the world took note that India's leader would not sacrifice national dignity, even at the risk of straining personal ties. In essence, PM Narendra Modi's G7 engagement showcased India's evolving role on the world stage: A committed architect of global public goods, willing to set aside friendship kistan, insisting it was the result when national interest demands.

strengthening of bilateral ties.

A notable moment came when Italian PM Giorgia Meloni lauded Modi by saying, "You are the best," highlighting the growing warmth of India-Italy relations. Modi similarly engaged with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and French President Emmanuel Macron, rekindling Europe–India economic and technological cooperation.

However, the most significant and controversial episode came later the same day. US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan's Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, for a private White House lunch—a gesture that drew Indian concern. India quickly refuted Trump's claim an unflinching defender of its sovereignty, and a statesman ceasefire between India and Pa-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi







Jaipur, Friday | June 20, 2025

PERSPECT VE

() FIRST INDIA 02

IRAN, ISRAEL, AND INDIA'S OIL WORRIES AWAKE-UP CALL FOR ENERGY SELF-RELIANCE



Vivek Harivyasi

The author is an economic reformer and strategic thinker focusing on clean energy, innovation, and policy-driven growth





hen bombs fall in West Asia, ripples are felt far beyond. As

tensions between Iran and Israel escalate into open conflict, India finds itself navigating not just diplomatic sensitivities but also the sharp pinch of global oil price volatility. This isn't the first time geopolitics has hijacked energy markets—but it may be one of the most complex moments in recent memory.

The June 2025 airstrikes by Israel on Iranian nuclear and military installations, followed by Iran's missile retaliation, have not only raised the specter of regional war but also disrupt·



India has made quiet yet significant progress in building resilience. The creation and expansion of Strategic Petroleum Reserves at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur—and soon at Chandikhole provides a buffer of approximately 37 million barrels, translating to 9-10 days of national consumption. When combined with commercial reserves held by refineries. India can now cover over 2 months of crude needs in emergencies

But the story isn't one of helplessness. In recent years, India has made quiet yet significant progress in building resilience. The creation and expansion of

(PPAC) data, the share of Middle Eastern crude has fallen from 63% in 2020 to around 50% in 2024. Yet the real long-term so-

lution lies elsewhere. Geopolitical shocks serve as reminders of our oil vulnerability, but they also push us toward energy innovation. India's push for ethanol blending, electric mobility, solar infrastructure, and green hydrogen is not merely climate-friendly policy-it is economic strategy. As global uncertainties increase, the need for an indigenous, stable, and renewable energy ecosystem becomes urgent. This is where India's unique advantage comes into play. With a youthful population, digital public infrastructure, and the political will to invest in green technologies, the country has the tools to transform its energy architecture. For example, solar energy costs in India have dropped by over 85% in a decade, and EV adoption is gaining momentum across state capitals. Furthermore, hydrogen fuel pilot projects, once considered ambitious, are now operational in sectors like refining and fertilizer.

Even in oil diplomacy, creative options are emerging. Bilateral agreements for rupee-based oil trade are being explored with several partners, reducing dollar dependency and insulating India from forex volatility. Policy think tanks such as NITI Aayog have suggested pooling oil imports among BRICS+ nations to increase bargaining power-an idea worth exploring as new trade blocs emerge.

To be clear, the government cannot control war in West Asia. What it can doand is doing—is fortifying the foundation. In the 2025– 26 Union Budget, over Rs5,600 crore was allocated toward bolstering SPRs and advancing domestic energy

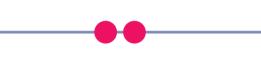
IN-DEPTH

WE DON'T NEED ANY MEDIATION, **THANK YOU!**

resident Donald Trump's offer to mediate in the Kashmir dispute was both unsolicited and unnecessary. By firmly rejecting it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi acted in the interest of the country. Kashmir is a sensitive bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, and any external involvement especially from a volatile and unpredictable leader like Trump — could muddy the waters.

India has consistently maintained that the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration provide the framework for resolving issues with Pakistan through direct dialogue. There is no scope for third-party mediation. Trump's self-styled role as a global peacemaker, seen in his erratic engagement with the Russia-Ukraine conflict, does not inspire confidence.

Moreover, the growing closeness between Washington and Islamabad underlines the need for New Delhi to remain alert. Any American role in Kashmir would be viewed as biased and potentially detrimental to India's position. Modi, therefore, thought it imperative to make it clear that mediation was unwelcome. India must stick to its well-established stand.



CARNEY SEES SENSE IN TIES WITH INDIA



rime Minister Narendra Modi and his newly sworn-in Canadian counterpart Mark Carney have taken the first constructive step towards mending a deeply fractured relationship. Their decision to reopen the respective High Commissions is both symbolic and substantive. Diplomatic engagement had been virtually frozen since the fallout from the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada and the subsequent public allegations levelled by the then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The re-establishment of diplomatic presence is a

SHIELD Even in oil diplomacy, creative options are emerging. Bilateral agreements for rupee-based oil trade are being explored with several partners, reducing dollar dependency and insulating India from forex volatility. Policy think tanks such as NITI Aayog have suggested pooling oil imports among BRICS+ nations to increase bargaining power-an idea worth exploring as new trade blocs emerge.

ECONOMIC

To be clear, the government cannot control war in West Asia. What it can do-and is doing-is fortifying the foundation. In the 2025–26 Union Budget, over Rs5,600 crore was allocated toward bolstering SPRs and advancing domestic energy projects. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is using currency interventions and monetary tools judiciously to dampen external shocks.

ed the global oil narrative. Brent crude surged past \$90 per barrel within days of the strikes—its highest in nearly six months—before settling slightly lower. For an oil-importing nation like India, which sources over 80% of its crude from abroad, this spells immediate concern.

The rupee, unsurprisingly, reacted with fragility. On June 18, it slipped to Rs86.50 per USD—a twomonth low—largely due to oil-induced dollar outflows (Reserve Bank of India, Weekly Data Release, June 2025). With each spike in crude prices, Indian oil marketing companies must shell out more dollars, exerting pressure on the current account deficit and contributing to imported inflation. In a nation where fuel prices trickle down to transportation, food supply chains, and household costs, the inflationary transmission is both direct and painful.

Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur-and soon at Chandikhole—provides a buffer of approximately 37 million barrels, translating to 9–10 days of national consumption. When combined with commercial reserves held by refineries, India can now cover over two months of crude needs in emergencies (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, 2024-25 Annual Report).

Beyond reserves, diversification is underway. While West Asia still contributes a significant portion of India's crude basket, the country has steadily expanded imports from Brazil, the United States, West Africa, and even Russia—particularly in the wake of Western sanctions on Moscow. This strategy not only lowers dependence on the Gulf but also gives India greater leverage in pricing negotiations. According to Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell projects. The Reserve Bank of India is using currency interventions and monetary tools judiciously to dampen external shocks.

As someone who has long advocated for selfreliance through innovation and market-led reforms, I believe this is the right path. India must not retreat from globalization, but rather engage with the world on our terms-reducing strategic dependencies while expanding global partnerships.

The Iran-Israel conflict may or may not lead to broader war. But it has already reminded us of a hard truth: energy security is national security. India must accelerate its transition, deepen its buffers, and empower its youth to build the technology that powers tomorrow. The price of oil may rise and fall, but the cost of inaction will always be higher.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL welcome move that can pave the way for rebuilding

trust and cooperation. While the Nijjar case had brought bilateral ties to their lowest point in recent history, the need to engage constructively was never in doubt. Canada is home to a significant Indian diaspora, and both nations share democratic values and substantial economic interests.

Mark Carney's recognition of India's growing economic and political stature is also timely. India today is one of the India today is one of the world's fastestgrowing economies, and an increasingly influential voice in global affairs, besides being a leader of the global South. Any meaningful engagement with New Delhi must factor in this reality

world's fastest-growing economies, and an increasingly influential voice in global affairs, besides being a leader of the global South. Any meaningful engagement with New Delhi must factor in this reality.

Normalising India-Canada ties won't be easy. Extremist concerns and mutual apprehensions must be handled transparently. New Delhi should look ahead without being held back by past bitterness. The Modi-Carney initiative offers a fresh start, but real progress depends on Canada translating intent into structured dialogue and meaningful diplomatic outcomes.



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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



SENSEX



PAK ASKED FOR CEASEFIRE AFTER **INDIA STRUCK 2 AIRBASES: DY PM** Pakistan's Dy PM Ishaq Dar said India hit Nur Khan & Shorkot airbases. We asked Saudi Prince to speak to Jaishankar that Pak is ready to stop



SHASHI THAROOR ADMITS ISSUES WITH CONGRESS LEADERSHIP Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor conceded on Thursday that he has some differences of opinion with some in the party's leadership.

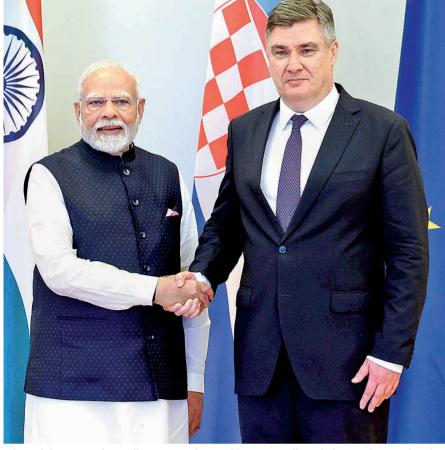


SONIA GANDHI DISCHARGED **FROM HOSPITAL AFTER 5 DAYS** CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi was on Thursday discharged from the hospital, 5 days after she was admitted for stomach related issues.



ELON MUSK'S SPACEX STARSHIP **EXPLODES DURING FIRE TEST** Elon Musk's SpaceX faced another setback after its Starship vehicle dramatically exploded during a static fire test in Texas on Wednesday.

INDIA-CROATIA FORGE NEW TIES! Modi, Croatian President hold talks to boost ties in trade, culture, defence



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Croatian President Zoran Milanovic, in Zagreb on Wednesday.

• PM Modi returns after landmark 3-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada & Croatia

First India Bureau Zagreb/New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Croatian President Zoran Milanović in Zagreb on Wednesday and held wide-ranging discussions aimed at deepening India-Croatia relations. The talks focused on enhancing cooperation in commerce, culture, defence, and innovation.

"Met Zoran Milanović, the President of Croatia. Had extensive discussions on the full range of India-Croatia friendship, including ways to boost linkages of commerce and culture," PM Modi said in a post on X.

