



PM NARENDRA MODI

FROM BALAKOT TO BIKANER!

MODI'S MISSIVES ECHO IN THE LAND OF WARRIORS!

KARTIKEY DEV SINGH

In a high-profile visit following India's decisive Operation Sindoor, on May 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Bikaner district, Rajasthan, where he will virtually inaugurate 103 redeveloped railway stations across 20 states from Deshnok. The town of Deshnok, where Modi will offer prayers at the re-

vered Karni Mata Temple, is situated about 200 km from the border. His visit holds special significance as it follows a stern response to Pakistan and mirrors his 2019 visit to Churu after the Balakot air strikes, when he had vowed to protect the nation's dignity and safety. Notably, PM Modi's presence in the sensitive border district of Bikaner, which shares a 168-km-long international boundary with Pakistan,

PM Modi to Visit Bikaner on May 22, inaugurate railway stations, and address rally in wake of Operation Sindoor

lays bare his 'iron will, resolute spirit & commitment' of 'Main Desh Nahi Jhukne Dunga'.

Eight of the stations being inaugurated are located in Rajasthan, including Deshnok, Bundi, Mandalgarh, Gogamedi, Govindgarh, Mandawar-Mahua Road, Fatehpur Shekha-

wati, and Rajgarh. The re-development is part of the 'Amrit Bharat Station Scheme,' under which over 1,300 stations nationwide are being modernized with an investment of ₹1 lakh crore. Approximately ₹75 crore has been spent on the Rajasthan stations, designed to reflect local art

and culture.

Following the inauguration, PM Modi will address a massive public rally in Palana village, 20 kilometers from Bikaner. The rally, expected to draw over one lakh people, is being held. Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal

Sharma and BJP Rajasthan President Madan Rathore are overseeing preparations. "This is a matter of national pride. The rally's success will echo across the country," Rathore said, urging citizens to participate in large numbers. Meghwal and several state ministers are coordinating logistics and mobilizing public support.

PM Modi will land at Nal airport, an Indian Air Force base in Bikaner,

which was on high alert during the recent Indo-Pak conflict. Sources suggest Modi may meet soldiers stationed along the border as a gesture of solidarity.

The visit has stirred hopes among Rajasthan's people for an announcement that honours the legacy of Rajputana's valour, particularly amid renewed nationalistic fervour following the army's success in neutralising terror camps during Operation Sindoor.



'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 132

MODI LENDS STRENGTH TO STRUGGLES

The narrators explain how Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only understands the struggles of athletes but also stands by them, offering unwavering support and celebrating their determination. His act of fulfilling a 13-year-old promise by helping a man wear shoes shows his deep sense of empathy and commitment and lots more...

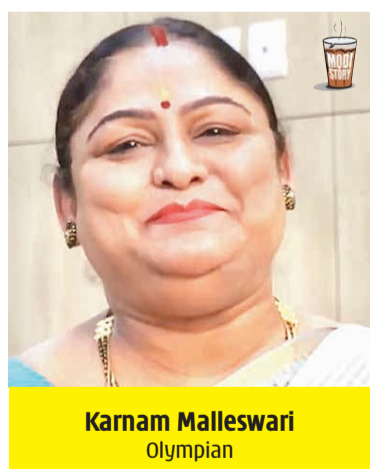


PM Narendra Modi

Sports became a 'mission' for the athletes after 2014

Before 2014, athletes chased their dreams in silence — training hard, winning medals, yet receiving little institutional support. Their walk used to be lonely and uncertain and their future insecure. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only sees their struggles — he stands by them, supports them, and celebrates their spirit. This has given birth to a new breed of athletes, who are positive, outgoing and confident.

I remember once I wanted to invite the Prime Minister to my institute at Yamunanagar. But I was not certain if I could do that, because Modi ji remains very busy and has a tight schedule to follow. How could he make it to my institute and bless my students? Surprisingly, as I sent my invitation and waited, one Sunday I got a call from the Prime Minister's Office, that PM Narendra Modi ji wanted to meet me. This was a thrilling and memorable moment. When

Karnam Malleswari
Olympian

I finally met him, I found him very friendly and amicable. We had a long conversation, in which he wholeheartedly appreciated my achievements and acknowledged with pride the medals I had won for the country. He even touched my forehead and blessed me.

At that time, I had a deep feeling that we sportspersons have a strong support behind us, something which I had never

experienced earlier when we were playing for the country. Modi ji is one who closely follows and deeply appreciates what we sportspersons do.

There is this constant strength behind young athletes today, which gives them immense confidence and the thirst to win. Incidentally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji appreciates even those who fail to perform that well or don't win medals in Asian Games, Commonwealth Games or the Olympics.

He would call them too and tell them, never mind, better luck this time. This is a very positive and encouraging approach that goes a long way in shaping a player's career.

The top leader of the country himself coming out and patting your back in appreciation and encouragement is an immense experience. How I wish Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji was there during our times. Things would have been actually very different then!

MAN LIVES MODI DREAM FOR 14 YEARS WITHOUT SHOES

The year was 2012 when I first stopped using any kind of shoe or chappal for my feet. I had taken a vow. An incident happened when I was distributing and hoisting posters and flags of the party in different parts of my village. I had a verbal duel with a Congress worker, who said, there was no point doing all this, for my party would never come to power. This riled me up. I could not accept this. I vowed there and then, that until the day the BJP came to power and Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, I would shun all kinds of footwear and live barefoot all my life, in case my dream remained unfulfilled. I had promised to myself that if I wore shoes again, it would be in front of PM Modi. I was surprised to learn that the news had reached the Prime Minister and one day I got a call from the Prime Minister's Office, calling me to meet the Prime Minister himself. I could not believe this. As I finally met him, it was a hearty wholesome

Rampal Kashyap, BJP
Kaithal, Haryana

conversation with him. He listened to me with interest as to how I had so diligently kept the vow for over 13 long years. I asked him to sit but instead he kept standing, held my hand and said, you sit first. Then he helped me with his own hands to put my shoes on and said, how do you feel now, wearing shoes after so many years? It was such a noble gesture and an ennobling feeling that I have no words to explain. I was literally overwhelmed to

find the supreme leader of the country sitting with me and talking like a friend. I told him I had never thought my dream of meeting you would come true. He patted my back, held my hand like my very own and smiled saying, why not? See, I am here, sitting with you. My dream had really come true after so many years.

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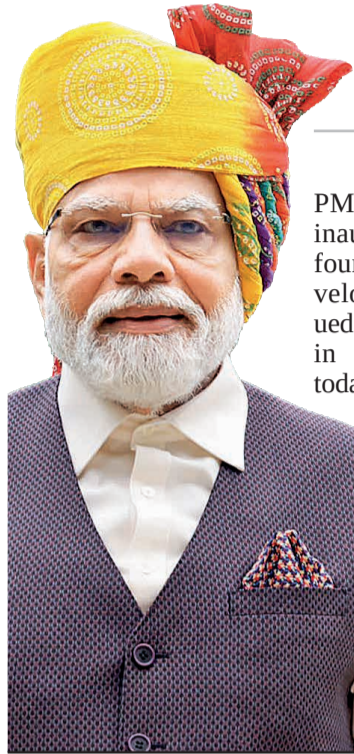
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FROM KARNI MATA'S BLESSINGS TO NATION'S PROGRESS – PM MODI'S RAJASTHAN VISIT TODAY

Proud to welcome PM Modi after success of Op Sindoor: CM

● PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate over 103 redeveloped 'Amrit Stations' in 18 states today

● PM Modi to inaugurate, lay foundation of projects worth ₹26,000 crore in Rajasthan



Laxman Raghav
Bikaner

PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects valued at over ₹26,000 crore in Bikaner, Rajasthan today. PM Modi is scheduled to visit the revered Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke, inaugurate the Deshnoke Railway Station, and address a major



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw & Arjun Ram Meghwal and Madan Rathore during an inspection of security arrangements ahead of PM Modi's visit, in Bikaner on Wednesday. Also present are Kuldeep Dhankar, Champalal Gaidar, Jyoti Kumar Satija, Sumit Godara and others.

public rally in Palana. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma arrived in Bikaner on Wednesday to oversee final preparations ahead

of the PM's visit. Accompanied by BJP state president Madan Rathore and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the CM

visited the public meeting venue and took stock of arrangements. Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also

reached Bikaner. CS Sudhansh Pant, DGP UR Sahoo, and senior officials including DC Ravi Kumar Surpur, District Collector Namrata, and SP Kavendra Sagar also reviewed venues in Deshnoke and Palana. "There is a wave of excitement and anticipation among the people living in the border areas of Rajasthan. It is our good fortune that PM Modi is visiting state following the successful execution of Operation Sindoor, which was a strong response to the Pahalgaon terrorist attack," said CM Sharma. **P6 & 8**

ITINERARY OF PM MODI'S VISIT

- 9:45 AM**
Arrival at Nal Airport, Bikaner
- 9:55 AM**
Departure by helicopter to Deshnoke
- 10:30 AM**
Visit to Karni Mata Temple
- 11:00 AM**
Inauguration of Deshnoke Railway Station
- 11:30 AM**
Departure to Palana by helicopter
- 12:00 PM**
Address at public rally in Palana
- 1:00 PM**
Departure for Delhi

CM APPROVES DPR FOR JAIPUR METRO PHASE-2

In a strategic and forward-looking move, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Jaipur Metro Phase-2. Following the state government's nod, the DPR has been sent to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for final approval under the Metro Rail Policy, 2017. Once clearance is received from Centre, construction work on project will commence. The Jaipur Metro Phase-2 project, announced in the 2025-26 Rajasthan state budget, marks a significant milestone in urban transportation development under CM Sharma's leadership.

IN BRIEF

India seeks full exemption from Trump's 26% tariffs



New Delhi: India and US may announce an interim trade agreement before July 8, with New Delhi seeking full exemption from the additional 26% tariff on domestic goods. The US on April 2 imposed an additional 26% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, but suspended it for 90 days till July 9.

