



# FIRST INDIA

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**PM Modi inaugurates the animal conservation centre 'Vantara'**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Reliance Foundation Founder and Chairperson Nita Ambani, Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant during inauguration of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation centre, Vantara, in Jamnagar on Tuesday.



PM Narendra Modi interacts with orangutan babies.



PM Narendra Modi feeds a Clouded Leopard cub.

## A close-up of Modi's passion!

PM Modi spent over 7 hrs to review world-class facilities at Reliance Group's 'Vantara'. He enjoyed with chimpanzee, elephant, giraffe, dolphin & more; also fed milk to cubs

First India Bureau  
Jamnagar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the animal conservation center 'Vantara' in Jamnagar, Gujarat on Tuesday. Vantara is a dedicated centre for the conservation and protection of wildlife. The PM spent over 7 hours at the 3,000-acre facility, inspecting its world-class amenities for animals. Vantara has been established as an initiative of Anant Ambani, son of RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani. Upon his arrival at Vantara, the Ambani family welcomed the Prime Minister in a traditional manner. The inauguration ceremony took place amidst the resonat-

ing sounds of conch shells, Vedic chants, and folk performances. PM Modi also participated in a prayer ritual at the temple on the premises. PM inspected hospital designed specifically for animals. He observed live demonstration of advanced diagnostic equipment, including CT scans, MRIs, ultrasounds, and endoscopy. He also showed keen interest in the ICU and operation theater facilities available for animals. A dedicated nursery for newborn animal cubs has also been set up at Vantara. At the vast Vantara facility, each animal is provided with a habitat tailored to its needs. It includes sections like the Kingdom of Lions,

Kingdom of Reptiles, Kingdom of Seals, and a Cheetah Breeding Center. However, the biggest attraction is the "Gajana-gari," an elephant sanctuary spread over approximately 1,000 acres. "Inaugurated Vantara, a unique wildlife conservation, rescue and rehabilitation initiative, which provides a safe haven for animals while promoting ecological sustainability and wildlife welfare. I commend Anant Ambani and his entire team for this very compassionate effort. An effort like Vantara is truly commendable, a vibrant example of our centuries old ethos of protecting those we share our planet with," posted PM Narendra Modi on X.

### PM MODI SHARES LOVE WITH RESCUED ANIMAL AT VANTARA

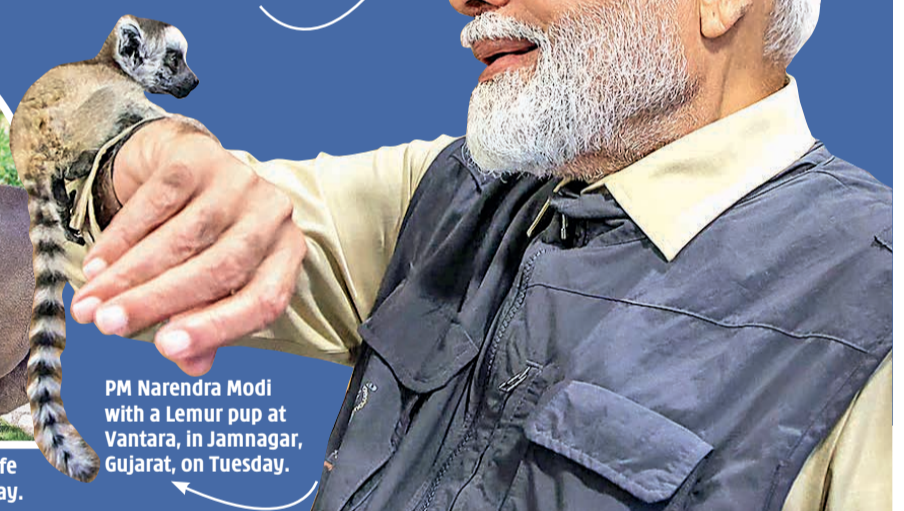
Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed cubs of Asian lions, white lions, and the rare and endangered clouded leopards. He personally fed white lion, tiger, and rhino cubs with his own hands. The centre houses several endangered species, including the Asian lion, snow leopard, and one-horned rhinoceros. PM Modi also got a close view of several rare and dangerous animals such as the golden tiger, white lion, and snow leopard.



PM Narendra Modi with a white tiger.



PM Narendra Modi feeds One-Horn Rhinos while visiting the wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation centre, Vantara, on Tuesday.



PM Narendra Modi with a Lemur pup at Vantara, in Jamnagar, Gujarat, on Tuesday.

Maha Guv accepts resignation of min Dhananjay Munde

First India Bureau  
Mumbai

Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday accepted resignation of cabinet minister Dhananjay Munde. Munde has been at controversy after links of his confidant Walmik Karad were revealed in murder of a BJP supporter and the sarpanch of Massajog village in Beed district.



### INDIA'S 'VIRAT' WIN!

Virat Kohli delivered a chase masterclass to knock Australia out of the tournament and propel India into the final with a 4-wicket victory in the first semi-final of the Champions Trophy on Tuesday in Dubai. India finally avenged its 2023 ODI World Cup heartbreak, putting that painful memory behind with a well-earned win. Indian cricket team star batter Virat Kohli shattered Sachin Tendulkar's record. P7

**Player of the Match**  
**Virat Kohli**

84 (98) & 2 catches  
\*INDIA TO PLAY ICC CHAMPIONS TROPHY FINAL IN DUBAI ON MARCH 5

AUS 264 (49.3 Ov)  
IND 267/6 (48.1/50 Ov)  
T: 265

Birla to launch Constitution Club on March 8: Devnani

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani said that launch of Constitution Club will take place on March 8. The event will be graced by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, who will officially launch the club at 11 am. The then CM Ashok Gehlot had inaugurated Club building on Sept 22, 2023 in a grand ceremony.

Special arrangements for the event have been made by Devnani, who visited venue along with LoP Tika Ram Jolly, and issued directions to officials overseeing preps on Tuesday.



### IN THE COURTYARD

SC: Calling 'miyan-tiyan' & 'Pakistani' not offence

The SC has held using terms such as "miyan-tiyan" and "Pakistani" was not an offence of hurting religious sentiments though made in poor taste.

Check unfair pricing by pvt hosps: SC to states

The SC on Tuesday called on the state & central govts to introduce a policy to check overpricing of medicines and medical devices at private hospitals.

Delhi HC grants bail to wrestler Sushil Kumar

The Delhi HC Tuesday granted bail to Olympic wrestler Sushil Kumar, who had been in jail for over 3 years over the 2021 murder of wrestler Sagar Dhankhar.

HC stays FIR against Madhabi Puri, 5 others

The Bombay HC on Tuesday stayed a sessions court order for 4 weeks that directed ACB to register FIR against Madhabi Puri Buch and 5 others.

## CM SHARMA DIRECTS MINS AND MLAs IN ASSEMBLY...

'Ensure presence, maintain proper behaviour during the Session'

Aishwary Pradhan and Yogesh Sharma  
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma convened a meeting of the BJP legislative party, where he emphasized discipline and duty for ministers and legislators in legislative assembly.

The Chief Minister urged ministers to remain present throughout the Session and maintain proper behaviour. During the meeting, CM Sharma advised Ministers Heera-



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma addressing during the BJP legislative party meeting in Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday.

lal Nagar, Joraram Kumawat & Vijay Singh Chaudhary to be attentive to their conduct in the house. He stressed that they should ensure their presence and participation at all times.

The Chief Minister also addressed the legislators, urging them to listen to the grievances of the public whenever any petitioner approaches them. He emphasized that if a petitioner returns multiple times, they should still be heard and their issues addressed.

CM Sharma encouraged legislators to understand their duties as public representatives and act accordingly, ensuring that the government's actions for public welfare are effectively communicated and carried out. P3

### MEGHWAL LAUDS CM SHARMA'S WORK STYLE



Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal paid a courtesy visit to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma in Jaipur on Tuesday. Duo discussed social and political issues, including the development of parliamentary constituency Bikaner. Arjun Meghwal also praised CM Sharma's work style, stating that he is working diligently on the issues concerning the common people.

## Circular economy can generate \$2 tn: Yadav

Abhishek Shrivastava  
Jaipur

India's circular economy could generate a market value of over \$2 trillion and create close to 10 million jobs by 2050. Expressing this view, while speaking at the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav said, the 'circular economy' may be about to drive one of the biggest transformations in



Bhupender Yadav addresses at 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, in Jaipur, Tuesday.

business since the Industrial Revolution 250 years ago, circular economy could provide a potential \$4.5 trillion in additional economic output by 2030 world over. P8

## STATE POLICE ACTS AGAINST HABITUAL OFFENDER

Pratapgarh land mafia Jansher's property worth ₹12 crore frozen

Illegally acquired property through threats and intimidation; led to the suicide of a reputed person, Mustafa Bohra

Then SP Pratapgarh, Amit Kumar, prepared a detailed report and sent it to the Income Tax Department for property seizure



First India Bureau  
Pratapgarh

In a major first under Section 24(3) of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988, Rajasthan Police has taken action by freezing ₹12 crore worth of illegally acquired property belonging to habitual offender **Jansher Khan**, son of Sher Nawaz, resident of Akhepur, Bagwas, Pratapgarh. The 6.74-hectare agricultural land, spread across multiple land parcels, has been frozen through the Income Tax Department. The department has directed Pratapgarh Tehsildar and Sub-Registrar to ensure that Jansher and his associates' properties cannot be transferred under any circumstances.

**Reputed Person in Pratapgarh suicide**  
IG (Crime & Vigilance), Prafulla Kumar, stated that Mustafa Bohra was a well-known, respected person in Pratapgarh. A group of individuals harassed and threatened him and his family to extort money.



The 6.74-hectare agricultural land spread across multiple land parcels.

## MUSTAFA BOHRA'S DYING DECLARATION RECORDED

The accused began forcibly occupying Bohra's land, leading to severe distress. On August 30, 2023, Mustafa Bohra consumed poison in frustration. His family immediately rushed him to the hospital. Upon receiving the information, then SP Amit Kumar directed Kotwali SHO Bhagwan Lal to reach the hospital. A videographed dying declaration was recorded before his death, where Bohra blamed Jansher Khan and others for his suicide.

## JANSHER KHAN: A HABITUAL OFFENDER

Jansher Khan and his associates were arrested on August 31, 2023. Jansher is a notorious criminal from Pratapgarh's Kotwali Police Station jurisdiction. Further investigation revealed that he amassed wealth worth crores through fraud and illegal activities, registering properties under different names.

## NOTICES ISSUED TO FOUR INDIVIDUALS

The Income Tax Department has issued notices to the four individuals in whose names Jansher had registered benami properties:

- Basanti Lal Meena (Ward No. 2, Akhepur)
- Radheshyam Meena (Meena Mohalla, Akhepur)
- Bhaggaram Meena (Chhota Dhamaniya, Amod Tehsil)
- Sarmath Lal Meena (Sanoti, Pratapgarh)

## NO TRANSFER ALLOWED: BENAMI ASSETS SEIZED

IT Dept has ordered that all these benami properties be frozen under Section 24(3) of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988. Pratapgarh Tehsildar & Sub-Registrar have been instructed to ensure that these properties cannot be transferred under any circumstances.

## FORMER SP KUMAR IDENTIFIES 10 BENAMI PROPERTIES

On Dec 28, 2023, then SP (now DCP West, Jaipur) Amit Kumar prepared a dossier on 10 benami properties belonging to Jansher and sent a report with all supporting evidence to Joint Commissioner, Income Tax (Benami Prohibition). This report revealed that Jansher purchased around ₹12 cr worth of agricultural land in Pratapgarh under the names of his associates Basanti Lal Meena, Radheshyam Meena, Sarmath Meena, & Bhaggaram. These properties, spread across land parcel numbers 466, 501, and 509, covering 6.74 hectares, are still under Jansher Khan's control. Statements from joint landowner Kishore Meena confirmed this.

## WOMAN SEEKS HELP ON RAJCOOP CITIZEN APP, COPS ARRIVE IN 15 MINS

Jaipur: Swift action by police after getting a request for help through the Need Help feature on the Rajcoop Citizen App saved a young woman from a man who took her to a hotel and tried to molest her. The woman had befriended the man through Insta and went to meet him. The girl locked herself in the bathroom and sought help through the Rajcoop Citizen App and police reached the hotel within 15 minutes. Police have detained the girl and also arrested the hotel operator Ajay Kumar Mahala.



## CYBER SHIELD CRACKDOWN: 9 ARRESTED, ₹ 9 LAKH REFUNDED TO VICTIMS IN JAIPUR

Nine individuals have been arrested in February under the Cyber Shield campaign of West Police and a total of Rs 49 lakh have been refunded to the victims. For effective action, police have deployed one cyber expert constable at every police station.



## POLICE NAB BIKE THIEVES IN 24 HOURS

Jaipur: Prompt action by Vidyadhar Nagar police led to the arrest of two miscreants within 24 hours of stealing a two-wheeler. The accused are siblings and drug addicts and would often commit such crimes for quick money and fun. The Honda Activa which they looted from the victim was recovered. Police are interrogating the accused.