According to the MEA, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to strengthening the

'REMARKABLE SYMBOL' PM MODI RECEIVES 'SPECIAL GIFT' FROM CROATIAN PM Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to his Croatian counterpart upon receiving the reprint of the first printed Sanskrit grammar. In a post on X, PM Narendra Modi said, "Thank you, PM Plenkovic. This is indeed a remarkable symbol of the enduring intellectual and cultural bonds between India and Croatia! May these bonds get even stronger in the times to come." While in

Croatia, PM Plenkovic had presented PM Modi with a reprint of Vezdin's

close and friendly ties democratic values, the between the two counrule of law, and a comtries, based on shared mon vision for global



to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Zagreb, on Wednesday.

Sanskrit Grammar - the in in 1790 by Croatian first printed Sanskrit scientist and missionary Filip Vezdin. grammar, written in Lat-

> peace and stability. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the grow

ing diversification of bilateral cooperation, particularly in emerging areas such as defence, start-ups, sports, and innovation. PM Modi also thanked President Milanović for Croatia's steadfast support to India in its fight against terrorism.

The leaders acknowledged the deep-rooted cultural connections between India and Croatia, tracing back centuries. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments and noted that the growing India-EU strategic partnership could further enhance India-Croatia relations. "The two leaders agreed to work together to unlock the full potential of India-Croatia ties," MEA further added. **P7**

Iran-Israel clash spirals: Hospital bombed, nuclear sites hit

Iran's Khamenei 'can no longer be allowed to exist', says Israel

First India Bureau Tel Aviv/Tehran

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "can no longer be allowed to exist," Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Inursday after an Iranian missile hit a hospital in a town near Tel Aviv. "The cowardly Iranian dictator sits in the depths of a fortified bunker and fires missiles at hospitals and residential buildings in Israel. These are war crimes of most serious kind - and Khamenei will be held accountable for this," Katz said. Meanwhile, Iran claimed the main target of the missile attack that hit a hospital was an Israeli military and intelligence base, not the health facility. Israeli rescuers reported at least 47 people were injured in the hospital attack. P7



ON CALL, PUTIN AND XI TERM WEST ASIA 'TOP PRIORITY'; CONDEMN ISRAELI STRIKES





Al171 black box not being sent to US for forensic probe: Centre

> First India Bureau New Delhi

Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu confirmed during a meeting on Thursday that, "It has been reported in certain media outlets that the

Over 110 Indian students from Iran via Armenia reached Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, on Thursday, under 'Operation Sindhu' facilitated by the Government of India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping "strongly condemned" Israeli aerial strikes on Iran, urging both parties to "end hostilities through diplomatic means". Xi and Putin also acknowledged in the call that cessation of hostilities in West Asia was the "top priority". "Promoting a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities is the top priority. Armed force is not the correct way to resolve international disputes," Xi said, according to Xinhua.



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was greeted by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD and Editor in-Chief of First India News at the Jaipur International Airport on Thursday. He also received a warm welcome from Deputy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, BJP State President Madan Rathore, former Minister Pratap Singh Singhvi, and BJP leaders Bhupendra Saini, Ajit Mandan, Neeraj Jain, Mohan Morwal, and Mahendra Shekhawat, among others. Pradhan was in the Pink City to attend 9th Convocation and Dedication & Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer and to inaugurate the newly constructed Lecture Hall Complex at Manipal University, Jaipur. **P8**

IN BRIEF

Air India flight gets bomb threat at Jaipur Airport **Jaipur:** A threat call of bomb in an Air India flight was received at the police control room on Thursday night after which a search operation was conducted at Jaipur Airport but nothing suspicious was found.

seats in 4 states held New Delhi: Bypolls were held largely peaceful, except of a few isolated incidents in five Assembly seats across 4 states namely, Punjab, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala on Thursday, polling officials said. P7

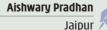
Bypolls for 5 Assembly Justice Varma should be removed: Inquiry Panel New Delhi: Multiple witnesses saw a large pile of

currency notes inside Justice Yashwant Varma's home, but he never filed a police complaint, SC-appointed inquiry panel said, recommending his removal.

CVR/DFDR from the illfated AI171 flight is being sent abroad for retrieval and analysis. The decision regarding the location for decoding the flight recorders will be taken by the AAIB after due assessment of all technical, safety, and security considerations." He added that the AAIB investigation is progressing steadily with all necessary support from local authorities and agencies. Key recovery work, including site documentation and evidence collection, has been completed, and further analysis is now underway.

CM REVIEWS PREPS FOR MUKHYAMANTRI ROJGAR UTSAV TO BE HELD IN JULY

Rajasthan govt is committed to providing jobs to youth: CM Sharma



CM DIRECTS OFFICIALS TO CARRY OUT NECESSARY PREPARATIONS, INSTRUCTS DEPTS TO EXPEDITE PENDING RECRUITMENT PROCESSES SO THAT APPOINTMENT LETTERS CAN BE ISSUED PROMPTLY

hief Minister C Bhajan Lal Sharma has reaffirmed the Rajasthan government's commitment to providing ample employment opportunities for the state's youth, stating that recruitment is being conducted systematically under a structured action plan.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Chief Minister's residence on Thursday, Sharma assessed the preparations for upcoming Mukhyamantri Rojgar Utsav scheduled for July 2025. During the meeting, the Chief Minister



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma chairs review meeting, at CMR, Thursday.

emphasised that recruitment examinations are being held in accordance with the officially announced calendar, ensuring that appointments are made in a time-bound

and transparent manner. CM Sharma also stressed the need for strong legal representation in courts regarding recruitment cases currently stalled due to legal issues.

Tigress Arrowhead dies of bone tumour

Ranthambore's fearless queen bows out after epic final hunt

Nirmal Tiwari

Jaipur/Sawai Madhopur

In a heartbreaking turn of events, Ranthambore's famous tigress, T84 "Arrowhead," passed away on Thursday. This follows the relocation of her 3 cubs from the area. Arrowhead, 16, wellknown tigress in Ranthambore, was the grand-





Hills. Arrowhead had daughter of another fabeen battling a severe mous tigress, "Machhli." bone tumour for some Her daughter, Tigress time, which deteriorated RBT-2507 "Anvi," was her health. Recently, she relocated to Mukundra made headlines by hunt-



Tigress T84 "Arrowhead" dies in Ranthambore, on Thursday

ing a crocodile at Padam Talao, creating history. Her earlier offspring, Tigress Riddhi and Siddhi, continue to be widely recognised.







P5

Jaipur, Friday | June 20, 2025

RAJASTHAN

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Fresh spells disrupt life in Jaipur The IMD has issued an orange alert for Jaipur and surrounding Boys pull a cycle as they districts, warning of moderate to heavy rainfall accompanied by wade through a waterlogged road after heavy rains thunder, lightning, and wind speeds reaching up to 60 km/h. The in Jaipur's Walled City on Thursday. 💿 NAIM KHAN

> Commuters wade through a severely waterlogged stretch of Tonk Road 💿 PANKAJ SHARMA following heavy rainfall in Jaipur on Thursday.

Ziauddin Khan

Jaipur

With the southwest monsoon making a strong entry into Rajasthan, Jaipur, experienced intense rainfall on Thursday, causing widespread disruptions across several localities.

The heavy downpour, which marked the first major spell of the season, led to traffic congestion, waterlogging, and damage to property in multiple areas of the city.

In 22 Godam area, a tree collapsed onto a car during the storm, leaving the vehicle damaged. The incident highlighted the risk posed by poorly maintained roadside trees.

First India Bureau Jaipur

IMD has cautioned residents to stay indoors during thunderstorms

and to avoid areas vulnerable to water accumulation or falling trees

The first spell of pre-monsoon rain in Jaipur has starkly exposed the poor execution of a ₹48-crore drainage culvert box project on Sirsi Road, with multiple concrete boxes sinking into the ground and roads caving in, raising serious safety concerns for commuters.

Several vehicles were reported to have sunk along stretches where the boxes had been installed, particularly in areas like Panchyawala, Meenawala, and Vindhyaka. With

CM launched Drainage Culvert Project 4 mths ago

Ugly truth of ₹48 cr drainage project after pre-monsoon rain



A car stuck in a drain after first spell of rain; (R) structural failures in drainage work in city.

the full monsoon yet to was meant to prevent wa- vert boxes. As a result, soil begin, the early rains have terlogging during the already highlighted strucrainy season.

tural failures in the drain-However, contrary to age work. Launched just 4 tender specifications, conmonths ago with a fountractors failed to impledation laid by CM Bhajan ment crucial groundwork Lal Sharma, the project before installing the cul-

erosion has emerged alongside entire lines of newly installed boxes, while rainwater drainage

the boxes without laychambers have collapsed, ing a layer of gravel and exposing hazardous pits cement, due to which the throughout the route. ground is sinking



involved in irregularities in RGHS! Recently, there was news related to 58 allopathic phar-

macies being removed from the panel. On the instructions of the Finance Department, the Drug Commissionerate tightened the noose on the pharmacies. A list of pharmacies involved in irregularities has been sent to the district-wise Assistant Drug Controllers. Drug Controller Rajaram Sharma sent a letter and instructed to investigate these pharmacies. Also, instructions were given that if in future, a name of the RGHS authorised shop comes in randomisation, then an inspection should be done.

'Vague' answer on shifting of Wushu competition!

Sports Council Secretary Rajendra Singh sent an incomplete reply to the government about the Wushu national competition shifted from SMS Stadium to Purnima University. The organisers had written a letter citing a bomb threat as the reason. But the Sports Council Secretary sent a factual report of incomplete truth. The reason for shifting was stated to be the free empty hostel in the university.

After rain crisis: **Our capital Jaipur** was not like this! Despite facilities and budget, the responsible people are spoiling the face of the capital. Every day, rain in the capital is exposing the preparations of the JMCG. Somewhere vehicles stopped, somewhere there was a long line of vehicles. City residents kept passing through the roads, which turned into rivers after a short rain. Potholes are

being dug in Mahesh

Nagar, Kartarpur Gate

and Mansarovar area.

Original OBC, MBC and OBC given preference for BJP district presidents

BJP has 44 district presidents. About 90 per cent of the district presidents are new and Sangh loyal faces. Original OBC, MBC and OBC classes were given preference. Among the new faces, the prominent names are Gajpal Singh in Udaipur city, Amit Goyal in Jaipur city, Manoj Batad in Sikar, Pushkar Teli in Udaipur rural area, Shyam Pancharia in Bikaner rural areas, Chandrveer Chauhan in Tonk, Harshvardhan Sharma in Jhalawar, Sunil Bhandari in Pali, and Suresh Saini in Jaipur rural are some of the prominent names.

