



KIRAN MAZUMDAR SHAW TO RETIRE AS INDEPENDENT DIR OF INFOSYS

New Delhi: Infosys on Thursday announced the retirement of Kiran Mazumdar Shaw as independent director of board, effective Thursday, upon completion of her tenure. The board has appointed D Sundaram as the lead independent director of the company.

KANNADA ACTOR GETS BAIL IN 'OFFENSIVE' TWEET CASE

Bengaluru: Kannada actor Chetan granted bail on a surety of 2 persons and a ₹25,000 bond. He was sent to JC for 14 days by 13 ACMM Court in Bengaluru after being arrested for posting an 'offensive' tweet.

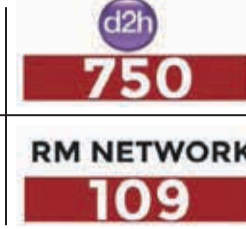
NARENDRA MODI GOVT SECURING INDIA'S ANCIENT BOOKS: SHAH

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said the Narendra Modi govt is securing knowledge in India's ancient books & manuscripts for future through technology. He said this at launch of Vedic heritage portal & a virtual museum - 'Kala Vaibhav' - built by IGNC. P5

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4 CENTURIES AGO, SHAKESPEARE EXPRESSED, 'WHAT'S IN A NAME?', BUT IN PRESENT TIMES, WE BELIEVE...

'A LOT' IN A NAME!



In 'Modi Surname' remarks case, Rahul gets 2 years jail; granted bail, 30 days to appeal

Moni Sharma

Surat/New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison on Thursday in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his remarks about PM Narendra Modi's surname by a court in Gujarat's Surat.

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Varma, which held Gandhi guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500, also granted him bail and suspended sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in higher court, Cong leader's lawyer Babu Mangukiyia said.

Today, all Opposition parties will march from Parliament to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Congress said it has sought time from President Droupadi Murmu to present the Rahul's case. P5



My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God, non-violence the means to get it.

—Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

WHAT DID RAHUL GANDHI SAY AT A RALLY IN KARNATAKA'S KOLAR DISTRICT IN 2019?

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi made remarks while addressing a rally in Karnataka's Kolar district ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha elections, targeting PM Narendra Modi over his last name which he shares with fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi and Lalit Modi. In his complaint, BJP MLA Purnesh Modi alleged that Gandhi defamed the entire Modi community. The case was filed against Gandhi for his alleged, how come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname?

SENIOR I&B ADVISOR EXPLAINS WHY RAHUL FACES DISQUALIFICATION AS MP

As per Representation of People Act, a person sentenced to imprisonment of 2 years or more shall be disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remain disqualified for another 6 years after serving time. Kanchan Gupta, senior advisor, Ministry of I&B said that Rahul Gandhi is staring at disqualification because he was convicted in a criminal case and handed a two-year prison term for the same.

I would urge Rahul Gandhi if he represents the politics of truth and love as he claims, he must come to terms with the fact that today PM Modi is the most loved, admired and the most trusted leader in India and across the world.

—Piyush Goyal, Union Minister

He has been granted bail. We knew from the beginning because they kept changing judges. We believe in law, judiciary and we will fight against this as per law.

—Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President

Rahul Gandhi said that I believe in truth and non-violence. Does believing in truth and non-violence mean humiliating people?

—Ravi Shankar Prasad, BJP leader

The entire scared machinery of power is trying to suppress the voice of Rahul through 'saam, daam, dand, bhed'. My brother has never been afraid, nor will he ever be. He has lived speaking the truth, will continue to speak the truth.

—Priyanka Gandhi, Congress leader

BJP balances castes in new chiefs for 4 Oppn-ruled States



JP Nadda

New Delhi: The BJP on Thursday named 4 new state presidents, including Lok Sabha MP CP Joshi in Rajasthan and OBC leader and MLC Samrat Choudhary in Bihar, as the party moves to tone up its organisational machinery with an eye on consolidating its support base in the run up to crucial state and national polls.

BJP president JP Nadda also appointed Manmohan Samal, a former state minister, as the head of the party's Odisha unit, while



Ajay Banga on Delhi visit, to meet Modi, Sitha, EAM

New Delhi (FIB): The former Mastercard CEO and the US candidate to lead the World Bank, Ajay Banga arrived in India on Thursday and is set to meet PM Narendra Modi, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister



Nirmala Sitharaman in Delhi today. Ajay Banga's visit to India will bring an end to his "global listening tour" where he talked with donor countries and the borrowers to gather support and discuss issues of the World Bank.

DIDI-PATNAIK MEET, POL MATTERS OFF



Bhubaneswar: Both WB CM Mamata Banerjee and her Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik chose to stay away from discussing hardcore politics and finding possible ground between TMC & BJD to take on BJP in much-anticipated meeting of 2 leaders at Bhubaneswar on Thursday.

CM: Judiciary under pressure, Modi surname remark by Rahul was just 'political' comment

Ravi Katara

Bharatpur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday claimed the judiciary is under pressure and the Modi surname remark over which a Gujarat court sentenced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail was just a "political" comment.

But at the same time, the Congress veteran said he has faith in the Judiciary and the right verdict will come in time an apparent reference to the possibility



CM Ashok Gehlot speaks to the media at Bharatpur on Thursday.

of a higher court overturning the ruling.

Gehlot alleged that the BJP government at the Centre was also misusing agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation and the En-

forcement Directorate.

"Today there is pressure on Judiciary, pressure on Election Commissions, ED, Income Tax, CBI, which are premium agencies and their credibility used to

be huge, are being misused. When such an atmosphere prevails, such rulings are made every ruling (faisla) is influenced," he said.

"I have full faith in judiciary that the right decision will be taken in the coming time," the chief minister said.

A court in Surat in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 criminal defamation case filed against him over his "Modi surname" remarks. Turn to P8

CRUCIAL READ

'LAST LOCATION OF SINGH IN HRY' Chandigarh: Punjab's IGP, Headquarters, Sukhchain Singh Gillon Thursday said, "We are still actively searching for Amritpal Singh and have come to know that its last location was in Haryana. We have taken a woman named Baljeet Kaur into custody. We've detained 207 people so far in Singh's case." P6

LS PASSES ₹45L CR BUDGET '23-24 New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Thursday approved the Union Budget envisaging an expenditure of around Rs 45 lakh crore for the fiscal year starting April 1 without any discussion, as the Opposition continued to create ruckus over demand for a JPC probe into allegations against the Adani Group. P5

RAMZAN PIETY, FERVOUR BEGINS New Delhi: Speakers atop mosques sounded soon after the evening prayers on Thursday, heralding the onset of the holy month of Ramadan. This means that the first day of Ramadan, and the first day of fasting, corresponds today. All arrangements were made for taraweeh, special night prayers in Ramadan

Months before elections, Raj BJP gets new Prez in lawmaker CP Joshi

Aditi Nagar, Yogesh Sharma, Aishwary Pradhan

New Delhi/Jaipur: Eight months before Assembly elections, BJP has surprised political realm of Rajasthan by making a big change in the Rajasthan organisation. Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi has been made new BJP state president in place of Satish Poonia. Poonia has completed his 3-year tenure and was also given an extension.



CP Joshi calls on PM Narendra Modi at Parl House on Thursday.

It was almost certain that Poonia would be prez till polls to be held later this year. More on P2

CP JOSHI BECOMES NEW RAJ BJP PRESIDENT

DON'T BELONG TO ANY 'GROUP' BUT BJP, SAYS NEW STATE CHIEF JOSHI

'Will seek senior leaders' guidance to achieve majority in Rajasthan assembly polls'

Aditi Nagar

New Delhi: After becoming the BJP state president, Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi has refuted the allegation that he belongs to any group and has talked about taking everyone along. Joshi also targeted the Gehlot government.

Talking to First India in New Delhi after meeting party in-charge Arun Singh, he said, "I will work as an activist. I am a party worker; the basis of my selection also seems to be the same. I do not belong to any faction. I belong to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The responsibility of the president has been given, but I will try as a worker that by taking everyone's guidance and coordinating with everyone, how can we get a huge majority for the party in 2023 and 2024."

On the question of factionalism and not being able to surround the government in four years, Joshi said, "BJP is a big family. Will take guidance of senior and experienced



BJP State-in-charge Arun Singh, PP Chaudhary, and others congratulate CP Joshi on becoming new State BJP president.



Yoonus Khan, Ramcharan Bohra present bouquet to CP Joshi after he became new State BJP chief, in New Delhi on Thursday.

people. Janakrosh Yatra was the biggest political yatra in the history of Rajasthan. All our leaders went from village to village. Thousands of complaints were received against the government."

Joshi further said, "On many issues ranging from REET, the Gehlot government is surrounded not only by the BJP but also by the people of his party. Only their MLAs are besieging the government. Even the CM advisor is saying in the House that there is corruption. Congress MLAs are saying that the government is not keeping its promises."



Lok Sabha MP PP Chaudhary offers sweets to MP CP Joshi as he becomes new State BJP president, in New Delhi on Thursday.

CAN'T WIN BY CHANGING PAWNS: DOTASRA'S JIBE AT NEW BJP CHIEF

Jaipur: Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra said on the removal of Satish Poonia and appointment of CP Joshi as BJP state president, "This is their internal matter. Still, I just want to say that one cannot come to power by changing pawns. BJP has failed to play the role of opposition here in last four and a half years. Neither they have solidarity nor the ability to raise public issues. Our government is solving all the problems and issues faced by the people."



POONIA THANKS PARTY AS JOSHI BECOMES 'CHIEF'

Jaipur: Former BJP State president Satish Poonia on Thursday expressed gratitude to the party for giving him the responsibility to work as the party's state president. "I am grateful to the party... a worker born in the house of an ordinary farmer was honoured by giving responsibility for 3 years," he said. "I will continue to work according to the instructions of the party till the end of my life," he said. He also wished Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi for his appointment and said that it will further strengthen the party. "It is the Bharatiya Janata Party which always prepares new leadership from time to time, gives opportunities and takes it forward," he said.



New role for Poonia, new 'non-brahmin' LoP likely

Aditi Nagar, Yogesh Sharma & Aishwary Pradhan

New Delhi/Jaipur: CP Joshi, who started his political career with ABVP, is considered close to the Sangh. Satish Poonia also comes from RSS background, but now in Poonia's place, a leader of political background like Joshi has been given the responsibility of organisation in Rajasthan. Joshi (47) is also young compared to 58-year-old Poonia. A letter regarding the appointment of the state in-charge Arun Singh on Thursday.

It is being told that Poonia can now get a place in the national organisation. Amidst the fight for CM face in Rajasthan BJP, discussions about this big change in the organization have started. Now the appointment of the Leader of the Opposition is also likely to happen soon. The post has been vacant since Gulab Chand Kataria was made the governor. In such a situation, now the Leader of Opposition is likely to be a non-Brahmin face.

Chandra Prakash Joshi has reached the Lok Sabha twice from Chittorgarh. He won the election from this seat



CP Joshi meets BJP chief JP Nadda in New Delhi on Thursday. BJP leaders Arjun Ram Meghwal, Devji Patel, PP Chaudhary, Bhagirath Chaudhary were also present.

Arun Singh
@ArunSinghbjp
Dr Satish Poonia expanded the organization of the party as the Rajasthan state president, successfully strengthened the political programme and gave effective leadership to the widespread public anger and struggle against the Gehlot government. He will continue to play an important role in the future as well.

Bhabhada, Bhanwarlal Sharma, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Raghuveer Singh Kaushal and Arun Chaturvedi have been Brahmin state presidents. After changing the president, the formation of new state executive will be a challenge before the BJP.

Satish Poonia took over as BJP state president on 15 September 2019. Poonia remained on this post for three and a half years. Interestingly, BJP has given such 'surprises', many times by giving new faces a chance as state president. In the BJP rule, Madan Lal Saini was given the reins as the state president in place of Ashok Parnami in the election year. After the death of Saini, Satish Poonia was given the responsibility of the post of State President.

first in 2014 and again in 2019. In the 2014 general elections, he defeated senior Congress leader Girija Vyas. Joshi has also worked as the state president of BJP's youth wing, BJYM. He is the 15th President of BJP Rajasthan and 7th Brahmin President. Earlier, Harishankar

PARTY WORKERS CELEBRATE JOSHI'S APPOINTMENT AT BJP HQ IN JAIPUR

Jaipur: Celebrations broke out at the BJP state headquarters here after the announcement of the appointment of Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi as the new state president. The party workers danced to the beat of drums and distributed sweets. Several party leaders and workers including Sardar Ajay Pal Singh, Laxmikant Bhardwaj, Bhupendra, Himanshu Sharma, Prem Singh Banwasa and others were present on the occasion. —Aishwary Pradhan



CP Joshi favoured by PM Modi, Shah, Nadda

Yogesh Sharma

Jaipur: After all, what did the BJP high command see in Chandra Prakash Joshi? Joshi's candidness was liked by PM Modi and JP Nadda and he is also considered as Amit Shah's favourite.