## 9 SIs SACKED FOR EXAM MALPRACTICE

Jodhpur: In a significant crackdown on recruitment irregularities, Jodhpur IG Vikas Kumar has dismissed nine Sub-Inspectors (SIs) from the police service for allegedly using unfair means during the SI recruitment examination. The dismissal orders were issued following directives from Jaipur.

## CANDIDATE CAUGHT CHEATING

Bikaner: A candidate's attempt to cheat using a Bluetooth device was thwarted at the Tanveer Malawat Nursing College examination center during the RPF Constable Recruitment Exam. During a routine security check, officials discovered the hidden device on Abhay Singh, a candidate from Hanumangarh.

## JAIPUR HEIST: LACK OF POLICE VERIFICATION AIDS ₹1.5 CRORE ROBBERY IN JAIPUR



Jaipur: In a shocking incident in the Vidyadhar Nagar area, a domestic worker, along with two accomplices, orchestrated a robbery worth Rs 1.5 crore at a residence in Ambabari on Monday evening. The criminals held 47-year-old Jyoti Agarwal, wife of local sanitary businessman Devendra Agarwal, hostage and attacked her with a knife before looting valuables from the house. The police were notified an hour later and promptly launched an investigation. Since the family had not conducted police verification for their domestic staff, they could only provide the culprits' mobile numbers. However, authorities identified the suspects through CCTV footage.

**Indereet**  
**Ashok**

## ACB ARRESTS PATWARI TAKING ₹8K BRIBE

Bikaner: The ACB in Bikaner arrested patwari Deepchand Meena red handed while taking a bribe of Rs 8,000. This action was taken under the direction of ADSP Mahavir Sharma led by DSP Mahesh Shrimali. According to complainant Satpal, Meena demanded a bribe for passing a file to claim crop damage compensation. After the complaint, the ACB laid a trap to arrest Meena. The compensation for crop damage was Rs 35,000 and the accused sought Rs 9,000 from Satpal. Meena is being interrogated and a probe is on.

## PRISONER FLEES OPEN JAIL IN HANUMANGARH

Hanumangarh: A prisoner escaped from Hanumangarh's open jail. Pamma alias Paramjeet, who was serving a life sentence, escaped from Kohala Gaushala open jail on Sunday. District prison guard Satpal Singh has got a case registered in the town police station and a probe is on. The accused was sent to Hanumangarh from Central Jail Bikaner.

## COUPLE ATTACKED, ROBBED OF LAKHS

Beawar: More than half-a-dozen armed men attacked a couple in Sathan village of Masuda police station area in Beawar and fled with cash and jewellery worth lakhs after leaving the couple bleeding. Hearing the noise, they came out & the miscreants started attacking them in quick succession. The miscreants took Rs 10k cash and gold & silver jewellery worth lakhs.

## Parents free to choose school supply vendors

Dimple Sharma  
Jaipur

In a decisive move to protect parents' rights, the Education Department has issued a directive barring private school operators from compelling parents to purchase books, uniforms, shoes, and other school materials from a single vendor.

The decision follows numerous complaints from parents who were left with no choice but to buy school supplies from designated sellers, often at inflated prices. To curb this practice, the department has mandated that private schools comply with its guidelines and refrain from exerting undue



pressure on parents.

Starting from the upcoming academic session, all private schools must adhere to strict regulations. Schools will be required to publicly display a comprehensive list of books, uniforms, and other essential materials, along with the names of authorized publishers and vendors. This information must be made available on the school's website and information boards.

## EDU DEPT IMPOSES STRICT GUIDELINES ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Starting from the upcoming academic session, private schools will be required to follow strict guidelines laid down by the Education Department. The new rules state that private schools must display a list of books, uniforms, and other materials, along with the names of authorized publishers and vendors, on the school's website and information boards. Furthermore, if any private school attempts to force parents to purchase books from a single vendor or fails to display the required information on their website and information board, it will be considered a violation of departmental guidelines.

## SDRF team recovers body of 14-yr-old girl from Dravyavati River

Satyanarayan Sharma  
Jaipur

The SDRF Jaipur team recovered the body of 14-year-old Muskan Yadav, who drowned in the Dravyavati River under Shyam Nagar police jurisdiction. The SDRF received an alert at 11:15 AM on Tuesday and dispatched a 10-member rescue team. Arriving at the site by 11:40 AM, they collaborated with local authorities. After an intensive search using rescue ropes and billy hooks, the team retrieved Muskan's body by 12:00 PM and handed it over to the local administration.

Following the team commander's instruc-



SDRF team recovers body of 14-year-old Muskan Yadav from Dravyavati River.

tions, SDRF personnel Rajesh, Raisingh, Parmanand, Sunil, Siyaram, Mahesh, Santosh, Usha Devi, and Anita initiated the search operation. Using rescue ropes and billy hooks, the team conducted an intensive search. Within a short period, the rescue team located Muskan Yadav's body.

## Courtesy visit!



Cabinet Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore paid a courtesy visit to Governor Haribhau Bagade at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Tuesday.

Mining Dept's revenue peaks at ₹7,963 cr

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

With the financial year nearing its end, the Mines Dept is focusing on maximizing revenue collection. Daily monitoring of revenue generation is being conducted. By March 3, the department achieved a 24% growth rate, collecting over Rs 7,963 crore in state revenue. On Tuesday, Principal Secretary of Mines and Geology, T. Ravikant, held a meeting at the Mineral House with Director of Mines Deepak Tanwar, Joint Secy of Mines Ashu Choudhary, Additional Director Mahesh Mathur, and others.

JDA demolishes illegal colony on Begus road

Abhishek Shrivastav  
Jaipur

The Enforcement Wing of the JDA has once again taken strict action against illegal construction on Begus Road, demolishing unauthorized structures in the Nature Farm colony for the third time. This follows earlier operations on October 11 and November 20 last year, when

similar illegal developments were razed.

Despite repeated crackdowns, real estate developers continued their attempts to establish the colony illegally. In response, the JDA Enforcement Team launched another operation on Tuesday, demolishing newly constructed structures intended for the unauthorized settlement.

## NOTICE

It is notified that Gram Panchayat Roda, Panchayat Samiti Nokha, District Bikaner issued Residential Patta No. 27 Area 1600 sq.yrds., situated at Jetnagar, Roda on Dated 17.02.1980 vide File No. 27/1979/80 in favor of Chhatu Singh S/o Lal Singh B/c Rajput R/o Charkara, Tehsil Nokha, District Bikaner (Raj.). Which Patta was lost. After death of Chhatu Singh Rajput his legal heirs Bhanwar Kanwar, Ummed Kanwar, Ajit Singh, Maloo Kanwar, Vikram Singh Rajput sold Patta No. 27 Area 6400 sq.ft., through Registered Sale Deed Dated 19.05.2008 in favor of Bhagi Devi W/o Mangi Lal B/c Bishnoi Dharmiya R/o Ward No. 1 Nokha. Bhagi Devi Bishnoi sold Patta No. 27 Area 6400 sq.ft. (1600 sq.yrds. 2x2) to Bhagwana Ram Manda S/o Patram B/c Bishnoi Manda R/o Rastisar Badla Bass, Tehsil Nokha, District Bikaner on Dated 16.12.2024. Bhagwana Ram Manda desires to mortgage his Residential Patta No. 27 Area 6400 sq.ft. in favor of DCB Bank Ltd. Br. Nokha to get loan. Regarding this mortgage anybody have any type of objection, do inform in written with proof within 7 days. After limitation no objection will be entertained.

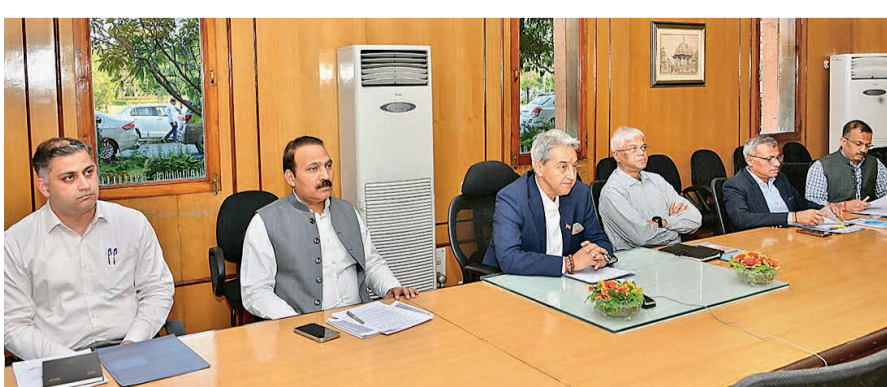
Shankar Lal Bishnoi, Advocate  
Nokha  
Mobile No.: 9460892862

## REVIEWING LAW &amp; ORDER SITUATION

## State gears up for peaceful festive celebrations

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

To ensure the peaceful celebration of upcoming festivals, the Chief Secretary, Sudhansh Pant, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Anand Kumar, and Director General of Police, U.R. Sahoo, held a meeting with all Divisional Commissioners, Police Commissioners, Range IGs, Collectors, and SPs via video conferencing from the Secretariat on Tuesday. They reviewed



Sudhansh Pant, Anand Kumar, & U.R. Sahoo held a meeting with all Divisional Commissioners, Police Commissioners, Range IGs, Collectors, and SPs via video conferencing from the Secretariat on Tuesday.

the current law and order situation in their respective areas, took feedback on measures being imple-

mented, and issued necessary instructions. He stated that Holi and Dhaulandi will be celebrat-

ed on March 13 and 14, Jumu'atul-Wida on March 28, Cheti Chand and Hindu New Year on

March 30, and Eid-ul-Fitr on March 31. Other upcoming festivals include Ram Navami on April 6, Mahavir Jayanti on April 10, Jyotiba Phule Jayanti on April 11, Hanuman Jayanti on April 12, Baisakhi on April 13, Good Friday on April 18, and Parshuram Jayanti on April 29.

He directed officials to hold meetings with peace committee members to maintain communal harmony and law and order. Collectors and SPs should work as a team to ensure stability in their districts.

# Government cornered by own MLAs in the House while raising key issues

Several issues raised by BJP MLAs in the house to be resolved

Aishwary Pradhan,  
Yogesh Sharma  
Jaipur

During the Rajasthan Assembly's question hour, MLAs raised concerns on various issues, pressing the state government for answers.

Ajmer South MLA Anita Bhadel questioned the status of food security applications in Ajmer city. Food & Civil Supplies Minister Sumit Godara said 5,512 applications were received, with over 1,000 approved and 3,680 pending. Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jullu pointed out discrepancies, demanding clarity. MLA Shrichandra Kriplani sought a women's police station in



Minister Jawahar Singh Bedham speaking during the Assembly session on Tuesday.

Nimbahera, to which MoS for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham said it was under consideration. Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf criticized the delay in relocating Jaipur Central Jail. Bedham assured that land identification was underway.

MLA Samarjeet Singh's query on Bhinmal-Bagoda road renovation led to a heated debate between Forest Minister Sanjay Sharma and Jullu.

Hawa Mahal MLA Swami Balmukundacharya highlighted the lack of a tourist assistance center, and Deputy CM Diya Kumari clarified no proposals were pending. Bharatpur MLA Subhash Garg raised concerns over IBM Hospital's delay. Khimsar said the deadline was extended to June 2025, with a Rs 30 lakh penalty imposed.

## Govt to launch tourist-friendly mobile app soon: Dy CM Diya

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Tourism Minister Diya Kumari said that the state government would soon launch a mobile application aimed at providing tourists with all necessary services.

The app will offer essential information such as the nearest police stations, hospitals, tourist attractions, transport options, and other useful details for visitors.

Replying to supplementary questions during the question hour, the minister highlighted that to further assist tourists, Tourist Assistance



Diya Kumari speaking during the Assembly session on Tuesday.

Force (TAF) booths have already been established at key tourist locations like Jantar Mantar, Jal Mahal, Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal and Albert Hall in Jaipur.

She said that the TAF regularly provides assistance and ensures that tourists are well-supported during their visit.

"TAF had addressed 236 complaints in 2022,

311 in 2023 and 541 in 2024. Last year, action was taken against 170 pickpockets in Jaipur," she said. The tourism minister said that in an effort to improve tourism services, the state government has decided to increase the number of TAF personnel from 139 to 250 by December 2024 to ensure that tourists do not face any inconveniences.

## MLAs raise education concerns in Assembly

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Demands of grant for education department were discussed in the house on Tuesday during which MLAs put forth their demands.

Pitram Singh Kala raised concerns about the lack of government colleges in Piloni. Gurveer Singh laid emphasis on the need for high-quality education in the state.

CL Premi criticized the BJP government for its handling of the state's

**MLAs raised concerns over government colleges, education quality, and policy reviews, with mixed views on English medium schools during the Assembly session on Tuesday**

education system.

Deepti Maheshwari welcomed the government's decision to review the English medium schools opened during the former Congress government's rule.