ACB books Rajsamand Jpr: SOG & police bust fake currency racket District Collector Dr. Jitendra dairy chairman for Kumar conducts CRIME **JAIPUR: FEMALE GOVT SCHOOL TEACHER HELD** demanding bribe ROUNDUP public hearing FOR MAKING HOAX BOMB CALL TO PCR A woman was detained by the police on Thursday Navin Sharma **First India Bureau First India Bureau BHARATPUR: ACB NABS** Jaipu Jaipur

A case has been registered against Laxminarayan Gurjar, Chairman of the Rajsamand District Milk Producers Cooperative Union, on charges of demanding a bribe. According to the ACB, Gurjar allegedly solicited a bribe of ₹5.20 lakh from a complainant in exchange for allowing uninterrupted operation of milk tankers. The accused demanded ₹40,000 per tanker as a monthly bribe to ensure that the vehicles could run without obstruction. The bribe was allegedly solicited as "monthly payment" for allowing smooth tanker movement without interference from union.

ASI RED HANDED WHILE TAKING ₹5,000 BRIBE

Jaipur District-level public hear- In a joint operation, the

PROJECT WAS MEANT

TO STOP WATERLOGGING

DURING RAINY SEASON

Many culvert boxes of

drainage project on Sirsi

road sank into the ground

Culvert boxes can prove

per tender conditions, many

vehicles sank into the ground

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal

Sharma had laid the founda-

drainage culvert box project

The contractor made

tion stone of ₹ 48 crore

fatal if work is not done as

due to heavy rain



after she made a false bomb threat call to the police control room, triggering a brief security alert in the

region. According to officials, the woman allegedly called the police control room claiming that a bomb had been planted, causing panic and prompting immediate action from law enforcement agencies. However, upon investigation, the call was found to be a hoax. The accused woman, who is reportedly a government school teacher, was traced and detained by Vidhayakpuri Police from the Hathnoda area.

Bharatpur: The ACB Bharatpur Unit on Thursday apprehended Assistant Sub-Inspector Prithviraj of the Ghanoli Mod Police Station, District Bharatpur, red-handed while



Prakash Meharda, Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau, the ACB Bharatpur outpost had received a complaint alleging that ASI Prithviraj was demanding a bribe of ₹5,000 in exchange for facilitating a court order to release the complainant's vehicle, which had been involved in an accident.

ditorium on Thursday. District Collector Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni heard the complaints of 182 complainants, including 86 complaints related to revenue cases, out of which 22 cases were disposed of on the spot.

For quick disposal of other cases, the Collector directed the officials of the concerned department to take necessary action. MLA Prashant Sharma was also present on this occasion.

A total of 182 cases were received in the district level public hearing.

need for collective efforts

to harvest and preserve

rainwater, particularly in

the face of rising environ-

Describing the award-

mental challenges.

ing was organised in the Special Operations Group District Collectorate Au-(SOG) and Amarsar Police on Thursday uncovered a significant counterfeit currency racket, seizing fake notes worth approximately ₹4.03 lakh. The operation wass carried out following a coordinated raid at a residence near Bilanderpur.

The police apprehended one suspect, identified as Rajendra alias Bheem Singh, who is allegedly involved in the supply and distribution of counterfeit currency. Authorities believe the seized fake notes were intended for circulation in the local market and possibly beyond.



According to police sources, Rajendra had been operating the racket from the premises for some time. The suspect is currently being interrogated to uncover the full extent of the network.

POLICE, CENTRAL NARCOTICS OFFICIALS SEIZE ILLEGAL NARCOTICS IN SEPARATE OPERATIONS

In a significant crackdown on drug trafficking in Rajasthan, police and central narcotics officials have seized large quantities of illegal narcotics in separate operations conducted in Jhalawar and Chittorgarh districts. In Jhalawar, the Ghatoli Police conducted a highimpact operation leading to the seizure of 311 grams of smack, valued at approximately ₹62 lakh in the illegal market. Acting on specific intelligence, Ghatoli Station House Officer (SHO) Mahaveer Prasad executed the action during a routine barricading exercise at Kohadijhar Tiraaha on Chureliya Road. During the operation, the police intercepted a motorcycle and arrested Ramesh Chand Meena, who was found in possession of the contraband. The motorcycle used in the smuggling was also seized. Authorities have registered a case and are continuing the investigation.

3 HELD FOR KIDNAPPING TWO WOMEN HELD OVER **PROPERTY DEALER FAKE RAPE CASES**

Chandwaji police arrested 3 individuals in connection with the abduction of a property dealer from Achrol, Gopal Yadav. The incident occurred on Wednesday evening and was resolved following prompt action under the supervision of Jaipur Rural SP Anand Sharma. The abducted individual, Yadav was allegedly kidnapped over a financial dispute by Vicky alias Vikram Jat, a resident of Naradpura.

Jaipur: Two cunning women who extorted money by filing false rapes were arrested. Chitrakoot police station arrested Meetu and Indu and recovered ₹2.22 lakh and held them for extortion. Many big people were also made victims of sextortion by the accused. The demand for the accused women started from ₹50 lakh. A victim had approached DCP West Amit Kumar, after which a police team was formed for probe.

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON SOCIETY & NATION-BUILDING IN KOTA Channel your edu into meaningful contributions: Bagade

First India Bureau

Kota

he 8th convocation ceremony of Agriculture University, Kota, was held on Thursday in the presence of Rajasthan Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Bagade, who conferred degrees upon 343 graduating students from the fields of agriculture, horticulture, and forestry.

In his address, the Governor called for a revival of traditional Indian agricultural wisdom, urging



Governor Haribhau Bagade inaugurating the newly constructed main entrance gate of RTU in Kota on Thursday. Later same day, Governor Bagade also planted saplings in the RTU campus.

students and institutions to integrate natural farming methods with modern scientific practices. Emphasising water conservation, he underlined the



Governor and Chancellor Haribhau Bagade presents a degree to a student during the 8th convocation ceremony of Agriculture University held in Kota on Thursday.

ed degrees as symbols of perseverance and responsibility rather than mere certificates, the Governor encouraged students to channel their education

into meaningful contributions to society and nation-building.

He also expressed satisfaction at the remarkable performance of wom-

en students, revealing that out of the total degree recipients, 140 were female. Further, out of the 14 gold medals presented, nine were awarded to female students, including the prestigious Chancellor's and Vice-Chancellor's medals, a testament to the increasing role of women in higher education and academic excellence.

The Governor also released five booklets profiling successful agricultural entrepreneurs and a publication marking the university's golden jubilee torch campaign.

Govt gives prosecution sanction against former **RPSC member Katara**

First India Bureau

Jaipur

In a significant development in the 2022 Teacher Grade-II examination paper leak case, the Rajasthan government has granted prosecution sanction against suspended RPSC member Babu Lal Katara. The sanction comes more than a year after Katara's arrest, with the Special Operations Group (SOG) identifying him as one of the prime accused in the scandal that shook the state's re-

cruitment system.

The matter was presented before the Special Court for ED Cases by BS Chauhan, the special public prosecutor for the SOG. The paper leak case, originally registered on Dec 24, 2022, at the Bekariya Police Station in Udaipur, had uncovered a sophisticated cheating network involving RPSC insiders and external operatives.

According to the investigation, then RPSC Chairman Sanjay Shrotriya had entrusted Katara with the responsibility of preparing the exam paper and answer key.





RAJASTHAN

() FIRST INDIA 05

Arrowhead cremated amid showers of grief at Rajbagh

Nirmal Tiwari Sawai Madhopur

The iconic Tigress T-84 "Arrowhead" of Ranthambore was laid to rest in a solemn ceremony at Rajbagh Chowki, marking the final farewell to one of the most beloved big cats in Ranthambore.

Prior to the cremation, a post-mortem was conducted and senior officials including CCF Anoop KR and Ranger Ashwini Pratap were present. Arrowhead's carcass was found near Jogi Mahal today, marking the end of her battle with a severe bone tumor.

Arrowhead, the granddaughter of Ranthambore's famed tigress Machhli, had been a favorite among tourists for years. Recently, Arrowhead had made headlines for her historic crocodile kill at Padam Talab, even as she struggled with her illness. The news of her passing has left wildlife enthusiasts and local residents heartbroken.

The poignant moment was marked by rain just as Arrowhead's carcass was placed on the pyre. The passing of Arrowhead marks the end of an era. She was a significant symbol of Ranthambore's wild beauty.



During the cremation of Arrowhead, not only government personnel and media representatives but a few private individuals were also present.

Arrowhead's daughter RBT-2507 gets translocated too

First india Bureau Sawai Madhopur

In light of the ongoing human-wildlife conflict incidents in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, RBT-2507 (Kankati), the female cub of the renowned tigress Arrow-

head (T-84), was successfully tranquilized and fitted with a radio collar before being shifted to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Kota. Deputy Conservator of

Forests, First Range, Ranthambore Dr. Ramanand Bhakar led the



tance of key officials from Mukundra Hills, including Deputy Conservator of Forests S. Muthu, Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department Dr. Rajeev Garg, senior Veterinary Guard Jas Karan Singh.

conflict in the area Doctor Dr. C.P. Meena, Assistant Conservator of Forests Tejas Patil, Field Biologist Mohammad Miraj, WWF Project Officer Rajshekhar, Range Forest Officer Ramkhiladi Meena and Home

This relocation

Resident docs to go on strike over doctors' recent deaths

First india Bureau Jodhpur

The resident doctors of Jodhpur's government medical colleges and hospitals have announced an indefinite strike beginning Thursday night at 8:00 PM, in protest against the electrocution death of a senior resident doctor in Udaipur. While emergency, ICU, and CCU services will remain operational, all other medical duties will be suspended as part of

the agitation. The trigger for the latest outrage came from Udaipur, where Dr. Ravi Sharma, a senior resident doctor slated to join RNT Medical College, was found dead in his hostel room. Initial reports suggest he died from an electric shock caused by a faulty water cooler. The tragic incident has raised serious questions about safety and negligence in the hostel infrastructure. Following the incident, hundreds of medical students gathered in protest outside the college principal's office, demanding a high-level inquiry. The situation intensified when

Dr. R.L. Suman, Superintendent of Maharana Bhupal Hospital, visited the mortuary to speak with grieving students.

Exams to go ahead as JDC Anandhi led meet charts planned, says Sahoo traffic reforms for Jaipur

Shubham Jain Ajmer

Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) organised an important press conference on Thursday to clarify the situation amid the controversies and protests arising over the clash of dates of UGC-NET examination and Senior Teacher Recruitment Examination 2024. Commission Chairman UR Sahoo, Secretary Ramniwas Mehta and Controller of Examinations Ashutosh Gupta addressed the media. He said, "We have already released the calendar of the examination, and all been completed. The ex- mail.

Rajasthan Public Service Commission Chief UR Sahoo made it clear that there will be no change in the schedule of **Senior Teacher Examination 2024**

The meeting focused on traffic management issues & urban mobility First india Bureau

A high-level meeting of

across the city.