Peace talks with India are possible: Pak PM

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif told the media in Islamabad on Wednesday that peace talks between India and Pakistan can take place in UAE or Saudi Arabia. America will play the role of mediator in this. This comes days after the nuclear-armed neighbours ended their worst military conflict.

Ayodhya Ram Darbar consecration on June 5

Ayodhya: A major spiritual milestone is set for Ayodhya as the consecration (Pran Pratishtha) of the Ram Darbar and 14 new temples within the Ram Mandir complex will take place on June 5, 2025. The event is distinct in its emphasis on religious tradition and inclusivity of spiritual leaders, without political figures.

OPERATION SINDOOR: INDIA'S GLOBAL ANTI-TERROR OUTREACH BEGINS

POLITICAL UNITY ON TERROR!

Our mission is to 'reveal the true face of Pakistan' to the world: Jha

First India Bureau
New Delhi

India on Wednesday rolled out its massive global campaign 'Operation Sindoor Outreach' to expose Pakistan's direct and indirect links to terrorism as the first group of an all-party delegation led by JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha left for a five-nation visit from New Delhi.

Jha said the delegation's mission is to "reveal the true face of Pakistan" to the global community. "Look, one of the biggest issues is that PM Modi is sending seven delegations in the world. Right now we are going and our delegation is going to Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. The biggest issue is that this terrorism, which is Pak's state policy," he said.

They will arrive in Tokyo today, followed by trips to Korea (May 24), Singapore (May 27), Indonesia (May 28) and Malaysia (May 31). As many as 7 high-level delegations comprising 59 MPs, including former ministers, seasoned diplomats, and senior political leaders, are set to travel to 33 countries between May 21-June 5.



An all-party delegation of MPs led by Sanjay Kumar Jha (JD-U) with (L-R) Hemang Joshi (BJP), John Brittas (CPI-M), Aparajita Sarangi (BJP), Brij Lal (BJP), Abhishek Banerjee (TMC), Pradan Baruah (BJP) and Mohan Kumar (former diplomat) departing for 5-nation visit to brief over 'Operation Sindoor' and India's continued fight against terrorism, at the Delhi International Airport T3, on Wednesday.

THERE WAS NO MEDIATION BY ANY THIRD PARTY IN INDIA-PAK CEASEFIRE, SAYS SALMAN KHURSHID

Even as Congress continues to question govt over Trump's claim of brokering a "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan, party functionary Salman Khurshid, one of the delegates, put forth India's stand against terrorism, diverged from Congress's stand to say there was no mediation by any third party and the pause in hostilities between the two countries was agreed upon through DGMO-level talks. He said, "Politics within the country is our right, our duty; it is different. But outside the country, what we have to say is different."



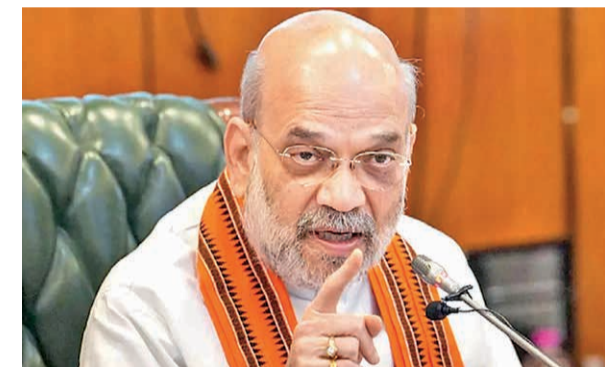
Cong leader Salman Khurshid speaks to the media at the Delhi Airport on Wednesday.

SECOND IN 8 DAYS: ANOTHER PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION STAFFER EXPELLED BY INDIA

India on Wednesday expelled another official from the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. The official was declared persona non grata — a term used when a foreign diplomat is no longer welcome in the host country — and asked to leave India within 24 hours. The Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan High Commission was summoned & handed a formal demarche — a strong diplomatic protest.

PAKISTAN TO EXTEND CLOSURE OF AIRSPACE FOR INDIAN FLIGHTS BY ANOTHER MONTH

Pakistan has decided to extend closure of its airspace for Indian flights by another month, sources said on Wednesday. Pakistan banned its airspace for India last month after steps taken by Delhi in wake of Pahalgaon terrorist attack on April 22. The ban was imposed for a month until May 23, as under ICAO rules that airspace restrictions cannot be imposed for over one-month at a time.



Top Maoist leader among 27 killed in tense 72-hr op

BTech degree holder Basavaraju was on Naxal wanted list with reward of ₹1 crore

First India Bureau
Raipur

Senior Maoist leader Nambala Keshava Rao, also known as Basavaraju, was among 27 killed in a major anti-naxal operation carried out Wednesday in Chhattisgarh's Abujmahad area.

Confirming his death, Union Minister Amit Shah wrote on X, "A landmark achievement in battle to eliminate Naxalism. Our security forces neutralised 27 dreaded Maoists, including Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basavaraju, general secretary of the CPI-Maoist, topmost leader, and the backbone of Naxal movement." This is 1st time in three decades of 'Bharat's battle against Naxalism' that a general secretary-ranked leader has been



CPI (Maoist) Gen Secy Basavaraju

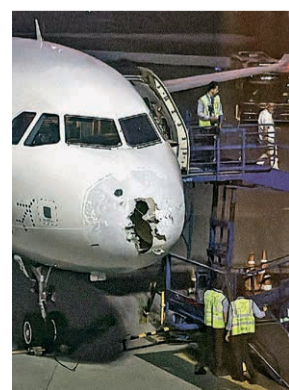
Proud of our forces for this remarkable success. Our govt is committed to eliminating menace of Maoism & ensuring a life of peace and progress for our people, says PM Modi

neutralised by security forces, Shah said. Teams from Bijapur, Narayanpur, Dantewada & Kondagaon took part in operation that continued for 72 hrs inside thick jungles.

IndiGo hit by turbulence, lands with broken nose

First India Bureau
Srinagar

Severe turbulence hit an IndiGo airlines flight bound to Srinagar from Delhi, causing panic, cries and prayers among passengers on Wednesday, but fortunately the flight landed in Srinagar safe, though with a broken nose.



IndiGo flight lands safely in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Official sources said that a Srinagar-bound IndiGo flight from Delhi with more than 220 people on board hit turbulence mid-air due to inclement weather, prompting the pilot to report the

"emergency" to air traffic control at Srinagar. The flight later landed safely here, Airport Authority of India said in Srinagar.

IN THE COURTYARD

False narrative being created on waqf-by-user: Centre tells Supreme Court

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The Union government on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that waqf, though an Islamic concept, is not an essential feature of the religion and that waqf boards are performing secular functions.

Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for government on 2nd day of hearing on pleas challenging the Waqf Act



Muslim petitioners at the SC lawn during hearing on Wednesday.

amendments, told bench of CJI BR Gavai and Justice Augustine G Masih

that a "false narrative" was being created that documents would be

mandated to prove waqf established by long use (waqf-by-user). He also argued the inclusion of non-Muslims in waqf board was for diversity and to take care of secular aspects of the Board. He sought to quell the "narrative" of protected monuments kept out of waqf and papers for century-old waqf properties. Mehta sought more time to argue today. CJI said he will give him half hour. Petitioners will get an hour for rejoinder.

20-YEAR-OLD CRIMINAL CASE: BJP MLA MEENA SURRENDERS IN COURT

Jaipur: BJP MLA Kanwarlal Meena surrendered before the ACJM Court in Manohar Thana on Tuesday in connection with a 20-year-old criminal case. The court had sentenced Meena to three years in prison for threatening an SDM at gunpoint and causing damage to government property. The surrender follows a SC directive that ordered Meena to surrender before trial court within two weeks after denying him relief. He later appeared before ACJM Shariq Hussain, who ordered judicial custody. **P8**

● The SC on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to ex-IAS probationer Puja Khedkar and said Khedkar is neither a 'drug lord, terrorist, nor murderer,' and remarked that she has already 'lost everything.'

● The SC on Wednesday rejected a petition seeking the registration of an FIR in the matter of unaccounted cash being discovered at Justice Yashwant Varma's official residence in Delhi.

● Madras HC issued interim stay on Acts that were automatically passed after SC's ruling on Governor's powers. These Acts, which were also notified by the TN govt, gave CM power to appoint vice-chancellors to state-run universities.

RAJASTHAN CELEBRATES OPERATION SINDOOR

Tiranga Yatras to honour Indian Army

Raj Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani attends rallies in Chittorh & Udaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Grand 'Tiranga Yatras' were held across Rajasthan on Wednesday to honor the Indian Army's bravery and the success of Operation Sindoor, responding to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir. In Jhunjhunu, BJP district president Banwarilal Saini led a massive rally with a 500-foot-long tricolour, passing through key locations and ending at Shaheed Smarak. MLAs Rajendra Bhambu and Dharampal Gurjar attended, and participants paid floral tributes to the martyrs.

Dausa's rally, led by Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, saw thou-



Rajiyavardhan Singh Rathore, Alka Gurjar, Bhupendra Saini and others pay tribute to martyrs post Op Sindoor success during Tiranga Yatra in Dausa on Wednesday.

sands waving flags and chanting patriotic slogans. Sawai Madhopur's rally, led by state ministers Kanhaiya Lal Chaudhary and Dr. Kirori Lal Meena, traversed major city routes with widespread public participation.

In Shivganj, Sirohi,

Minister Otaram Dewasi led a wreath-laying ceremony at Bhanwar Singh Shaheed Smarak, followed by a rally with strong community involvement.

Sri Dungargarh's rally, led by MLA Tarachand and Minister Ramgopal Suthar, featured students

and youth chanting patriotic slogans.

In Shrimadhampur, Sikar, a tribute march was held at 5 PM, passing through local markets.

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani attended rallies in Chittorgarh and Udaipur.