When "CP" was made accused in Vallabh Nagar by-election, then CP Joshi told the whole reality to the high command and the allegations turned out to be completely baseless and Joshi came out unblemished.

From here the turning point of his political career started. When Gulabchand Kataria was agreed upon to be made the Governor of Assam, it was decided at that time that CP Joshi would be brought to the post of BJP State President.

CP was brought in as a common face amid factionalism. Now Chandra Prakash Joshi will do the work of cultivation of Mewar. Whatever may have been Joshi's political history, but today he is a strong leader of BJP.

CHANGE IN BJP STATE PRESIDENCY: NEW DELHI KNEW A DAY BEFORE...

New Delhi: On Wednesday, BJP MP from Chittorgarh CP Joshi was the center of discussions in New Delhi and on Thursday, he became the state president of Rajasthan BJP. On Wednesday evening, CP Joshi organised a Holi get together dinner in New Delhi. Many other big leaders including state leaders were involved in this party. There were many discussions in the political corridors regarding Joshi's Holi Milan ceremony and on Thursday the discussions proved correct as soon as he became BJP state president.

Jaipur Dairy Milk Union celebrates 48th Fdn Day



First India Bureau

Jaipur: The 48th Foundation Day of Jaipur District Milk Producers Cooperative Union was held on Thursday. The programme began with cultural programmes. Om Poonia, president of the Milk Union was the chief guest while the special guest was Managing Director Dr Kulraj Meena.

Addressing the function, Meena said that Jaipur Dugdh Sangh started 48 years ago when the collection was 1,800 liters of milk per day and currently the collection is about 27 lakh liters of milk per day.

He said that Jaipur Dairy is leading in the dairy industry of North India which is the result of the hard work of the board of directors, officers and employees of the union.

GHATMIKA INCIDENT

Protest against Zahida over delay in justice

Bharat Dixit

Jaipur: A protest was held outside the University of Rajasthan against the State Minister Zahida Khan demanding justice to the victims of the Ghatmika incident of Bharatpur district.

The people from the Minister's constituency staged the protest in which NSUI members also participated in a large number. They accused the



NSUI members hold protest against Zahida Khan.

minister of not fulfilling the promises made to the victim's family. They demanded arrest of all the accused, compensation and govt jobs to the kin of the victims.

KL Meena, JDC ask officials to speed up Raj Int'l Centre work

First India Bureau

Jaipur: The JDA is busy finishing the work of Rajasthan International Centre being built in Jhalana. UDH Principal Secretary Kunji Lal Meena and JDC Ravi Jain visited the centre on Thursday and instructed the officers to speed up work and complete it by March 28.

The Principal Secretary of UDH and JDC closely reviewed the project. The JDC gave



Kunji Lal Meena and Ravi Jain and other officials visit Jhalana to review Raj International Centre work on Thursday.

strict instructions to the construction agency to complete the works in which deficiencies have been pointed out and

everything before March 28. Jain said that on March 28, he will inspect the centre with senior officials.

Jat youths protest over Satish Poonia's removal

First India Bureau

Jaipur: The protest against the removal of Satish Poonia from the post of BJP State President has started. On Thursday, activists of the Yuva Jat Mahasabha protested outside the BJP headquarters and expressed displeasure over the decision of the BJP. State President of Yuva Jat Mahasabha Kuldeep said that the person who raised the party for the past three years was shown the



Jat Mahasabha members burn PM Modi, Nadda's effigies.

way out as soon as the elections came. "This decision of the party is very wrong. Society will not tolerate this. Every youth of the Jat community is with him and politics have been played over this issue," said Kuldeep.

GROUNDWATER AWARENESS DRIVE

Mahesh Joshi flags off water chariots

First India Bureau

Jaipur: PHED Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi on Thursday flagged off Atal Bhujal Sankraskan Rathas (Water Chariots) from his residence in civil lines.

The water chariots will work to create awareness in 38 panchayat committees of 17 districts of the state under the Atal Bhujal Yojana to prevent the falling groundwater level and increase public participation in wa-



Minister Mahesh Joshi initiates the campaign by flagging off Atal Bhujal Sankraskan Rathas in 38 gram panchayats of 17 districts.

ter conservation. "The water chariots will go to 1,139 gram

panchayats of the state to save every drop of water and spread commu-

nity awareness about the latest techniques of groundwater management," Joshi said.

At present, 73 per cent of blocks of the state have come under the category of over-exploited. Only 12 per cent of blocks are such that they are safe. In time, we must take measures to prevent excessive exploitation of water along with stopping the falling level of groundwater," said Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi.

Five trains get stoppage nod after Diya, Vaishnav meeting

First India Bureau

New Delhi: Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and discussed crucial matters pertaining to her constituency, in New Delhi on Thursday.

During the meeting, the MP expressed gratitude for the approval of the Mavli-Marwar first phase. She urged that the work for the same begins at an early date and also requested that the second phase from



Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari meets Minister Ashwini Vaishnav regarding development works, in New Delhi on Thursday.

Devgarh to Bar gets approval soon. Diya Kumari further requested that the work relating to Bar to Bilara and from Ras to Bilara

for new railway tracks, also get approval. She also requested stoppages of 11 trains, for which she got on the spot approval for 5 stoppages.

Procession of Gangaur fair to be taken out today

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TOURISM GIVES NECESSARY DIRECTIONS TO OFFICIALS

FESTIVAL OF HARMONY

TOMORROW A PROCESSION OF BUDHI GANGAUR WILL BE TAKEN OUT IN CITY



The Gangaur Savari procession will depart from the City Palace on Friday. —FILE PHOTO

Nirmal Tiwari

Jaipur: The procession of the world-famous Gangaur fair will be taken out in Jaipur on Friday. Deputy Director of Tourism Upendra Singh Shekhawat reviewed the preparations for the Gangaur festival on Thursday and gave necessary directions to the officials.

Notably, the procession of Gangaur will be taken out on March 24 and 25 in Jaipur.

The procession will start from Janani Deodhi of Tripolia Gate at 6 pm and will go to Talkatora via Tripolia

DR JOSHI ATTENDS CHETI CHAND PROGRAMME



Jaipur: PHED Minister Dr Mahesh Joshi on Thursday took part in a programme held in Chaugan Stadium on the occasion of Cheti Chand and Jhule Lal Jayanti. During the programme, the minister offered prayers to Lord Jhule Lal and recalled the martyr Hemu Kalani. He also extended greetings at the program. Dr Mahesh Joshi was also welcomed by the Sindhi Community people on this occasion.

Bazar, Choti Chaupar, Gangauri Bazar. During the procession, the folk artist will also give

their performance. On March 25, a procession of Budhi Gangaur will be taken out.

RAMADAN BEGINS WITH RELIGIOUS FERVOUR

Jaipur: The holy month of Ramadan will be observed from Friday. The crescent moon of Ramadan 2023 was sighted on Thursday evening and hence, the first Roza of Ramadan will start on Friday. The first Taraweeh was read on Thursday.

RTDC chief takes part in Cheti Chand procession

Shubham Jain

Ajmer: Chairman of Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) Dharmendra Rathore on Thursday took part in Cheti Chand procession in Ajmer. During his visit, he also offered prayers at Jhulelal Temple in the Delhi Gate area of Ajmer city. President of Pujya Sindhi Panchayat, Radhakishan Ahuja, Vice-President Mohan Chellani, Jagdish Abhichandani, Naren Sahni, Mahesh Hochandani, Ashok Dulani, and other people from the Sindhi community was also present on the occasion. During the program, the RTDC Chairman was welcomed by the organisers and later he also addressed the gathering.



RTDC Chairman Dharmendra Rathore during Cheti Chand procession in Ajmer on Thursday. —PHOTO BY ANAND SHARMA

Health min instructs to start emergency service soon at SSB

First India IMPACT

Vikas Sharma



Jaipur: The emergency facility at the SMS Medical College's super specialty block built at a cost of Rs 200 crore will soon become operational. Taking cognizance of the exclusive news of First India, Medical Minister Parsadi Lal Meena has summoned the report from Principal Dr Rajeev Bagrahatta about the reason behind not starting the emergency facility. He also gave strict instructions to start emergency service in SSB this week itself.

The college administration started the SSB



YOU READ IT IN FIRST INDIA ON MARCH 15, 2023

Hospital a year ago, but until now the emergency facility has not started. After this was reported by First India, Meena said that it is serious negligence.

ingly, despite a heavy load of patients, the emergency facility has not started. After this was reported by First India, Meena said that it is serious negligence.

Before Assembly polls, AAP names Naveen Paliwal as State president

First India Bureau

Jaipur: After BJP, Aam Aadmi Party has also played the Brahmin card by appointing Naveen Paliwal as the state president. The party has made seven appointments including the state president. The party general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak had searched



Naveen Paliwal

the name of Paliwal. He is from the Hadauti region. The state in charge Vinay Mishra is also a Brahmin. The

party has also appointed Amandeep Singh Goldie Musafir, Chaitar Vasawa, Hemant Khawwa, Mukesh Ahlawat, Naresh Yadav, Narinder Pal Singh Sawna, and Shivcharan Goyal as the co-in-charge in the state. The party will also release the list of the presidents of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies soon.

WINDY AND CLOUDY



Weather in Rajasthan is all about wind, rain and clouds these days. Several areas of Jaipur and other districts remained shrouded with cloudy skies. The above view shows cloudy sky over Jantar Mantar on Thursday. —PHOTO BY SANTOSH SHARMA

2 held for betting during India-Aus cricket match

First India Bureau

Jaipur: The Jaipur police arrested two bookies for betting during the India-Australia cricket match late on Wednesday. They were arrested from their house in Sindhi Colony. Jawahar Nagar police station has seized accounts and equipment worth lakhs from them.

The police have also seized nine mobile phones, a laptop, a LED and a register of betting accounts worth about Rs 10 lakh from the bookies.

ACP (Adarsh Nagar) Hawa Singh said that Shailendra Kumar Mangalani alias Shaili (40) and Abhishek Srichandani alias Abhi (19) were arrested after a tip-off.

Western disturbance to impact State again

Jaipur: Rainfall activities started once again in Rajasthan due to the impact of a western disturbance. The recent rainfall and hailstorms have already damaged crops in agriculture farms in vari-

ous parts of the state. The new weather system has again increased the concern of the farmers. The weather suddenly changed in after noon on Thursday in Alwar and Sikar districts and Light drizzle

started. Hailstorms occurred in the evening. In Narayanpur area of Alwar's Bansur, rains accompanied by hails in the evening. The weather is likely to remain the same till March 25 due to this.

NEW FLIGHTS SCHEDULE TO BE OPERATIONAL FROM MARCH 26

Kashiram Choudhary

Jaipur: The new schedule of flight operations will begin on March 26. Also, flights to 2 new cities will be started from Jaipur International Airport. Sources informed that a direct flight to Pantnagar (Uttarakhand) and Bareilly (UP) will be started from Jaipur. Similarly, a direct flight to Bhopal will also be started in April.

Officials informed that, an average of 61 flights are operating daily from Jaipur Airport, but the number of

FLIGHTS THAT WILL BE CLOSED IN SUMMER

- Indigo flight to Delhi will be closed.
- SpiceJet SG-279 to Mumbai will also be closed
- Go First G8-389 to Mumbai will be closed
- Indigo 6E-5226 to Mumbai will shut down
- SpiceJet SG-4018 to Jaisalmer closed in Feb
- SpiceJet SG-2973 to Udaipur closed in Feb

THESE FIVE NEW FLIGHTS WILL BE STARTED

- Indigo 6E-7482 to Pantnagar will leave at 1:25 pm
- Indigo 6E-7478 to Bareilly will leave at 9:50 am
- SpiceJet SG-2964 to Pune will leave at 5:25 am
- Indigo 6E-7404 to C'garh will leave at 1:30 pm
- 6E-7468 will leave for Bhopal from April 13 at 5:10 pm

flights will be partially reduced in the summer schedule. "A total of 60 flights will operate in the summer schedule. Of these, 54 domestic flights and 6 interna-

tional flights will operate. From March 26, half a dozen flights will stop at Jaipur airport. Apart from this, 5 new flights will be started," the source said.