Jaipur

Board, chaired by Jaipur

Development Commis-



DR KIRODI LAL MEENA IN ACTION **Udaipur fertilizer units** raided to check quality

The visit targeted companies allegedly making substandard fertilizers

Ravi Sharma Udaipur

Rajasthan's Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena conducted a sudden inspection of multiple fertilizer manufacturing units in Udaipur's Umarda industrial area.

Minister Meena launched the operation at Patel Phoschem Limited, marking the beginning of a series of raids on nearly a dozen factories, including Rama Phosphates and several others. Speaking to the media following

MLA Brar meets Pb Guv, flags Ganga Canal crisis First india Bureau

Sadulshahar

Sadulshahar MLA Gurveer Singh Brar met with Punjab Governor Gulabchand Kataria to raise concern over Rajasthan's share of irrigation water from the Ganga Canal, highlighting the ongoing crisis affecting the region. During the meeting, Brar submitted a formal memorandum requesting urgent intervention to ensure that Rajasthan receives its legally allotted share of water from the canal. He emphasized the urgency of the situation, stressing that the shortage is adversely impacting agriculture and livelihoods in considering handing over border regions. Kataria its operations to a private



Dr Kirodi Lal Meena inspecting SSP packets during the action.

sidies.

the inspections, Meena asserted that many of these companies, which manufacture Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer, were not complying with the prescribed quality standards, despite availing government sub-

During the raids, samples were collected from several factories, and Meena revealed that preliminary tests of previously collected samples had already failed quality checks.

Khimsar reviews RGHS; handover to private firm likely



Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar along with department officials during the meeting in Jaipur on Thursday.

Vikas Sharma Jaipur

In a significant development regarding the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS), the state government is insurance agency, similar scheme since its to the existing MAA scheme model. A highlevel meeting chaired by Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar deliberated on the proposal

The meeting, held to assess ways to bring greater transparency and efficiency to the **RGHS**, focused on eliminating the operational irregularities that have plagued the

inception

amination will be conducted as per the scheduled schedule." In response to the ques-

tions of the journalists, Sahoo said that the Commission has also prepared a special system to listen to the problems of the candidates.

If any candidate has any problem regarding the exam dates, then they can convey their point to the preparations have the Commission through



JDC Anandhi addressing the meeting in Jaipur on Thursday.

sioner Anandhi, was conenhancements, among vened at the JDA's Manothers.

than Auditorium to ad-A major outcome was dress traffic management the decision to launch a issues and formulate cojoint anti-encroachment ordinated action plans to campaign across several improve urban mobility city areas, particularly along main roads such as Key resolutions from Tonk Road, JLN Marg, the meeting included the MI Road, Ajmer Road, expansion of vehicle per-Sikar Road, and Delhi mits, regulation of e-rick-Road. In a move to enshaws, & infrastructure hance public transport

options, the permitted scope of auto-rickshaws operating within the

Jaipur Municipal Corporation limits has been in-

creased from 35,000 to 40,000, with 5,000 additional CNG/LPG autos approved. Key urban transport

infrastructure projects were also reviewed during the meeting.

assured of prompt action and communicated with both Punjab CM and the state's Chief Secretary regarding the matter.



ment has transferred the responsibility for the scheme from the Finance Department to the Mediand reviewed the current cal and Health Departshortcomings in scheme's ment, aiming to improve coordination and ac-RGHS has frequently

countability. Discussions during the meeting centered on past operational lapses and potential reforms to ensure smoother execution going forward.

..... **Offering Condolences**



Former CM Vasundhara Raje on Thursday visited the house of late pilot Rajveer Singh Chauhan, who died in a helicopter crash near Kedarnath. Raje offered her condolences to Chauhan's grieving family members.

Rajasthan tops nation in Yoga practising sites Shivendra Singh Parmar

Jaipur

Rajasthan is gearing up to set a record before the International Day for Yoga. The state of Rajasthan has topped the country in terms of registered practice places for yoga. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the state has secured the first position in the country. A total of 1 lakh 90 thousand 750 places have been registered for practicing yoga in the state. In this list, Andhra Pradesh is second and Madhya Pradesh is third. This time, the organization of Yoga Day in the state will be historic.

TOURISM BOOST

State pushes forward 28 religious tourism proposals worth over ₹100 cr

First india Bureau Jaipur

KEY PROJECTS REVIEWED INCLUDE

implementation.

mismanagement.

been in the spotlight due

to various inconsisten-

cies and allegations of

In a key structural

shift, the state govern-

 Radha Madhav Temple, Jaipur 	₹641.76 lakh
Khedapati Balaji Temple, Jaipur	₹514.13 lakh
 Bhaumiyaji Temple, Jaipur 	₹255.19 lakh
 Murli Manohar Temple, Dwarka (Gujarat) 	₹215.82 lakh
 Devmali (Masuda), Beawar (largest proposal under review) 	₹31.99 crore
Ramdevra Pokaran Temple, Jalore	₹1,055.18 lakh
 Hanumdeshwar Mahadev Temple, Balotra 	₹3 crore
Mandalgarh Fort, ancient stepwells, and museum complex, Bhilwara	₹497.22 lakh
Prasarsar Pond and Sawan-Bhadon Temple, Asind	₹3 crore
Bhootnath Mahadev Temple, Todaraisingh, Tonk	₹423 lakh
 Jain Nasiyan Ji, Viratnagar, Kotputli-Behror 	₹687.68 lakh
 Development in Ramgarh region, Baran 	₹90 lakh
Shri Jagan Shyamji Temple, Udaipur	₹491.15 lakh

art, and culture sectors. Formed under the directive of Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, ₹2 crore in the tourism, the committee evaluated

the implementation status, financial approvals, project impact, and quality of Detailed Project Reports for each propos-

al. The committee issued directions to ensure timely execution and maintain high construction standards.







ajasthan is set

to witness a renewed push in religious tourism and heritage conservation, with the state government conducting a highlevel review of 28 development proposals valued at over ₹100 crore. The review was carried out by a committee chaired by Omkar Singh Lakhawat, Chairman of the Heritage Promotion Authority, to assess the progress of budget announcements exceeding

Jaipur, Friday | June 20, 2025

() FIRST INDIA 06

PM: QS World University Rankings great news for India's edu sector

New Delhi

The QS World University 2026 Rankings bring great news for our education sector, as the government is committed to furthering research and innovation ecosystems for the benefit of India's youth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, highlighting how India added 43 more universities in the list since 2014.

"The QS World University 2026 Rankings bring great news for our education sector. Our Government is committed to furthering research and innovation ecosystems for the benefit of India's youth," the Prime Minister wrote in a post on X.

Reposting the post by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hailed the improvement in India's ranking, from having only 11 universities in the QS world university rankings in 2014 to 54 Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) being included this year.

PM MODI TO VISIT BIHAR, ODISHA, ANDHRA **DURING TWO-DAY TOUR FROM TODAY**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three-state visit for two days from Friday, a tour that will include the launch of multiple development projects in Bihar and Odisha and his participating in a mass yoga programme on the Interna-tional Day of Yoga. Modi will be in Siwan in Bihar and Bhubaneswar in Odisha on Friday and will also address public meetings, an official statement said. With the maiden Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Odisha completing one year, the prime minister will chair a state-level function to mark the anniversary.

strongest-ever perfor- list, a 390 per cent inmance in the QS World University Rankings 2026, with 54 institutions India has achieved its making it to the global

Calling the increase in the institutions being included in the list, Union Minister Pradhan highlighted it as a "testament to the transformative educational reforms ushered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

According to QS World University Rankings 2026, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has emerged as the country's topranked institution, securing the 123rd spot globally -- a jump of 27 places from last year's position of 150.

PM Modi to flag off second Vande Bharat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off the second Vande Bharat Express for Gorakhpur on Friday, announced Railway Board Chairman and CEO Satish Kumar during his visit to the Gorakhpur Junction on Thursday.

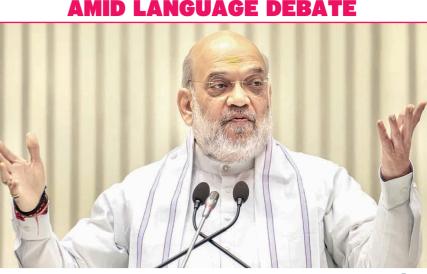
tivity in the region. Kumar, accompanied

by North Eastern Railway (NER) General Manager Saumya Mathur and senior railway officials, conducted an extensive inspection of the station premises, integrated crew lobby, running room, and other pas-

for Gorakhpur PTI New Delhi

speak English in the country would soon feel

ashamed. Speaking at a book launch event, the Home Minister underscored that native languages were central to India's identity and should take precedence over foreign



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaking during an event in New Delh

D FILE

Those who speak English will soon feel ashamed: Shah

Agencies New Delhi

SHAH TO VISIT SECURITY CAMP, REVIEW **ANTI-NAXAL OPERATIONS IN CHHATTISGARH**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit a security camp and chair a meeting to review ongoing anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh during his two-day trip to the state starting from June 22. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma said on Thursday. He will also lay foundation stones for a National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and a state forensic lab in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar on the first day of his visit (Sunday). The state government has allotted 40 acres of land for NFSU, which will be built by the Centre at a cost of around Rs 400 crore.

ety is not far away. I believe that the languages of our country are the jewels of our culture. Without our languages, we cease to be truly Indian," Shah said.

country, our culture, our history, and our religion, no foreign language can suffice. The idea of a complete India cannot be imagined through halfbaked foreign languag-

"To understand our es," he asserted.

Sensex, Nifty extend

losses into 3rd session

amid global tensions

India's Covid cases below 6,000; three deaths in past 24 hrs

New Delhi

The active Covid-19 tally in India case crossed the 6,000 mark on Sunday with 769 fresh infections logged in the past two days, according to the latest update from the Union



While the majority of infections remain mild and are being

PM Modi, Congress chief Kharge wish Rahul on his 55th birthday

PT New Delhi

crease over the past dec-

ade and the highest

growth among G20

countries.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his 55th birthday on Thursday. He said on X, "Birthday greetings to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok

Sabha, Shri Rahul Gandhi.

May he be blessed with a

long and healthy life.'



RAHUL TO VISIT ODISHA IN SECOND WEEK OF JULY

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is set to visit Odisha in the second week of July, Odisha Pradesh onaress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das said on Thursday. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge is likely to accompany him and both will address a public meeting here, Das said adding, thousands of party workers and leaders will attend this meeting in Bhubaneswar. Meanwhile, Congress leaders have visited various districts regarding some recent incidents, including crimes against women and cholera outbreak. A 12-member team led by MLA Rajan Eka visited Jaipur and Bhadrak districts, that are facing a cholera outbreak and interacted with locals.