Cong deploys leaders for Jai Hind Sabhas

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Indian National Congress has launched the 'Jai Hind Sabhas,' a nationwide initiative to honor the Indian Armed Forces. Public meetings will be held at 15 locations across the country, with senior leaders addressing them to emphasize the party's commitment to national security. Key Congress leaders from Rajasthan have been assigned prominent roles, including Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot in Chandigarh, Harish Chaudhary in Guwahati, and Bhanwar Jitendra Singh in Haldwani. Other notable leaders involved include



Ashok Gehlot Sachin Pilot
Harish Chaudhary Bhanwar Jitendra Singh

Randeep Surjewala, K.C. Venugopal, Ajay Maken, Bhupesh Baghel, and Gaurav Gogoi, among others. The strategic deployment of these leaders aims to ensure a wide-reaching message of respect for the armed forces across India.



Raj Cricket Association in crisis as elections delayed, players consider relocation

The Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) remains in turmoil a year after being placed under an ad-hoc committee, with no elections held despite promises. Internal strife among the six-member committee has escalated, with members accusing each other of unconstitutional actions. As uncertainty persists, local cricketers are considering moving to other states. Some senior players have already initiated talks with other associations. Concerns grow that further delays could hinder players' chances of making Team India.

MLA's praise for CM stirs speculation

Surajgarh MLA Shrawan Kumar has sparked controversy with remarks praising Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma as a "deity of Kalyug" in a viral video. Known for his unfiltered opinions, Kumar's praise has raised eyebrows within the Congress, as he only previously criticized his party's leadership. His independent stance has fueled speculation about his political loyalties to BJP and intentions of his political activities.

Cong MLAs navigate factional uncertainty

Several Congress MLAs in Rajasthan are caught in indecision, moving between key political hotspots like Hospital Road and Civil Lines. Amid deep factional divisions within the state unit, emerging leaders are exploring their future options. Navigating power struggles, they attend various camps and meetings to secure their political future, reflecting uncertainty and complex dynamics within the party.

Raj Medical Council hikes registration fees, sparks concerns among doctors

The Rajasthan Medical Council (RMC) has approved a significant hike in registration and service fees, impacting thousands of doctors. Provisional registration fees have doubled from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000, and permanent registration fees from ₹2,000 to ₹4,000. The fee for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) has increased to ₹1,000, all other service charges have also doubled. A new ₹5,000 fee for Foreign Medical Graduate online registration has been introduced, sparking concerns among medical professionals about financial burden.

Pooja Express renamed as Shri Galta Dham SF



Flag-off at Jpr Station with spiritual leaders & MP Manju Sharma.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Devotees of Shri Vaishnav religious seat, Uttar Todadri Math Shri Galta Ji, celebrated the renaming of the Jammu Tawi-Ajmer Superfast Express to "Shri Galta Dham Pooja Superfast Express." This long-awaited recognition of Shri Galta Dham's cultural significance was welcomed across northern India. A flag-off ceremony

was held at Jaipur Railway Station, attended by spiritual leaders Swami Avadheshacharya, Swami Raghvendra, and MP Manju Sharma. Devotees sang bhajans, and the train was decorated with flowers and traditional instruments. Passengers received prasad, and the community honored the loco pilot. The renaming is the result of efforts by Shri Galta Peeth followers.

Narcotics Bureau seizes opium husk in Chittorgarh, Pali and Banswara



CBN intercepted a dumper seizing 678 kg of doda chura

First India Bureau
Chittorgarh

In a major bust, CBN intercepted a Gujarat-registered dumper on Tuesday near Ghosundi, seizing 678.750 kg of illegal doda chura hidden in a secret compartment. The driver fled after a chase; one constable was injured. Under Operation Bhokal 2, Bali police in Pali district seized 4.78 kg of cannabis in two separate raids. One person was arrested for supplying drugs locally. Raids were conducted under ASP Chainsingh Mecha and DySP Rajesh Yadav's supervision.

Garhi police in Banswara arrested Bharat Labana with illegal opium. He has a history of narcotics crimes and was caught fleeing on an unregistered bike.

GANGSTER WHO STORMED POLICE STATION IN ALWAR TO FREE ASSOCIATE 5 YEARS AGO, ARRESTED

Jaipur: Rajveer Gurjar alias Lara, a notorious gangster involved in a dramatic 2019 armed attack on Behror Police Station in Alwar to free criminal Vikram Gurjar, was arrested in Haryana after five years on the run, officials said. A Rs 1 lakh reward had been announced for his capture. He was nabbed with an AK-56 rifle, magazines, and live cartridges, Rajasthan Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) said. Rajveer, 32, evaded arrest by avoiding phones and social media, frequently changing locations, and altering his appearance. He has a criminal record, including murder, and was out on bail during the police station assault. Thirty gang members stormed the station with AK-47s and freed Vikram, who was later re-arrested in 2021. With Rajveer's arrest in Rewari, Haryana, a total of 32 people are held in connection with the case.

SMUGGLERS CAUGHT SNEAKING SMACK INTO JPR JAIL

In a major bust, Lal Kotli police arrested a man and woman on Wednesday for attempting to smuggle 5.22 grams of smack into Jaipur Central Jail. The narcotics were cleverly hidden in re-stitched jeans. Acting on a tip-off, police seized the drugs and the motorcycle used. The smugglers intended to deliver the smack to an inmate. A detailed investigation is underway to trace the network.

BOMB THREAT CAUSES PANIC AT JODHPUR COLLECTORATE OFFICES

Jodhpur: Panic spread at Jodhpur District Collectorate on Wednesday after receiving a bomb threat email warning of an explosion at 3:30 PM. The email, sent around 6:00 AM, claimed a bomb had been planted on the premises. It was addressed to both Jodhpur and Madurai district collectors. In response, a high-security operation was launched, involving the police, bomb disposal squad, dog squad, and other agencies. Buildings



were evacuated, and a thorough search was conducted. Additional District Collector Jawahar Chaudhary confirmed all offices and buildings had been checked. Jodhpur Collector

Gaurav Agrawal emphasized the seriousness of the threat, stating no warning should be taken lightly. The DCP and control room were informed, a full-scale inspection was carried out.

Sri Ganganagar records country's hottest day at 47.6°C

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Sri Ganganagar recorded the hottest day in India on Wednesday, with temperatures soaring to 47.6°C. The Meteorological Department has issued a heatwave warning for several regions across Rajasthan, including Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaipur, and Bharatpur. Temperatures are expected to rise by 1-2°C in the next 48 hours, with Bikaner and Shekhawati regions reaching highs between 45-48°C from May 21-23. Along with extreme heat, severe heatwave conditions and hot nights are expected. Strong, dusty winds at speeds of 30-40

MAX TEMPERATURES

Ganganagar	47.6°C
Pilani	47.2°C
Churu	46.8°C
Bikaner	46.3°C
Kota	45.8°C
Jaisalmer	45.4°C
Jaipur	44.8°C

Temperatures observed at 5:30 pm

km/h are likely to impact border areas.

Meanwhile, the Udaipur and Kota divisions are expected to experience dust storms and light rain. Thunderstorms and dust storms are predicted for Jaipur, Bharatpur, and Bikaner between May 22-23. Authorities have advised residents to take necessary precautions, stay hydrated, and avoid outdoor activities to stay safe.

Min to declare RBSE class 12 results today

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education (RBSE) will announce Class 12 results on May 22 at 5 PM, covering Science, Commerce, Arts, and Varishth Upadhyay streams. Education Minister Madan Dilawar will join the virtual event via video conferencing, while Board Administrator Mahesh Chandra Sharma will release the results. A total of 8,93,616 students appeared for the exams. Students can access results online.

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY

JDA hosts workshop on digital services

Abhishek Shrivastava
Jaipur

On Wednesday, the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) hosted an orientation workshop to enhance transparency, efficiency, and convenience for citizens. The event focused on IT initiatives, e-lease issuance, and online layout plan approval. Attended by JDA officials, real estate representatives, and the public, the workshop demonstrated live online



services, including e-lease applications and instant approvals. Currently, JDA offers 39 citizen-centric services online, aiming full digitali-

SOG probes recruitment scam of 23 govt employees

Wajahat Akhtar
Tonk

In Jaipur, the Special Operations Group (SOG) has filed a case against 23 government employees over alleged irregularities in recruitment processes across multiple departments over the last five years. An inquiry revealed widespread procedural violations and potential manipulation in selections. The SOG has now launched a detailed investigation to determine the scope of the malpractice and identify

In an inquiry revealed widespread procedural violations and potential manipulation and irregularities in recruitment processes

tify those involved. Officials suspect these irregularities may have influenced appointments to significant government posts. Further action will follow based on the ongoing probe, aiming to uncover the extent of the recruitment-related misconduct.

New app to combat blood trafficking

Vikas Sharma
Jaipur

To curb blood trafficking and ensure transparency, the Drug Commissionerate has proposed a ₹2.8 crore centralised digital platform, Blood Supply Camp Management App. It will track blood camps, banks, donors, and hospitals in real time, digitize blood movement using barcodes and GPS, and prevent monopolies in camp allocations. The app follows a media expose and aims to bring accountability and traceability.

IN BRIEF

Khimsar slams RCA convener, calls notice politically motivated

Jaipur: The internal rift within the RCA has taken a political twist, with senior BJP leaders Jaideep Bihani and Dhananjay Singh Khimsar clashing over the affairs of the Nagaur District Cricket Association. Bihani, the RCA ad-hoc committee convener, issued a legal notice to Khimsar, who dismissed it as baseless, citing his resignation from the Nagaur body in March. Meanwhile, the Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives in Jaipur has formed a probe committee to investigate serious allegations of financial irregularities & biased team selections in Nagaur association.

Raj Income Tax Dept reshuffles 91 officers across ranks

Jaipur: The Rajasthan IT Dept has reassigned responsibilities of 91 officers, including Addl, Joint, Deputy, and Assistant Commissioners, under its annual transfer policy. As per orders from the Principal Chief Commissioner's Office in Jaipur, 67 IRS officers have been transferred, and 24 given additional duties. The reshuffle, signed by Commissioner Shailendra Sharma, significantly impacts Investigation Wing, with 33 senior officers and 34 junior officers affected. The transfers also involve key offices under Chief Commissioners in Jaipur, Jodhpur, & Udaipur. Officers must join new posts by 31 May.