FLIGHTS TO CONNECT JAIPUR TO 22 CITIES FROM MARCH 26

Jaipur: Air connectivity will increase from March 26. Flights from Jaipur to 22 cities will start this summer against flights connecting 20 cities during the winter. There will be nine flights daily for Mumbai, seven flights for Delhi, six flights for Bengaluru, four for Hyderabad, three for Kolkata, one for Chennai, four for Ahmedabad, three for Pune, three for Chandigarh, two for Goa, one each for Surat, Indore, Dehradun, Udaipur, Bareilly, Pantnagar, Bhopal, Amritsar, Lucknow, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar and Jodhpur.

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MEMORABLE LEAGUE STAGE PROMISES THRILLING GRAND FINALE FOR INAUGURAL WPL!



SIDHAARTH MAHAN

The writer is a specialist on Sports and Cinema who works as an actor in the Hindi film industry

Everything that is first is considered special and remarkable and the inaugural season of the long-awaited WPL will go down as arguably one of the most remarkable events in cricketing history.

The Delhi Capitals created history as they became the first finalists in the inaugural season of the Women's Premier League when the league stage ended on Tuesday. The knockout stage will begin with the fancied Mumbai Indians and UP Warriorz locking horns in the Eliminator on Friday, March 24. The final day of league stage action had a lot at stake even though the three teams set to qualify for the playoffs were already confirmed. While Delhi Capitals (DC) and Mumbai Indians (MI) both won their final matches and notched up the same number of points, it was DC that went through to the finals with a higher net run rate.

The 20 games in the league stage provided a range of thrilling contests and superb individual performances. To begin with MI raced to an electrifying start as the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side won all of their first five games in convincing fashion. With Harman in top form, MI

looked set to top the table.

But their shockingly one-sided loss to DC and two defeats in a row showcased the glorious uncertainties of cricket. Mumbai Indians' humiliating nine-wicket surrender to Delhi turned the tournament around on its head. While MI slipped up, DC and UP got into top gear. Both teams are captained by Aussie stars Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy.

But a major disappointment of the League has been RCB which was led by Smriti Mandhana who fetched the highest price in the WPL auction. They had a terrible start and Mandhana herself went through a horrible patch where she didn't score a single 50 in the league. Royal Challengers lost their first 5 matches in a row and were the first team to be eliminated from the playoffs race.

The heartening factor has been the form of youngsters during the league stage. India's under 19 captain, Shafali Verma, has been in excellent nick and has got a great opening partnership with Meg Lanning which has been a key to Delhi reaching the finals. Another young batter, the 20-year-old Kanika Ahuja, was the unexpected star in Royal Challengers' maiden triumph after 5 losses in a row. She scored an attractive and aggressive 46 to help break RCB's streak of five consecutive defeats in the WPL on 15 March as the Bengaluru side secured a hard-fought five-

The Delhi Capitals created history as they became the first finalists in the inaugural season of the Women's Premier League when the league stage ended on Tuesday. The knockout stage will begin with the fancied Mumbai Indians and UP Warriorz locking horns in the Eliminator on Friday, March 24

wicket win over UP Warriorz.

The other youngsters to shine bright were Yastika Bhatia who scored vital runs for Mumbai Indians and Harleen Deol for Gujarat Giants. Harleen had a top score of 67 in the league and is an all-rounder too.

On the bowling side, Saika Ishaque of Mumbai Indians has been a great find. Her 12 wickets at an average of 8.58 runs in the first 5 games reflect her rapid rise in the WPL. A left arm-spinner from a humble background in Bengal, she took on a lot of responsibility and in all MI games, she bowled in the powerplay overs which is no easy task.

In terms of individual performances on the batting side, Meg Lanning with 310 runs tops the table. Sadly, there is no Indian among the

top 5 scorers which has other international stars like Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Devine, Ellyse Perry and Alyssa Healy. Not surprisingly, 6 of the top 10 batters are Australians. Among Indian girls, it's Shafali Verma with 241 runs who has scored the maximum though her average of 34.42 is less than Harmanpreet who has scored 230 runs at an average of 46.00.

In the list of most wicket taking bowlers in WPL, Indian players figure much better. Sophie Ecclestone of UP Warriorz tops the table with 14 wickets while Kiwi leg-spinner Amelia Kerr is next. Among Indian girls, it is Saika Ishaque who tops with 13 wickets for Mumbai Indians and encouragingly, pacer Shikha Pandey and all-rounder Deepti Sharma are also among the Top Ten bowlers in the league stage.

It's been a tournament with a large majority of games closely fought and there has been no dearth of individual heroics. The vibrant tone for the tournament was set in the opening match itself when Harmanpreet Kaur and Co put up an outstanding batting display to take Mumbai Indians to a huge 207/5 in 20 overs. The WPL has clearly captured the imagination of cricket fans across the globe. If the play-off games can sustain the quality and drama of the league stage, the Women's Premier League is all set for a grand finale over the next few days!

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

RAHUL IN THE DOCK, TROUBLES MOUNT



Congress party must be in a huddle after a court in Surat sentenced Rahul Gandhi to a two-year imprisonment in a criminal defamation case for saying, "How come all thieves have Modi surname" at a rally in Karnataka.

The heat directed at Rahul in parliament over his statement in London may also singe him even after he asked the Lok Sabha Speaker for permission to respond to the "scurrilous and defamatory claims" made by the BJP MPs. He is unlikely to get that opportunity, though. Instead, he could get suspended from the House if the Rajya Sabha Chairman so decides. The sum total of all this is

The heat directed at Rahul in parliament over his statement in London may also singe him even after he asked the Lok Sabha Speaker for permission to respond to the "scurrilous and defamatory claims" made by the BJP MPs

that as troubles mount, Rahul and his party have to be constantly on the defensive, although his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said that her brother will "continue to speak the truth".

In the defamation case he has been allowed bail for 30 days and is sure to move the

high court and possibly also the Supreme Court. If his attempts to get the order quashed fail, Rahul's political future could be in jeopardy as he will then lose membership of parliament for six years. But that's not happening anytime soon as legal cases take time.

A surprise defence came from Aam Aadmi Party president and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal who alleged a conspiracy to finish the Opposition. Whether there is a conspiracy or Opposition has to blame itself for what would be its undoing. Maybe, action by ED against Opposition CMs and leaders can be described as conspiracy but not their resolve to remain fragmented.

IN-DEPTH

ASHOK GEHLOT BRINGS SMILE TO PEOPLE WITH BILL ON FREE HEALTHCARE



Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to pass a Bill on Right to Health. The Bill gives right to free health services to every resident of the state at all government health facilities and at select private centres. It is a Bill for which Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has to be applauded as residents not only in Rajasthan but in other states as well need this largesse. It is a scheme which will not come under the category of "free revadis". The problem would lie in its economic viability because the Bill's implementation will put a burden on the state's exchequer.

Although Rajasthan has other schemes like the Chiranjeevi Health Insurance and Nishulk Nirogi Rajasthan for healthcare, the new Bill is more sweeping in reforms. It entitles people to free consultation, drugs, diagnostics, emergency transport, procedure and emergency care. There will be a few conditions for emergency care. The Bill makes its violation a punishable offence.

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world.
—Buddha

TOP TWEETS

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi



Best wishes to Minister Smt. @smritiirani Ji on her birthday. She is providing admirable leadership to our Government's efforts to further the welfare of our Nari Shakti. She is admired for her oratory and connect with people from all walks of life. Praying for her long life.

Jagat Prakash Nadda
@JPNadda



I bow down to freedom fighter, strong thinker and politician Dr Ram Manohar Lohia ji on his birth anniversary. Your thoughts and work dedicated to the upliftment of the nation and society will always inspire the countrymen.

● Vol 4 ● Issue No. 285
● RNI NO. RAJ/JENG/2019/77764.
Printed and published by Anita Hada Sangwan on behalf of First Express Publishers. Printed at Bhaskar Printing Press, D.B. Corp Limited, Shivdaspura, Tonk Road, Jaipur. Published at 304, 3rd Floor, City Mall, Bhagwan Das Road, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan. Phone 0141-4920504.
Editor-In-Chief: Dr Jagdeesh Chandra
Editor: Anita Hada Sangwan responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act



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LOGJAM CONTINUES

Opposition stages protest march for JPC probe over Adani issue

New Delhi (PTI): Several Opposition parties on Thursday staged a protest march inside Parliament complex in support of their demand for a joint parliament committee investigation into the Adani group issue and said they would continue to raise their voice in this regard.

Leaders of various Opposition parties gathered at the Parliament house gate number 1, the main entry gate into Parliament House building, and raised slogans against the govt and called for a JPC probe.

Holding placards, Opposition MPs raised slogans and demanded that a JPC probe be initiated into the Adani issue.

Joined by top party leaders of various parties and led by Congress chief Mallikarjun



Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Opposition MPs stage a protest demanding JPC probe into the Adani Group issue, in New Delhi, on Thursday. —PHOTO BY PTI



BUDGET SESSION

Kharge, the opposition MPs then staged a protest march from Parliament gate to Ambedkar statue inside Parliament complex, where they again raised slogans and asked why the government was running away from ordering a JPC probe into

the Adani issue. Kharge thanked the leaders of various parties for extending support to the protest march and said they would continue with their protest till their demand was met.

Both Houses of Parliament have failed to transact any significant business for the last two weeks since it met for the second leg of the budget session on

March 13.

While the opposition is raising the pitch over the demand for a JPC into the Adani issue, the BJP has raised the heat on Rahul Gandhi over his 'democracy under threat' remarks made in London recently and have demanded his apology, alleging he has defamed and insulted India and its institutions and has sought foreign intervention.

LS PASSES ₹45L CR BUDGET 2023-24 WITHOUT DEBATE

Lok Sabha on Thursday approved the Union Budget envisaging an expenditure of around Rs 45 lakh crore for the next fiscal without any discussion, as Opposition continued to create ruckus over demand for JPC probe in the Adani issue. The LS took up the Demands for Grants and Appropriation Bills after two adjournments as the ruling and Opposition MPs engaged in a duet over demands for an apology by Rahul Gandhi and the Adani issue.

RS FACES 15th ADJOURNMENT FOR 8th DAY IN A ROW

New Delhi (ANI): The logjam continued in the Upper House for the eighth day in a row resulting in adjournment of the Rajya Sabha for the day on Thursday amid ruckus created by both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition parties. The House of Elders faced adjournment for the day within a minute after it assembled at 2 pm following the first adjournment announced earlier in the day.

RAHUL GANDHI'S CONVICTION

After being held guilty, RaGa quotes Mahatma



Cong leader Rahul Gandhi arrives at IGI Airport in New Delhi on Thursday. —PHOTO BY PTI

Ahmedabad (PTI): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi quoted Mahatma Gandhi in a tweet about truth and non-violence after a court in Surat in Gujarat on Thursday sentenced him to two years in jail in a criminal defamation case connected to his "Modi surname" remarks.

"My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God, non-violence the means to get it. — Mahatma Gandhi," the Congress leader said in a tweet in Hindi soon after the court verdict.

The court of Chief

Congress faced severe defeats in the recent elections in the northeast. Just because people don't vote for you, it doesn't mean that you have the right to blame them, it doesn't mean that you have got license to defame India and her democratic values on the foreign soil

—BJP to Rahul Gandhi

Judicial Magistrate HH Varma sentenced Gandhi to two years in jail in a criminal defamation case over his 'Modi surname' remark during an election rally in Karnataka in ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha election.

The court granted him bail and suspend-

ed the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court, the Congress leader's lawyer Babu Mangukiyi said.

The court sentenced Gandhi under sections 499 and 500 of Indian Penal Code dealing with criminal defamation, Mangukiyi said.

"I AM MODI TOO, FELT INSULTED": BJP MP WELCOMES RAHUL'S CONVICTION



New Delhi: BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Modi welcomed a Surat court's decision to convict Rahul Gandhi over his remarks about PM Narendra Modi's surname. "I welcome the decision of the court. I am also a Modi. I felt insulted by Rahul Gandhi's remarks," Sushil Modi said. He said he too has filed a defamation case against Rahul in Patna.

WILL CHALLENGE VERDICT: CONG

New Delhi: The Congress dubbed conviction of Rahul Gandhi by a Surat court in a defamation case as an "infirm, erroneous and unsustainable judgement" that will be immediately challenged in a higher court and expressed hope that it will be stayed and quashed soon.