ΡΤΙ

Mumbai

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower for the third straight session on Thursday, in line with weak trends in global markets, as geopolitical uncertainties due to the



senger facilities. tongues. Kumar also reviewed "In this country, those who speak English will the station redevelopment plans under the soon feel ashamed - the Rs 500-crore. creation of such a soci-

The new train will connect Patliputra to Amid a simmering lan-Gorakhpur via Muzaffaguage row, Union Home rpur and Narkatiaganj, Minister Amit Shah further boosting connecopened another front by asserting that those who

health ministry data.

As of now, India has 6,133 active Covid cases, with the ministry confirming six fatalities in the last 24 hours. Kerala continues to report the highest number of active cases, followed by Gujarat, West Bengal and Delhi.

According to the health ministry data, the active cases in Kerala stand at 1950 and two deaths reported since yesterday. Gujarat's active cases total stands at 822, followed by Bengal at 693, and Delhi at 686. Maharashtra and Karnataka have reported 595 and 366 cases, respectreated at nome officials have emphasised on preparedness

tively. Since yesterday, two deaths were reported in Karnataka, while one

Nadu. In view of the rising Covid cases, the central health authorities are conducting mock drills to check and ensure facility-level preparedness and have directed all states to maintain uninterrupted oxygen sup-

medicines.

person died in Tamil

plies, isolation beds, ventilators, and essential

Mallikarjun cluding Kharge and Ashok Gehlot, extended birthday greetings to Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Oppo-

sition in the Lok Sabha, on his 55th birthday, commending his unwavering commitment to constitutional values, social justice, and the upliftment of marginalised

communities. They described him as a compassionate leader who continues to champion the rights of the unheard and uphold the ideals of democracy.

Kharge lauded Gandhi's deep sense of empa-

Congress leaders, in-Rahul Gandhi meets Congress workers and well-wishers on the occasion of his birthday, at the AICC headquarters, in New Delhi.

BUNGALOW NO 5, SUNEHRI BAGH ROAD IS RAHUL GANDHI'S NEW ADDRESS; SHIFTING BEGINS

Bungalow No. 5, Sunehri Bagh Road, will be Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's new address and he has started the process of shifting on the occasion of his birthday on Thursday but will start living there before the next Parliament session, party sources said. Gandhi has agreed to have 5, Sunehri Bagh Road as his official residence, they said. He started shifting his belongings from Thursday to the new accommodation, the sources said. Gandhi will start living in that bungalow in a few days from now before the Monsoon Session of Parliament begins on July 21, they said.

thy and commitment to the marginalised.

"What sets you apart is your unequivocal dedication to the Constitution's

values and your compassion for social, economic justice for the millions whose voices often go unheard," Kharge said.

ongoing Iran-Israel conflict unnerved investors. The US Fed's decision

to keep interest rates unchanged and rising global crude prices also dampened market sentiment, experts said.

In a largely volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 82.79 points, or 0.10 per cent, to settle at 81,361.87. During the day, it hit a high of 81,583.94 and a low of 81,191.04, gyrating 392.9 points.

As many as 3,018 stocks declined, while 959 advanced and 140 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty dipped 18.80 points or 0.08 per cent to 24,793.25.

"The Indian equity index experienced rangebound movement with a negative bias as cautious sentiment spread across the globe, driven by concerns over the potential US involvement in the Middle East conflict.

From the Sensex firms, Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, Nestle and Tata Steel were among the major laggards.

IMD forecast heavy rainfall in Jharkhand

PTI Ranchi

Schools in five districts of Jharkhand including Ranchi will remain closed on Friday as the IMD has forecast heavy rainfall, an official said.

All schools in Ranchi, Khunti and West Singhbhum districts will remain closed on Friday while in East Singhbhum and Saraikela-Kharswan districts schools will suspend classes up to class 8.

Ranchi recorded 216.1 mm rains in past 24 hours.

DHANKHAR MEETS MURMU; SIKKIM CM MEETS DHANKHAR



Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang met the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in New Delhi on Thursday. During the meeting, the Chief Minister presented the Vice President with a commemorative souvenir, a ₹50 silver coin, and a specially issued postage stamp, all launched to mark the Golden Jubilee of Sikkim's statehood. During the meeting, CM extended a formal invitation to Dhankhar to visit Sikkim and address the state's legislators and students, sharing his insights and experiences with the community.







() FIRST INDIA 07

BRASS TREE, SILVER POT, PAINTINGS

PM'S 'SLICE OF INDIA' GIFTS TO G7 LEADERS

Handcrafted Brass Bodhi Tree from Bihar for Canadian Prime Minister

Emmanuel Macron received handcrafted Dokra Nandi sculpture

Maharashtra's traditional Warli painting for Mexican President



File photo of Prime Minister addressing media in Croatia.

Agencies diverse Indian traditions.

The gifts for the world leaders were sourced As PM Narendra Modi from various parts of the met world leaders during country. Let's explore the G7 Summit in Canathe unique gifts presented to each leader and the da, which was held over rich cultural heritage bethe weekend, he gifted them a variety of art and hind these handcrafted craft pieces representing works.

I BRASS BODHI TREE

New Delhi

PM Modi gifted Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney a handcrafted Brass Bodhi Tree during the G7 Summit in Canada. This intricate sculpture from Bihar represents the sacred tree where Buddha attained enlightenment, symbolising wisdom, peace and spiritual awakening

2 DOKRA NANDI

Emmanuel Macron received a handcrafted Dokra Nandi sculpture from Tamil Nadu from PM Modi during the G7 Summit in Canada. Made using the ancient lost-wax technique, the sculpture depicts Nandi, Lord Shiva's sacred

bull, featuring intricate open latticework and a vibrant red saddle that highlights traditional Indian metal artistry.

3) WARLI PAINTING



Warli painting during the G7 Summit in Canada. Originat-

mud backgrounds to depict everyday village life, featuring scenes like farming, dancing and celebrations, symbolising community and tradition.

4 MADHUBANI PAINTING

The prime minister gifted South Korean President Lee Jae-myung a traditional Madhubani painting during the G7 Summit in Canada. Originating from Bihar, India, Madhubani art is known for its vibrant colors, bold outlines and intricate designs depicting nature, mythology, and cultural stories. Traditionally created by women.

(5) BRASS DOKRA HORSE



PM Modi gifted South African President Cyril Ramaphosa a handcrafted Brass Dokra Horse from Chhattisgarh during the G7 Summit in Canada. Made using the ancient lost-wax casting technique by tribal artisans, the sculpture symbolises power, loyalty, and devotion.

6 6 6 6

GING

CANE AND BAMBOO BOAT

Brazilian President Luiz Incio Lula da Silva a handcrafted cane and bamboo boat with a swan figurine during the G7 Summit in Canada. This ecofriendly piece from Meghalaya reflects the region's rich cultural heritage and traditional

10 KOLHAPURI SILVER POT



Modi gifted Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese a Kolhapuri silver pot during the G7 Summit in Canada. Crafted from pure silver with intricate hand-engraved floral and paisley designs, this traditional pot from Maharashtra symbolises both beauty and ceremonial heritage.



PM gifted German Chancellor Friedrich Merz a sandstone replica of the Konark Wheel during the G7 Summit in Canada. This intricately carved piece from Odisha mirrors the 13thcentury Sun Temple's iconic wheel, symbolising time and the universe.



SILVER FILIGREE CLUTCH



The prime minister gifted Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, a silver filiaree clutch purse during the G7 Summit. This exquisite handcrafted piece from Cuttack. Odisha, showcases the 500-year-old Tarakasi art, featuring delicate lacelike designs made from fine twisted silver wires.

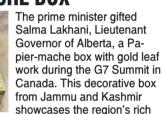
🕕 EBONY WOOD JALI WORK BOX

PM Modi gifted Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, an elegant ebony wood jali work box with silver nakkashi inlay during the G7 Summit. Crafted in Rajasthan, the hand-carved box features intricate jali patterns and



a vibrant hand-painted peacock on the lid, showcasing centuries-old traditional craftsmanship.

11 PAPIER-MACHE BOX



artistry, featuring hand-painted floral and scenic designs with vibrant colors and delicate gold accents.

President Murmu arrives in **Bypolls conclude peacefully in five** Israeli forces kill 16 in Gaza, Dehradun on three-day visit Assembly segments across 4 states including those seeking aid

Vinod Kumar Dehradun

President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Dehradun



Results will be declared on Jun 23 ΡΤΙ Ludhiana/Ahmedabad







craftsmanship. PM Modi gifted Mexican

President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo a traditional ing from Maharashtra's Warli tribe, this folk art uses simple white rice paste designs on

The prime minister gifted

on I nursday for a threeday official visit to Uttarakhand from June 19 to 21. Her key engagements are centered around the Presidential Retreat 'Ashiana' on Rajpur Road, which she will formally inaugurate and open to the public.

On June 19, she inaugurated an amphitheatre, while on June 20 — also her birthday — she will participate in multiple events including the opening of Rashtrapati Ashiana, the inauguration of Rashtrapati Tapovan, and the foundation-laying of Rashtrapati Udvan.

She will also visit the

President Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on her arrival, in Dehradun. Also seen is Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh.

National Institute for the radun. In view of her Empowerment of Pervisit, the Dehradun posons with Visual Disabillice have enforced strict ities and release a commemorative postal stamp and issued traffic divermarking 125 years of the sions across major routes. Nainital Raj Bhavan. Citizens have been ad-

On June 21, President vised to use alternative Murmu will take part in roads and cooperate with the International Yoga police during the high-Day celebrations in Dehsecurity period.

By-elections were held on Thursday in five Assembly seats across West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, and Gujarat, largely witnessing peaceful polling. West Bengal's Kaliganj recorded nearly 70% turnout till 5 pm, where TMC fielded Nasiruddin Ahamed's daughter, Alifa Ahamed.

BJP's Ashis Ghosh alsecurity arrangements leged procedural violations, which officials denied. In Kerala's Nilambur, over 59% polling was recorded by 3 pm. Former MLA P.V. Anvar, now contesting as an independent, criticized



AAP leader Sanjeev Arora with his family members shows his inked finger after casting vote for the Ludhiana West Assembly bypoll in Punjab on Thursday.

mainstream parties for ignoring local issues.