After ASP, CI Vivek Soni held for taking bribes ACB arrests its own Circle Inspector in monthly bribe racket

Navin Sharma
Jaipur

Two days after the Anti-Corruption Bureau nabbed its own ASP Surendra Kumar Sharma and two of his agents in organised graft case, the bureau on Wednesday arrested its own Circle Inspector Vivek Soni. He is facing serious allegations of collecting monthly bribes from various departments in Sawai Madhopur. Reports indicate that CI Vivek Soni was receiving monthly payments of Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000, including from the RTO. He also accepted bribes online through a middleman named Pradeep, whose WhatsApp account and chats have revealed crucial evidence regarding the monthly payments.



Circle Inspector Vivek Soni in ACB custody on Wednesday.

In a deepening corruption scandal, ACB held its own CI Vivek Soni for allegedly collecting monthly bribes; The case links digital transactions, middlemen, & officials across Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, & Dausa

taken under the supervision of DG Ravi Prakash Meharda, DIG Rajesh Singh, and ASP Bishanaram Vishnoi. Meanwhile, ASP Surendra, and middlemen Ramraj and Pradeep, are currently in ACB custody on remand. Reliable sources suggest that CI Vivek Soni was also accepting bribes digitally and Pradeep Soni was taking the money in his wife's bank account. In connection with the ASP Surendra Sharma trap case, the ACB is now scrutinising the accused's bank accounts. The agency also interrogated several suspects on Wednesday. The ACB questioned the trio face-to-face for around eight hours during the ongoing investigation.

ACB ASP trap: Bribe givers also on radar now

The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested its own Circle Inspector (CI) Vivek Soni for allegedly collecting monthly bribes from various departments in Sawai Madhopur. The case is linked to digital transactions, middlemen, and officials across Sawai Madhopur, Bharatpur, and Dausa.

IT STORES HELD FOR CONSPIRACY

The ACB has also arrested several IT stores and middlemen involved in the bribery racket. The agency is probing the digital transactions and the role of middlemen in facilitating the bribes.

DRUGS AND NARCOTICS SEIZED IN SHOW WITH FOREIGN WEAPONS IN BHARATPUR, BEARER TRIO

The ACB has also seized drugs and narcotics in a show with foreign weapons in Bharatpur. The agency is probing the case and the role of the bearer trio.

You read it in First India on MAY 21, 2025

Illness outbreak sparks swift action in Chittor

PK Agarwal
Chittorgarh

A serious administrative failure has been uncovered in Dhoolkheda village, Begun subdivision of Rajasthan's Chittorgarh district, where an illness outbreak in Ward 25 has been linked to suspected water contamination. From 16 to 20 May, 66 people were hospitalised, with five in critical condition, and two suspected deaths. Chittorgarh Collector



Govt officials taking health updates of villagers who were admitted to hospital after drinking the contaminated water.

Alok Ranjan visited the site, ordered urgent measures, and took direct control of the situation. An inquiry led to the suspension of four officials, including PHED staff and a sanitation supervisor, while disciplinary action has been initiated against three others. The crisis

exposed major lapses in sanitation and water supply services.

In response, authorities have launched a rapid water testing campaign in Rawatbhatta and nearby areas, collecting 25 samples in three hours. Some samples were tested on-site, while others were sent for lab analysis.

Officials have also begun regular chlorine testing and pipeline inspections to prevent future contamination.

Harish Chaudhary urges PM Modi to revive BADP & BRGF schemes

First India Bureau
Barmer

Senior Congress leader and Baytu MLA Harish Chaudhary has urged PM Modi to revive Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) ahead of the PM's scheduled visit to Bikaner. In a letter, Chaudhary highlighted that these schemes, aimed at improving infrastructure & socio-economic conditions in border and backward areas, were discontinued by Centre.

He noted that several villages in State's border districts—Bikaner, Jaisalmer, & Barmer still lack basic development due to tough terrain.

Guv lauds achiever



Governor Haribhau Bagade praising a Divyang candidate of UPSC Manu Garg, on Wednesday, for achieving a place among top 100 with Rank 91 in India's most competitive exam.

'Coop institutions to follow RTPP Act norms'

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In a major step towards ensuring transparency, the State govt has revoked a controversial 2013 order that had enabled irregular procurement practices

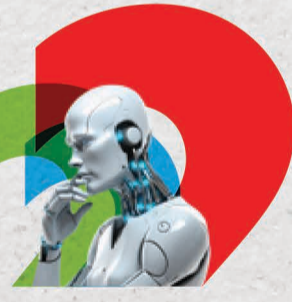
within cooperative institutions. The order, initially issued by the Registrar of Cooperatives, has been officially withdrawn following Coop Min Gautam Dak's recent commitment to take corrective action. Registrar Manju Rajpal's

latest directive mandates that all future procurement & transportation by Cooperative Purchase and Sale Societies and Wholesale Consumer Stores must comply with the RTPP Act, 2012, and its 2013 Rules.



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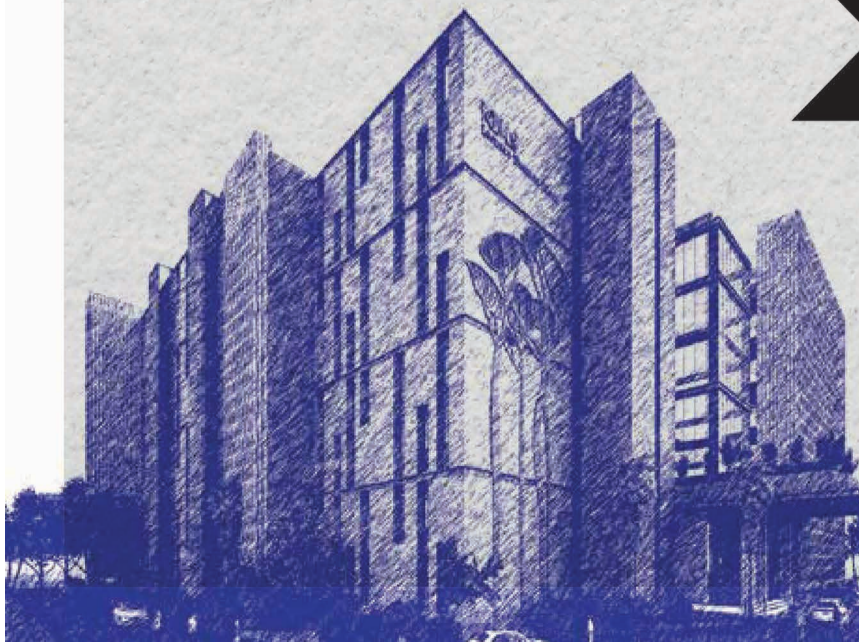


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Enhancing travel in 18 states

PM to unveil 103 Amrit Stations

Agencies
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate 103 Amrit Stations today via video conference from Bikaner, Rajasthan. This ambitious project, developed at a cost exceeding Rs 1,100 crore, spans 86 districts across 18 states and Union Territories, aiming to modernise railway stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a transformative initiative focused on redeveloping over 1,300 railway stations na-

tionwide. The scheme emphasises integrating contemporary infrastructure with regional architectural elements, ensuring enhanced passenger amenities, and promoting sustainable practices.

The primary goal is to elevate the travel experience by providing facilities that cater to the needs of all passengers, including those with disabilities.

Among the stations slated for inauguration, five are located in Karnataka: Munirabad, Bagalkot, Gadag, Gokak Road, and Dharwad. These stations have undergone significant upgrades.



Amgaon railway station (AGN) is situated in Maharashtra.



Bijnor Junction (BJO), located in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.



The Kalyani Ghoshpara Station in Kolkata.



Samalpatti Railway Station (SLY) is situated in Tamil Nadu.



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

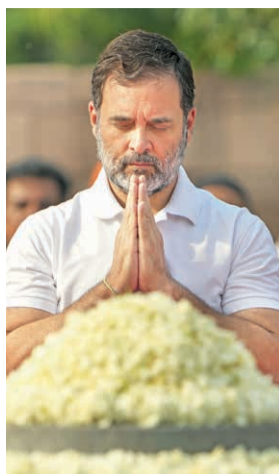
Leaders pay tribute to Rajiv Gandhi

Agencies
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi among others paid tributes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 34th death anniversary on Wednesday.

In a post on X, the prime minister wrote: "On his death anniversary today, I pay my tributes to our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji."

Paying glowing tributes to the Congress leader, Kharge said, "Rajiv Gandhi — a great son of India, inspired hope among millions of Indians. His visionary and courageous interventions were instrumental in preparing India for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century. These include lowering the voting age to 18, strengthen-



Lok Sabha LOP Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge pay floral tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 34th death anniversary, at Veer Bhumi in New Delhi on Wednesday.



ing Panchayati Raj, spearheading the Telecom and IT revolution, implementing a computerisation program, securing sustained peace accords, launching a universal immunisation program, and introducing a new education policy focused on inclusive learning. Our deepest respects to the Former PM, Bharat Ratna, Rajiv Gandhi on his martyrdom day."

YOUR MEMORIES GUIDE ME AT EVERY STEP: RAHUL GANDHI'S TRIBUTE TO RAJIV GANDHI

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday paid an emotional tribute to his late father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his 34th death anniversary, vowing to fulfil the dreams that he left behind. Offering floral tribute at Veer Bhumi in the national capital, he said his father's memory continues to guide him at every step. In a post on social media platform X, Rahul Gandhi wrote, "Papa, your memories guide me at every step. My resolution is to make your unfulfilled dreams come true - and I will definitely fulfill them." The Congress Party also posted a tribute on X, highlighting Rajiv Gandhi's role in building a modern India and calling his contributions "unforgettable."