## RAFEK KHAN RAISES SURAT FIRE ISSUE

MLA Rafeek Khan raised the matter of traders from Rajasthan who suffered losses in the fire incident that took place at Shiv Shakti Complex in Surat. He demanded the intervention of the Chief Minister in the issue and urged the government to take care of the affected traders. Rajasthan's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said in the Assembly on Tuesday that govt is ready to help the traders of Rajasthan state for the loss caused by the fire in Shiv Shakti Textile Market in Surat, Gujarat. He said that the government is sensitive to this serious matter related to humanity.

## ₹161 cr to be spent on temple development

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Rajasthan Devsthan Minister Joraram Kumawat said in the Assembly on Tuesday that Rs 161 crore has been announced in this year's Budget for developing and renovating temples under the department.

The minister was replying to a question during Question Hour in the Assembly. He said there were 593 temples under the Devsthan Department, out of which 552



are in the state and 41 are located in other states.

He said 12 additional commissioners are working at various places in the entire state for the smooth implementation of arrangements made by the Devsthan Dept.

## INDRA MEENA RAISES JANEU REMOVAL ISSUE

Congress MLA Indra Meena criticized the actions of officials who reportedly made candidates remove their mangalsutras, bangles during the security check for the recently conducted REET exam. She said that along with these, male candidates were asked to remove "janeu" to enter the exam center and questioned that when there was no issue with removing symbols of marital status like mangalsutras (from female), why was there a controversy over (male) candidates being asked to remove janeus? The Congress MLA demanded action against the examination personnel.

## Madan Dilawar's remarks escalate Assembly drama

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Rajasthan Assembly's budget session saw high drama as Education Minister Madan Dilawar's remarks triggered an uproar. He accused the previous Congress government of humiliating teachers and delaying DPC promotions, prompting Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jullu to demand proof. As tensions rose, Speaker Vasudev Devnani de-

fended BJP against past accusations.

Amid the chaos, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel noted that political parties often make allegations, while Dilawar withdrew a "small accusation" only to replace it with a "bigger one," intensifying protests. Dilawar defended school closures, citing zero enrollment, and announced student health check-ups and stricter teacher misconduct policies.

## Rift over appointment of RUHS VC; while IMA threatens of protest, pharmacists elated

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The appointment of Prof Pramod Yeole as the new vice-chancellor of the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences (RUHS) has evoked mixed reactions. Prof Yeole is the Vice-President of Pharmacy Council of India.

Pharmacists across the country, including Rajasthan are elated with Yeole's new role. Naveen Sanghi, member of Phar-



macy Council of India and Sarveshwar Sharma State President of Indian Pharmacist Association extended their wishes to Yeole for his new role.

However, the Indian Medical Association Ra-

jasthan Branch expressed displeasure. Association President Dr MP Sharma and Secretary Dr PC Garg wrote a letter to Governor Haribhau Bagde mentioning that till now only doctors

have been made VC of Medical University. "For the first time a non-doctor was appointed as VC and this has caused deep resentment among doctors. His appointment is against the basic principles of medical education and a violation of the rights of medical professionals and should be reconsidered or medical teachers will be forced to agitate," Dr MP Sharma and Secretary Dr PC Garg mentioned in the letter.

## ITB Berlin: Rajasthan eyes tourism boost on global scale

Nirmal Tiwari  
Jaipur

As the three-day event, ITB Berlin 2025, started on Tuesday, Indian Ambassador to Germany Ajit Gupte officially inaugurated the Rajasthan Tourism Pavilion. The Tourism Department of Rajasthan showcased its spectacular tourism products during the opening ceremony.

The state tourism delegation is led by Additional Director Anand

Tripathi, Deputy Director Upendra Shekhawat. Besides, representatives of Palace on Wheels, senior Vice-President of FHTR Surendra Singh Shahpura, eight exhibitors from the travel trade of Rajasthan are also participating in ITB. Rajasthan officials will hold more than 40 scheduled meetings with tour operators, travel agents, media and other tourism stakeholders to further promote tourism.

## IIFA AWARDS

# CM Sharma meets IIFA panel; trophy replica displayed in city

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Members of the IIFA Awards Organizing Committee met with Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma at the Chief Minister's residence on Tuesday to extend a formal invitation for the upcoming IIFA Awards ceremony. The committee members provided detailed information about the events scheduled for March 8 and 9 in the capital, Jaipur, and requested the CM's presence at cel-



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Ravi Jain with members of the IIFA Awards Organizing Committee Sabbas Joseph, Viraf Sarkari, Andre Timmins at the CMR on Tuesday.

bration. Meanwhile, much-anticipated Silver Jubilee trophy for the IIFA Awards, set to take

place on March 8 and 9 in Jaipur, has arrived in Amber. A large replica of the IIFA Awards trophy

has been displayed for public viewing at the Jaleb Chowk, a popular tourist spot in Amber.

The golden trophy has garnered considerable excitement from tourists, who are eager to catch a

glimpse of the prestigious award.

The Tourism Department's initiative to place



Replica of the IIFA Awards trophy at Jaleb Chowk, Amber. Tourists clicked photos with the replica on Tuesday.

the replica at historical monuments is aimed at promoting the IIFA Awards and creating a connection between the public and this grand event. Rakesh Chholak, the Superintendent of Amber Fort, shared that as part of the IIFA celebrations, special events will also be organized in Amber. He also noted that the arrival of the IIFA trophy in Jaipur has attracted a large number of tourists, who are coming to see the replica and learn more about the upcoming ceremony.

## Threat to CM: Two jail inmates arrested in Jpr

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In the incident involving a threat to the Chief Minister from jail, a case was registered at the Vidhayakpuri police station, following which the police arrested two convicted prisoners, Sonu Meena and Premchand. During interrogation, it was revealed that they had obtained a SIM card through a compounder named Rakesh. The SIM was then handed over to an inmate named Rinku, who used it to make the call to police control room.

# ROW OVER HIT MAN



**Robin Roy**

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

## CONGRESS SPEAKS...

The Congress distanced itself from the remarks and said they did not reflect the party's position. Pawan Khera, chairman of the party's publicity department, said she had been asked to delete the social media posts. "Dr Shama Mohammed, National Spokesperson of the Indian National Congress, made certain remarks about a cricketer legend that do not reflect the party's position. She has been asked to delete the concerned social media posts from X and has been advised to exercise greater caution in the future. The Indian National Congress holds the contributions of sporting icons in the highest regard and does not endorse any statements that undermine their legacy," Mr Khera posted

Thirty-seven-year-old Rohit Sharma took over as Team India captain in 2023 and under his leadership, India won the T20 World Cup last year and two Asia Cup trophies earlier. He has a stellar record in IPL too. As Mumbai Indians captain, he has led the team to five IPL titles. However, the cricketering icon, Sunil Gavaskar, was of the opinion that cricket is more about mental strength and player's physical appearance has nothing to do with it. He also suggested that if fitness was the first criteria of selection, models should be picked in the team

"I have always said, if you want only slim guys, then you should go to a modelling competition and pick all the models. It's not about that," Gavaskar told India Today. "It's about how well you can play cricket. We talked about Sarfaraz Khan-he was vilified for a long time because he was on the heavier side. But if he scores 150 for India in a Test match and follows it up with another two or three fifty-plus scores, then what's the issue? I don't think size has anything to do with it," he added



Body shaming sports persons is nothing new. With a pathetic mental set up unfortunately of some people, in the past, we have seen how Inzamam ul-Haq the former ace Pakistani captain-batsman had been body shamed during his heydays and occasionally it used to infuriate him. Inzi as he was fondly known, was often mocked for his running between the wickets but he, till date, remains to be one of the best batsmen Pakistan has ever produced.

Many thought the cricketering great Imran Khan did not do a wise thing when he picked Inzi for the World Cup 1992 which eventually Pakistan went on to win. It may be recalled how Inzi went on to save Pakistan in a crucial semi-final match and cemented his place in the national side for a very long time after that. Over the years, Inzamam honed his batting skills and ended his prolific cricketering career in 2007 with 8,830 runs in 120 Test matches, and 11,739 runs in 378 ODI matches!

Jacques Kallis the heavily built South African player was perhaps the best all-rounder the Proteas has ever produced. The broad-shouldered Jacques Kallis was a fine and forceful batter and a quick bowler who could baffle any batter on Kallis' day with his sudden pace and swing generating deliveries and coupled with his awkward bounce... he was fatal. Kallis was always a threat to the opponent team. And he was

## LET'S LOOK AT KING KOHLI'S FITNESS REGIME



Kohli's approach includes mix of weight training, cardiovascular exercises, yoga tailored to increase his performance on the field. Kohli's becoming a vegetarian in 2018 was a significant step towards what he describes as a "well-balanced diet." His meals are predominantly boiled or steamed, rich in proteins from plant sources, and packed with vegetables for essential vitamins and minerals. One of the less highlighted but equally crucial aspects of Kohli's fitness routine is his emphasis on rest. Another famed cricketer with a stocky build was Arjuna Ranatunga, the former Sri Lankan captain who led his team to victory in the 1996 Cricket World Cup and remember despite his physique, Ranatunga was a brilliant tactician and a dependable middle-order batsman and his leadership and composure under pressure made him one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated cricketers. Meanwhile, the BCCI termed the remarks "unfortunate". BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said such comments in the middle of an ICC event could have a demoralising effect on a cricketer's morale. "Very unfortunate for a responsible person to pass such a trivial comment when the team is in the middle of such a crucial ICC tournament. It may have a demoralising effect on an individual or the team. All the players are performing to their highest potential and results are visible. I hope individuals will desist from making such derogatory statements for personal publicity sake," BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia told NDTV in an exclusive chat.

undoubtedly an asset to the proteas. Despite his "chassis", he was one of the finest fielders especially in the slips and he also had a safe pair of hands to make sure that catches win matches.

Of late, the fitness mania bug that has hit the players' mind and acquiring strength to build muscles for better performances has been a major reason for sports lovers and people around the world to compare the physique and the reported agility of cricketers. While in the seventies and the eighties, the lean, mean look was not the in-thing, we have had players with an extra ounce of flab... remember our spinner Arshad Ayub, EAS Prasanna, Arjuna Ranatunga the list is endless? Players like Virat Kohli

and before him players like Robin Singh who excelled in the field and were known for their agility have been a reason for the sports lovers to lean towards fit-looking players. However, there is no straightjacket formula that obese players don't reach the top and obviously all fit-looking players are not great athletes. It's also a mind game and how tough you are mentally means a lot.

Now let us look at the some "fit-looking" great batsmen and see how many times they were run out in their careers. In fact, you will be surprised... Rahul Dravid, famously know to be the "The Wall" of Indian Cricket has had his share of having the most run-outs in the international version of the game.

Dravid got run-out 53 times, of which 40 came in ODI and 13 in test cricket! The great Sachin Tendulkar got 43 run-outs, which is the second-highest by any Indian player. He got run-out 34 times in ODI and nine times in Test cricket.

Despite being a fitness fanatic and a great athlete, Azhar is the third-highest Indian with the most run-outs. He has to his (dis) credit 39 run-outs in his career, of which 32 came in ODI and the rest in Tests. Also known as Jumbo, besides his excellent bowling, Anil Kumble was 21 times run-out in ODIs and seven times in test cricket. Despite his outstanding batting talent and records, Sourav (Dada) Ganguly got 23 run-outs in ODI cricket, which makes him one of the Indian players with the most run-outs.

The great Virendra Sehwag was 20... 20-time run-outs in ODI cricket, which is one of the most for any Indian player. Now, let's focus on Rohit Sharma... currently one of the best batsmen in the world, Rohit is also known as Indian cricket's hit man and besides his effortless batting, Sharma got 13 times run-outs in international Cricket. These examples are mere stats... kindly don't draw your conclusion on how great and how fit cricketers are from these figures. However, the fitness mania and the latest in-thing has pruned viewers to re-think about how you look on the field and in that aspect, Virat Kohli's fitness regime is an envy for one and all.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

## IN-DEPTH

### JIBE ON CAPTAIN ROHIT SHARMA'S PHYSIQUE WAS UNWARRANTED

Congress leader Shama Mohamed's comment on Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma's physique is an unfortunate example of unnecessary body-shaming. In a society increasingly aware of the harm caused by such remarks, it is disappointing to see a political leader resorting to personal attacks rather than engaging in meaningful discourse.

Rohit Sharma's fitness is evident in his stellar performances on the field. His leadership and batting prowess have been instrumental in India's cricketering success in the ongoing Champions Trophy. Targeting his physique rather than acknowledging his contributions to Indian cricket reflects poorly on those making such comments. Public figures, especially politicians, must exercise restraint and responsibility in their statements. Criticism of policies or performances is fair, but personal attacks serve no purpose other than to spread negativity. In an era where body positivity and mental well-being are gaining importance, such remarks are regressive. Shama Mohamed and others in public life must focus on constructive discussions rather than resorting to unwarranted jibes.

### MAYA LEAVING A VACUUM IN BSP



Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati's decision to sack her nephew Akash Anand and declare that no one will succeed her until her "last breath" reflects her deep political insecurity. Once a formidable force in Indian politics, Mayawati now seems to be grappling with diminishing political relevance and internal uncertainty. She had earlier sacked Akash's father-in-law Ashok Siddharth for anti-party activities.