Gujarat's Visavadar and Kadi constituencies recorded over 54% voter turnout. A three-cornered fight was seen in both seats with BJP, Congress, and AAP contesting. Visavadar gained atten-

an 18-year losing streak. Punjab's Ludhiana West saw 49% turnout till 3 pm, with AAP, Congress, BJP, and SAD in the fray. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urged people to vote in large numbers. A total of 1,354 polling



Agencies Gaza

A volunteer assists an elderly voter at a polling booth in Kaliganj seat in West Bengal.

tion as BJP aims to break stations were set up, with webcasting in 1,353. For the first time, mobile phone deposit counters were introduced. The EC deployed central forces to ensure security. The bypolls were necessitated due to deaths or resignations of sitting MLAs.

Israeli troops killed at least 16 Palestinians including those trying desperately to get food in Gaza On Thursday.

On Wednesday, the forces had killed at least 29 Palestinians. The day before, at least 70 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces as they gathered at a Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) aid distribution site in Khan Younis.

They were gunned down by drones, machine gun fire and tanks, according to survivors.

The GHF is an Israeli and United States-backed body staffed by private security contractors. Israel set it up in May to replace United Nationsled relief operations, yet dozens of Palestinians have been gunned down on at least eight occasions at GHF sites.

"This happens to some extent every day. It's becoming a routine," said Yasser al-Banna, a journalist in Gaza.

Since Israel began attacking Iran on June 13, global attention on the plight of Palestinians in the occupied territory has faded from the headlines.

TRUMP EMBRACES PAKISTAN

Trump hosts Pak army chief, disagrees with India over India-Pak war mediation



Washington



hosted Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House in an unprecedented meeting that risked worsening a disagreement with India over the president's claim that he stopped last month's conflict between the nuclear-armed South Asian foes.



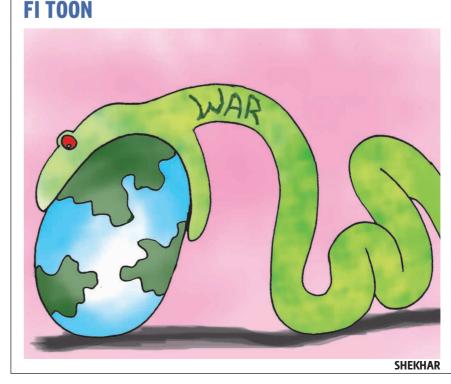
The lunch meeting was ly regarded as the most the first time a US presipowerful figure in the dent had hosted the head country, at the White of Pakistan's army, wide-House unaccompanied

by senior Pakistani civilian officials.

Trump said he was honoured to meet Munir and that they had discussed Iran, which he said Pakistan knew better than most.

"Two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war; that could have been a nuclear war. I stopped two countries who are nucle-

ar powers," President Trump told reporters on his role in India-pakistan ceasefire.









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11 FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

III THOUGHT OF THE DAY Good leaders make everyone feel they belong. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



Assembly Speaker visits France

Union Min's Raj Tour Convocation is where learning meets duty, he says Learning must reflect roots & progress: Union Min Pradhan



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, hands over a degree to a student during the 9th Convocation of CURAJ in Ajmer on Thursday. Union MoS Bhagirath Choudhary, Prof Anand Bhalerao, the Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Rajasthan were present at the event.

Shivangi Singh Rao and Shubham Jain Jaipur/Ajmer

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan presided over the 9th Convocation Ceremony of the Central University of Rajasthan on Thursday. Union Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Choudhary, Vice Chancellor Prof. Anand Bhalerao, and other dignitaries were students, emphasizing present. Pradhan congratulated graduating not an end but a mile-



Union Minister inaugurates the newly constructed Lecture Hall Complex at the Manipal University in Jaipur on Thursday. MP Manju Sharma and others were present.

stone in lifelong learning. He urged students to that convocation marks embrace responsibility

Union Min Dharmendra Pradhan with Union MoS Bhagirath Choudhary, Raj Ministers Rajyavardhan Rathore, Madan Dilawar, MP Manju Sharma & others at Manipal University Jaipur. **The Union Minister**

praised Rajasthan's consistent excellence in exams like JEE and NEET, calling it a timeless cradle of knowledge, science,

art, and literature—a legacy, he said, that must continue with modern thinking & a spirit of innovation

and contribute to nationbuilding. Praising Rajasthan's excellence in

Tourism gaining ground again in

exams like JEE and NEET, he called it a cradle of knowledge, literature, and science. A total of 1,693 students received degrees across various programmes. New infrastructure was inaugurated and foundations laid.

Later, at Manipal University, Jaipur, he inaugurated a modern lecture hall, praising it as a symbol of NEP 2020's vision, blending heritage with modern education to inspire excellence & pride.

India's upcoming Rafale deal and joint military drills as signs of growing defence ties. He also interacted with French lawmakers, scholars, and the Indian diaspora.

Stronger India-France ties reflect core values: Devnani **Gopendra Nath Bhatt** New Delhi

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, during his France visit, said the India-France strategic partnership promotes liberty, equality, and fraternity. In Paris, he visited the National Assembly and met MP Thierry Tesson, Chairman of the India-France Parliamentary Friendship Group. Devnani discussed cooperation in nuclear energy, counter-terrorism, smart cities, digital technology, and AI.

He noted 10 MoUs were signed during PM Modi's February visit. The student exchange goal has risen from 10,000 to 30,000. Devnani praised France's secularism and studied its semi-presidential system, Napoleonic legal code, and bicameral legislature. Devnani cited



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani meets French politician, Thierry Tesson, the newly appointed President of the India-France Friendship Group in the French National Assembly.



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani seeks information about France's parliamentary and legislative processes during his visit to France. Thierry Tesson was also present.

Om Birla pledges swift action on public issues



Neeti Gopendra Bhatt Srinagar

Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said Operation Sindoor has rekindled hope in Kashmir and revived tourism. During his visit to Pahalgam, he met lo-



ECI to schedule Anta bypoll likely by September First India Bureau

Jaipur

The Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan has formally recommended holding a by-election for the Anta Assembly constituency to the Election Commission of India. following the disqualifi-

Pilot, Jully connect over Rahul's birthday in Delhi





at the Camp Office in Shakti Nagar area in Kota on Thursday

Bhanwar S Charan Kota

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on a visit to the Kota-Bundi parliamenconstituency, tary reached his camp office in Shaktinagar on Thursday and held a Janta Darbar to hear public grievances. Birla, currently on a week-long tour of his constituency, interacted with citizens and gave necessary in-

structions to officials for swift redressal.

He shared on social

media that important

suggestions related to

area development were

also received and will be

acted upon on a priority

basis in line with public

expectations. The out-

reach marked a focused

effort to connect with

constituents and address

local concerns through

direct engagement and

responsive governance.

a terror attack, calling him a true hero. Locals expressed full faith in the army and government. Shekhawat visited Avantipura temples and discussed heritage conservation and tourism development. He said tourism is being expanded at the grassroots under PM Modi's vision. At a dinner with CM Omar Abdullah, both discussed infrastructure & making J&K a global tourist hub.

Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Omar Abdullah during a warm conversation with Union Minister GS Shekhawat at the Chief Minister's residence in Srinagar on Thursday.



Union Minister Gaiendra Singh Shekhawat visits the Avantipora temple complex in Kashmir on Thursday

The success of **Operation Sindoor has** rekindled a new spirit among the people of Kashmir–confidence is returning, tourism is reviving, and the world will soon see a new, peaceful Kashmir.

GAJENDRA S SHEKHAWAT. NION MINISTER

cation of sitting MLA Kanwar Lal Meena. The seat is now officially vacant. Preparations for poll have already begun in anticipation of the Commission's approval. Sources suggest the bypoll may take place in September. There is also a possibility it could coincide with the Bihar Assembly polls, depending on the Election Commission's final schedule. The ECI will now review the recommendation and announce the official polling date in due course.



AICC General Secy KC Venugopal with Congress leader Sachin Pilot at the Mega Job Fair organised by the Indian Youth Congress at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi on Thursday.

First India Bureau New Delhi

Senior Congress leaders from Rajasthan, including LoP Tikaram Jully and former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot, met at Pilot's AICC office, holding what's seen as a politically significant discussion. The day marked Rahul Gandhi's birthday, drawing several state

leaders to the Congress HQ. Jully offered Rajasthan-style laddoos to Gandhi, calling it a symbol of the state's warmth. Pilot praised the Youth Congress job fair held in Rahul's honour, calling it a 'unique and impactful initiative' and said such efforts show that politics should be about meaningful public engagement, not just power.

POWER TUSSLE Revenue Min Hemant Meena's order sparks debate in administrative circles

Rajendra Chhabra

Jaipur order issued Revenue Minister Hemant Meena has become a topic of discussion in administrative circles. According to the order, the Revenue Board will no longer be able to take direct action against Tehsildars. Before taking any action, prior approval from the Revenue Minister will have to be taken. Following this, disciplinary proceedings like chargesheet under 16 CCA, 17 CCA, and suspensions, cannot be initiated without the approval ee under the RSR and

of the minister.

Administrative experts argue that the minister's order is both impractical and potentially illegal. This is the first time such a directive has been issued in the history of the Revenue Board. The **Revenue Board operates** as an independent body, with no interference from the minister or the Revenue Department in its day-to-day functioning. The Revenue Board is also the appointing authority for Tehsildars and only the appointing authority has the legal power to take action against the government employ-



CCA rules. In such a situation, the

Chairman of the Revenue Board is legally empowered to take action against Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars or Patwaris working in 2006, when ACS Parunder the Board. There is no provision for interference by the Minister or

the government in this process

The Chairman of the Revenue Board held full authority over the transfer of Tehsildars. However, mesh Chandra served as Chairman, he refused to accept a transfer list sent war Singh, also disregard-

ABHAY KUMAR TAKES CHARGE OF HOME DEPT Additional Chief Secretary Abhay Kumar is currently overseeing the Home Department, as Anand Kumar is on leave for foreign travel until June 30. Abhay Kumar, who previously held the command of the Home Department from August 2020 to October 2022 and has significant experience of this department. Notably, he is also closely involved in the ongoing "Vande Ganga Abhiyan," actively touring alongside Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma as part of the campaign.

by the then Revenue Minister, which caused a controversy. Since then, transfer lists have been sent officially by the Revenue Department rather than the Minister. In 2022, the then Chairman of the Revenue Board, Rajesh-

ed an order from Revenue Minister Harish Choudhary to cancel transfers of certain Tehsildars.

Experts believe that minister Hemant Meena's recent order is an administrative order and the Revenue Board is not legally bound to follow

it. For this order to have legal standing, the RSR rules would need to be amended at the government level, a process that could take a considerable amount of time.

A senior IAS officer, who has served as Chairman of the Revenue Board, said that nearly 2000 officers of Tehsildar Service are working in the board. The minister's interference could dismantle the entire system, as the Chairman holds supervi-

sory control over the work of Tehsildars and with the interference of the minister, the Chairman would become "teethless".