"BJP SPOKE AGAINST GANDHI'S MANY TIMES"

Raipur: Reacting to Rahul Gandhi's conviction in a defamation case regarding his "Modi surname" remark, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel on Thursday spoke of the barbs such as "Mir Jafar" used by BJP leaders for Gandhi.

ARVIND KEJRIWAL TWEETS SUPPORT FOR RAHUL GANDHI

New Delhi: Hours after Rahul Gandhi was convicted by a Surat court in a criminal defamation case, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal put out a tweet in the Congress leader's support. The AAP chief alleged a 'conspiracy to eliminate' non-BJP leaders and parties by prosecuting them.

IYC STAGES SYMBOLIC PROTEST IN SHOW OF SOLIDARITY FOR RAHUL

New Delhi (PTI): The Indian Youth Congress (IYC) on Thursday held a symbolic protest near Shastrī Bhawan in central Delhi against the verdict of a Surat court sentencing Rahul Gandhi to two years of jail in a defamation case. The demonstration is in solidarity

with Rahul Gandhi, said general secretary in-charge Delhi Coco Padhi. The protesters were carrying placards and raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of police personnel.

RaGa WON'T BE DISQUALIFIED IF CONVICTION STAYED: EXPERTS

New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi will not be disqualified as an MP if the appellate court stays the conviction and suspends the two-year jail term awarded to him by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his alleged "Modi surname" remarks, legal experts said on Thursday. The MP from Wayanad made the remarks while addressing a rally at in Karnataka on April 13, 2019 during LS poll campaigning.

Modi govt securing knowledge in India's ancient books: Shah

New Delhi (PTI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah Thursday said the Narendra Modi govt is securing the knowledge in India's ancient books and manuscripts for the future through technology.

Shah said this after launching a Vedic heritage portal and a virtual museum — 'Kala Vaibhav' — built by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

"The Modi government is securing the knowledge of India's ancient books and manuscripts for the future through technology. In this direction, the Vedic Heritage Portal built by @ignca_delhi was inaugurated today.

"With this, the younger generation will be able to carry forward the knowledge and tradition of Vedas and Upanishads," he tweeted.

Shah said through the virtual museum, based on 64 arts, the world will be more familiar with India's architecture, painting, drama and music and



Amit Shah

HM IN K'TAKA Union HM Amit Shah will oversee destruction of 9,298 kgs of seized drugs worth Rs 1,235 crore in Bengaluru on Friday as part of the Modi govt's zero tolerance policy against narcotics. The drugs will be destroyed on the sidelines of 'Drug Trafficking and National Security' conference in Bengaluru.

the world will know the rich history of India's glorious culture.

Union Minister of Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy attended the event, among others.

Rijju assures apt action on SC ruling on appointing ECI chiefs

New Delhi (PTI): The govt is examining Supreme Court's verdict on appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners and it will take "appropriate action" on it, Rajya Sabha was told on Thursday.

In written reply, Law Minister Kiren Rijju said the Supreme Court in its judgment of March 2 held that until Parliament makes a law in consonance with Article 342(2) of the Constitution, the appointment of the CEC and



Kiren Rijju

election commissioners will be made on the recommendations made by a three-member committee comprising the PM, chief justice of In-

The government is examining the Supreme Court's verdict on the appointment of chief election commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners and it will take "appropriate action" on it.

—Kiren Rijju, Union Law Min

dia and leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and in case no LoP is available then the leader of the single largest Opposition party in LS.

Rabri Devi takes swipe on BJP over its new Bihar chief

Patna (ANI): Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi and RJD leader on Thursday scoffed at the BJP's decision to appoint Samrat Chowdhary as the party's new state chief saying it seems that the saffron party has drifted from its core vote bank, the Baniyas (traders).

Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Rabri said, "It seems the BJP has turned away from



Rabri Devi

its core vote bank, the Baniyas, and that is why they have gone with a Mahto (lower caste in Bihar) as their new state president."

Gupta challenges suspension from Delhi Assembly

New Delhi (PTI): BJP leader Vijender Gupta moved the Delhi High Court on Thursday challenging his one-year suspension from the Delhi assembly by the Speaker. His plea was mentioned before a bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Sachin Datta. The bench agreed to list the petition for hearing on Friday.

GNA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Rahul 'mismanaged' Himanta episode: Azad's book

New Delhi (PTI): "Let him go" was Rahul Gandhi's blunt reply when told that Himanta Biswa Sarma, once the Congress' key leader in Assam, had the support of a majority of MLAs and would rebel and quit the party, Ghulam Nabi Azad writes in his autobiography "Azaad".

Azad, a former Congress loyalist who quit the party in August 2022 and launched his own regional party, also targets Sonia Gandhi and

says she did not assert herself as party president "despite understanding the disastrous consequences that lay ahead".

Sarma, who went on to join the BJP and is the chief minister of Assam, was an important Congress strategist. Ten MLAs followed him when he quit the party in September 2015 over differences with the Congress leadership in Assam.

"Rahul told us blunt-



Ghulam Nabi Azad at a rally in Jammu recently. —FILE PHOTO

ly that there would be no change in leadership. We pointed out to him (Rahul) that Him-

anta had the majority of MLAs and would rebel and quit the party. 'Let him go,' Rahul said.

The meeting was over," Azad, 74, says in his autobiography that will release next month.

Azad, who is chairperson of the newly formed Democratic Progressive Azad Party, says Rahul Gandhi "mismanaged" the Sarma episode.

Himanta Biswa Sarma, 54, was appointed chief minister in 2021, just five years after leaving the Congress, after he ensured a second consecutive win for

the BJP in Assam.

According to Azad, he was not sure if Rahul said what he did "to assert himself or because he was ignorant that his decision would have far-reaching consequences, not only in the state of Assam but the entire Northeast".

The former leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha says he apprised Sonia Gandhi of the new "twist in the tale" after the interaction with Rahul Gandhi.

STF to be formed to curb drug mafia: HP CM Sukhu

Shimla (ANI): Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Thursday said that necessary amendments in the law would be carried out to take stringent action against the drug peddlers with a provision to confiscate the property of the culprits.

In a meeting with senior law and police officials, the CM said that a Special Task Force would be formed to break the supply chain and take stern action against the drug mafia. "An advisory Board un-



Himachal CM Sukhu speaks in Assembly, in Shimla on Thursday.

der the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act would also be constituted to check the menace," a press release said.

CRACKDOWN AGAINST AMRITPAL

MAN PART OF AMRITPAL'S OWN SECURITY SETUP ARRESTED: COPS

Chandigarh (PTI): Punjab Police have arrested a man who was part of private security setup of radical preacher Amritpal Singh.

Tejinder Singh Gill, a resident of Mangewal village in Khanna area of Ludhiana district, was deputed in the security of Amritpal, who is on the run since a police crackdown on his outfit 'Waris Punjab De' began on Saturday, said Khanna Deputy Superintendent of Police (Payal) Harsimrat Singh.

Gill used to display weapons in pictures and videos on social media without having arms licence. An FIR against him has been registered for disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant, he said.

Officials said their investigation has revealed that Gill was also involved in the Ajnala incident and Ajnala police will separately take action against him.

A number of Amritpal's armed supporters had stormed Ajnala police last month to secure the release of an associate of Amritpal, raising fears about return of pro-Khalistan militancy to the state bordering Pakistan.



Amritpal's 7 associates brought to Baba Bakala Court amid heavy police presence, in Amritsar on Thursday.

SECURITY BEEFED UP AT ASSAM JAIL WHERE AIDES OF AMRITPAL ARE LODGED

Dibrugarh (ANI): Multi-layered security has been made in Dibrugarh Central Jail where members of pro-Khalistan group 'Waris Punjab De' — Amritpal-led outfit — are lodged. A team of elite Black Panther Assam Police commandos has been assigned the task of securing the outer perimeter of the jail, while Central Reserve Police Force, Assam Police personnel and jail guards have taken up the responsibility of internal security. Apart from this, to enhance the security, CCTV cameras have been installed at the entire outer boundary of Dibrugarh Jail, as told by Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh district Biswajit Pegu. Earlier, a 27-member team of Punjab Police, had reached the Mohanbari airport in Dibrugarh by a special Air Force aircraft on Sunday and brought down four of four members of Waris Punjab De. Later, on Tuesday three more associates Harjeet Singh, Kulwant Singh Dhaliwal and Gurinder Pal Singh were flown to Dibrugarh on Tuesday.

MBA PASS-OUT WOMAN HELD IN HARYANA FOR SHELTERING AMRITPAL

Haryana Police have arrested a 28-year-old MBA degree holder unemployed woman and handed her over to Punjab Police for sheltering fugitive radical Amritpal and his accomplice Pappal Preet at her house in Shahabad town in Kurukshetra district. The accused, Baljeet Kaur, lives with her brother and father. Her brother works at the SDM office, while her father runs a milk business. Kurukshetra Superintendent of Police Surinder Singh Bhorla told the media that Baljeet, who is unemployed, was in touch with Pappal Preet. "It is being suspected that Pappal Preet and Amritpal stayed at their house on Sunday night. After some questioning, Punjab Police were intimated and the woman was handed over to them for further investigation." Amritpal, against whom the National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked and a non-bailable warrant issued, has been on the run despite the massive manhunt launched to nab him since March 18.

207 DETAINED SO FAR, NO INNOCENT WILL BE HARASSED, SAY PUNJAB POLICE

Addressing the media on the Amritpal case, Inspector General of Police Sukhchain Gill said, "Peaceful condition completely prevails in the state. No innocent person would be harassed by the police. The Chief Minister has given clear instructions." The top cop said that so far, 207 persons have been detained by the police in connection with the manhunt of Amritpal Singh. "30 were booked under criminal cases. 177 persons have been detained as preventive measures," IGP Gill said. IGP Gill said that a woman, Bajlit Kau, has been taken into custody from Kurukshetra for sheltering Amritpal Singh and his aide Pappal Preet.

TARN TARAN AND FEROEZPUR DISTRICTS SANS INTERNET ON MOBILES TILL TODAY

The mobile internet and SMS services in Tarn Taran and Ferozepur districts of Punjab will remain suspended till Friday noon. As per an order issued by the Punjab government on Thursday, the curbs on mobile internet services have been extended in Tarn Taran and Ferozepur districts "in the interest of public safety, to prevent any incitement to violence and to prevent any disturbance of peace and public order".

Dhanbad: 4 killed, several injured as coal mine caves in

Dhanbad: At least four people died and many more were injured after a coal mine caved in during illegal mining in the Tetulmari police station area of Jharkhand's Dhanbad district on Thursday.

The injured have been admitted to a local hospital. The incident took place in BS Mining Outsourcing company's excavation project in West Modidih colliery at around 6 am.

According to sources, more than a dozen people had entered the tunnel to extract coal, during which the roof of the mine collapsed. Eyewitnesses said that four persons died on the spot and their bodies were recovered by villagers.

During the Jharkhand Assembly proceedings on Thursday, BJP legislator Dhullu Mahto claimed that around 10 people had died in the accident.

He stated that large scale illegal mining was taking place in the district and asked when the administration would stop such acts.



Fresh countrywide mock drills soon to test Covid preparedness



The mock drill will be done soon in all states and UTs.

New Delhi (ANI): Amid spike in influenza cases in country and the uptick in Covid-19 cases over the past couple of weeks, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Thursday said a mock drill will be done soon in all the states and Union Territories to assess their preparedness to meet the twin threats to public health.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday, Bhushan said, "India on Thursday recorded 1,300 new Covid cases, the highest in the last 140 days. We will get a fresh round of mock drills done in all states and UTs in order to assess their individual Covid preparedness."

Earlier, on December 27, a mock drill was conducted at hospitals across the country to test their Covid prepared-

ness. The Union Health secretary informed further that India, for now, was accounting for just 1 per cent of the global Covid cases.

"Only about 1 per cent of the global Covid cases are being reported in India as of now. The overall active cases currently stand at 7,600 while 966 cases, on average, are being reported on a daily basis. In the second week of February, we recorded only about 108 daily cases on average. But the average daily count has since gone up to 966," Bhushan said.

Reports said the eight states where the maximum number of Covid cases are being reported currently are Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

CRUCIAL READ

EXPLOSIVES SEIZED FROM TRAIN AT SIWAN RLY STATION

Siwan: The Govt Railway Police in Bihar recovered suspected explosives from multiple bags in a passenger coach of the Gwalior-Barauni Express train at Siwan Junction railway station. GRP Police were conducting regular checks on the Gwalior-Barauni Express train's passenger coach when they found suspected explosives in bags. "GRP Police immediately informed the office of the Additional Director General (ADG) railways.