Akash Anand's removal comes amid BSP's declining electoral fortunes, raising questions about Mayawati's leadership strategy. While she has often rejected dynastic politics, Akash was gradually emerging as her political heir. His abrupt removal signals not just internal discord but also Mayawati's reluctance to share power, even within her own party and with her kin. By refusing to name a successor, she risks leaving BSP in a leadership vacuum, further weakening its already fragile position. The party came a cropper in last year's Lok Sabha elections failing to win even a single seat. The party's vote share dropped to 2.04 percent nationally.

At a time when Dalit politics is undergoing a transformation with new voices emerging, Mayawati's rigidity could alienate the very base she built her career on. Instead of strengthening the BSP, her approach suggests a preference for absolute control, even at the cost of the party's survival.

For the BSP to remain relevant, it needs fresh leadership and a vision beyond Mayawati's individual dominance. A democratic transition is essential for any political movement to sustain itself.

**BSP chief Mayawati's decision to sack her nephew Akash Anand and declare that no one will succeed her until her "last breath" reflects her deep political insecurity**

**TOP TWEETS**

**X** Higher Education Commission of India is a key component of the NEP's vision for higher education reform that has the potential to drive the development agenda for a Viksit Bharat. Our Govt. is soon going to bring before the Parliament the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) Bill in order to strengthen and empower our higher education institutions.

Dharmendra Pradhan @dpradhanbj

**X** On this #NationalSafetyDay, let's commit to creating safer workplaces, preventing accidents, and promoting well-being. A secure future starts with awareness, responsibility, and action. Stay alert, stay safe!

Pralhad Joshi @JoshiPralhad

**SPIRITUAL SPEAK**

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

BIBLE

# World looking at us as trusted partner; industry must take advantage: PM Modi

PTI

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asked the Indian industry to take "big steps" for taking advantage of global opportunities at a time when the world is looking at India as a trusted partner, which can produce quality goods.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on Regulatory, Investment and Ease of Doing Business Reforms, PM Modi also said that amid supply-chain disruptions caused by economic uncertainties globally, the world today needs a trusted partner which can produce high-quality products and have a reliable supply chain.

"Our country is capable of doing this, all of you (industry) are capable, this is a great opportunity for us. I want that our industry should not look at these expectations of the world as a mere spectator. We cannot remain spectators, you will have to look for your role in this, you will have to seek oppor-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during a post-budget webinar on Tuesday.

**Our country is capable of doing this, all of you (industry) are capable, this is a great opportunity for us. I want that our industry should not look at these expectations of the world as a mere spectator. We cannot remain spectators, you will have to look for your role in this, you will have to seek opportunities for yourself**

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

tunities for yourself," PM Modi told the industry players.

The Prime Minister said the government is working together with the industry for the last 10 years and has shown its

commitment for undertaking reforms, financial discipline, transparency and inclusive growth.

"Today, India is a growth engine for the global economy. India has proved its resilience

even in difficult times... Today every country wants to strengthen its economic partnership with India. Our manufacturing sector should take advantage of this partnership," PM Modi added.

"I want to assure the stakeholders in manufacturing and exports sectors that this will continue in the coming years. I urge you to move ahead with confidence," said the PM.

## NEED TO DEVELOP NEW MODES OF CREDIT DELIVERY FOR LOW-COST, TIMELY CREDIT TO MSMEs: PM MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday

emphasised the need to develop innovative credit delivery modes, ensuring timely and affordable access to funds for over six crore Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises nationwide. Addressing a post-Budget webinar for MSMEs, the Prime Minister announced that five lakh first-time women entrepreneurs, as well as those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, will be eligible for loans of up to Rs 2 crore. "We need to develop new modes for credit delivery, ensuring MSMEs have access to low-cost and timely credit. Five lakh first-time women, SC, and ST entrepreneurs will be provided loans of up to Rs 2 crore," said the Prime Minister. He stressed that the MSMEs need credit and guidance and suggested that industries should establish mentorship programs.

## PM Modi meets Belgium Princess



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Belgium's Princess Astrid during a meeting.

## PM seeks to unlock 'limitless opportunities' with Belgium

PTI

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday met Princess Astrid of Belgium and said he looks forward to "unlocking limitless opportunities" for the people of the two countries through new partnerships in trade, technology, defence and agriculture.

Astrid is in India leading an economic mission that is aimed at shoring up bilateral trade and in-

**Look forward to unlocking limitless opportunities for our people through new partnerships in trade, technology, defence, agriculture, life sciences, innovation, skilling and academic exchanges**

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

vestment cooperation between the two nations.

"Pleased to meet HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium. Deeply appreciate her initiative to lead a 300-member

Economic Mission to India," Modi said on X.

The overall trajectory of India-Belgium ties has witnessed a steady expansion in the last few years. The focus of the relations has traditionally been on trade and investment.

India is Belgium's 14th largest export destination and the 16th largest importer to Belgium.

India is Belgium's seventh largest export destination outside the EU and the sixth largest trade partner outside the EU.

## 'Time to boost capacity-building of medical officers at grassroots'

Agencies

New Delhi

There is a need to enhance the capacity-building of medical officers to achieve required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, JP Nadda, said on Tuesday.

Chairing the ninth meeting of Mission Steering Group (MSG) of National Health Mission (NHM) here.

The minister stressed on the need "to ensure the translation of agendas and objectives of different health schemes" for which, he underlined the importance of the roles of officers like the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) at the ground level.

He suggested the



Union Minister JP Nadda chairs the 9th meeting of the Mission Steering Group (MSG) for the National Health Mission (NHM), at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

"need for training and capacity-building exercises so that their capacities can be utilised in the best way possible that will pave way for achieving required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level".

The Mission Steering Group is the highest policy-making and steering

institution under the NHM, providing broad policy direction and governance for the health sector.

The Union Minister also emphasised the need to ensure quality of the latest additions like the BHISHM cubes (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri).

## Modi govt weakening RTI in name of data protection: Kharge

PTI

New Delhi

Congress president **Malikarjun Kharge** on Tuesday accused the Modi government of weakening the Right To Information (RTI) Act in the name of data protection and asserted that his party will keep fighting against the "dictatorial" regime to secure the rights of the people.

Kharge asserted that the Congress will not let RTI weaken and will continue to raise its voice from the streets to Parliament.

"On one hand, India has been topping the charts on Misinformation and Disinformation for the past years and on the other hand, the Modi



government is bent on weakening the Right To Information (RTI) Act implemented by the Congress-UPA by bringing in the Data Protection law," the Congress chief said in a post in Hindi on X.

Whether it is information in the public sector like the list of ration cards, it is important for the public to have the names of all these in the public domain, he asserted.

## Punjab can't be 'dharna' state: Mann as farmers detained ahead of stir

Agencies

Chandigarh

Tensions are running high in Punjab as the ruling AAP government and farmer unions locked horns in a growing political standoff ahead of the 'Chandigarh Chalo' protests organised by the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on March 5.

A day after Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann walked out of a SKM meeting, farmer leaders on Tuesday said that the state police detained several protesters in a midnight raid ahead of their planned demonstrations in Chandigarh. The SKM is an umbrella group of 37 farmers' unions.

Confirming the incident, Mann said that he



SKM leaders claimed that several protesters were detained in the early hours of Tuesday.

walked out of the meeting when SKM leaders mentioned plans to protest from March 5 onwards. "Yes, I left the meeting, and we will detain them as well... Won't allow farmers to sit on tracks and roads," Mann said.

Mann further revealed that he had asked farmers to call off the strikes, stating that the state could

not be held to ransom.

"I told farmers that every day you hold 'rail roko', 'sadak roko' protest... This is causing immense losses to Punjab. The state is facing economic losses. Punjab is becoming a state of 'dharna'. Don't take my soft-heartedness into thinking that I do not take action," Mann said.

## I made your father: Nitish's spat with Tejashwi in Bihar Assembly

Agencies

Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday engaged in a heated exchange in the state assembly, with Kumar asserting that he was responsible for making Tejashwi's father, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, what he became in politics.

During the discussion, Nitish Kumar, in an apparent jibe at Tejashwi, remarked, "What was there in Bihar earlier? It was me who made your father what he became. Even the people from your caste were asking me why I was doing this, but I still supported him."

His statement came in reaction to Tejashwi Yadav's remarks in the House. Tejashwi Yadav, the



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Leader of Opposition, had hit out at Nitish Kumar, questioning his narrative of Bihar's history before 2005. He accused Kumar of repeatedly shifting political allegiances and relying on past blame games to justify governance failures.

"Was Bihar non-existent before 2005? The Governor only reads what the government provides. The new Gov-

ernor, Arif Mohammed Khan, may not even be aware of Bihar's history. We have the previous Governor's speech, and perhaps it was the same as this one. The Governor might get confused as well. The same promises on recruitment made in the last speech have been repeated," Tejashwi remarked, criticising the speech presented in the assembly.

## IIMC HOSTS 56TH CONVOCATION

## Amidst dynamic industry changes, I&B Minister Vaishnaw envisions world-class media university

Gopendra Nath Bhatt

New Delhi

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) successfully hosted its 56th Convocation Ceremony on Tuesday at Mahatma Gandhi Manch, IIMC, New Delhi.

Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Railways, and Electronics & Information Technology and Chancellor of IIMC Ashwini Vaishnaw, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the 56th Convocation of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in New Delhi, Ashwini Vaishnaw said that Institute of Mass Communi-



Union I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw interacts with students during the 56th convocation ceremony of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), in New Delhi on Tuesday.

cation (IIMC) will be made into a world-class media university.

Congratulating the graduating students, Vaishnaw emphasized that next version of IIMC will also include world-class curriculum and stronger collaborations with the media industry

to meet the needs of a rapidly changing communication landscape.

Vaishnaw also highlighted the dynamic nature of the media industry and the importance of adaptability. He said, "The entire world of media is transforming, and change is constant.

We must absorb and adapt to these changes to stay ahead."

Director General, IIMC, Dr. Anupama Bhatnagar said "The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has continuously updated its curriculum to keep pace with modern ad-

vancements and evolving requirements." She also highlighted her hope that the students would achieve great success in the field of mass communication. To support this goal, the Placement Cell successfully organized an Industry Connect Event last December, offering students a valuable platform to learn from esteemed industry leaders across various media verticals.

She further stated that in recent years, recognising the needs of the security sector, specialised mass communication courses have been conducted for the Armed Forces, State Police Departments, Coast Guard, Assam Rifles, and CISF.

# Activists blame 'admin negligence' for U'khand avalanche deaths



File photo of rescue operation after an avalanche hit the BRO camp in Chamoli district.

PTI

Gopeshwar

Social activists have blamed the death of eight workers in an avalanche that hit a BRO camp at Mana in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district last week on "administrative negligence" and said the lives could have been saved had the authorities paid heed to a snowslide warning.

They also blame "reckless construction" works in avalanche-prone areas for the rise in snowslide incidents.

## 'SNOWSLIDES RESULT OF RECKLESS CONSTRUCTION IN PRONE AREAS'



Following the incident, the Uttarakhand government issued an advisory for tourists staying in skiing destination Auli which has no history of avalanches, Sati said and alleged that it looks like an attempt to divert people's attention from the state's failure. "When there was a warning and the authorities were aware that such a large number of workers were in Mana, why weren't they advised to move to safety?" asked another social activist. The weather office in Dehradun issued a yellow alert for February 27, two days in advance, predicting isolated heavy rain and snowfall in locations situated at 3,500 metres and above. However, the State Emergency Operations Centre here alerted the district magistrates. Over the last four years, two dwelling units of BRO workers have been destroyed by avalanches in the Chamoli district alone. An avalanche in April 2021 destroyed a settlement of workers in Niti Valley adjoining the Indo-Tibet border, killing as many labourers. Experts feel snowslides are a result of reckless construction being done in avalanche-prone areas.

The Chandigarh-based Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) issued an ava-

lanche warning for a 24-hour period at 5 pm on February 27 for places located above the height

of 2,400 metres such as Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar dis-

tricts of Uttarakhand.

The avalanche hit the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in Chamoli between 5.30 am and 6 am on February 28, trapping 54 workers. While 46 of them were rescued alive, eight were found dead.

Atul Sati, a social worker and the convener of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti said "administrative negligence" led to the death of the eight workers. "There was an avalanche warning and authorities should have acted on time," he said.

# 'India's security forces must be ready for emerging threats'

PTI

New Delhi

India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats such as cyber and hybrid warfare as well as "space-based espionage", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

He said internal security is not just about managing conventional threats like terrorism, separatist movements, and left-wing extremism but it is also about preparing for unconventional threats that can destabilise the nation's economic and strategic interests.

"The adversaries of today do not always come with traditional weapons; cyber-attacks, misinformation campaigns, and space-based espionage are emerging as new-age threats that require advanced solutions," he said.

The defence minister was speaking at a conference on 'Advanced Technologies for Internal Security and Disaster



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits an exhibition of products for internal security and disaster relief operations, during DRDO-MHA collaboration conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Relief Operations' organised jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

In his address, Singh highlighted the growing complexities in global security and the increasing overlap between internal and external threats.