Sonia Gandhi 'abused' her position to benefit self, son in AJL deal: ED

PTI
Kolkata

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi "abused" her position as the then AICC president for personal gains to herself and her son Rahul Gandhi by converting public money for self use through the Young Indian (YI) company, the ED is understood to have alleged in its chargesheet filed in the National Herald case.

Both the leaders, sources told PTI quoting the chargesheet, have told the federal probe agency during recording of their statements in this case a few years back that they were "not aware" about the activities taking place at the YI and the Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

They are understood to have told the agency that



Sonia Gandhi

all these affairs were taken care of by late Congress leader Motilal Vora as he was "empowered" to deal with the administrative and financial matters.

The ED has named 78-year-old former Congress president and Rajya Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi as accused no 1 and her son Rahul Gandhi (54) as accused no 2, apart from five others in the prosecution complaint filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

750 pilgrims selected for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

ANI

New Delhi

A total of 750 Yatris have emerged successful in the draw for selection for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, organized by Ministry of External Affairs, which will commence in June this year and continue till August.

Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh today conducted the computerized draw for selection of Yatris who had registered for this Yatra.

This year, 5561 applicants had successfully registered online, which



included 4,024 male applicants and 1,537 female applicants.

"A total of 750 selected Yatris, including 2 LOs per batch, will travel in 5 batches of 50 Yatris each via the Lipulekh route, and 10 batches of 50 Yatris each via the Nathu La route," a Ministry of External Affairs release said.

Massive storm in Delhi & nearby areas Heavy rain lashes parts of Delhi-NCR

Agencies

New Delhi

A massive storm, followed by rain, hit Delhi and Noida this evening, disrupting traffic and leading to waterlogging and power cuts in several areas. Hoardings fell and trees were uprooted in many localities, with some areas reporting wind speeds of up to 79 kmph. Gusty winds swept over the capital city & Noida, leaving shattered windows and damaged hoardings in their wake. A hailstorm in Delhi's Lodi Road, & 79 kmph wind was reported over Safdarjung.



People stand near an electricity pole which collapsed during a storm resulting in the death of one person, near Nizamuddin in New Delhi, Wednesday.

DELHI METRO SERVICES PARTIALLY HIT AFTER STORM

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday said that services have resumed normally on the Pink Line but continue to be affected on parts of the Red and Yellow Lines due to overhead equipment (OHE) damage caused by strong winds and rain in the national capital.

FLIGHTS DISRUPTED AFTER HEAVY RAINS

As rain and hailstorms lashed parts of the national capital on Wednesday, many domestic and international flights to Delhi airport were put on halt or diverted due to inclement weather conditions. "Many domestic and international flights to Delhi airport from various airports have been put on halt or diverted due to weather conditions," said airport sources. In a post on X earlier on Wednesday, Air India and Delhi Airport issued an advisory for passengers stating that rain and thunderstorms may disrupt flights to and from Delhi this evening.

The world is looking at India to provide a new AI regulation model, says Ashwini Vaishnaw



Agencies
New Delhi

A day after India approved a new semiconductor plant by HCL and Fox-

KEY PILLARS OF INDIA'S AI MISSION

- **Compute Power Access:** Through a public-private model, India has secured 18,000 GPUs and received over 15,000 more applications—surpassing targets—to support startups, students, and researchers.
- **Foundational Models:** India is building AI models with 2B and 7B parameters. Startup Sarvam is leading the effort to develop the country's foundational model.
- **AI Safety:** A dedicated AI Safety Institute is working on techno-legal regulation and tools to detect deepfakes, biases, and enable model unlearning.
- **Talent Development:** Programs focus on data annotation, app development, and academic-industry collaboration for AI research.
- **Applied AI:** The fifth and equally important pillar is developing apps that can be used to solve our problems. We are focusing on applications in health care, agriculture, climate and education, and collaborating with international partners like France's Station F to provide opportunities for co-creation.

conn, Minister for Railways, I&B, and Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw

outlined major AI developments. He said India expects to produce its first

made-in-India chip & launch a foundational AI model by year-end.

Indian Navy inducts historic ship 'Kaundinya'

ANI

Karwar (Karnataka)

The Indian Navy inducted INSV Kaundinya, a ship reconstructed using ancient shipbuilding techniques, into its fleet at the Karwar Naval Base on Wednesday.

The ceremony was led by Union Minister of Tourism and Culture, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and was attended by Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition (CWP&A), Rear Admiral KM Ram-



INSV Kaundinya, a recreation of a 5th-century stitched ship inspired by Ajanta murals, during its induction ceremony at the Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka.

akrishnan, Flag Officer Karnataka Naval Area, and other dignitaries.

TERRORISTS UNWITTINGLY VALIDATED OP SINDOOR

What a satisfaction for everyone: VP hails Op Sindoor

PTI

Panaji

Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, said on Wednesday that the terrorists themselves had provided evidence of 'Operation Sindoor' to the world, and that the coffins of those targeted were escorted by Pakistani military officials and politicians.

Addressing a function organised at Vasco in South Goa by the Mor-

mugao Port Authority (MPA), Dhankhar said India's precise military strikes during Operation Sindoor gave a befitting message to Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"It has sent a global message. A message that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave to the entire world from the heartland of Bihar that terrorism will no longer go unpunished," the Vice President said. He called the punishment of the terror-

ists "exemplary".

"The strike was deep in the territory beyond the international border. Keeping in mind our ethos, the target was only terrorists. What a satisfaction for everyone," said the Vice President.

"The terrorists (who were targeted) revealed the proof to the entire global fraternity. The coffins were escorted by the military force of that country, the political force of that country and by terrorists," he said.



Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and his wife Sudesh Dhankhar plants a sapling in memory of their late mothers, Kesari Devi and Bhagwati Devi, at Mormugao Port in South Goa on Wednesday.



POINTS TABLE table with columns: TEAM, P, W, L, PTS. Rows include GT, RCB, PBKS, MI, DC, KKR, LSG, SRH, RR, CSK.



Mumbai Indians knock Delhi Capitals out of the IPL competition

Delhi Capitals' wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav has completed 100 wickets in his Indian Premier League (IPL) career. Star batter Suryakumar Yadav has completed 3,500 runs for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League.

Mumbai Indians qualify for IPL play-offs with 59-run win over Delhi Capitals in their IPL clash here on Wednesday. Suryakumar Yadav's resolute 73 not out and late fireworks from Naman Dhali lifted Mumbai Indians to 180/5 on a sluggish surface exploited well by Delhi Capitals spinners.

time IPL winners. Suryakumar struck seven fours and four sixes to make 73 not out off 43 balls while forging two crucial stands which revived a faltering innings.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai Indians: 180/5 in 20 overs. Suryakumar Yadav 73*, Mukesh Kumar 2/48. Delhi Capitals: 121/10 in 18.2 overs. Sameer Rizvi 39, Mitchell Santner 3/11, Jasprit Bumrah 3/12.



CUTS Int'l & signal group sign MoU to strengthen bilateral ties



First India Bureau New Delhi

In a significant step towards strengthening bilateral ties and shaping global discourse, CUTS International and SIGNAL Group have signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise a long-term partnership focused on regional, civilisational, and global cooperation.

CUTS International, a forty-year old global public policy, research and advocacy headquartered in India and SIGNAL Group, Israel's premier non-profit specialising in Israel's international strategic affairs, will collaborate on cutting-edge research, policy analysis, capacity building, and high-level networking initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International, and Ms. Carice Witte, Executive Director of SIGNAL Group, in a virtual ceremony marking a pivotal moment in India-Israel relations.

This strategic alliance is designed to explore and expand synergies in areas such as strategic affairs, global trade, investment policy, technology, and regional security, with particular focus on the Indo-Pacific and Middle East—regions that are increasingly central to global power dynamics.

By combining SIGNAL Group's China, US, Indo-Pacific and regional expertise with CUTS' wide-reaching influence in international trade, security and regulatory frameworks, this aims to develop actionable insights for policymakers, business leaders, & academic communities.

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FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Collaboration turns ideas into breakthroughs.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

Bikaner set for PM's visit as CM Sharma, officials review preps

PM Modi will become the first sitting Prime Minister to offer prayers at the Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday inspects the venue where PM Modi is scheduled to address a public meeting today at Palana village in Bikaner district. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Sudhansh Pant, Madan Rathore, Jethanand Vyas, and others were present.

Laxman Raghav
Bikaner

Prime Minister Modi will become the first sitting PM to offer prayers at the revered Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke during his upcoming visit to Bikaner. CS Sudhansh Pant began preparations with a temple visit, seeking blessings and expressing confidence in security and logistics. "All arrangements are in place, and every aspect is under close watch," Pant told First India News.

Key BJP leaders, including Minister GS Khimsar, former State Prez Arun Chaturvedi, and state minister Bijendra Poonia, arrived at the rally site to oversee final preps. Senior BJP leader Rajendra Rathore



PM Narendra Modi will visit the redeveloped Deshnoke Railway Station under the 'Pradhanmantri Amrit Bharat Station Yojana.'

reached Bikaner after meetings in Churu and Taranagar. Rathore said about 16,000 people from Churu dist alone are expected to attend the rally. A special contingent of 1,000 ex-servicemen from Jhunjhunu will attend the rally, transported by AC buses with food and water, supervised by nodal officers. Rajasthan remains a key

focus for PM Modi, who has visited 14 times in 17 months, launching many initiatives.

His recent visit marked the Bhajan Lal Govt's first anniv, which he praised. Tight security is in place across Bikaner, with the DGP camping locally and heightened alert due to border proximity, said MoS Home, Jawahar Singh Bedham.



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma offers prayers at the Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoke on Wednesday. He also reviewed the preparations for the PM's proposed visit to the temple today.