EX-HARYANA DSP ARRESTED BY ACB IN GRAFT CASE

Chandigarh: As part of its drive against corruption, ACB has arrested Phool Singh, a former Haryana Police officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in a criminal case registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act, on Thursday. The spokesperson of the Bureau informed that Phool Singh has served in the State Vigilance Bureau, now renamed as Anti Corruption Bureau.

SPEEDING MERCEDES RAMS INTO BUS NEAR ZERO POINT IN GREATER NOIDA, 6 INJURED

Greater Noida: A Mercedes driver lost control of his speeding car while he was trying to overtake a roadways bus and rammed into the vehicle near Zero Point in Greater Noida on Thursday. Six persons, including the bus and car drivers, suffered injuries. The accident was so severe that the car got stuck under the bus and both the vehicles hung down the underpass after the collision, said officials. The injured were admitted to a hospital by the police. Additional DCP Rajeev Dixit said that the car driver has been identified as Raghav Gupta, a resident of Jaypee Greens.

POLICE BUST GANG INVOLVED IN STEALING DATA

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad police on Thursday claimed to have busted a gang that was allegedly involved in stealing and selling confidential personal data of 16.8 crore citizens in the country, and sensitive data of government and important organisations. The police arrested seven persons operating from Noida and Pune involved in theft, procuring and selling sensitive and confidential data.

MAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF KILLING TEENAGER

Guwahati: A 32-year-old man was arrested for killing a teenager after an altercation over playing game on his mobile in Assam's Cachar district, police said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Monday when accused Dipak Nath asked victim to stop playing games as exams were nearing. However, Manmohan Nath, the deceased's father, claimed: "My son went to Dipak's house, and after a verbal altercation, he took my child to a field, beat him."

Show-cause notice to 300 WB teachers



Kolkata (PTI): The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has issued notices to 300 odd school teachers asking them to show cause why they were absent on March 10, the day of a strike demanding increased dearness allowance (DA), disobeying the state govt's instruction to remain present.

The show cause notices were issued to the teachers of various schools across the state.

WBBSE President Ramonuj Ganguly said, "We went by the reports of the District Inspector of schools and heads of respective educational institutions about the presence of teaching staff on March 10 and implemented the directive of the state secretariat."

Gazwa-e-Hind case: NIA raids 7 locations in Maha, Gujarat & MP

New Delhi (ANI): The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at seven locations in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh in its ongoing probe in the Gazwa-e-Hind case that is linked to the radicalisation of impressionable youth over various social media platforms for carrying out violent terrorist acts.

The places searched comprise three each in Maharashtra's Nagpur and Gujarat, and one place in MP's Gwalior.

The places searched included the residential premises and hideouts of suspects in the anti-national activities and radicalization of impressionable youth through social media.

The NIA initially registered the Gazwa-e-Hind case on July 22 last



year at Phulwarisharif Police Station in Bihar. In Phulwarisharif probe, the NIA said, it revealed that accused Margub Ahmad Danish, a self-radicalized individual, was in contact with a number of foreign entities on WhatsApp group "Ghazwa-e-Hind" created by him.

"In this group, terrorist acts and activities in Kashmir were being glorified to radicalise impressionable youth. He had also created another WhatsApp group in the name of Ghazwa-e-Hind BD and was propagating conquest of India through violence," the NIA had said earlier.

East Central Rlys collects fines of ₹54 lakh in 16 hrs

New Delhi: During a 16-hour mega ticket checking campaign, the East Central Railways collected Rs 54 lakh in fines from passengers travelling without tickets in Samastipur Division.

The Railways had deployed 152 ticket checking staff in different stations in Bihar such as Samastipur, Darbhanga, Saharsa, Raxaul, Narkatiaganj, Bapudham Motihari, Jaynagar and Sitamarhi among others.

In a similar campaign in past, three staff members of Chennai Division of Railways set a record by collecting large fines. oslin Arokia Mary had collected fines amounting to Rs 1.03 crore, Deputy Chief Ticket Inspector S. Nand Kumar collected Rs 1.55 crore as fines.



The drive against ticketless commuters was held on March 21.

WESTERN CENTRAL RLY STAFFER ARRESTED BY CBI IN BRIBE CASE

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested a senior divisional mechanical engineer of Western Central Railway in Madhya Pradesh's Katni for accepting a bribe of ₹40,000, a senior official said on Thursday. A case was registered against the accused SK Singh, senior divisional mechanical engineer on the allegations of demanding bribe for clearing the complainant's pending bill of ₹25,84,000 related to supply of four Huck Bolt Machine to ROH Shed, West Central Railway (WCR), New Katni Junction, Katni (MP). "The accused had demanded 3 per cent of the bill of ₹69,000 for clearing the complainant's pending bill. It was also alleged that the accused agreed to accept a bribe of ₹40,000 initially and remaining afterwards," said the CBI. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red-handed while accepting the bribe of ₹40,000 from the complainant. The official said that searches were conducted on the premises of the accused.

MARTYRDOM DAY

PM, other top leaders pay tribute to martyrs trio

Three freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death by Britishers on March 23, 1931

New Delhi (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday paid tributes to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru on Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas) on Thursday and said that these are greats who made an unparalleled contribution to our freedom struggle.

The three freedom fighters were hanged to death by Britishers on March 23, 1931, in the Lahore conspiracy case.

Taking to Twitter, PM Modi said, "India will always remember the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru. These are greats who made an unparalleled contribution to



A Home Guard jawan cleans a mural of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev on Martyrs' Day, in Gurugram.

our freedom struggle." Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Lok Sabha

Speaker Om Birla, Uttar Pradesh deputy chief minister Keshav

Prasad Maurya were among the leaders who paid their respects.

Gadkari tweeted, "Millions of salutes to the revolutionaries Bhagat Singh ji, Rajguru ji and Sukhdev ji on their sacrifice day, who sacrificed their everything for the motherland."

Meanwhile, Birla tweeted, "Emotional tribute to the martyrdom day of Amar Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev ji, the symbol of brav-

ery of Indian youth. The great work done by him to achieve the goal of freedom of Mother India is an inspiration for the youth of the country. The country will always be grateful for those sacrifices."

The official Twitter handle of 'Amit Mahotsav' — the initiative to mark 75 years of independence — also shared a video on the 'shaheed special series' showcasing the inspiring stories of the freedom fighters.

RAJ DOCTORS CONTINUE STIR

MANAGEMENT MULLS ACTION ON DOCS BOYCOTTING WORK

Vikas Sharma

Jaipur: Doctors continued to protest and took to the streets against the Right to Health bill in Jaipur, Udaipur, Kota, Ajmer and Jodhpur on Thursday. As doctors boycotted work, more than 300 operations in hospitals of these districts had to be postponed. In Jaipur, the striking doctors tried to block the road and also manhandled the passers-by. Meanwhile, the superintendent of the medical college in Jodhpur has warned of sacking resident doctors for boycotting work and causing inconvenience to the patients. The number of patients is increasing at hospitals, including Sawai Mansingh. Patients complained that



Agitating doctors at the Albert Hall during the candle march on Thursday evening. —PHOTO BY SANTOSH SHARMA

they could not find doctors and they would have to visit again. The Medical College Management held a meeting on Thursday in Jodhpur. Medical College Principal Dr Dilip Kachhawa warned resident doctors that they would be terminated if they do not return to work by Thursday evening.

In Jaipur, the agitating doctors reached the SMS Hospital. They took out a rally from here and reached the JLN Marg. Soon, police reached the spot. After some time, the doctors started raising slogans. A scuffle broke out between the doctors and a cab driver during this but police intervened to pacify them.

ARISDA JOINS PROTEST AGAINST RTH, APPEALS DOCS TO BOYCOTT PRACTICE

The All Rajasthan in Service Doctors Association (ARISDA) has also joined the protest against the Right to Health Bill. ARISDA president Dr Ajay Chowdhary said that doctors have been protesting and all government doctors will not do private practice from today. Chowdhary has appealed to the doctors to completely boycott private practice after the hospital timings. The decision may augment the problems faced by the patients as until now, only resident doctors were boycotting work. Resident doctors have boycotted work in medical colleges in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Ajmer and Udaipur. Besides, many other doctors' organizations have also extended their support to private hospitals. The organizations are Endocrine Society of India Rajasthan Affiliate, Cardiological Society of India, Neuroscience Club and Royal Urological Society.

DOCTORS PROTEST IN KOTA WEARING BLACK CLOTHES, MEENA CANCELS VISIT

Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena on Thursday canceled his Kota visit due to protests by doctors against the Right to Health bill passed in the assembly on Tuesday. Doctors protested in Kota while wearing black clothes in protest against the bill. Looking at the protest, the minister cancelled his visit. He was to attend the inauguration of the Divisional Level Arogya Mela at Talwandi as the chief guest. Before this, the doctors had planned to protest under the Vigyan Nagar flyover. Meanwhile, Meena accused a section of doctors of doing politics on the matter and said it will not be tolerated. He once again appealed to the agitating doctors to withdraw their agitation.

CM Gehlot okays new incentives for marriages of specially-abled

First India Bureau

Jaipur: Chief Minister Gehlot has increased the incentive amount on inter-caste marriage to 10 lakhs. On the other hand, now the assistance amount has been increased from Rs 50 thousand to Rs 5 lakh on marriage with a specially abled person. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has also approved the proposal to increase the incentive amount on inter-caste marriages under the Dr. Savita Ben Ambedkar scheme. Till now this amount has been getting Rs 5 lakh.

Moreover, to encourage marriage with specially abled people, under the Happy Married Life Scheme, now an assistance of Rs 5 lakh will be given. Taking another major decision, the Chief Minister created 250 new posts in the Rajasthan Secretariat Service.

Delegations thank CM Gehlot for new dists, budget announcements



Representatives of various minority organizations met CM Gehlot and expressed gratitude for public welfare budget on Thursday.

First India Bureau

Jaipur: On Thursday, delegations from Neem Ka Thana and Didwana-Kuchaman met Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot at CMR and thanked him for the formation of new districts. Gehlot said that there was a demand for formation of new districts for a long time. Gehlot said that the state is at the first place in the country in terms of health insurance coverage under the CM Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme.

He said that in order to provide relief to the



People of Sanchole, Salumbar also expressed gratitude to CM Ashok Gehlot on Thursday.

people of Rajasthan from inflation and to reduce the cost of cooking, the state govt is going to provide gas cylinders to the beneficiaries of Ujjwala scheme, BPL and economically weaker families at Rs 500 from April.

HC irked as bail plea not listed in Divya Mittal case

First India Bureau

Jaipur: Expressing displeasure over the bail plea of suspended Additional SP Divya Mittal not being listed on time even after the order of the High Court, Justice Narendra Singh's bench directed the registrar judicial to examine the matter and prepare a list of officers investigating the case. The High Court has also asked the registrar to inform about the number of cases that have not been listed for hearing on time despite



Suspended ASP Divya Mittal

orders from the court. Justice Narendra Singh refused to hear the petition and asked to list it before another single-judge bench.

The petitioner's lawyer had on February 16 requested to postpone

the hearing of the case for a week on which the High Court fixed the hearing of the case after a week. Despite this, the case was not listed during the said period.

ACB presented the challan on 15 March after which the case was listed on 22 March. It was said in the bail application that the ACB has neither caught her while taking bribe nor recovered the bribe amount from her. Countering this, the govt said that ACB has enough evidence to prove that Mittal had sought a bribe.

Couple ends life by jumping before train in Sriganganagar

Sri Ganganagar (FIB):

A couple allegedly committed suicide by jumping before a train in Raisinghnagar town of Sri Ganganagar district in the wee hours of Thursday, police said. Police informed the deceased has been identified as Mamta Devi (20), a resident of 27FF village in Gajsinghpur and Budhram (30), a resident of 2FFB village. "The girl had left home on Wednesday morning but did not return home. Later, at around 2 am on Thursday, the dead bodies were found near railway tracks," police said.

Dhirendera Shashtri raises demand for Hindu Nation

Ravi Sharma

Udaipur: A demand for making India a Hindu rashtra was raised in a Dharm Sansad organised in Udaipur on Thursday. Saints addressed this huge public meeting at the city's Gandhi Ground and demanded that India be declared a Hindu nation.