"Security challenges

in the modern world are evolving rapidly, and the overlap between internal and external security is increasing," he said.

"It is imperative that our institutions break silos and work collaboratively to ensure a strong, secure, and self-reliant India."

The defence minister said India's national security must be viewed holistically, integrating

efforts across different security agencies and leveraging the latest technological advancements.

"The Defence Research and Development Organisation has played a pivotal role in enhancing India's defence capabilities, and its contributions to internal security are equally commendable," he said.

# Sensex nosedives below 73,000 amid tariff war

PTI

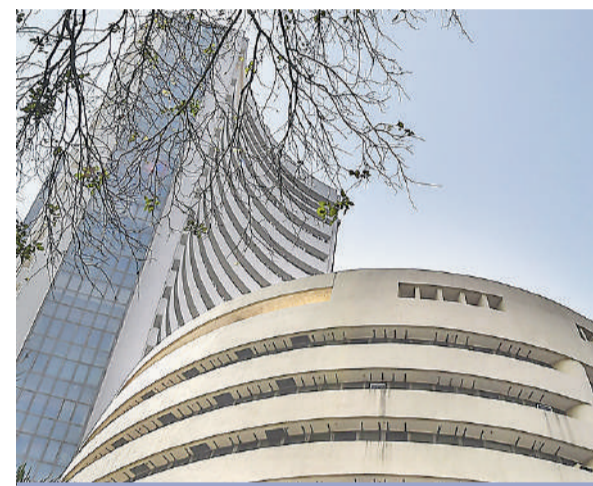
Mumbai

Falling for the third straight day, benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 96 points to close below the 73,000 mark on Tuesday amid global equity rout on tariff war worries and persistent foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE barometer closed at 72,989.93, down by 96.01 points or 0.13 per cent, as 18 of its components declined and 12 settled with gains. During the day, it dropped 452.4 points or 0.62 per cent to a low of 72,633.54 but recovered some of the losses in the second half.

Extending the losses for the 10th straight session, the 50-share Nifty of NSE fell by 36.65 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 22,082.65. The index opened below the 22,000 level at 21,974.45 but managed to recover some losses later.

From the Sensex pack, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Nestle India,



## AS MANY AS 2,221 STOCKS ADVANCED WHILE 1,737 DECLINED, 128 REMAIN UNCHANGED

Among BSE sectoral indices, Auto (1.13 per cent), Focussed IT (0.96 per cent), Teck (0.86 per cent), IT (0.77 per cent), Telecommunication (0.45 per cent), FMCG (0.40 per cent) and Consumer Discretionary (0.18 per cent) were the losers. On the other hand, Capital Goods, Industrials, Oil & Gas, Services, Energy, Commodities, Healthcare and Power were among the gainers. As many as 2,221 stocks advanced while 1,737 declined and 128 remain unchanged on the BSE. "Indian indices opened lower and continued to fall during the day, ending in negative territory on Tuesday amid continued FII selling and ongoing geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Infosys, Maruti Suzuki India, Titan, Hindustan Unilever and Reliance Industries were among the laggards.

On the other hand, State Bank of India, Zomato, Tata Consultancy Services, Adani Ports, Power Grid, Tata Steel and HDFC Bank were the gainers.

# Four of family killed as car falls into canal in Bulandshahr

PTI

Bulandshahr

Three children among four members of a family died after their car fell into a small canal here on Tuesday, police said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar said five people from Amroha's Nagla Bashir village had come to attend a wedding ceremony in Sikandrabad here. While returning, their car fell into a canal near Pitobas village this morning.

Two people died on the spot and the others were rushed to a hospital where two more succumbed during treatment, he said. The fifth family member, a woman, is undergoing treatment, the SSP said.

The family left in the morning after attending the wedding. Fatigue could be a reason behind the accident.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident.

# Manipur Gov chairs security meet, reviews law and order

PTI

New Delhi

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla reviewed the law and order situation of the state on Tuesday, the Raj Bhavan said in a statement.

Chief Secretary PK Singh, Security Advisor Kuldip Singh, DGP Rajiv Singh along with senior officials from the Army, Assam Rifles, BSF, Manipur Police and CRPF attended the meet-



ing, it said. "This was a follow-up meeting after the security situation of Manipur was reviewed at a meeting

held in New Delhi recently, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah," it added.

# Seven addl judges elevated as judges in two high courts

PTI

New Delhi

Seven additional judges, four from the Madras High Court and three from the Bombay High Court, were on Tuesday elevated as permanent judges.

One additional judge of the Bombay High Court was given a fresh one year term as an additional judge with effect from August 12, the law ministry said.

# Sitha meets SBI Chairman Sreenivasulu



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty during a meeting.

## BHAGWAT AT VIDYA BHARATI SHIKSHA SANSTHAN

# 'Bharat can give right direction to cultural changes in world'

PTI

Bhopal

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said Bharat is the only "pole star" that can provide right direction to the social, cultural and ideological changes taking place in the world.

He also called upon building a society that is not just limited to economic progress, but is

based on fundamental principles like humanity, compassion and truth.

Bhagwat was speaking during the inauguration of the five-day training of full-time workers of Vidya Bharati Shiksha Sansthan, the educational wing of the RSS, at the Saraswati Vidya Mandir Residential School at Sharda Vi-

har here. "The social, cultural and ideological changes taking place in the world need to be given direc-



Participants during a training workshop being addressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, in Bhopal on Tuesday.

tion in the light of Bharat's Sanatan (eternal) tradition, and when

many distortions are emerging in the global scenario today, Bharat is

the only pole star that can provide the right direction," a release quoted Bhagwat as saying.

"For this, it is necessary to promote education, culture and policy-making based on Indian traditions for the all-round development of society and nation," he said. Bhagwat stressed the need to restore moral and cultural values in the society.

"We should not be limited to only economic progress, but should

build a society based on fundamental principles like humanity, compassion and truth," he said.

In the times to come, India will have to be presented as an ideal social model capable of leading the entire world towards peace and harmony, the RSS chief said.

Praising Vidya Bharati, he said the work being done by it was being seen globally. International organisations have also acknowledged its prevalence.

# Situation across border very bad despite Chinese help, says CM Abdullah

Agencies

Jammu

spite a Chinese fillip to Pakistan.

He said every part of Jammu and Kashmir is far developed even though "we have never sought help from China, America, England or France to construct our roads." "Whatever progress has been made in the areas across the border is because of the blessings of China," Abdullah said.



After a verbal skirmish between NC and BJP lawmakers in the state Assembly, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said there is no comparison between the divided parts of Kashmir as the situation across the border is "very bad" de-



**MATCH TODAY**  
**NEW ZEALAND VS SOUTH AFRICA**  
 Time: 2:30 PM, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

# Virat Kohli slams record-breaking 24th fifty-plus score

Kohli also becomes third Indian with 50 ODI appearances against Australia



India's KL Rahul and R Jadeja being greeted by Australian players as they celebrate their win against Australia in the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final cricket match, in Dubai, UAE, Tuesday. **FTI**

MOST 50+ SCORES IN ICC ODI EVENTS	
<b>VIRAT KOHLI</b>	24 in 53 innings
<b>SACHIN TENDULKAR</b>	23 in 58 innings
<b>ROHIT SHARMA</b>	18 in 41 innings
<b>K SANGAKKARA</b>	17 in 56 innings
<b>RICKY PONTING</b>	16 in 60 innings

second most after Tendulkar (21). Kohli had struck nine scores of 50 or more during the 2023 ODI World Cup alone to help India reach the final, where it lost to Australia.



India's Virat Kohli scoops the ball during the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final cricket match between India and Australia, in Dubai, UAE, Tuesday. **FTI**

India's Virat Kohli registered the most number fifty-plus scores in ICC One-Day International events during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 semifinal against Australia in Dubai on Tuesday.

The Indian triumph ensures that the final of the eight-team competition will now be held here instead of Lahore, the original host of the marquee clash, as Rohit Sharma's men will not travel there owing to security concerns.

Kohli scored his 24th fifty-plus score and went past Sachin Tendulkar's record. This was Kohli's seventh score of 50 or more in ICC Champions Trophy history. Additionally, he has gone past the 50-run mark 17 times in ODI World Cups, the

history. Additionally, he has gone past the 50-run mark 17 times in ODI World Cups, the

history. Additionally, he has gone past the 50-run mark 17 times in ODI World Cups, the

During the innings on Tuesday, the 36-year-old also became India's leading run-scorer in the tournament's history, overtaking Shikhar Dhawan's tally of 701 runs. The former India skipper has a total of 125 50-plus scores in ODI cricket, behind Tendulkar's 145, and holds the record for the most number of centuries (51) in the format.

Now, India will await the winner of the second semifinal between South Africa and New Zealand at Lahore on Wednesday.

# China slaps 10-15% tariff on US goods from March 10

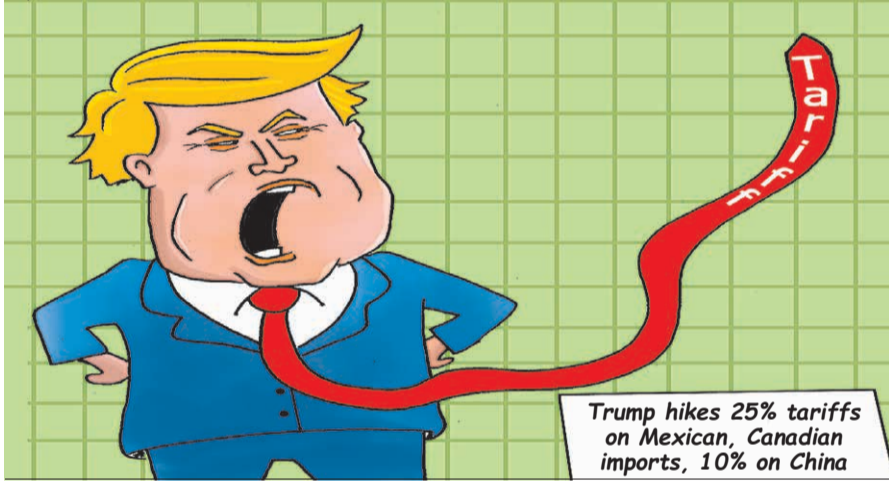
Agencies  
Beijing

China retaliated swiftly on Tuesday against fresh U.S. tariffs with hikes to import levies covering \$21 billion worth of American agricultural and food products, moving the world's top two economies a step closer towards an all-out trade war.

Beijing also slapped export and investment curbs on 25 U.S. firms, on grounds of national security, but, unlike when it retaliated against the Trump administration's February 4 tariffs, this time avoided punishing any household names.

"Trying to exert extreme pressure on China is a miscalculation and a

**FI TOON**



Trump hikes 25% tariffs on Mexican, Canadian imports, 10% on China

mistake," a foreign ministry spokesperson told, adding that China had never succumbed to bullying or coercion.

The latest retaliatory

measures came as the extra duty of 10% U.S. Prez Donald Trump threatened for the world's second-largest economy took effect at 0501 GMT on

March 4. That makes for a cumulative 20% tariff in response to what the White House considers Chinese inaction over drug flows.

## MEXICO TO IMPOSE RETALIATORY TARIFFS AS TRADE WAR RAGES

Mexico City: Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum said

Tuesday that Mexico will respond to 25% tariffs imposed by the United States with its own retaliatory tariffs on US goods. Sheinbaum said she will announce the products Mexico will target on Sunday in a public event in Mexico City's central plaza, perhaps indicating Mexico still hopes to de-escalate the trade war set off by US President Donald Trump. Un Canada said it would slap tariffs on more than \$100 billion of American goods over the course of 21 days. Sheinbaum said Tuesday that there is no reason for penalties on some of the largest trading partners for the US.

## Pakistan: 9 die in suicide attack, 6 terrorists neutralised

Agencies  
Peshawar



At least nine persons were killed and 16 injured as two explosive-laden vehicles rammed into the boundary wall of the main cantonment in Bannu in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday while the army personnel neutralised at least six terrorists.

The suicide bombers hit the wall of Bannu Cantonment, about 200 kms south-west of Peshawar, in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the evening around sunset

time, police said. Hafiz Gul Bahadur-affiliated little known Jaish Al Fursan, in a statement, claimed the attack in Bannu. The group is one of the several factions of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan. Five casualties were reported from the nearby civil buildings while four bodies were recovered by the rescue authorities.

## PM congratulates Stocker on being sworn in as Chancellor of Austria

ANI  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Christian Stocker who was sworn in as the new Chancellor of Austria and said that he looked forward to working with him to take "mutually beneficial cooperation" between the two nations to unprecedented heights.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Christian Stocker.

PM Modi noted that the enhanced partnership between India and Austria is poised to make steady progress in the

years to come. In a post on X, "Warmly congratulate H.E. Christian Stocker on being sworn in as the Federal Chancellor of Austria. The India-Austria Enhanced Partnership is poised to make steady progress in the years to come. I look forward to working with you to take our mutually beneficial cooperation to unprecedented heights."