Across the country,

where a Revenue Board is established and in all of these states, the Chairman of the Board is an ACS-level officer. However, in Rajasthan, for the first time, a Princi-

there are seven states

pal Secretary-level IAS officer from the 1997 batch has been appointed as Chairman. As a result, the current Chairman is relatively weaker, and the Minister's new order is likely to further undermine his authority.

Experts suggest that the position of Chairman should be held by an IAS officer of ACS seniority to strengthen the Board's functioning.









Glamour | Fashion | Bollywood | Hollywood | Lifestyle

Stunning Wildcard Winners: (L–R) Manika Suthar, Wachi Pareek, Roosh Sindhu, Saanvi Sharma, Riddhi Kumar, Mehak Dhingra, Himanshi Singh, Akanksha Choudhary, Asmita Chowdhury, Lekana Hegde, Raksha Jaiswal, Ojasvi Sharma, Sanjana Sood, Shivin Ganesan, Varshini Murugan, Samiksha Singh, Saumya Verma and Divyanshi Sachi

Miss Universe India 2025 state level pageants, presented by Bharat24 and First India Newspaper, were held on June 15 at Opulent Hotel by Ferns and Petals, New Delhi. City First brings exclusive glimpses of this glamorous event curated by Glamanand Group.





Mitali Dusad

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he Opulent Hotel by Ferns and Petals, New Delhi, witnessed a dazzling celebration of beauty, intelligence and grace as the Glamanand Group hosted the grand finale of Miss Universe Punjab and Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025. The glittering evening brought together 40 contestants, 20 from each state, who showcased their charisma and confidence across multiple segments, vying for a prestigious gateway to the national stage of Miss Universe India.

Ravitanya Sharma emerged duction and a compelling Quesvictorious as Miss Universe tion & Answer segment. Con-

the visionary leadership of Nikhil Anand, Chairman and Founder of Glamanand Group and the National Director of Miss Universe India. The judging panel, comprising stalwarts from the fashion and lifestyle world, ensured that excellence was honoured in every round.

Joining Nikhil Anand on the panel were Rhea Singha, Miss Universe India 2024 from Gujarat; Pranjal Priya, Miss Universe India 2024 First Runner-up; Lt. Rita Gangwani, renowned pageant coach and author; Mihir Mankad, communications coach and author; Kartikya Arora, Editor-in-Chief of Pristine Magazine; Rajiv K Shrivastava, founder of Act Now and Pammy Kaul, noted entrepreneur. Their combined experience brought depth and discernment to the decision-making process. The competition unfolded in three key rounds—Rampwalk, Introduction and a compelling Ques-

- testants captivated the s audience with their e poise, personality and vision e for change.

Alongside Ravitanya Sharma, Kriti Singhal was crowned First Runner-up and Muskan Bhau was named Second Runner-up in the Miss Universe Punjab finale. In the Rajasthan edition, Akanksha Choudhary and Navya Shekhawat secured the positions of First and Second Runner-up respectively.

The event reinforced Glamanand Group's commitment to providing a national platform for state-level talent and empowering young women to become global ambassadors of beauty, intellect and purpose.

MISS UNIVERSE IA 202

(L-R) Roosh Sindhu, Aashka Singha & Pranjal Priya



Clockwise: Lucky Barrot, Ravitanya Sharma, **Ba**Saachi Kudale, Bhavni Bhardwaj & Sheena Parashar







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Reviving Rajasthan's Lifelines through Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jal Abhiyan



1 FIRST INDIA

Kunal Vashisht

Asst Public Relations Officer at DIPR

n

are rooted in the belief that water security is essential for human development and ecological balance. Water, often invisible in its significance until it disappears, flows not just through our land

but through our collective memory, our culture, and our survival. Rajasthan, with its harsh summers and historic water scarcity, has long struggled against the tide

the of depletion. Yet, it arid and is also a land that un-

2019, as both initiatives ment, and sustainable growth. Over the past weeks, the campaign has not only mobilized citizens but has also etched a profound legacy in the state's fight for water conservation.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, this campaign has rekindled the spirit of collective responsibility and revitalized our most precious resource: water. His leadership reflects a rare blend of

usion, cuitural sensitivity, and administrative will. In a time where climate change and erratic rainfall pose harvesting structures), severe threats, his proactive stance underlines a vital truth: water security is not a luxury; it is a responsibility. By tying the campaign to the revered Ganga, he invokes not just ecological urgency but spiritual duty an appeal that resonates deeply in the hearts of citizens. The very name of the campaign Vande Ganga Jalsanrakshan Jalabhiyan evokes a deep connection

Launched on June 5, coinciding with World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra, the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jal Abhiyan continued till today, June 20, inspiring a state-wide movement for water conservation. As the campaign concludes, Rajasthan reflects on a remarkable journey of revival-restoring water bodies, rekindling traditional wisdom, and reaffirming its commitment to a sustainable future.



JAIPUR, FRIDAY | JUNE 20, 2025

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, along with Cabinet Ministers Sanjay Sharma, Jogaram Patel and Balmukund Acharya, planted a sapling during the inauguration ceremony

to the sacred rivers of India, with the Ganga symbolizing purity, life, and continuity. It reminds us that water, the lifeblood of the earth, is not merely a resource; it is a link between our past, our present, and our future. Today, on the final day of the campaign, we reflect on the tremendous strides we have made in restoring the water bodies that sustain us. From the desilting of rivers, the cleaning of lakes and ponds, the campaign has

ECHOES OF WATER WISDOM

Vande Ganga Jalsanrakshan Jalabhiyan has given us the tools to not just conserve water but to embrace it as a sacred responsibility. It is a reminder that the health of a state is measured not just in GDP, but in groundwater levels, clean rivers, and the resilience of its ecosystems. tion. Bhajan Lal Sharma's commitment to sustainable water management has earned him the admiration of many. His vision transcends immediate needs, looking toward long-term solutions that are deeply rooted in Rajasthan's unique environmental challenges. As we bid farewell to this phase of the campaign, let us carry forward the lessons it has imparted. Water is the lifeblood of our land the veins of the Earth, pumping life into every corner of our society, culture, and environment.

Rajasthan, where every drop of water is as precious as a gem, the launch of the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan Jal Abhiyan marks a momentous turning point. This initiative, spearheaded by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, is not just a campaign—it is a renewed commitment to protecting what can only be described as the very veins of the earth: our rivers, streams, and lifelines of water. This campaign aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Jal Jeevan Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15,

s e m 1 arid terrain of

derstands the value of conservation; home to ancient

> johads (water and a legacy of water wisdom.

barons

(stepwells),

The Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jal Abhiyan builds upon this heritage while embracing modern innovation and community participation. As the Vande Ganga Jalsanrakshan Jalabhiyan draws to a close today, Rajasthan finds itself standing at a new threshold, a threshold of hope, commit-



A heartwarming moment as a little girl welcomed CM Bhaian Lal Sharma

Gathering of people took part in the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan

successfully mobilized thousands of volunteers, students, local bodies, and panchayats.

The collective effort of these individuals has breathed new life into water bodies that were once on the brink of collapse. This rejuvenation, however, is not just about restoring the physical appearance of our rivers and lakes—it's about reinvigorating a sense of responsibility and reverence for water that will continue to echo in the years to come. Rajasthan has not only revived its water bodies but has also set a shining example for other statesgrappling with water scarcity and environmental degrada-

Rajasthan's story is being rewritten with water, with wisdom, and with unwavering commitment.











- Events



RAJASTHANI TRADITIONS GO GLOBAL



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Rahe jasthan Association U Κ (RAUK)

proudly announces the return of London Jeeman 2025, the UK's largest celebration of Rajasthani culture, to be held on June 22 at the Sattavis Pattidar Centre, Wembley. Now in its 9th edition, the event celebrates Rajasthan's rich traditions through vibrant folk music, dance, décor, traditional competitions, and an extravagant photo booth. A culinary feast featuring authentic Rajasthani delicacies like dal bati churma will treat attendees to a true taste of home.

The major attraction this year is the Rajasthani- dren, or friends, proudly

A lavishly designed photo booth reflected the essence of traditional heritag

showcasing their tradithemed fashion show 'Mhari Jodi – Mhari tional attire.

Honoured guests from Shaan', where participants will walk the ramp India and the UK-inwith their partners, chilcluding key figures from politics, social work, and





With over 1,000 guests expected and supported by a dedicated team of 100+ volunteers, London community bonding, cul- age abroad.

Jeeman 2025 continues to tural pride, and celebrabe a vibrant platform for tion of Rajasthani herit-



Jaipur's Cake Maestro

ringing pride to India, Jaipur-based cake designer Monika Shah was recently honoured with the prestigious Master Cake Artist Oscar at the Asia Cake Oscars 2025, held in Sri Lanka. Competing against top cake artists from across Asia, Shah stood out for her exceptional creativity, craftsmanship, and commitment to excellence. Founder of the luxury cake brand MONICAKE, established in 2020, she specializes in 100% eggless, handcrafted designer cakes made with premium ingredients. Known for her intricate techniques like rice paper art, fondant work, and palette knife designing, she also trains budding artists through her certified masterclasses. Monika's journey from homemaker to internationally recognized cake artist is a true testament to passion, precision, and purpose.

community leadership—

will grace the occasion.







support gender diversity. Starting from the Ra-International Center, Jhalana, the decorated cars followed a colourful route via Mahal Road to NRI Circle, Pratap Nagar, and re-



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Car Rally was organised under the 'Rainbow Riot Fest' on Thursday in Jaipur, promoting awareness, acceptance, and inclusivity for the LG-BTQ+ community.

The rally, hosted by Vasudha Jan Vikas Sansthan and Rainbow Riot Organization, aimed to uplift the identity of the LGBTQ+ community in

vehicle was adorned in rainbow hues, celebrating love, visibility and pride on the streets of Pink City.

Chief Guest Dr Nakul s part of Somani, a plastic and cosmetic surgeon, addressed the gathering, stating, "Being LGBTQ+ is not an illness. They are just as human as anyone else." He emphasized Pride that acceptance and understanding are vital for

a progressive society. Mona Sharma, founder and director of Vasudha Jan Vikas Sansthan, proudly shared, "This is the first Pride Car Rally of its kind in India, and people from all walks of life are standing in solidarity." She further stated sexual identity should mainstream society and not lead to social dis-

Nandini, Priya, Gaurika, Dr Nakul Somani, Flowria, Noor, Ritika, Aditi & Shashank during the flag-off of the car rally, celebrating with vibrant rainbow colours

crimination, and anyone, even from our own families, can be gay, lesbian, or transgender.