CM's Local Connect



T-B: CM Bhajan Lal Sharma embracing the spirit of 'Vocal for Local', beats the heat by enjoying sugarcane juice prepared by a local vendor on the way to Palana village in Bikaner. CM paid the vendor Manak Chand Joshi via UPI. GS Khimsar, Siddhi Kumari & others were present. While inspecting the Deshnoke Railway Station, he interacted with sanitation workers. Responding to their request, he posed for a photograph.

Akhil Bhartiya Raigar Mahasabha Pratinidhi Sammelan

CM: Development for all sections is govt's resolve

A panorama of Sant Atmaram Lakshya will be created: CM Sharma
Aishwary Pradhan
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma emphasised the upliftment of women, poor, youth, and farmers as vital for national development at the All India Raigar Mahasabha event in Jaipur. He credited PM Modi's 'double engine' govt for inclusive growth and paid tribute to Sant Jivararam, Sant Atmaram, and Dr BR Ambedkar. Sharma announced a panoramic exhibit on Sant Atmaram Lakshya to inspire youth. He highlighted the development of five Dr Ambedkar Panchtirth sites & Panchteerth Brahman Yojana for SCs. Praising PM's move to declare November 26 as Constitution Day, Sharma reaffirmed his govt's commitment to welfare schemes like Social Security Pension and Palanahari Yojana. He announces Rs 60 crore for the 'Dadudayal Ghumantu Sashaktikaran Yojana.'



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses during the 'Akhil Bhartiya Raigar Mahasabha Pratinidhi Sammelan' at the Birla Auditorium in Jaipur on Wednesday. Yogendra Chandoliya, Ram Sahay Verma, BL Nawal and others were also present.

The Raigar community has played a vital role in nation-building since before independence. Our government is committed to inclusive development. A panorama dedicated to Sant Atmaram Lakshya will be built to inspire youth with his ideals of culture, heritage, and social equality.

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER

CM SHARMA CONGRATULATES RAJ CISF OFFICER GEETA SAMOTA FOR SCALING MOUNT EVEREST

Jaipur: Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma congratulated Geeta Samota, a CISF officer from the state, for hoisting the Indian national flag atop Mount Everest. On his official X handle, Sharma tweeted: "She has not only created history by raising the Indian flag on the summit of the world as the first female officer of CISF but also set an example of women empowerment. This achievement proves that daughters of Rajasthan are reaching new heights in every field." He added the entire nation is proud of her courage and determination. Samota's feat inspires women across India in adventure and security forces.



CM's PUSH FOR FARMERS: FREE LAND, MANDI BOOST IN BUDGET 2025-26

The Rajasthan government, led by CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, has approved free land allocation for new agricultural mandis, sub-mandis, and food parks announced in the 2025-26 State Budget. Land will be allocated at 25% of DLC rates, with the government reimbursing this cost, making it effectively free. New APMCs, fruit-vegetable mandis, and sub-mandis will be set up across various districts, along with food parks in Anupgarh and Sanchore. Over Rs13.87 crore has been sanctioned for infrastructure, including roads and facility upgrades. Additionally, Rs 31.5 crore from the Farmer Welfare Fund will support agricultural and horticultural development initiatives. The move aims to boost agri-business and ensure better income for farmers.

'Welfare of all above all is core to our culture & work'

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met social workers and citizens in Nayapura and Rampura, stressing that public service is the foundation of India's culture. He urged treating the poor with reverence like Lord Ganesh and emphasised caring for every underprivileged individual. Birla high-

lighted that ideological differences are natural but development must be without discrimination, guided by the spirit of 'welfare of all above all.'

He said his role is a responsibility to serve, prioritising better facilities, and inclusive growth in Kota-Bundi.

Birla called on social workers to promote harmony, cooperation, and service. He assured that all issues in the region will be addressed with utmost priority for holistic development.

Gehlot, Dotasra & Jully reflect on late former PM Rajiv Gandhi's legacy on his death anniv

Naresh Sharma
Jaipur

On Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary, Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) held a solemn tribute at its Jaipur headquarters. Senior leaders including former CM Ashok Gehlot, PCC President Govind Singh Dotasra, and Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jully paid homage, recalling his legacy.

Gehlot described Rajiv Gandhi as a visionary leader committed to wel-



Ashok Gehlot pays tributes to ex-PM late Rajiv Gandhi during the 'Sarvdharm Prarthana Sabha' held to mark his death anniv at PCC office.



Ashok Gehlot, GS Dotasra, Tika Ram Jully & others during the event held on late Rajiv Gandhi's death anniv at PCC office in Jaipur.

fare policies benefiting the common man. Dotasra praised his progressive decisions for public welfare, saying, "One day is not enough to dis-

miss them all." Jully highlighted Rajiv's role in ushering India into the digital age and founding Digital India, criticizing BJP's opposition to early

computer use. The event included floral tributes, interfaith prayers, and reflections on Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to the nation.

MLA Meena's disqualification delay sparks contempt threat

Yogesh Sharma
Jaipur

Despite Kanwar Lal Meena's conviction and surrender over 20 days ago, the Rajasthan Assembly has yet to revoke his membership. Opposition Leader Tikaram Meena Jully accused the BJP and Assembly authorities of violating constitutional norms, contrasting the

swift cancellation of Rahul Gandhi's membership with Meena's pending disqualification. Jully threatened a contempt petition in the SC if action is not taken immediately. PCC Chief GS Dotasra also condemned the delay, accusing the government of political conspiracy and misusing the Advocate General's report to stall action. He slammed state govt for ignoring the worsening water, power crisis, and pending SI recruitment amid rising public unrest.



UNION MINISTER VISITS UDAIPUR

Adopt whole of Govt & society approach for Aravalli restoration: Yadav



Bhupender Yadav and Sanjay Sharma inaugurate a high-level workshop on Restoration of the Aravalli Landscape and its Biodiversity in Udaipur on Wednesday.

Ravi Sharma
Udaipur

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated a national-level workshop in Udaipur focused on reviving the Aravalli mountain range. Held on the eve of International Day for Biodiversity, the workshop brought together key stakeholders to finalize a detailed Action Plan for the restoration of the Aravalli landscape. The Minister emphasized a whole-of-govern-

ment and whole-of-society approach, highlighting initiatives like creating seedling nurseries in every panchayat, involving youth and MY Bharat volunteers in eco-restoration, implementing the Green Credit Programme, and repurposing abandoned

5 PILLARS OF ARAVALLI ACTION PLAN

- Ecological Restoration: Assisted regeneration, native planting, soil-moisture conservation.
- Sustainable Livelihoods: Promote ecotourism, agroforestry, & NTFP-based livelihood opportunities.
- Community Participation: Engage local communities, especially women and youth, in planning and execution.
- Research & Innovation: Use GIS, remote sensing, and restoration science for informed decisions.
- Policy & Governance: Strengthen regulations, ensure scheme convergence, and establish effective monitoring.



Union Minister Bhupender Yadav being welcomed by the Temple Committee officials as per the traditional temple customs through the 'Samadhan Padhati' at the famous Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara in Rajsamand district on Wednesday.



SILIGURI SPARKLES!

The grand finale of Miss Universe India West Bengal 2025 has proven its mettle on the national beauty pageant map, carving a strong identity of style, strength and spirit. **P11**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Amjad Khan, Lipsika Mondal (2nd Runner up Miss Universe WB), Sashwati Bala (Miss Universe West Bengal), Mahika Biyani, (1st Runner up Miss Universe WB), Rhea Singha, Sushmita Roy and Divyansha Sharma

SILIGURI SHINES AS SASHWATI BALA IS CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE INDIA WEST BENGAL 2025

The Bengal Belle

THE GRAND FINALE OF MISS UNIVERSE INDIA WEST BENGAL 2025 DAZZLED SILIGURI AT COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT ON A SPECTACULAR EVENING RECENTLY. CITY FIRST BRINGS EXCLUSIVE GLIMPSES OF THIS GLAMOROUS EVENT CELEBRATING BEAUTY, CONFIDENCE AND REGIONAL PRIDE!



With hands folded in thanks, Sashwati graciously accepted the crown from Sushmita, cherishing the honour bestowed upon her



The crowning beauties, (R-L) Mahika, Sashwati and Lipsika



Rhea Singha crowns Lipsika Mondal

The glitz and glamour of the fashion world converged at the Courtyard by Marriott in Siliguri as the grand finale of Miss Universe India West Bengal 2025 unfolded in spectacular fashion. The evening not only crowned the state's most promising beauty ambassador but also underscored the evolving narrative of women's empowerment and regional pride.

The night belonged to Sashwati Bala, who



Mitali Dusad

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

was crowned Miss Universe India West Bengal 2025, winning hearts with her charisma, intellect and stage presence. Mahika Biyani

was announced the 1st Runner-Up, while Lipsika Mondal was named the 2nd Runner-Up, both leaving a lasting impression on the audience and jury alike.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion as the chief guest and while addressing the gathering, he extended his heartfelt congratulations, "Miss Universe India West Bengal 2025 has set a new benchmark in regional pageantry. I commend the State Directors for their unwavering dedication and vision in grooming future stars. This platform not only celebrates beauty but also

nurtures confidence, leadership and cultural pride. My best wishes to the winners and all the participants who stepped onto this stage with courage and determination. Your journey has just begun." A distinguished panel of judges, including Miss Universe India 2024 Rhea Singha, 3rd Runner-Up Sushmita Roy, Franchisee Operations Head Amjad Khan, and State Directors Suvagata Das, Rohan Pariyar and Rajat Bihani, brought their expertise and insight to the competition, ensuring a fair and inspiring result.

Turn to pg 11

Top to Bottom: Sashwati Bala (Miss Universe West Bengal), Mahika Biyani (1st Runner up Miss Universe WB) and Rhea Singha (Miss Universe India 2024)

WHAT'S NEXT?



Cultural Heritage Training Camp: Dive into India's timeless traditions! From Dhruwad to Thikri, learn 10+ heritage art forms at City Palace, Jaipur.