## Jaishankar arrives in London for talks; FTA, Ukraine on agenda

Agencies  
New Delhi

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar arrived in London on Tuesday to begin his six-day visit to strengthen bilateral cooperation with the UK and Ireland. The MEA, in a pre-visit statement, said that Jaishankar's visit will renew India's friendly ties with both countries.

The MEA said, "India and the UK share a Com-

prehensive Strategic Partnership, which has strengthened across diverse areas including defence and security, trade and economy, health, education, and people-to-people ties."

The discussions are likely to centre around the recently re-launched India-UK FTA negotiations, as well as issues important to security and on finding a "lasting peace" in Russia-Ukraine conflict.



## Yellow Stone of Jaisalmer to get global identity soon

Jaisalmer's Yellow Stone is now set to be a part of the global identity under the 'One District, One Product Policy 2024.' This selection under the policy will provide margin money grant assistance. New micro-enterprises related to Yellow Stone products will receive 25% (up to 15 lakh rupees), and small enterprises will receive 15% (up to 20 lakh rupees) of the eligible project cost as margin money grant assistance. Additionally, for participating in national and international events related to product marketing, assistance will be provided for stall rent and travel expenses, up to a maximum of 2 lakh rupees.

## RTO (Second) of Jaipur grounds one of its flying squads

In a puzzling decision, the RTO (Second) of Jaipur has grounded one of its flying squads. The Shahpura DTO office in Jaipur is authorized to have three flying squads, and there are six transport inspectors working in the office. Normally, two inspectors should be assigned to each of the three flying squads for duty. However, two flying squads have been assigned 3 inspectors each, leaving one squad grounded.

## MPKC ERCP project to undergo drone survey worth ₹10 lakh

A significant development in the Modified Parvati-Kalsingh-Chambal (MPKC) ERCP project has emerged. The project will undergo a drone survey of artificial reservoirs, barges, dams, and submerged areas. ERPCPL has issued a tender for the survey, which will be opened on March 12. The drone survey will be conducted for the project at an estimated cost of around 10 lakh rupees.

## Concerns after Sports Council's favoritism towards an unregistered association

In a controversial move, the Sports Council has been accused of violating sports law by allocating a tennis court to an unregistered sports association. The tennis court at SMS Stadium, which was designated for tennis, has now been handed over to the sport of pickleball. Court number three, which was once reserved for tennis, is now being used for pickleball, a sport that is neither recognized by the Sports Council nor registered under the sports law. While the Sports Council has often spoken about taking action against unregistered sports associations, it has now given the expensive tennis court to the pickleball association. This raises concerns among tennis players, who are left wondering where they will play now. The question arises: why is the Sports Council showing favoritism toward an unregistered association?



First India News CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora graced the event as the chief guest. He interacted with the players and even showcased his skills by playing some brilliant shots. Pawan Arora also extended his best wishes to the players of both teams. **SUNIL SHARMA**

## PRESS PREMIER LEAGUE

# First India News enters final, thrashes Bhaskar by 31 runs

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In the first semifinal match of the Press Premier League organised by the Pink City Press Club, First India secured a place in the final by defeating Dainik Bhaskar by 31 runs.

In the first semifinal match, First India batted first and set a target of 170 runs for Dainik Bhaskar in the allotted 20 overs. For First India, opener Mukesh Bagda



First India News CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora being felicitated by Virendra Rathore, Manish Sharma, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Mukesh Meena, Ankit Tiwadi and other journalists.

scored 50 runs, while Garvit Narang contributed 31 runs, providing the team with a solid start. Later, captain Bharat

Dixit scored 21 runs, and Hukam Singh played a brilliant innings of 46 runs, helping the team reach a total of 169 runs.



First India News CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Arora with First India News and Dainik Bhaskar teams on Tuesday.

As Dainik Bhaskar's team began their chase, they suffered an early setback. Nirmal Tiwari dismissed Satish Kumawat

in his very first over, delivering the first blow. After that, no batsman could hold their ground for long. However,

Surendra Jangid from Dainik Bhaskar played a half-century knock, but his effort couldn't secure victory for the team.

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY  
A positive attitude is a magnet for happiness and success.  
Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



## INDIA COMMITTED TO TACKLING PLASTIC WASTE: UNION MINISTER

● MoU signed between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) ● Delegates visit Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Albert Hall, and Patrika Gate

Abhishek Shrivastava  
Jaipur

Addressing the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav reaffirmed India's commitment to tackling plastic waste challenges. He highlighted the Plastic Waste Management Rules (2016), the 2022 ban on certain single-use plastics, and Circular Economy Action Plans for 10 waste categories. Secretary, MoHUA, Srinivas Kathikala, and Rajasthan Chief Secretary, Sudhansh Pant, chaired a session focusing on waste management and circular economy.

The session saw the launch of the SBM Waste to Wealth PMS Portal, the IFC Document Reference Guide on MSW projects, and the release of 'India's Circular Sutra.'

An MoU was signed between CSIR & MoHUA to enhance scientific collaboration. Delegates visited Jaipur's Waste to Energy Plant & Dehlawas STP, gaining insights into innovative waste management techniques & sustainable waste processing methods.



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav interacts with CM Bhanu Lal Sharma during a courtesy meeting at CMR in Jaipur on Tuesday.



Sudhansh Pant, Srinivas Kathikala & others unveil CEEW study on solid waste management in cities exceeding 1 million population during the event in Jaipur on Tuesday.



### BALANCING DEVELOPMENT WITH HERITAGE PRESERVATION IS STATE GOVT'S PRIORITY: CM

CM Bhanu Lal Sharma, reviewing development works at CMR, emphasised preserving Rajasthan's heritage. He highlighted religious & cultural tourism's potential to generate jobs by preserving faith-based sites. Sharma announced the Braj Chaurasi Circuit's development, tourism facilities along the Parikrama Path, and the construction of panoramas. He directed restoration at Tanot Mata Temple & improvements in connectivity. Sharma also called for restoring temples outside Raj, following a recent Cabinet decision. Key officials were present.



CM Bhanu Lal Sharma chairs a meeting with office bearers of the Heritage Development Authority at CMR in Jaipur on Tuesday. Shikhar Agrawal, Onkar Singh Lakhawat, Anoop Bartaria, Ravi Jain and others were present.

### Expressing Gratitude

A Sikh community delegation met Chief Minister Bhanu Lal Sharma on Tuesday, thanking the state government for allocating land in Jaipur for a hostel dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Sahibzadas. They presented him with a picture of the Guru and his Sahibzadas, along with a sword symbolizing valor. Sharma praised their bravery, recalling Prime Minister Modi's declaration of December 26 as Veer Bal Diwas. Prominent Sikh leaders, including Ajaypal Singh, Jasbir Singh, Gurmeet Singh, and Baldev Singh, attended the meeting.

## Pali: Sikkim Gov, BJP chief visit temples, attend events



Madan Rathore inspects the operations at the Cello Group factory in Falna, Pali on Tuesday.

### Madan Rathore also highlights significance of religious sites

Subhash Trivedi  
Pali

Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur, along with BJP Rajasthan President Madan Rathore, visited Slesli village in Bali sub-division of Pali on Tuesday.

They offered prayers at the newly constructed Lord Parshwanath Jain temple, wishing for the nation's prosperity and happiness. The Jain community warmly welcomed them, with Babulal Jain and other trust members leading the reception.

Former MP Pushp Jain and BJP District President Sunil Bhandari



Sikkim Governor Om Mathur and Madan Rathore offer prayers at Charbhujia Dham Temple in Pali district on Tuesday.

were also present. Mathur praised the temple's intricate craftsmanship, comparing it to Ranakpur and Dilwara temples. Rathore highlighted the cultural significance of such landmarks. Later, Rathore visited

Basant village in Sumerpur, attending a Rajpurohit community event at Kallaji village temple. Bharat Kumar led the welcoming ceremony, joined by BJP leaders and workers, including Sunil Bhandari.

## Annadatas can create miracles: Min Chouhan



Shivraj Singh Chouhan being felicitated during the 'Kshetriya Kisan Mela' held at Jodhpur Agricultural University on Tuesday.

Shivprakash Purohit  
Jodhpur

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan addressed thousands of farmers at the closing ceremony of the three-day 'Kisan Mela' at Agricultural University, Jodhpur. He praised farmers for their ability to grow specialized crops even in arid regions, calling them creators of real miracles. Chouhan, a farmer himself, empha-

sized the field as a place of worship and stressed personal farmer engagement over formalities. He emphasised "One Nation, One Election," praised agricultural innovation, advocated natural farming, warned against chemical fertilizers, and reaffirmed India's food potential. He reiterated PM Modi's commitment to farmers through initiatives like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and improved crop insurance.

### PROMOTING LEGAL AWARENESS

## Raise awareness on new laws across all levels: CS to officials

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant chaired a meeting on implementing three new criminal laws, focusing on crimes against women and children. He directed awareness campaigns through lawyers, media, and schools, while ensuring coordination with the Home Dept. Pant emphasized educating students, teachers, and Anganwadi workers about the laws. The laws aim to modernize the justice system and promote citizens' rights. The meeting also reviewed Section 479 cases and Rajasthan's top ranking in e-prosecution, highlighting ongoing efforts for legal awareness and training.



Sudhansh Pant visits a stall of Bagru print dupattas during the 'RAJEEVIKA RANGOTSAV 2025' exhibition being held at Secretariat in Jaipur on Tuesday. Sreya Guha, Kanishk Katara and others were present.

### RAJEEVIKA'S ROLE VITAL IN MAKING RURAL WOMEN SELF-RELIANT, ASSERTS CS PANT

Rajeevika Rangotsav 2025 was officially inaugurated by CS Sudhansh Pant at Secretariat on Tuesday. The event, taking place from March 4 to March 7, aims to showcase the entrepreneurial success of women associated with Rajeevika's SHGs. He visited various stalls, including those selling shariat, Bagru print dupattas, etc. He praised women entrepreneurs, especially in Rajsamand and Jodhpur. Dr Rituraj Sharma

## Hopeful Bhupendra Bhai will extend aid to traders: Shekhawat

First India Bureau  
Jodhpur

Union Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, has written to Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel regarding the severe economic losses suffered by Rajasthan's traders in the recent fire at Surat's Shivshakti Textile Market. He urged the CM to announce a special financial package to aid the affected business community.

Shekhawat described the fire, which occurred between February 25 and 27, as a tragic incident that destroyed over 400 shops, leading to losses of ₹700-800 crore for migrant Ra-



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat shares letter on X.

jaasthan traders. Their hard-earned livelihoods have been wiped out, leaving them in distress. Appealing for urgent relief, Shekhawat expressed confidence that Bhupendra Bhai Patel would consider his request and extend financial aid to help traders rebuild their businesses.

## Govt neglecting Annapurna Rasoi Yojna: Gehlot

Naresh Sharma  
Jaipur

Former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has raised concerns over the weakening of the Annapurna Rasoi Yojna, aimed at providing affordable meals to the underprivileged and middle class. He criticised the BJP gov, alleging that some kitchens have stopped serving food and highlighted issues like poor hygiene and cold meals. Gehlot said the scheme should have been strengthened, not weakened, after its name change. He urged proper monitoring and effective execution, stressing its significance and calling for its revival to ensure it benefits the needy.



## ICG Group fondly remembers founder Dr Ashok Gupta

Krishan Murari  
Jaipur

A prayer meeting was held in the auditorium of IIS School Mansarovar after the demise of ICG Group founder and educationist Dr Ashok Gupta. Several dignitaries, including members of ICG Group and his family members, attended the prayer meet on Tuesday.

Gupta was a renowned figure in private education in Jaipur and across



Dr Anita Hada & Captain Amarjeet Sangwan pay their condolences to late Dr Ashok Gupta during a condolence meeting held at IIS School Auditorium in Mansarovar, Jaipur, on Tuesday.

the country. He was the founder of India International School and Inter-

national College for Girls (ICG). He passed away on Monday due to



Dr Rakhi Gupta remembers late Dr Ashok Gupta during the condolence meeting.

a blood clot in his brain. The demise of Rajasthan's prominent edu-



Sons of late Dr Ashok Gupta, Amit and Sumit Gupta fondly remember their late father during the condolence meeting held at IIS School Auditorium in Mansarovar on Tuesday.

cationist has caused an irreparable loss to the world of education.

### CONDOLENCE MEETING TO BE HELD TODAY



The entire IIS family stands in mourning during the condolence meeting held in memory of late Dr Ashok Gupta. Seen here are BN Mathur, Amit Gupta, Sumit Gupta, Rajeev Sogani, Rakhi Gupta, and staff members of the IIS Group of Institutions. SUNIL SHARMA

A condolence meeting in memory of the late Dr Ashok Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of IIS University, Jaipur, will be held from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. today at Gandhinagar Club, Jaipur.



# City First

JAIPUR, WEDNESDAY | MARCH 5, 2025



## BEYOND FAME & GLORY!

Jaipur witnessed a star-studded evening at the grand launch of the documentary *Life Beyond the Spotlight: Rishee Miglani* at Gem Cinema.