Katha vachak Devkinandan Thakur, Pandit Dhirendera Shastri of Bageshwar Dham and Saint Uttampad Swami of Mewar addressed the meeting. Pandit Dhirendera Shastri made it clear



Devkinandan Thakur, Dhirendera Shastri in Udaipur on Thursday.

that only the one who declares India as a Hindu nation will rule this country. Devkinandan Thakur also said he is in favor of strengthening Sanatan culture beyond politics. He also expressed serious concern

over the Kanhaiyalal murder case of Udaipur. A large number of local people also attended the programme.

Both Thakur, Shastri also raised the row of Udaipur's Kanhaiya Lal's beheading.

3 die in road mishap while seeking help on slip lane

First India Bureau

Ajmer: Three people died in a road accident near Central Rajasthan University in the Bandarsindri area. The accident took place on Thursday morning on the service road, when three men stopped to help the driver of the malfunctioning pickup vehicle. Meanwhile, all three were hit by an unknown vehicle. Due to this, two people died on the spot, while the third died on way to hospital.

On Wednesday night, Badlya resident Rajveer Rawat left for Bihar from Beawar by filling goats in his pickup RJ 01 GC 4161. Meanwhile, the pickup broke down near the under-construction flyover at the Central Varsity of Raj in Bandarsindri area. He was seeking help from truck drivers passing by. The police are investigating the matter.

Doctor, lady constable held by ACB in Chittorgarh

PK Agarwal

Chittorgarh: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a govt doctor in Chittorgarh district while accepting a bribe of Rs 4,500. Police informed that Dr Ritesh Jain, posted in the govt hospital of Nimbahera town of Chittorgarh, had demanded bribe to perform a surgery on a pregnant woman. "The complainant filed a complaint stating



(L) ACB during action in Nimbahera on Thursday. (R) Dr Ritesh Jain.

that her wife was admitted in a govt hospital as she was pregnant and expecting a delivery soon. The accused de-

manded a bribe of Rs 5,000 to perform a surgery for delivery of the baby. During verification of the complaint, Dr

LADY CONSTABLE IN ACB NET FOR TAKING ₹6K IN CHITTORGARH

The ACB on Thursday arrested a lady constable while accepting a bribe of ₹6,000. Police informed the constable, Dhannu Jat, posted in Mahila Thana in Chittorgarh, sought bribe to help the complainant in a case filed against him. "The accused constable demanded ₹8K to help the complainant. During the verification, She had already received ₹2K. On Thursday, a trap was laid and the female constable was held with ₹6K bribe," police said.



Ritesh Jain had already taken Rs 1000," police said. "On Thursday, a trap was laid and the accused was caught red-

handed with Rs 4K bribe. Searches are taking place at the premises of the accused and matter is being probed," police added.

CENTRE SPEAKS

'Raj, 9 others withdraw general consent to CBI'

●●●
Rajasthan Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, have withdrawn general consent to the CBI to probe cases, says Union Min Jitendra Singh

New Delhi (PTI): Nine states, including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal, have withdrawn general consent to the CBI to probe cases, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday. According to Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) needs the consent from the respective state government for conducting investigation in its jurisdic-



Jitendra Singh, Union Minister

—FILE PHOTO

tion, he informed the Rajya Sabha through a written reply. In terms of the provi-

sion of Section 6 of the DSPE Act, 1946, a general consent to the CBI has been granted by

state govts for investigation of specified class of offences against specified categories of persons enabling the agency to register and investigate those specified matters, said Singh, the MoS for Personnel.

Nine states — Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana and West Bengal — have withdrawn general consent to the CBI to investigate cases, he said.

200 people admitted to hosp after consuming 'Bhagar' in Jaisalmer

First India Bureau

Jaisalmer: Around 200 people fell ill and were admitted to hospital after consuming Bhagar during their fast in Jaisalmer on Wednesday. People complained of vomiting and diarrhoea upon consuming 'Bhagar' during their fast. The administration took cognizance of and started an inquiry. As the situation worsened, the health department started raiding grocery stores and



FSSAI officials collecting samples in Jaisalmer on Thursday.

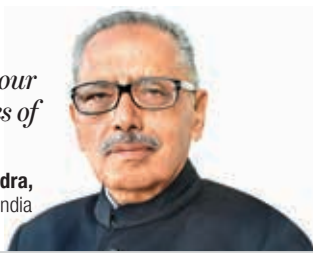
wholesale traders. All the people fell ill after eating Bhagar specifically of a special brand 'Manpasand'.

Food Safety Officer of Jaisalmer Praveen Chowdhary also alerted the team of FSSAI based in Jodhpur.



Think about the difference your daily efforts make in the lives of others-it will inspire you.

—Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, First India



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JAIPUR | FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

GEHLOT: GOVT COMMITTED TO FULFIL DREAMS OF THE YOUTH



CM Ashok Gehlot addresses the gathering during the inaugural ceremony of the Mega Job Fair being held in Bharatpur on Thursday. Also seen here are Ashok Chandna, Vishvendra Singh, BL Jatav & others.



CM Ashok Gehlot hands over an offer letter to a young participant at Mega Job Fair in Bharatpur. Also seen here are Ashok Chandna, Vishvendra Singh, Joginder Awana & others.

Ravi Katara

Bharatpur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Mega Job Fair in Bharatpur, said that the state government is committed to provide proper opportunities to youth to fulfil their dreams as inflation and unemployment are the biggest problems in the country today. "The state government is making policies keep-

Employment opportunities are being provided to the youth by organising job fairs in every district: Ashok Chandna

ing the youth and students in focus. The CM interacted with the youth and provided of letter to them.

"State government is committed to fulfil the dreams of the youth. They are being empowered through education, employment and youth centric policies. Such job fairs are now

being organised in every district to increase self-confidence and increase efficiency among the youth as well as to provide employment in private sector," Gehlot said.

It is notable that during Bharatpur tour on Thursday, Veerangana Sundari Devi, wife of Martyr Constable Jit-

ram Gurjar of Sunderwadi village, met CM & expressed gratitude for renaming Govt College, as 'Shaheed Jeetram' Shaheed Jeetram Govt College, Nagar (Bharatpur). Tourism Min Vishvendra Singh thanked CM for making Deeg a district. Panchayati Raj Minister Ramesh Meena said that due to CM's efforts, drinking water will be made available to East Rajasthan through ERCP.

CM TO ATTEND 87TH ANNIV OF BANASTHALI VIDYAPEETH TODAY

Tonk: The Banasthali Vidyapeeth and district administration have made preparations as Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will attend the annual function of the University today. The administration has issued necessary guidelines to the officials concerned for security arrangements of the CM. According to the information, the 87th anniversary event is being organised today at Banasthali Vidyapeeth.

DEFAMATION CASE ON CM
Delhi Court to announce verdict today

New Delhi (ANI): The Delhi court on Thursday reserved the order on point of issuance of summons in a Defamation complaint filed by Union Minister GS Sekhawat against CM Ashok Gehlot for his alleged remarks about the Sanjeevani scam.

ACMM Harpreet Singh has listed matter for order on issuance of summons on March 24, 2023, after conclusion of submission & recording of pre-summoning of evidence in case. Union Minister has recently moved Delhi Court and filed a defamation case against CM Gehlot alleging that Gehlot has made speeches against him saying that allegations regarding Sanjeevani Scam are proved against him. Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa "There is irreparable damage caused to his reputation."

People who make low-level comments are face of BJP: Gehlot



CM Ashok Gehlot



Rahul Gandhi

From P1...

The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Varma, which held Gandhi guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 499 and 500, also granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court, the Congress leader's lawyer Babu Mangukiya said. "We have seen for 40-50 years, how many such comments Vajpayee ji, Advani ji must have made but that time was different, this time is different. In those days there were no such court cases," Gehlot said. "Rahul Gandhi's comment also means

that the people with Modi surname think that Modi is our man, he will save us," he said, adding, "This was a political comment."

Gehlot said PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and the NDA government do not pay attention to the issues of unemployment, inflation and violence raised by Rahul Gandhi during the BJI but instead are focused on taking revenge. Targeting BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra for calling Rahul Gandhi the present-day Mir Jafar of Indian policy, Gehlot said people who make low-level comments are the face of the BJP.

CM Gehlot condoles demise of MoS Dr Subash Garg's brother



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot lays floral wreath at the mortal remains of late Rajendra Garg, the brother of Minister of State, Dr Subhash Garg during his visit to the Minister's residence in Bharatpur on Thursday.

First India Bureau

Bharatpur: CM Ashok Gehlot reached the residence of MoS for Technical Education, Dr Subhash Garg in Bharatpur on Thursday and condoled the death of his brother Rajendra Garg. He paid floral tributes at the mortal remains of Rajendra Garg and consoled Dr Garg and the

bereaved family.

Public representatives and officials including Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh, PWD Minister BL Jatav, Panchayati Raj Minister Ramesh Meena, MoS for Skill, Planning & Entrepreneurship Ashok Chandna, Devnarayan Board President Joginder Awana, ex-MP Pt. Ramkishan were present.

Two sanctuaries in Hadoti to have two tigresses each

First India Bureau

New Delhi / Kota: One tigress each will be released in Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve and Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve. Apart from this, the Union Forest and Environment Ministry will release Rs 8 crore for the development of both the tiger reserves.

It was decided in a meeting between LS Om Birla & Union Forest and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav which



Om Birla & Bhupender Yadav during a meeting over MHTR & Ramgarh Tiger Reserves in New Delhi on Thursday. Also seen are CP Goyal, Dr SP Yadav, Shikhar Agrawal, Siddharth Mahajan & Rajeev Dutta.

was held in Delhi on Thursday. Birla stressed the need to immediately shift the tigress and other

wildlife in both the Tiger Reserves. Rs 8 crore to be given by Union Ministry will be used

for developing water points, security-related measures etc in both the Tiger Reserves.

Gaurs & wild dogs are among other wild animals which will be shifted to Mukundra & Ramgarh Tiger Reserves. Gaur is probably being introduced for first time in Raj. River cruise operation in Chambal river was also discussed as due to National Gharial Sanctuary, Centre's permission is required for cruise operation.

TIGRESS 'ST-30' RELEASED IN SARISKA

Alwar: Translocated Tigress 'ST-30' bought to Sariska Tiger Reserve from Ranthambore National Park on March 9 was set free into the wild on Wednesday late evening. DFO DP Jagawat informed the tigress was kept in the enclosure for 13 days and was left in the wild on Wednesday as per the guidelines of NCTA. "Now, there are 14 tigresses, 8 tigers and 6 cubs in Sariska, which takes the total number of 28 in the jungle. This new Tigress has been named ST-30. Strict monitoring was done and after founding the behaviour of the Tigress normal, ST-30 was released in the Bhagani jungles of Tehla range," said DFO Jagawat. "Another Tigress will come from Ranthambore in Sariska as per NCTA approval. According to the permission given last time, one tiger and one tigress have arrived. Preparations have started to bring the third Tigress," added Jagawat.

—Nirmal Tiwari

G20 SFWG work plan discussed in Udpr

Udaipur (PTI):

Detailed discussion on the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) work plan in 2023 was held in a three-day meeting of the group under the G20 India presidency in Udaipur.

The meeting concluded on Thursday.

"Discussion on SFWG work plan comprising three identified priority areas of mechanisms for mobilisation

of timely and adequate resources for climate finance; enabling finance for the Sustainable Development Goals; and capacity building of the ecosystem for financing toward sustainable development were held in the meeting," according to a release.

The meeting held on March 21-23 was attended by 93 delegates from G20 member countries, 10 invitee countries and

18 international organisations, including Asian Development Bank and United Nations Development Programme, among others.

"Keeping up with a collaborative spirit and arriving at a consensus, members agreed upon the way forward for important deliverables for the year that include a set of options for mobilising financial resources for climate action, developing an analyti-

cal framework for SDG-aligned finance and the G20 Sustainable Finance Technical Assistance Action Plan (TAAP)," the release said. During the plenary sessions, members' discussions and interventions were held on the three priority areas of the SFWG. G20 members agreed that MDBs play an important role in catalysing private finance & that they must strengthen this role.

Kota: Workshop on new rules & relaxations of UDH on April 6

First India Bureau

Kota: A divisional-level workshop of UDH will be held at UIT Auditorium in Kota on April 6. UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal informed that under the Prashasan Shehron Ke Sang Abhiyan, various relaxations have been given and several orders and circulars have been issued by amending the rules and other procedures. "To give detailed information about the new rules and given relaxations, a divisional level workshop will be organised in Kota on April 6. Town

Planners, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Patwari, Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and officers of all agencies issuing lease deeds will be participating in the workshop.

Similarly, the Mayor, Nagar Palika Chairman, public representatives of Municipalities, Municipal Council and Corporations will also be present," said UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal.