When: Till June 20, 12:30 PM
Where: Sarvatobhadra Chowk



Roots & Ragas: First India Plus OTT platform and Kamla Poddar Group present Roots & Ragas featuring Folk Queen of India, Padma Shri Malini Awasthi. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss it!

When: May 23, 7:15 PM
Where: Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur



Ladies Aadmi ft Vivek Samtani: Join Vivek for an unforgettable night of laughter as he brings his unique humour and hilarious storytelling to everyday struggles and the absurdities of modern life. Don't miss out!

When: May 30, 7:00 PM
Where: Knighthouse, Jaipur

BIRTHDAY FORECAST!



Megha Dhade
GEMINI
May 22

Money matters may strain your normally smooth relationships today, Gemini. Unexpected expenses could affect your budget, requiring quick decisions and careful planning. Though adjustments may be needed, don't stress—staying calm and organised will help you manage it all.

Lucky Number: 4 Lucky Colour: Blue



Jaipur Flight Plan

- KOLKATA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- NEW DELHI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- PUNE-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- MUMBAI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- BENGALURU-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- GOA-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- MANGALORE-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo
- AHMEDABAD-** Air India, Indigo, Air India Express
- HYDERABAD-** Air India, Indigo, Air India Express
- DUBAI-** Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Spicejet



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SOME UNTOLD STORIES IN JAIPUR!

A Week of 'Muses'



Deepika Ravjani

Research Scholar, Museology IIS (Deemed to be University), Jaipur

Have you ever imagined that one day, Jaipur could be the centre to reflect the diverse identities revolving around museums? Imagine a weekend full of experiencing cultural richness, heritage walks and learning about museum objects! Jaipurites had a dose of amusement, history, memory keeping, music, artisan meets, conferences and culturally rich events from 16 May until the 18th of May, which is celebrated as International Museum Day across the globe. Jaipur has always been a tapestry of craftsmanship on a global platform. Where did it all start from? There was a time when Jaipur thrived, flourishing under the stewardship of the Kachhwaha rulers, while also bearing the influence of Mughal grandeur and later British dominance. Tales of bravery, invasions, dynastic transitions, and an enduring love for the arts echo through the region's rich tapestry of history. These stories live on, not just in local folklore and Rajasthani folk songs—but also in royal recommendation letters from neighbouring states and the writings of esteemed historians such as Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Gopal Narayana Bahura, Rima Hooja, Aman Nath, Giles Tillotson, Vibhuti Sachdev, and Vibha Upadhyaya, to name a few. Today, the craft industry is protected by the museum fraternity that talks of the communities and their ethnographic collections, the inclusivity and accessibility that every museum must have. International Museums Day 2025 at Jaipur was celebrated with "Crafted by Community," a musical performance at Chowkri pop-up Museum of Living Heritage, 'Saaz aur Sheher': A Sitar & Tabla Recital by two beautiful women artists as a part of 'Soundscapes of Heritage: A Musical Tribute to the Jaipur UNESCO Creative City of Crafts & Folk Arts.' Soaked in rasa and taal, breaking the barriers, it echoed the beautiful



Sharda Mahal at chaura rasta. It was organised by the Department of Archaeology & Museums, Rajasthan, Department of Art & Culture, in collaboration with DRONAH Foundation, Lighting Technologies India, Dhayas, CEC and Jaipur Virasat Foundation. The events were a part of the Historic Cities Series 2025, Jaipur Edition, envisaged by ICOMOS India, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Heritopolis and Altrim Publishers. The whole concept of valuing our Indian knowledge systems is finally retaking shape in Jaipur. Participants were captivated by the heritage walk that led them from Shri Dhanwantri Aush-

adalaya, Chaura rasta and Vijay Lakshmi Sugandh Bhandar in Johri Bazar, once a part of Chattis (36) Karkhanas, to the historic Jaipur Haveli (Patna walon ki Haveli) of which Late Bitten Lalji was the personal jeweller to HH Sawai Man Singh II. This heritage haveli, now an Airbnb property, looked like a treasure trove to understand the regional architecture of old buildings in Jaipur, amalgamating different features like araiish work, pan patta moulded cornices and painted walls.

The walk ended at Thathero ki gali, a street of living heritage of metal craftsmen, where shops acted as a means of sto-

rytelling. Their families settled in Chowkri Modikhana and Chokri Vishweshwarji in the 18th century, following the foundation of the Jaipur Walled City. Craft demonstrations of metal finials, the beating of the metal was no less than a musical concert. One certainly needed strength to bear high-decibel sound while experiencing the charm of old-world visual entertainment, the community-led, living Museum!

Many museums today are increasingly prioritising regional arts & crafts and community engagement as core aspects of their mission. A great example was justified by the Annual conference of ICFA (ICOM Interna-

tional Committee for Museums and Collections of Fine Arts) at Jawahar Kala Kendra. The cultural context of Fine Arts, its new meanings in Museums and various cultural landscapes, Transcultural Curation methods and Inclusive approaches, the fusion of Contemporary Art and Cultural Heritage, and aesthetics in social-cultural and historic sense were discussed. The conference ended by a book launch of 'Rethinking the Museum spaces, the South Asian Turn', published by the Centre for Museology and Conservation, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur in association with Literary Circle Publishers, Jaipur in sync with this year's ICOM theme - 'The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities'. Other simultaneous events at Hawa Mahal and Albert Hall co-existed and lived the idea of the importance of the fusion of the old craft techniques. The interpretations of local heritage through modern art interventions by esteemed artists Sudhir Kasliwal, Vinay Sharma, Manish Sharma, Shammii Banu and Sangeeta Singh engaged thousands of visitors on the 'Free Jaipur day'. How could it get better, as all the tourist places in Jaipur were 'free' on International Museum Day? At the Government Museum, Albert Hall, Dr Rima Hooja, an eminent historian, launched the catalogue 'Treasures of the Albert Hall Museum, Jaipur' and gave insights into the making of the Albert Hall as the first museum on 'Industrial arts' under TH Hendley in 1887. The enduring relationship of the artisanal heritage in the contemporary world invited deep cultural narratives and discussions amongst the audiences that included scholars and heritage enthusiasts. The dialogue between craft, scholars, residents and cultural practitioners was indeed enticing.

In both of the above events, where one involved the localites and the other, the academicians and experts, one thing remains the same- the intention to keep our history alive. The past, which continues in our hearts in the form of these communities and museums, must be preserved in the best possible way. Museum Educators and Cultural enthusiasts must explore the areas of community learning, professional and volunteer approaches, and evolving philosophies that shape the ever-changing landscape of a new era museum. The purpose of International Museum Day was aptly fulfilled through events and initiatives actively redefining the cultural relevance of museums in light of changing societal dynamics.



- Police 100
- Fire 101
- Ambulance 102/108
- Child Helpline 1098
- Help in Suffering 2760012

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WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?

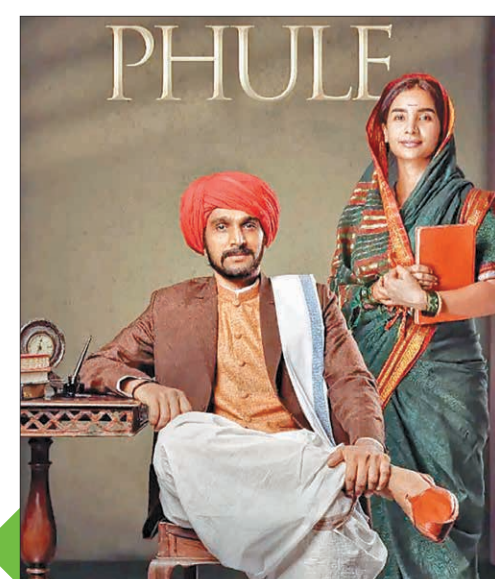
<https://in.bookmyshow.com/>



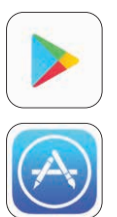
Movie: RAID 2
Director: Raj Kumar Gupta
Cast & Crew: Ajay Devgn, Riteish Deshmukh, Vaani Kapoor



Scan or click here to book your movie tickets



Movie: PHULE
Director: Ananth Mahadevan
Cast & Crew: Pratik Gandhi, Patralekha



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Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Baichung Bhutia, Designer Rohan Pariyar, Suvagata Das, Sushmita Roy, Lipsika Mondal, Shaswati Bala, Mahika Biyani, Rhea Singha, Amjad Khan, Rajat Bihani and Host Rajini

STARRY SILIGURI

Pageant Dreams Come True

FROM PAGE 09

The event was inaugurated by Arijit Dutta, Mentor of IFM Academy and honoured by Special Guest Bhaichung Bhutia, former Indian football captain, alongside dignitaries from the Ministry of Siliguri. Supermodel Divyansha Sharma also graced the evening as

a special guest, making the evening more memorable. Their esteemed presence reinforced the event's stature and its message of empowering young women to become leaders of tomorrow.

Under the dynamic direction of Kuntanil Das and with the backstage coordination and creative finesse of the tal-

ented students of IFM Academy, the show emerged as a seamless production reflecting high standards of the national fashion circuit. With this grand event, West Bengal has once again proven its mettle on the national beauty pageant map, carving a strong identity of style, strength and spirit.