P10-11



Designer Megha Jain with Show Stopper Dr Raseela Bhuriya (L-R) Payal Khandelwal, Angel Sain, Akanksha Bhalla, Muskan Mishree, Vanshika Verma, Isha Kohli & Pankaj Jain

RAJASTHAN'S ETHNIC WEAR MOGUL MEGHA JAIN UNVEILS A BREATHTAKING COLLECTION AT KOTA COUTURE SHOW!

# Regal Styles

The Kota Couture Show 2025 unfolded at Lotus Ananta Elite, Kota on January 27, showcasing fashion brilliance. City First proudly highlights Megha Jain, Rajasthan's leading fashion entrepreneur, who mesmerised audiences with her exquisite ethnic collection, redefining elegance and luxury in the rental fashion industry!



**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

**T**he much-anticipated Kota Couture Show 2025 turned into a spectacle of elegance and innovation at Lotus Ananta Elite, Kota. Organised and choreographed by the visionary Gaurav Gaur, Founder & Director of Kota Couture Show, the grand fashion event brought together a diverse blend of designers, craftsmanship and creativity. Presented by Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India Newspaper, and powered by Maruti Exchange, the show featured eight meticulously curated designer sequences, each weaving a unique story through fabric, embroidery and drapery. During the show, Megha Jain's collection wowed the audience, with her stunning designs bringing modern twists to traditional ethnic wear. Her impeccable eye for detail, combined with her unmatched creativity, made her a standout designer at the prestigious event. In an extraordinary journey of passion, creativity and perseverance, Megha Jain has established herself as one of Rajasthan's most influential fash-

ion designers, leading the way with her booming ethnic wear rental business. Known for offering an extensive range of exquisite male and female ethnic wear paired with breathtaking jewelry, Megha's empire caters to over 50,000 satisfied customers since its inception in 2017.

Her career began humbly at JDB Girls College in Kota, where she taught Textile Designing. What started as a teaching role soon transformed into a revolutionary path in fashion. In 2017, Megha took a bold leap, starting her business offering customized couture orders from the comfort of her home. This simple yet visionary move laid the foundation for what would become Rajasthan's largest ethnic wear rental empire.

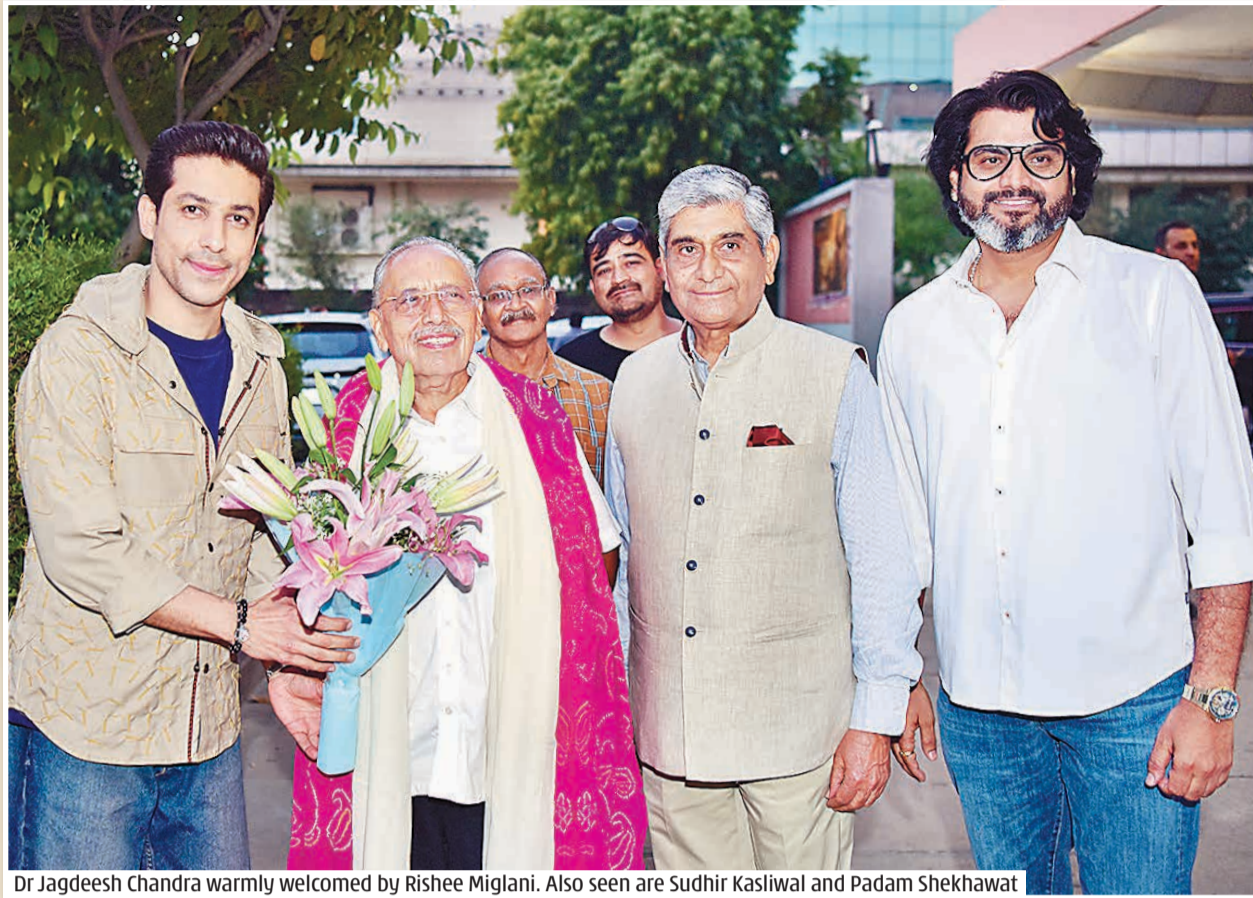
Megha Jain's name is now synonymous with quality and luxury. Her curated collection, including sarees, lehengas, sherwanis and more, has become a staple for those seeking elegance and sophistication for special occasions. The added allure of her custom jewelry pieces has made her brand a one-stop destination for high-end fashion. Megha continues to set new standards in the fashion rental industry, proving that dreams do indeed turn into reality.



(Top to Bottom) Nisha Chouhan, Angel Sain, Saniya Abbasi, Muskan Mishree & Yoshita Arora



SANTOSH SHARMA



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra warmly welcomed by Rishree Miglani. Also seen are Sudhir Kasliwal and Padam Shekhawat



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Abhishek Joshi, Padam Shekhawat, Sudhir Kasliwal, Anshika Choudhury, Marcella Baur, Rishree Miglani, Maria & Shrutiika Mathur



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra inaugurating the short film "Life Beyond the Spotlight Rishree Miglani". Also seen are Anshika Choudhury, Preeti Chandra, Anshuman Bhomia, Amandeep Singh Kapoor and Rishree Miglani



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Isha Agarwal



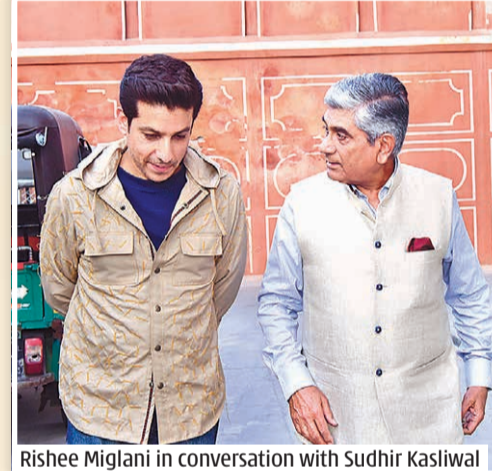
(L-R) Preeti Chandra, Mohit, Sachin, Amandeep Singh Kapoor & Risham Jyot Kaur



(L-R) Gorav Arora, Neeraj Maharshi & Rahul Bhagat



Rishree Miglani & Ashish



Rishree Miglani in conversation with Sudhir Kasliwal



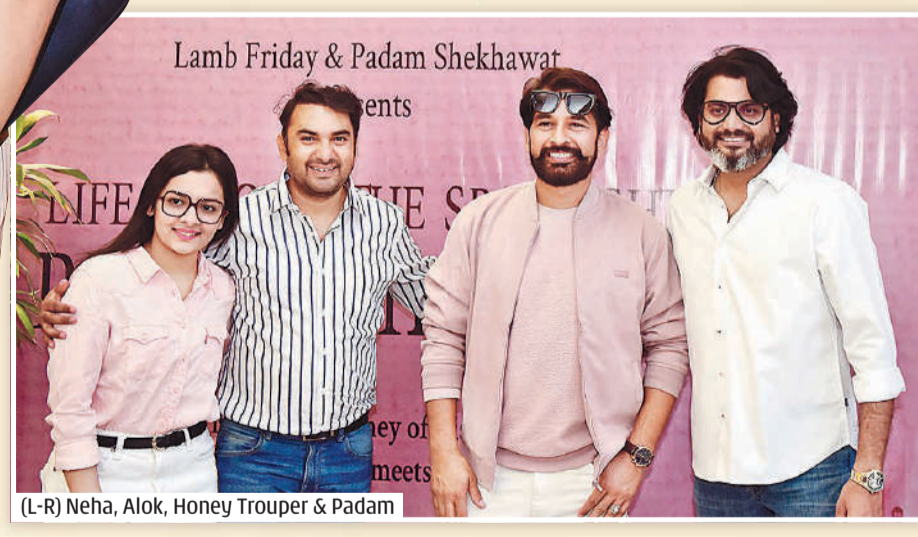
Siddharth Sharma & Rishree Miglani captured in a candid moment



Anshika & Suhani



(L-R) Kaushal, Kashmi, Padam & Sadhna



(L-R) Neha, Alok, Honey Troupier & Padam



(L-R) Neha, Manish, Rishree & Minal

**'LIFE BEYOND THE SPOTLIGHT RISHEE MIGLANI' DOCUMENTARY LAUNCHED AT GEM CINEMA**

# A Tribute to Success

**Mitali Dused**  
 cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**J**aipur witnessed a star-studded evening at the grand launch of the documentary *Life Beyond the Spotlight: Rishree Miglani* at Gem Cinema. The film was inaugurated by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, celebrities and industry leaders. Directed by Padam Shekhawat and produced by Lamb Friday, the documentary captures Rishree Miglani's transformative journey in fashion, hospitality and social impact.

The premiere was attended by the city's who's who, close friends and family of Rishree Miglani. The event saw the presence of IG Headquarters IPS Anshuman Bhomia, DIG Headquarters IPS Preeti Chandra and IPS Amandeep Singh Kapoor (Director, Central Detective Training Institute, Jaipur, Bureau of Police Research & Development, Ministry of

Home Affairs). Sudhir Kasliwal, Owner of Gem Cinema, expressed pride in hosting this inspiring event, ensuring that the entire hall was reserved exclusively for the occasion. Among the attendees were Supermodels Anshika, Suhani, Khushi Yadav and several renowned personalities who came to support the youth icon.

Speaking about his journey into direction, Padam Shekhawat shared, "I remember talking to a friend in Chennai about my interest in direction. I wanted to step into filmmaking, and it was Sachin Saini who introduced me to direction. Since then, I have worked on 10 feature films, two web series and two independent songs." He further elaborated on why he

chose to direct a documentary on Rishree Miglani, stating, "When I discussed my interest in directing a documentary, a friend immediately suggested just one name—Rishree Miglani. His journey, his influence in the fashion world with Fashion Connect and his dedication to uplifting industries made him the perfect subject. Fashion Connect is not just an event; it is a global phenomenon that brings together renowned international designers while giving local talents a world-class platform." He concluded, "This documentary is a tribute to Rishree's relentless spirit and his contribution to fashion, hospitality, and tourism. I hope it inspires many more to follow their dreams."