UDH Min Shanti Dhariwal leaves for New York from Delhi late on Thursday night. He will participate in RANA's Holi Sneh Milan Samaroh on March 25.

Cong's fight is with fascist forces in power: Dotasra

Yogesh Sharma

Jaipur: Congress leaders and workers staged a protest outside the state Congress office in Jaipur on Thursday against the sentencing of Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case in Surat. Under the leadership of PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotasra, Congressmen protested against the central government.

In view of Thursday's decision on Rahul Gandhi's case, Under the leadership of Do-



Govind Singh Dotasra addresses a meeting to protest against Rahul Gandhi's conviction at PCC Office in Jaipur on Thursday. Also seen here are Pratap S Khachariyawas, Rafeek Khan, Amin Kagzi, Jyoti Khandelwal, Dr Archana Sharma, Prashant Bairwa, Munesh Gurjar and Naseem Akhtar.

—PHOTO BY SANTOSH SHARMA

tasra, Ministers, MLAs and people's representatives of Jaipur protested against the Centre. After this, a meeting

was also organised in PCC.

On this occasion, PCC Chief Dotasra said that Rahul Gandhi is

NSUI ACTIVISTS PROTEST AGAINST CENTRE

NSUI activists protested against the Central government and burnt the effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday after the Surat court sentenced Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail over his remarks about the PM in 2019. The activists raised slogans against the PM and warned of an agitation. They said that the BJP had been targeting Gandhi after the success of the *Bharat Jodo Yatra*.

CONGRESS TO 'GHERAO' RAJ BHAVAN TODAY

Jaipur: Congress will 'Gherao' the Raj Bhavan on Friday. The party members will gather at 2 pm at the Civil Lines Gate in protest against the action against Rahul Gandhi's conviction. CM Ashok Gehlot, State Congress in-charge Sukhinder Singh Randhawa, PCC President Govind Singh Dotasra, ministers, MLAs and the party's office bearers will be present during the protest.

fighting the battle of truth. "The court's decision has been postponed, which will be challenged under the

judicial process, but the Congress party's fight is with those fascist forces who are sitting in power in country. Apart

from misusing constitutional institutions, intimidating and threatening opposition leaders, suppressing the voice of common man, ED & CBI are calling & harassing the opponents," he said.

Mahesh Joshi & Pratap S Khachariyawas said that BJP has left no stone unturned to harass Sonia & Rahul Gandhi via ED & Rahul was harassed by ED for 5 days for questioning without any reason. Cong leaders weren't allowed to speak in Parliament, they said.

HAATH SE HAATH JODO ABHIYAN TO CONTINUE IN KOTA, SAYS SHANTI DHARIWAL

Kota: UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal on Thursday said that 'Haath Se Haath Jodo Abhiyan' will continue in Kota. Dhariwal informed that under the Haath Se Haath Jodo campaign, the 'Padyatra' will continue and government representatives are reaching the doorsteps of the public. "A padyatra will be organised in Kota from April 1 to 8 wherein, PCC Member Amit Dhariwal, public representatives and Congress workers will also be present. The *Yatra* will take place in wards located after crossing the railway tracks," said UDH Minister UDH Shanti Dhariwal.



UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal

JAIPUR | FRIDAY,
MARCH 24, 2023

First India

City First



PHOTOS BY SANTOSH SHARMA

Dari, Kristine and Oleksa showcasing designer collection

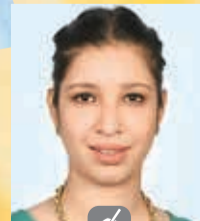
FASHION CONNECT SEASON-14

QUINTESSENTIAL

The outstanding Fashion Connect presented by First India and Bharat24- Vision of New India was held at Oaks Ibn Battuta Gate Hotel Dubai on March 19. City First highlights some glimpses of highly acclaimed designer Ishita Gupta's collection showcased at the grand show!



Designer Ishita Gupta from itsIsh with models showcasing her collection



KAVITA CHAUHAN
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Oaks Ibn Battuta Gate Hotel, the crowned jewel of Dubai, hosted one of India's premier single-day fashion events called Fashion Connect, season 14, Presented by First India News and Bharat24-Vision of New India on Sunday, March 19. Jagdeesh Chandra

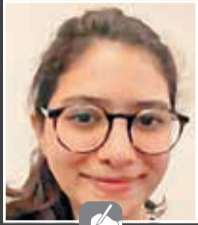
graced the evening and appreciated the designer, Ishita Gupta for her mystical collection. His Highness Sheikh Juma Bin Maktoum Al Maktoum was present as the Chief Guest and Yakoob Al Ali, Executive Director and Private Advisor in His Highness Office attended the show as the special guest. Designer Ishita Gupta took everyone on a ride to the mystical world of Botanic 'its ISH'. While describing her gorgeous collection, the talented designer said, "My couture collection offers is a love affair between contemporary silhouettes and artisanal craftsmanship. The line-up today is a parade of multiple meanings of pret out-

fits in a world where glamour and leisure are entangled." "Our brand is built to celebrate the quintessential occasion wear with modern femininity and ritzy aesthetics – its ISH's intricate close-up details are designed to make each woman in it special. We love to create outfits for those who enjoy wearing trendy clothes and the refinement of luxury," she added. Designer Ishita has interpreted botanical motifs into handcrafted textures bringing a new life to the collection. The collection features flowing silhouettes, intricate detailing, and light shades that evoke a sense of grace and sophistication.

Clockwise: Maria, Alla, Ekleandra, Ali and Oumaima



Eat Well to Do Well in Your Exams



DR HENA MARIAM
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

The word exam in itself sends people into a frenzy. Exams aren't just stressful for children but for their parents and caregivers as well. But how important is your diet before an exam? Good health is imperative for optimum performance before an exam. Food is not just a source of fuel, but a comforting factor for many.

THE RIGHT KIND OF FOOD
Some foods can cause gastritis, bloating, and discomfort, while some other ones cause sleepiness and lethargy. Taking the right type of food is imperative. Exams are a period of stress for any student irrespective of age, it doesn't matter if you are a child or you are appearing for your master's. It is important to plan, schedule and organize your food, just the same way you do for your exams. A good diet can help beat stress. Good food can help you prepare well and beat the anxiety that comes with this exam period.

BREAKFAST CAN MAKE OR BREAK YOUR EXAM
Exams are an inevitable part of every student's life and there is no way you can avoid them. Eating regular and healthy meals and snacks during the exam period will help you stay nourished. We've all been told how important breakfast is and missing breakfast can be a bad idea because long hours of fasting lead to a drop in blood sugar level and this affects cognition and

focus, which is the make or break of your exams. Sometimes, anxiety can make children feel nauseous and they tend to avoid eating. Still, make sure they have some food in their stomachs before an exam. Their brain will thank them. A good breakfast can energize the brain and work efficiently. This way, the concentration is on the exam rather than the rumbling sound of their stomach. When you are hungry, it is hard to focus and concentrate. Attention is hampered and exam performance declines. Hence it is necessary as parents to ensure that your kids enjoy their meals and snacks. Help

your child develop a healthy relationship with food and eating even as they're coping with exam stress.

WHAT FOODS CAN I INCLUDE
Include foods that increase alertness, enhance memory retention, and can increase energy levels and the general health of your child. Healthy food choices on exam day include protein-rich foods such as eggs, nuts, cottage cheese and yoghurt.

A good breakfast combination can include whole-grain cereal with low-fat milk, porridge, muesli or eggs. For Indians, vegetable-rich poha, or oats with nuts, fruits like bananas, apples, pears, and papaya may be given. Dry fruits and nuts are also concentrated sources of energy and should be included. Yoghurt is an excellent choice of protein and probiotics. This means it helps in maintaining the gut flora and prevents gastritis, abdominal bloating and discomfort. It might be best to avoid foods rich in carbohydrates and oily food as they will induce sleep and cause gastritis. A better diet equals better performance.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- **HYDRATION IS KEY**
Stay hydrated. Dehydration can lead to poor exam performance and fatigue.
- **SMALLER DIGESTIBLE MEALS MIGHT BE BETTER**
Stick to small frequent meals that are easy to digest over heavy meals. Include protein-rich foods.
- **CHOOSE PROTEIN OVER SUGAR**
Try to avoid sugary and salty foods as they can lead to bloating, water retention, and weight gain. Instead, pick protein-rich foods which keep you fuller for longer and help build muscle.
- **CHOOSE FRUIT OVER JUICE**
Avoid fruit juices as they spike blood sugar and can cause your mind to go into a state of confusion and chaos. Instead, prefer to

eat the fruit whole. The fibre content will help prevent indigestion and abdominal bloating.

- **INCULCATE GOOD DIETARY HABITS YOUNG**
A healthy diet and dietary habits start early in life and family and school play a very important role in developing healthy eating habits. Healthy eating patterns which start early in life pave the way for good health. After all, there is no need to change healthy dietary habits during exams. However, if dietary habits are poor, it is necessary to bring in some discipline in the eating habits. What you eat today can pave your way for tomorrow, both in terms of your health and professional career.

Source- <https://www.medindia.net/news/healthwatch/eat-well-to-do-well-in-your-exams-210895-1.htm>

ARIES

MAR 21 - APR 20



Things move positively on the academic front and encourage you to give your best. Good management will help you in completing a

project or assignment in time. Travelling with your near and dear ones to the countryside will prove immensely fulfilling.

LIBRA

SEPT 24 - OCTOBER 22



You are likely to experience a positive phase in your existence. Favourable decision can be expected regarding a piece of property under

dispute. Those in tourism and hospitality sectors will find new opportunities knocking at their door. You may take the initiative of organising a family gathering.

TAURUS

APR 21 - MAY 20



Switching to healthy foods will be the key to remaining fit and active. A family issue may need to be deliberated upon, so that it does not disturb

domestic harmony. An out of town invitation will tempt some to undertake the journey. Spirituality may bring a special meaning to your life.

SCORPIO

OCT 23 - NOVEMBER 22

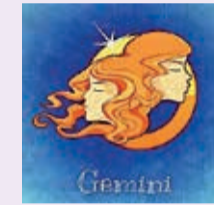


A trip with friends will be both enjoyable and therapeutic. Family life will remain stable and provide you a firm foundation from where to

venture forth. This is the best time for launching your ideas at work. Money multiplies through excellent financial planning. The day turns out well for you.

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUNE 21



Change of diet will improve health. A difference of opinion may pit you against a family elder. Those compelled to travel are likely

to find interesting company. Some of you will be able to add to your wealth and even plan to buy property. You are set to enjoy the exclusive company of friends.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23 - DEC 22



Meeting someone new is likely to enlarge your social circle. Something you had wanted for the home may be gifted to you. Your ideas will

work on the professional front and speed up the progress. Your financial condition is not bad, but you do possess the potential to earn much more.

CANCER

JUNE 22 - JULY 23



Time is favourable as your real estate investments start giving handsome returns. An official trip is likely to keep you tied up. Your

help and support to a youngster will help boost his or her self-confidence. Those trying to achieve their professional targets will succeed.

CAPRICORN

DEC 23 - JAN 20



Businesspersons are likely to do good business today and earn well. The day proves excellent for you, both personally and professionally.

Appease someone in the family to have your way. You may have to put your foot down against a trip you are reluctant to go on.

LEO

JULY 24 - AUGUST 23



Your professionalism is likely to be praised at work. Someone's unexpected arrival at home threatens to upset your personal

plans. Seeing new places, meeting new people is in store for some. There is nothing that can go wrong today, except things involving property.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21 - FEB 19

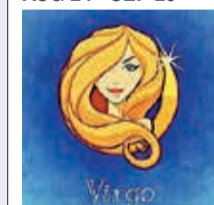


You will be able to get the study stream you desire on the academic front. Going is likely to get better on the professional front. Purchasing

a new car or an expensive appliance is indicated. Children can keep you entertained. The day is favourable to get a project underway.

VRIGO

AUG 24 - SEP 23

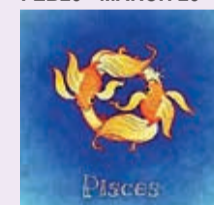


Those in the financial sector can hope to start making profits. You may think up ways of improving your health. A major renovation work

may be undertaken at home. A journey is likely to take you down the memory lane. Travel stars look bright for some, especially for overseas travel.

PISCES

FEB 20 - MARCH 20



Some additional perks can be expected by those in the private sector. An enjoyable outing is on the cards for some. Family life will cruise

along smoothly and give you time for rest and recoup. A promotion or a prestigious appointment is in store for those in a government job.