Mahika Biyani (1st runner Miss Universe West Bengal)



Pali Saha and Rhea Singha



Rhea Singha felicitates Model Tarique Ahmed from IFM Academy



(L-R) Julia, Debasmita and Roshni



Malvika Bayanwala felicitated by Rhea Singha. Also seen is Sashwati Bala



Sashwati Bala and Mahika Biyani share a warm hug



(L-R) Dr Shanti Basnet, Barsana Lama, Lipsika Mondal, Mahika Biyani, Sashwati Bala, Rhea Singha, Sushmita Roy and Malvika Bayanwala



Sashwati Bala and Sushmita Roy

BHARAT24 CELEBRATES EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS WITH JOY AND TOGETHERNESS

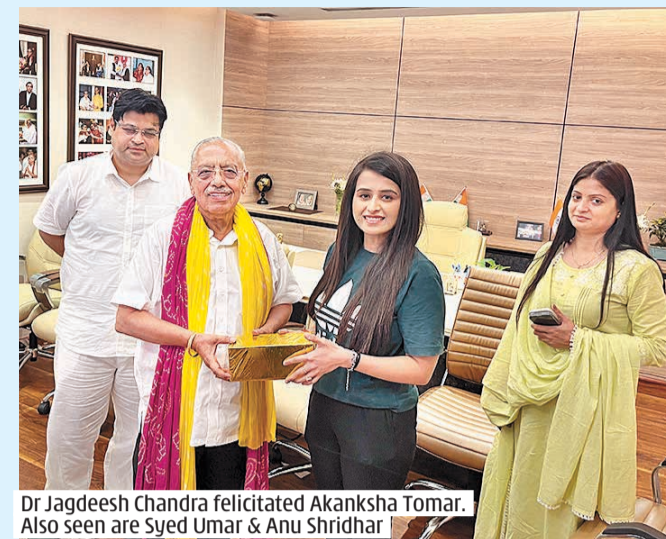
CELEBRATING TEAM SPIRIT



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra felicitated Shikha Thakur. Also seen are Poomnima Mishra & Syed Umar



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Satender Singh, Gaurav Kumar, Dev Kumar, Akash Mahajan, Shaan Nanda, Anu Shridhar, Pradeep, Amit Ojha, Shikha Thakur, Poomnima Mishra, Syed Umar, Prafulla Kumar, Mohit Singh, Riyaz Hussain and Rajiv Dcruz during the cake-cutting ceremony



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra felicitated Akanksha Tomar. Also seen are Syed Umar & Anu Shridhar

Bharat24: Vision of New India celebrated employee birthdays with warmth and enthusiasm on Wednesday. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra extended heartfelt congratulations to the team and further presented gifts to the employees, adding a special touch to the occasion. A joyful cake-cutting ceremony further elevated the festive spirit, bringing smiles and togetherness to the workplace. The event fostered camaraderie and highlighted the channel's commitment to appreciating its team. Among those present were Shikha Thakur, Poomnima Mishra, Syed Umar, Akanksha Tomar, Anu Shridhar, Satender Singh, Gaurav Kumar, Dev Kumar, Akash Mahajan, Shaan Nanda, Pradeep and Amit Ojha. The cheerful gathering reflected the organisation's positive work culture and its dedication to celebrating its people. —City First

Preserving Traditions

City First

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

In a graceful ceremony marked by Vedic chanting and lamp lighting, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari inaugurated the prestigious Cultural Heritage Training Camp at the City Palace, Jaipur, on Wednesday. Organised annually for the past 28 years by the Maharaja Sawai Mansingh II Museum Trust, the camp aims to preserve, nurture and pass on India's traditional art forms to future generations.

Addressing the gathering, Diya Kumari shared, "For the past 28 years, our family has prioritised the preservation and promotion of traditional arts and crafts. We re-



Dy CM Diya Kumari lighting the lamp during the inauguration of Cultural Heritage Training Camp



Participants and mentors of the Cultural Heritage Training Camp came together to commemorate their shared passion for traditional art forms

main committed to passing this invaluable heritage to the next generations." She also highlighted the State Government's new 'Wall Painting' initiative to promote local art across all districts, enhancing tourism and cultural awareness.

The Deputy CM distributed saplings and water pots to children to encourage environmental responsibility and reviewed camp arrangements on-site.

This year, along with Painting, Ala-Gila, Araish, Dhrupad, Kathak, Flute, Calligraphy, and Vedic Astrology, a new addition—Thikri (Mirror Work)—has been introduced. Expert trainers like Ramu Ramdev, Babul Bharodia, Dr Madhu Bhatt Tailang, Dr Jyoti Bharti Goswami, and others will lead the sessions. The camp will conclude on June 20.



Vaishali Sharma and Vara Sharma engaged in traditional arts & crafts

Crafted Dignity



City First

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Ecotasar, a sustainable social enterprise, has launched three new silk yarn spinning groups in Bihar and Jharkhand, empowering 85 rural women. With support from West Elm and TRDF, Ecotasar aims to reach 2,000 women by 2026. Participants re-

ceive free training and equipment to produce silk yarn from home, enabling stable part-time income and reducing seasonal migration. Currently, 461 women in Bihar-Jharkhand and 800 in Assam benefit from the initiative. Supported by PRADAN and the EU, this model ensures monthly earnings, dignity, and economic independence through sustainable livelihoods.



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

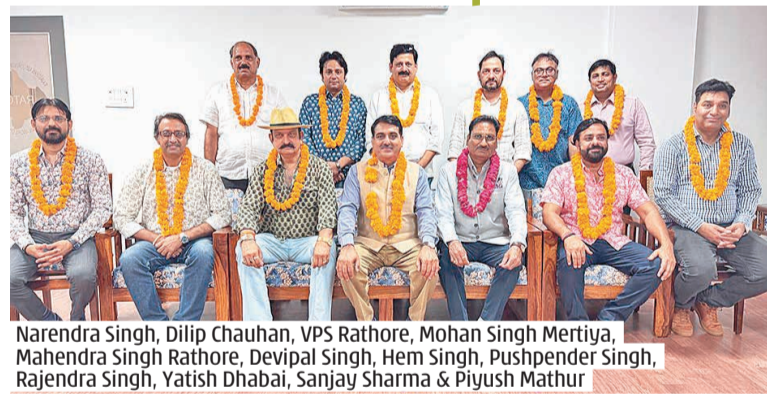
Parinda campaign!



Continuing its tradition, YES Society launched its annual Parinda campaign to help birds during summer. Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf, along with his wife Alka Saraf, distributed Parindas at Jawahar Circle. Society President Ashish Saraf announced that 1,000 Parindas will be installed this year. Urging public support for providing water and grains, Saraf emphasised the plight of thirsty birds. Treasurer Tapan Gupta and other team members were actively present during the event.

The Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators (RATO) held its Executive Committee elections in Jaipur on Wednesday, re-electing Mahendra Singh Rathore as President. Davipal Singh was named Senior Vice President, with Sukhdev Singh as Vice President. Mohan Singh Mertiya will serve as Secretary, Narendra Singh as Joint Secretary, Hem Singh as Treasurer, and Dilip Chauhan as Chairman of Events. Eight members, including Pushpendra Singh and Rajendra Singh Rathore, were inducted into the committee to strengthen RATO's leadership team.

RATO's leadership team!



Narendra Singh, Dilip Chauhan, VPS Rathore, Mohan Singh Mertiya, Mahendra Singh Rathore, Devipal Singh, Hem Singh, Pushpender Singh, Rajendra Singh, Yatish Dhabai, Sanjay Sharma & Piyush Mathur

Voices for Welfare



The press conference for the 8th National Convention of the Right to Food Campaign was held on Tuesday in Jaipur. The convention is scheduled from May 24 to 26, bringing together over 500 activists and researchers from 16 states. Convened by Kavita Srivastava, the event will focus on critical issues like food security, nutrition, unemployment, and shrinking democratic spaces. The convention will draft strategies for the next two years through workshops and resolutions, with a special focus on marginalised communities and the erosion of welfare schemes like MGNREGA and the PDS. —MUKESH KIRADOO

Musical competition

Rotary Club Jaipur recently organised "EK Shaam Adhyapakon Ke Naam", where school teachers showcased their singing and dancing talents. Dr Prajakta Jaiswal won first prize in singing, while Jisha of St Teresa School topped the dance category. Group dance winners included SV Public School. Judged by renowned experts, the event highlighted teachers' artistic skills. Chief guest Rotarian Deepak Sukhadia praised their talent. The evening was coordinated by Pradeep Singh Rajawat and hosted by Shilpa Bendre. This shows the talent of the teachers for their invaluable contribution in the field of education.



Former State Minister Mahesh Sharma and noted painter Chandraprakash Gupta recently visited Mehradasi village, Jhunjhunu, and presented an oil painting of martyr Surendra Kumar Moga to his family. Moga was martyred during Pakistan's air strike in Operation Sindoor. His mother, wife Seema, and children grew emotional seeing the portrait. Gupta, who has been honouring martyrs' families with paintings for 26 years, was deeply appreciated for this heartfelt gesture. Roshan Lal Sharma and Kanaram Meena were also present.

Conclave 2025!



Serum Institute of India launched the "Conquer HPV & Cancer Conclave 2025" on Wednesday in Jaipur to raise awareness about HPV-related cancers, especially cervical cancer, the second most common cancer among Indian women. Experts discussed HPV's link to multiple cancers affecting both men and women, including anal, penile, vulvar, vaginal and oropharyngeal cancers. Panelists included Dr Apoorva Tak, Dr Ashish Agrawal, Dr Mohit Vohra, Dr Anshu Patodiya, Dr Veena Acharya, and Dr Rajkumar Goyal. —MUKESH KIRADOO



In Jaipur, under the Net Theat series, young tabla virtuoso Mohammad Shoaib recently captivated the audience with a stunning performance. Beginning with Teen Taal in Vilambit, he presented Peshkar, Gharana compositions, Tripalli, and special creations by his grandfather, the late Ustad Amir Mohammad Khan Saheb. Trained by his grandfather and father Mohammad Ahmed, Shoaib's artistry drew repeated applause. Zakir Hussain's sarangi accompaniment added depth. The event was coordinated by Nawal Dangi with stage, sound and visuals by the team.



Abdominal Cancer Day 2025, powered by Fortis Hospital and organised by the Abdominal Cancer Trust and IEMR, was held on Monday with a high-level panel discussion on colon and rectal cancer. Key experts like Dr Sundeep Jain, Dr Ajay Bapna, and Dr Rupesh Pokharna emphasised early detection and lifestyle changes. Distinguished guests, including Pt. Suresh Mishra and officials from various sectors, attended. A multi-city walkathon and poster launch by Om Birla and the Rajasthan Health Minister marked the awareness campaign.