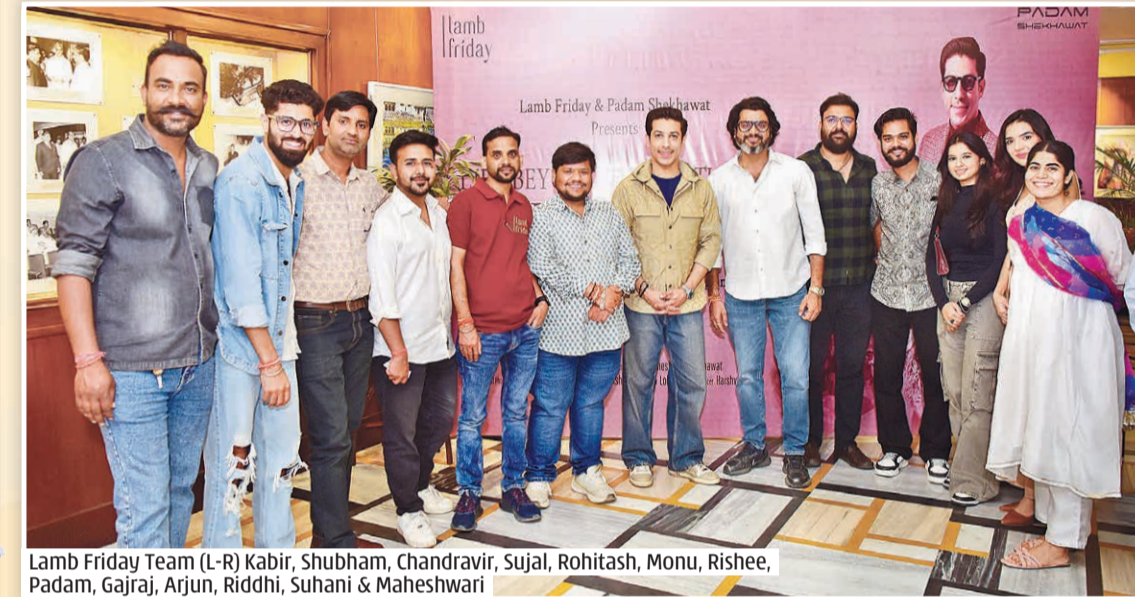
Rishree Miglani's Fashion Connect has revolutionized the industry, providing a prestigious platform for international designers while uplifting local talent. His upcoming *Bikaji Presents Food & Hospitality Awards* at Rambagh Palace is set to establish new benchmarks in

the industry. Speaking at the event, Rishree Miglani shared, "Nothing is impossible; the sky is the limit. I am honoured that Padam Shekhawat chose to document my journey. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Pawan Arora have played a pivotal role in my career, and I am grateful for the constant support from Deputy CM Diya Kumari, Cabinet Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar, Cabinet Minister Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Lakshyaraaj Singh Mewar."

Sudhir Kasliwal remarked, "Rishree is not just a friend but a charismatic personality. When he called me, I immediately said, 'The entire hall is yours.' We even cancelled our regular shows for this remarkable occasion." Now available on YouTube, the 40-minute documentary delivers a powerful message—true success is built not just on fame but on hard work, perseverance and commitment to society.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



Lamb Friday Team (L-R) Kabir, Shubham, Chandravir, Sujal, Rohitash, Monu, Rishree, Padam, Gajraj, Arjun, Ridhi, Suhani & Maheshwari



Vishal Mathur



Rishree Miglani greeted by Usha Poonia & Ritu Uberoi



Suhani & Ridhi



Padam Shekhawat



Vijay Laxmi Bishnoi



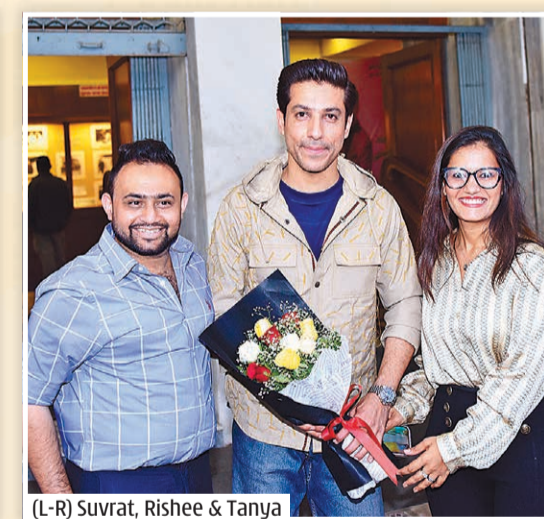
(L-R) Padam, Doorva, Rishree & Kulsum



(L-R) Kavita Chauhan, Rishree Miglani & Nimit Mathur



(L-R) Neha, Yashika & Neeral



(L-R) Suwat, Rishree & Tanya



Anjana Miglani



Apra Kuchhal



Khushi Yadav & Angelina



Sunita Shekhawat & Meera Kataria



(L-R) Amika, Rishree & Manmeet



Mandakimi & Payal



Garvit, Padam & Lucky



Wricket & Manish captured in a candid moment



Padam Shekhawat felicitates Sudhir Kasliwal



Rishree Miglani addressing the audience

**MEET & GREET!**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Shrutika Mathur, Fitness Coach, during a courtesy visit at a City hotel on Tuesday.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Hemant Sharma of the First India Family, as he reached the former's residence to seek blessings on the occasion of his birthday on Tuesday.

**"IIFA'S 7 KG ROYAL INVITATION"**

**Heritage-Inspired Invite**

SUNIL SHARMA

City First  
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**J**aipur-based designers Chandra Prakash Goyal and Ashish Goyal have crafted a luxurious VVIP invitation card for the grand IIFA event, making it as opulent as the occasion itself. Weighing an impressive 7 kg, the invitation takes 8-10 minutes to read and has been specially designed for VVIP and VIP guests.

The invitation box, made of leatherette and shaped like a chest, is adorned with Barmeri embroidered cloth. Inside, intricate artefacts depict Jaipur's iconic landmarks such as Hawa Mahal, Albert Hall, City Palace, and the IIFA trophy, crafted using acrylic laser cutting and engraving. The brown-black card features a shimmering UV-printed finish.

Luxury gifts accompany the invitation, including a gold-work marble plate, meenakari-kundan lacquer elephants, and traditional rose perfume made using the Bhapka technique. The VIP box also



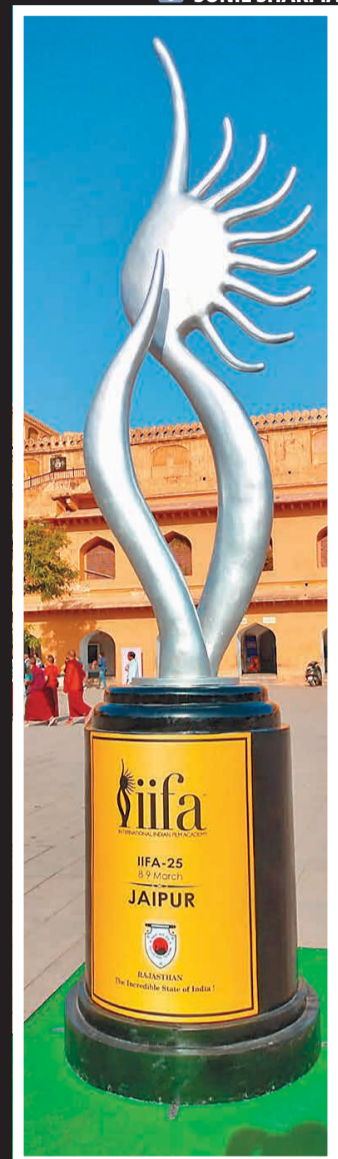
Ashish Goyal showcased his exquisitely crafted luxurious IIFA invitation card



Designer Chandra Prakash Goyal

contains blue pottery items like a pen stand, tray, and wall painting.

More than 400 invitation boxes were crafted in just eight days, and sent to celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Kareena Kapoor, and Shahid Kapoor, as well as industrialists Ambani, Adani, and the Chief Minister. Designers stated, "This invitation highlights Rajasthan's rich heritage and craftsmanship."



**POSTER LAUNCH!**



The SAFGR Jaipur Asia Golf Cup 2025, organised by Rotary Club Jaipur Midtown, is set for March 8-9 at Rambagh Golf Club, Jaipur, featuring 120 golfers, including 70+ international players. The official poster was unveiled on Tuesday by Dy CM Diya Kumari, who highlighted its role in promoting Jaipur as a global sports hub. Rotary Club Jaipur Midtown, known for its social initiatives, welcomes players and spectators to this prestigious tournament.

**MEETING!**



Guv Haribhau Bagade was warmly greeted by Vijay Pareek, State Convener of Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan, along with Co-Convener Raghav Garg and State Secretary Urmila Singh during a courtesy visit on Monday. During the meeting, Guv was presented with a portrait of Veer Savarkar. Garg highlighted that the organization is actively promoting Savarkar's legacy in Rajasthan and is steadily expanding its outreach.

**JOURNALISM WITH REMEMBRANCE!**



Sunita Chaturvedi paid tribute to senior journalist Lt Vishwas Kumar

A discussion on 'Artificial Intelligence in Journalism' was organised at Pink City Press Club on Tuesday in memory of senior journalist Lt Vishwas Kumar, chaired by Rajendra Boda. Experts debated AI's impact on journalism, with Narayan Bareth calling it a destructive technology that threatens privacy and jobs. Ashish Khandelwal Deputy Director of DIPR highlighted AI's efficiency and job-creating potential. Sunny Sebastian and Rajendra Boda warned about fake news, deep fakes and copyright threats. Former Jaipur Discom CMD RG Gupta emphasized maintaining balance. The session was conducted by Jagdish Sharma. Sunita Chaturvedi and Deepshikha Sharma were also present.



Kamal Julka, LL Sharma, Virendra Singh & Sunita Chaturvedi during the event



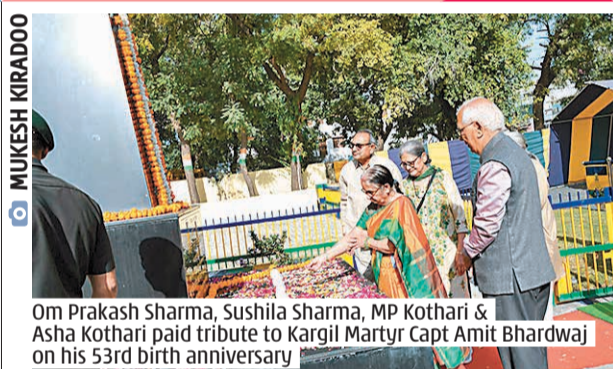
Ashish Meena addressing the audience. Also seen are Sunny Sebastian, Praveen Chand Chhabra, Rajendra Boda, Narayan Bareth & Jagdish Sharma



Renowned Tabla player Yashwant Vaishnav will present a solo Tabla recital at 6 PM today in Rangayan Auditorium, JKK, as part of the 23rd Thakur Kishan Singh Music Festival organised by Sanchar Jagat and JKK. Lalit Sisodia will accompany him on harmonium. Rahul Gautam and Tripurari Saxena said that local artist Sanwamal Kathak will also perform with Mohit Chauhan on Tabla. Padma Shri Ustad Moinuddin Khan, Pt Hariharsharan Bhatt, Ustad Mohammad Umar Mohan, and others will be honoured. Entry is free for all music lovers.



**VALIANT REMEMBRANCE!**



Om Prakash Sharma, Sushila Sharma, MP Kothari & Asha Kothari paid tribute to Kargil Martyr Capt Amit Bhardwaj on his 53rd birth anniversary

The Shaheed Amit Bhardwaj Memorial Charitable Trust marked the 53rd birth anniversary of Kargil Martyr Capt. Amit Bhardwaj (4 JAT) with a tribute event at Shaheed Amit Bhardwaj Memorial Park, Malviya Nagar, on Tuesday. Maj Gen Alok Raj, PVSM, AVSM (Retd.), Chairman Rajasthan Staff Selection Board, attended as the chief guest. The event featured a wreath-laying ceremony and a quiz competition with 400 students. Family members, and notable guests like Om Prakash Sharma, Sushila Sharma, MP Kothari, and Asha Kothari, along with veterans and 5 JAT soldiers, attended. Patriotic songs concluded the tribute.



Maj Gen Alok Raj, Col Rajesh Bhukar, Col JS Tanwar & Kirti Chakra during the event

**DIVINE CELEBRATION!**



A grand Mahashivratri celebration took place at Tarkeshwar Nath Mandir, Chaura Rasta featuring special decorations and a 56 Bhog Mahaprasad on Tuesday. Temple Mahant Pandit Yuvraj Vyas shared that devotees witnessed the divine decorations and received Mahaprasad. Special arrangements were made for darshan and evening aarti. PCC General Secretary Deepak Dandoriya and youth leader Rohit Chaudhary also attended, offering prayers. The sacred event attracted numerous devotees, enhancing the spiritual atmosphere with devotion and festivity.

**Book Launch & conversations...**



Saroj & Raj Bansal



(L-R) Mandakini Raina, Dr Jaysree Periwai, Vishaal Mathur & Sudhir Mathur



Anju Mathur & Vishaal Mathur

Marriott Jaipur. Organised by Vishal Mathur in association with Global Reach and Marriott Jaipur, the event featured a discussion between Sardesai and journalist Tabeenah Anjum. Dr Jaysree Periwai, Chairperson of Jayshree Periwai Group of Schools, graced the event as Guest of Honour.

The evening was graced by notable guests like Sourabh & Vinnie Kakkar, Mandakini Raina, Sudhir Mathur, Saroj & Raj Bansal, Rishhe Miglani, Rukshmani Kumari, Gorav Arora, Pawan, Solanki among others. The evening concluded with live music and discussions.

**CONFERENCE!**



A press conference was held on Tuesday at Pink City Press Club. Devendra Pandey and Surendra Singh Achalpuria stated that Gau Sansad program will be held on March 17 at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi. Under the guidance of Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktेश्वaranand Saraswati, the event, led by the Gau Pratishtha movement, aims to declare them as the Nation Mother and put an end to cow slaughter. Lakhs of people, including saints and officials, will gather to advocate for a Hindu nation centred on cow protection. Prominent leaders such as Vijay Kaushik and Gopalmani will also participate.

NAIM KHAN

City First  
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**S**enior journalist and author Rajdeep Sardesai launched his latest book, 2024: The Elections That Surprised India, on Monday at