YOUR DAY

Horoscope by Saurabh Sachdeva

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To Receive the Most Exclusive News from the Power Corridors of Rajasthan.



FACE OF THE DAY



ASTHA SAXSENA, Model



Janhvi Kapoor

SPRING ROYALTY

So green, so glam, oh my! Who needs more when a saree-filled closet is the ultimate glamour hub? As sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious blooms of flowers in shades of pink and yellow are painting streets beautifully bright, we can believe that Spring is springing. Is anyone else getting invited to step out? Up until now, we have seen saree as a gem and nothing gets us going as

this timeless attire. Janhvi Kapoor's recent look will make you reach more and more of a saree that if you are already at spiralling looks as a wedding guest.

Our not-so-hidden routine is to run some constant checks through the Mili actress's photo grids and just this morning a fresh serve with no fashion drama rolled up. The definition of grace is here as Janhvi posted pictures of her "Happy day" from Hyderabad.



Call Me Bae Teaser



Anya Panday

Ananya Panday is all set to headline Amazon Prime Video's new series called 'Call Me Bae,' and the first teaser of the show was unveiled today. Directed by Collin D'Cunha, Call Me Bae is a Dharmatic Entertainment production with Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta and Somen Mishra as executive producers. Today, Varun Dhawan shared a fun teaser in which he is seen introducing the show, while Anya Panday channels her inner Meryl Streep from The Devil Wears Prada, and schools Varun Dhawan about the nuances of fashion. The video begins with Varun Dhawan revealing the new show titled 'Call Me Bae', and as Anya Panday enters the frame, she interrupts him and says it's her show where she plays a 'total fashion expert'. Varun is then seen mocking her as he whispers, "Manish Malhotra ko 'chachu' bulane se koi fashion expert nahi banta." Later, he is seen mocking 'fashion log (people)', and Anya Panday is seen delivering a Meryl Streep-inspired monologue, wherein she schools Varun about his lack of knowledge when it comes to fashion.



Still from the teaser

Secretly engaged!

Wedding bells seem to be near for Dylan Sprouse and Barbara Palvin. According to a report from Entertainment Tonight the couple is now engaged after dating for five years. Previously in early March, Dylan Sprouse and Barbara Palvin sparked engagement rumours when they

attended the Mammoth Film Festival as the latter was seen wearing a ring on her finger. However, at that time, the couple didn't confirm their engagement. However recently Entertainment Tonight confirmed that this long-time couple is engaged. Dylan Sprouse and Barbara Palvin are reportedly very

happy and have been showing off the ring to other people. The couple cannot wait to start a new chapter in their life and are happier than usual. As per ET, Dylan and Barbara are very much in love and always stay by each other's side. Though the couple has not yet commented on these speculations.



Barbara Palvin

Body Positivity

Arjun Kapoor's sister Anshula Kapoor is quite active on Instagram, and she often shares lovely pictures along with empowering notes on body positivity. Anshula shared a post in which she is seen rocking a bodysuit. She looks absolutely stunning, and in her caption, she wrote that she stopped herself from wearing bodysuits as she felt they aren't flattering for her body shape. In the stunning pictures, Anshula Kapoor is seen wearing an off-shoulder

black bodysuit. She wrote, "Over the years, I've endlessly told myself that bodysuits aren't flattering for my body shape. I've stopped myself from wearing them more times than I can count. But I had a realization earlier this year. There's a lot of hidden joy in being able to try everything I never let myself explore before, at least once. I want to experience that thrill."

She further added, "Am I owning it? Who cares!! Am I having fun? Oh, 100% yes!"



Anshula Kapoor

REGAL ELEGANCE

Aditi Rao Hydari is undeniably one of the most stylish actors in Bollywood. While she looks stunning no matter what she wears, very few actresses can rock ethnic outfits as gracefully as Aditi can! From anarkalis to sarees, lehengas, and more- Aditi rocks ethnic ensembles effortlessly and with great panache. She has been promoting her recently released series Taj: Divided By Blood and was spotted in Hyderabad a few days ago. The actress exuded regal elegance in a red Punit Balana anarkali, and she has now shared some stunning pictures! If you loved the outfit as much as we did, keep scrolling to find out its details!

Aditi Rao Hydari opted for Punit Balana's surkh laal Anarkali,



paired with dupatta and churidar. The bright red anarkali has angrakha silhouette, with a V-neckline. Made of chanderi silk and organza, the floral red anarkali is embroidered with resham and coin work.

Instagram Official

Bridgerton's Simone Ashley is in a relationship. The 27-year-old actress, who plays Kate Sharma in the popular Netflix show, took to her social media to reveal that she is dating her boyfriend Tino Klein. Scroll below to take a look. A few hours back, Simone took to her Instagram space and posted a black and white picture featuring herself with her beau Tino Klein. In the adorable click, both the lovebirds can be seen sitting

close to each other as they share a happy moment and laugh together.

Klein can also be seen holding Ashley's hand. Sharing the photograph, the Sex Education actress captioned the post, "thank you for taking one of my favourite photos (red heart emoji)" as she tagged the photographer Greg Williams.



Simone Ashley



Aditi Rao Hydari



ACHIEVEMENTS AWARDED!

Jagdeesh Chandra visited the channel office of Bharat24-Vision of New India at Noida on Thursday. He also awarded the Top performing Anchors who garnered major traction on the popular Social Media handles of Bharat24. Pooja Yadav, Ayushi Shekhawat and Surabhi Tiwari were awarded for the highest views on Bharat24 Social Media platforms. The day also marked the birthday celebration for the Bharat24 employees whose birthdays fell in the month of March. Jagdeesh Chandra greeted all of them amid cake cutting and gave birthday gifts to each.



Jagdeesh Chandra during the cake cutting ceremony at Bharat24-Vision of New India at Noida on Thursday. Also seen are Sakshi Mishra, Abhinav Shukla, Poornima Mishra, Raj Verma and others.



Jagdeesh Chandra awards Pooja Yadav for crossing the 3.3 million viewership on Bharat24 YouTube & Facebook platforms. Also seen are Anu Shridhar, Prasoos Shukla, Aarif Khan and others.



Jagdeesh Chandra awards Ayushi Shekhawat for crossing 2 Million viewership on Bharat24 YouTube & Facebook platforms. Also seen are Anu Shridhar, Prasoos Shukla, Aarif Khan and others.



Jagdeesh Chandra awards Surabhi Tiwari for crossing the 6.48 Lakh viewership on Bharat24 YouTube & Facebook platforms. Also seen are Anu Shridhar, Prasoos Shukla, Aarif Khan and others.



Ajay Data during the inauguration

THE GRAND INAUGURATION!

CITY FIRST

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office and Innovation Center in India during an event at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi on Wednesday. Under this, ITU discussed India's innovation in which Ajay Data was called as a special guest. Ajay Data told informed the innovation of his

world-famous linguistic email address and emphasized that this era is the era of speed. It takes 15 to 20 years to reach the first 100 million, now new technologies are reaching 100 million in two months. With this thinking, we all have to uplift about 60 per cent of the people of the world and by making them aware of the power of the internet, we will have to strengthen their potential.



CRICKET FEVER IN THE CITY!

—PHOTOS BY MUKESH KIRADOO

CITY FIRST

EMCL, Event Managers Cricket League 2023 Style Walk 2023 to be held on March 24 at the Fairmont Hotel, Kukas. In the series of events, a grand event of Event Managers Cricket League 2023 in collaboration with the Rajasthan Veterans Cricket Association will be organised from March 28 to April 4 at Jaipuria Cricket Academy, Malviya Nagar.

In this context, Miss Rajasthan models presented a glimpse of the designer wear to be showcased in the launching ceremony at Jarpar, Malviya Nagar on Friday. This program was organised as a tribute to former Ranji player late Sanjeev Ohlan. During the event, Suman Raina, wife of Late



(L-R) Standing: Riya Jakhar, Vashika Sethi, Bhawana Vaishnav, Surbhi Sabnani, Nandini Chaudhary, Yogesh Mishra, Suhani Khunteta, Dipti Saini and Paridhi Sharma. Sitting: Ravi Yadav, Mahavir Sharma, Suman Raina and Arshad Hussain



Paridhi Sharma

Sanjeev Ohlan, EMCL Founder Ravi Yadav, Miss Rajasthan Director Yogesh Mishra, Federation of Rajasthan Event Managers (Forum) Mahavir Sharma and former Forum President Harshad Hussain were present.

During this, Ravi Yadav said that EMCL was started on March 16 by selecting players through an auction. The eight-day event will begin with the fashion show 'EMCL Style Walk 2023'. This fashion show will be one of its kind in Rajasthan with the theme



'Designing Special with VFX'. After this, Team Fairmont, Forum Royals, Tigers JC Eleven, Leela Palace, Lion Event Warriors, Airsky Hawks, Samode Hotels, Mepso Warriors and All-Star EMCL Teams are participating in the matches to be held from March 28. The program will be glamorous with the new trends of 2023. Show Designer and Miss Rajasthan Director Yogesh Mishra shared that in the launching show, the models will showcase the latest trends in the 4 fashion rounds.

CELEBRATIONS!

City First brings to you some more glimpses from the Fashion Connect presented by First India and Bharat24 held at Oaks Ibn Battuta Gate Hotel Dubai on March 19.



Shubra Bohra, received the award for Navneet Group of Industries, for the most promising business house.

Dr. Puneet Bhargava collected the award on behalf of his daughter, for the category - most promising, upcoming young writer.



Narendra Singh, a member of the erstwhile royal family of Jaipur has been appointed as the cultural in-charge of Sawai Madhopur district by Pradeep Singh Rajawat, the coordinator of Sanskar Bharti, Jaipur province, Dhundhar cultural area, in a function organised at Galta Thikana Peeth on the occasion of New Year on Wednesday. It is worth mentioning that Jaipur, Tonk, Karoli, Dausa and Sawai Madhopur districts come in Dhundhar province. On this occasion Dr Ravindra Bharti, Central Executive Member of Sanskar Bharti, Dr Madhu Bhatt Tailang, President of Jaipur Province, etc were present.

DURING THE DAY



On the auspicious occasion of the birth centenary year of Shaheed Hemu Kalani, the statue of Shaheed Hemu Kalani was unveiled by Regional MLA Kalicharan Saraf with the amount provided by the Legislator's Fund in Malviya Nagar near Jhulelal Temple, Sector 1. Hemu was hanged on January 21, 1943, patriotism was full of codification in Martyr Hemu Colony. When he was asked what was his last wish, he said that by I want to serve the country by taking birth again in India.

Exquisite Collection of Handwoven Heirlooms

CITY FIRST/ NEW DELHI

Renowned designer Vidhi Singhania, who is known for her handwoven heirlooms opened her new store in Defence Colony, New Delhi on Thursday, offering an exquisite collection of handwoven heirlooms that exemplify India's rich cultural heritage with a contemporary twist. Celebrating 25 years of Quiet Luxury, Vidhi Singhania brings RANISA, a Queen's sartorial spread that captures the essence of Kota and Benaras with immaculate embroidery, waraq, dori, and gota patti work, woven in jewel colours.

The collection features elegant sarees, lehengas and enchanting blouses, both stitched and unstitched, com-



Glimpse of the mesmerizing designer collection by Vidhi Singhania



plemented by embellished handcrafted potlis that bring luxury to every look. Vidhi's Home Collection is steeped in ethos and aesthetics that are innately Indian with a contemporary spin.

Speaking about the new collection, Vidhi Singhania said, "At Vidhi, we aim to



Sharmi and Sanaa



(L-R) Sonam Singhania, Vidhi Singhania and Sanaa Singhania

bring the finest textiles and crafts to the world, keeping our traditions and techniques alive. Our new collection celebrates the artistry of Benaras and the splendour of Kota, bringing

in our timeless heritage. We believe in crafting every piece with finesse, bringing out the unique and individual characteristics of each textile."

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

—PHOTOS BY SHAZID CHAUHAN



The semi-final round of Rajasthan Ghoomar Queen 2023 Season 4 was organised by Sadbhavna Parivar Foundation at Poddar Group of Institutions, Jaipur, on Thursday in which Sadbhavna Parivar Foundation President Manoj Pandey, Director Shiv Kanta Pandey, Show Director Rohit Sharma, Rajasthan Ghoomar Queen 2022 Seema Sethi, Aarti Mathur, Chaman Vijay. Anchor Rahul John and Muskan Parwani were present. The show was done by Judge Seema Sethi & Aarti Mathur. Show Director Rohit Sharma shared that women of various age-group participated enthusiastically.