Guest of Honour entrepreneur Aditi Sharma, NCC Officer Pooja Shekhawat, Rosie Borolia, India's first passportholding transgender person, Nandini Singh, Ritika Singh, and other LGBTQ rights activists. Participants from across India gathered here. The continue with a talk message was clear



The celebration will over the weekend, aiming to further engage and show and music party unite society.

Innovate with SKIT



wami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management & Gramothan (SKIT), Jaipur,

has recently launched two specialized summer internship programs from June 19 to August 1, through its Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The IoT Center of Excellence Internship offers hands-on training guided by experts from Nagarro and IITs. Simultaneously, a Data Science internship covers Python, Pandas, NumPy, and Data Engineering basics. Head of Department Prof Mehul Mahrishi emphasized the program's role in bridging critical skill gaps. With expert coordination by Dr Yogendra Gupta, Dinesh Kumar and Vikram Khandelwal, the initiative strengthens SKIT's role in shaping Industry 4.0-ready engineers.

CINEMATIC ART JOURNEY

Jaipur Centre for Art (JCA) is set to launch Artist's Cinema / Artists' Cinema, a six-week immersive film programme from June 20 to July 31 at the City Palace complex. Curated by Dr Shwetal Ashvin Patel, the event will feature over 150 bold and boundary-pushing films from India and across the globe. Alongside



afternoon and evening screenings, highlights include the Bombay Talkies photo exhibition and The Modern Baithak installation. Supported by the Goethe-Institut, French Institut, PVR Inox, and others, the programme invites Jaipur to engage with cinema as art and community.





Dushyant Singh engaged in coffee brewing at Coffee Sutra

BREWED TO PERFECTION

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offee Sutra, the acclaimed speciality cofbrand fee founded by culinary visionary Dushyant Singh, recently celebrated the grand opening of its third café in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur. Known for its commitment to quality, sustainability, and cultural storytelling, the new outlet offers a sensory

journey into global coffee craftsmanship. Guests can enjoy single-origin coffees like Colombian and Peru Geisha, roasted in-house, alongside allday breakfast, continental fare, and artisan bakes.

The café features rare international brewing equipment including the Korean Gabi Drip Master, Cold Brew Drip Tower, and Paragon Nucleus—elevating the art of brewing. With elegant novation with local interiors inspired by

Jaipur's royal heritage, the café seats 85–90 guests and runs daily from 8 AM to 11 PM.

Singh shared, "With this outlet, we're deepening our vision to revolutionize India's coffee culture." Through Coffee Lab workshops and masterclasses, the space fosters learning and community. Coffee Sutra continues redefining café culture, blending global incharm.











COURTESY MEETING!

Sheena's Sparkling Win

GLITTERING CELEBRATION HONOURS MISS UNIVERSE RAJASTHAN 2025



Sheena Parashar with (L-R) Payal Khandelwal, Bhavya Kumawat, Somya Anand, Gareema Singh, Roshni, Vanshika, Nisha Chouhan, Muskan Mishree, Kanika, Neha Meena, and Anushka Gupta

Gaurav Gaur and Akanksha Bhalla congratulated Sheena Parashar on being crowned Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025

City First cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

party was held on Wednesday at Oslo Jaipur to honour Sheena Parashar, who was recently crowned Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025. The celebration began

by a joyous cake-cut-

ting ceremony that set the

and celebration.

grand success grace and determination, earning the Second Runner-up title. In 2024, Sheena took India to the international stage by representing the country at Miss Elite World in Egypt, gaining invaluable global exposure. Her recent win at Miss Universe Rajasthan came after a

with a hearthighly competitive audition that saw participation from 53 warming video presentacontestants in Delhi. Sheena will now represent tion capturing Sheena's in-Rajasthan at the Miss Universe India finale, marking a signifispiring journey, followed

most prestigious grooming

platforms. In 2022, during Sea-

son 9, she won hearts with her

cant milestone in her rising career. "Sheena has been one of the

tone for an evening filled most hardworking and focused with admiration, cheers, talents we've seen," said Gaurav Gaur, Founder & Direc-Sheena's journey in pagtor of Elite Miss Rajasthan. eantry began with Elite Miss "Her commitment and consist-Rajasthan, one of the state's ency have brought her to where



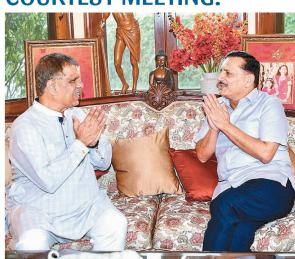
Sheena Parashar, Nisha, Tanu Choudhary, Varunavi Singh, and Bhavya Kumawat were captured in a candid moment during the celebratory cake-cutting festivities

she is today, and we are ex- Khandelwal, Roshni, Vanshika, tremely proud of her."

The event was attended by EMR Supermodels and notable guests including Nisha Chauhan, Tanu Chaudhary, Varunavi Singh, Akanksha Bhalla, Muskan Mishree, Bhavya Kumawat, Neha Meena, Gareema Singh, Somya Anand, Payal

Kanika, Anushka Gupta, Santosh Sharma, Rakesh Rathi, Amit Chandak, Manoj Malani, and Raj Suroliya.

The evening was hosted by Gaurav Gaur and Ranveer Choudhary, marking yet another glorious chapter in Sheena's incredible journey.



Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, met Rajasthan's Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar at his Civil Lines residence on Wednesday. Pawan Arora extended his deepest condolences to the minister over the recent demise of his wife Late Preeti Kumari, who passed away suddenly on June 5. Health Minister Khimsar had returned to Jaipur late on June 17, nearly 12 days after the personal loss. **© SANTOSH SHARMA**

MEET & GREET!

Dr Devendra Pathak, National Business Head of Bharat24 was greeted by JP Agarwal, Chairman of Geetanjali University, in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on Wednesday. During the meeting Dr Pathak extended his congratulations to Agarwal for the world-class infrastructure developed at



Geetanjali Hospital, Jaipur, commending the institution's commitment to excellence in healthcare and medical education.

CORDIAL MEET!

Renowned poet, lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar was on a personal visit to the Pink City, where he spent a leisurely day soaking in its charm. During his visit on Wednesday Akhtar met with Ajay Chopra and Swati Chopra, engaging in warm conversations that reflected his deep



appreciation for Jaipur's rich cultural and literary heritage. His presence added a special touch to the city's vibrant artistic circles.

YOGA & TREE PLANTATION

Sheena Parashar

Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025



YOGA FOR HEALTH & PEACE

n a press conference held on Thursday, Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Ayur-

Bhavika Khunteta

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Ahead of International Yoga Day on June 21, MLA Kalicharan Saraf participated in a group yoga session with Malviya Nagar Mandal workers at JDA Park near WTP on Wednesday. Program coordinator Juhi Kedia informed that yoga expert Rajendra Kumar conducted the session. MLA Saraf also planted trees along with officials and workers. Notable attendees included Suman Sharma, Om Prakash Swami, Harish Khadia, Mohit Mulchandani, DD Saini, Rajesh Sharma, Natwar Kumawat, and several other dignitaries and participants.

DEVOTION IN BLOOM

The vibrant Phoolbangala Utsav and Bhajan Sandhya took place on Tuesday, at Nahar ke Ganeshji Temple, Brahmapuri. Pt Manav Sharma shared under Mahant Pt Jai Sharma's guidance, Lord Ganpati was adorned with Mogra, Juhi, Hazara, and more. Devotees viewed the floral tableau from 5 PM till late. Renowned singers and instrumentalists performed devotional music. Stage was managed by RD Agarwal and team. Summer camp achievers were also honoured by Ved Swadhyay Peeth.



BUSINESS MINDS UNITE

Corporate Connections (CC), a global business networking platform, will inaugurate its third Jaipur chapter, CC Jaipur-3, on June 20, 2025. The event will host members from Jaipur's existing chapters and CC leaders from across India. Led by Executive Directors Akshaya Goyal, Nitin Poddar, and Namit Soni, CC fosters strategic



partnerships, leadership, and innovation. With members from diverse sectors like infrastructure, textiles, and healthcare, the launch marks a new milestone in collaborative business leadership for Jaipur

veda (NIA), Prof Sanjeev Sharma, stated that yoga is not just a physical activity but a complete philosophy that promotes holistic health, mental peace, and spiritual upliftment. He announced Yoga Sangam 2025, a grand celebration jointly organised by the Ministry of AYUSH and NIA, to be held on June 21 at the historic Jantar Mantar, Jaipur, marking the 11th International Yoga Day. Prof Durgavati Devi, Head of the Yoga Department, emphasized that yoga instils discipline, balance, and introspection. The event will include participation from NIA students across India and 12 countries. Special observers from Sri Lanka, Brazil, and South Africa will attend under the "Yoga Bandhan" initiative.



(L-R) Dr Rakesh Nagar, Prof Sanjeev Sharma & Prof Durgavati Devi 🕨



ANIMATION WORKSHOP CONCLUDES



A 15-day workshop on stop motion animation, organised by Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy in collaboration with Attunes Creations, concluded on Tuesday at the academy premises. Secretary Dr Rajnish Harsh highlighted the participants' enthusiasm throughout. Trainers Abhilasha Bharti and Swapnil Tank guided students in animation and clay modelling, supported by associate animators Jahnavi Taneja and Aayushi Kasera. The theme "Art is Life" was portrayed through participants' animation clips. The workshop emphasized creativity, teamwork, and career opportunities in animation. Participants received certificates and appreciation for their efforts. MUKESH KIRADOO

EMPATHY BEYOND BORDERS



India is extending support to Mozambigue by organising a 50-day limb fitment camp in Maputo to rehabilitate 1,200 disabled individuals who lost their limbs, mostly due to landmine blasts during the country's 17-year conflict. The initiative is a collaboration between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), under the "India for Humanity" programme. A 13-member BMVSS team led by Vishnukant Sharma will conduct the camp at Central Hospital. It will be inaugurated on June 24 by Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh, along with Robert Shetkintong and BMVSS officials. BMVSS Founder DR Mehta said the camp, under "India for Humanity," addresses Mozambique's urgent need for rehabilitation.

INNOVATIVE YOGA SESSION

The JITO Jaipur Ladies Wing organised a refreshing and energizing yoga session titled "Yoga with Scarf", aimed at promoting holistic wellness through innovative scarf-assisted yoga techniques. The session was expertly conducted by renowned yoga expert Tina Kothari, who guided



participants through mindful postures, breathing exercises, and unique stretches using scarves. A total of 25 participants enthusiastically joined the session, appreciating its creative approach to fitness and mental well-being. Key attendees included Meghna Jain (Chairperson), Prerna Ranka (Chief Secretary), Shalini Lodha (Vice President & Programme Convenor), and Samridhhi Baxi (Programme Co-Convenor). The session concluded with gratitude and positive feedback.





