



PM MODI LEADS BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF SRI SATHYA SAI BABA LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL - HONOURING THE LEGACY OF SATHYA SAI BABA!

Sathya Sai Baba's teachings showing light to lakhs in over 140 countries, stresses PM Narendra Modi



First India Bureau

Puttaparthi (Andhra Pradesh)

PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tributes to late spiritual guru Sri Sathya Sai Baba, saying his teachings and service continue to guide lakhs of followers across the world. During, birth centenary celebrations of Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, Modi also released a coin and set of stamps to commemorate the guru. "Sri Sathya Sai Baba's centenary celebration is not just a festival, but a divine boon. Though Sai baba is not among us physically, his love and spirit of service are the guiding forces for crores of people," Modi said.

He said that in 140 countries, "lakhs of Sathya Sai Baba's devotees are getting new light, direction and moving forward." Modi said central value of Indian civilisation was Seva & Service, our welfare schemes are now being discussed in international forums. **P5**



(T-B) PM Narendra Modi offers prayers at the shrine and mahasamadhi of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in Puttaparthi, Andhra, on Wednesday. PM Modi feeds cow during the birth centenary celebrations.

AISHWARYA RAI TOUCHES PM MODI'S FEET, DELIVERS SPEECH ON LOVE, CASTE & RELIGION



Superstar Aishwarya Rai Bachchan honoured PM Modi by touching his feet at the birth centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba at Puttaparthi. The actor is an ardent devotee of Sathya Sai Baba. Addressing the gathering, she said, "There is only one caste, caste of humanity. There is only one religion, religion of love. There is only one language, language of heart, and there is only one God, and he is omnipresent." He often spoke about the 5 D's, the 5 essential qualities needed for a meaningful, purposeful and spiritually anchored life- Discipline, Dedication, Devotion, Determination and Discrimination."

MODI TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA FROM NOV 21-23

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Johannesburg, South Africa on 21-23 November, 2025 to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit being hosted by the Republic of South Africa. This will be the fourth consecutive G20 Summit held in the Global South. At the Summit, Prime Minister will put forth India's perspectives on the G20 agenda. PM Narendra Modi is expected to speak in all three sessions of the Summit.

PM KISAN 21ST INSTALMENT: MODI RELEASES ₹18,000 CRORE TO NEARLY 9 CRORE FARMERS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi during the release of 21st instalment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi during the release of 21st instalment of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday.

Coimbatore: PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday released the 21st instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, disbursing ₹18,000 crore to more than nine crore farmers. Under the scheme, eligible farmers receive ₹2,000 every four months—totalling ₹6,000 annually—directly into their bank accounts via DBT. During the event, PM Modi also inaugurated the South India Natural Farming Summit. "All our diverse spiritual and philosophical traditions ultimately lead to this one idea, whether one walks the path of Bhakti, knowledge or karma," he said. Further, stressing on 'local for vocal,' Modi said it will help country become 'Viksit Bharat'. **P5**

PM KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME IS A SYMBOL OF GRATITUDE TOWARDS FARMERS: CM SHARMA



Jaipur: Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said that PM Modi's vision is focused on the development of farmers, labourers, youth and women. The PM has released the 21st instalment of the Kisan Samman Nidhi. This step reflects the government's commitment to farmer welfare. PM Modi addressed the programme in Coimbatore, where the 21st instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi was transferred. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma joined the event through VC and listened to the PM's address from Jaipur. **P3**

IN BRIEF

Baba Siddique case: NIA gets 11-day custody of Lawrence's bro Anmol



New Delhi: A Delhi court granted NIA 11-day custody of gangster Anmol Bishnoi, brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, wanted in multiple high-profile cases, including the assassination of Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique in Maharashtra last year.

Trump designates Riyadh as a Major non-Nato Ally

Washington: US President Donald Trump hosted Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House on Tuesday. Trump formally designated Saudi Arabia as a Major non-Nato Ally (MNNA) after Salman committed to a nearly \$ 1 trillion investment in US.

Al-Falah varsity 'raked in' ₹415 crore from fees

Faridabad: The ED said, "The Al Falah University, under the direction of arrestee Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, have generated proceeds of crime of at least about ₹415.10 crore, by dishonestly inducing students and parents to part with money based on the false recognition claims."

Mumbai Police summons Orry in ₹252 cr drugs case

Mumbai: Mumbai Police has summoned social media personality Orhan "Orry" Awatramani in connection with ₹252 crore mephedrone case. Officials said Orry has been directed to appear before the ANC Ghatkopar unit at 10 am on Thursday for questioning.

Nitish to take oath as CM of Bihar for 10th time today

PM Modi, Amit Shah, CMs from NDA-ruled states to be present

First India Bureau
Patna

The NDA on Wednesday unanimously chose Nitish Kumar as the coalition's legislative party leader in the Bihar Assembly. Kumar is set to take the oath as Bihar Chief Minister for the tenth time on November 20. He was elected as leader of the JDU legislature party in a meeting at the party office earlier.

The newly elected BJP lawmakers chose Samrat Choudhary as legislative party leader and Vijay Kumar Sinha as deputy leader. The swearing-in ceremony of new government will be held at Patna's historic Gandhi



JD(U) Supremo Nitish Kumar elected as the leader of the NDA in Bihar, Patna, Wednesday. Also seen are Dharmendra Pradhan, Lalan Singh, Samrat Choudhary, Vijay Kumar Sinha & others.

Maidan today at 1:30 pm. PM Modi, Union Amit Shah, other BJP leaders and CMs from NDA-ruled states are expected to attend event. Bihar

Governor Arif Mohammad Khan accepted Nitish Kumar's resignation as Bihar CM. He also submitted claim to form new government in Bihar.

BHAJAN LAL SHARMA GOVT ADOPTS CS V SRINIVAS'S NEW SECTORAL SYSTEM



The newly appointed Chief Secretary, V Srinivas, known for his expertise in administrative reforms and ensuring systematic and smooth governance, has begun demonstrating his approach immediately after assuming office. To strengthen coordination within the Secretariat and improve monitoring mechanisms, new administrative model has been introduced. Under the revamped structure, all departments have been divided into 10 different sectors based on their functions and responsibilities. **P7**
Rajendra Chhabra

SC: Parliament cannot overturn our decisions

Top Court junks important provisions of the Centre's Tribunal Reforms Act 2021; orders to establish National Tribunal Commission

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The SC has struck down several important provisions of the Central Government's Tribunal Reforms Act 2021. It clearly stated Parliament cannot overturn the Court's decision by making minor changes. Taking a strong stance, SC said that government re-inserted the same provisions into the law that the Court had previously rejected.

CJI BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran delivered the 137-page verdict on Wednesday. The bench held that the Act cannot be sustained as it violated constitu-

A 5-judge Constitution Bench of SC, headed by CJI, will pronounce the verdict on Presidential Reference concerning if specific timelines can be prescribed for Governors and the President to grant assent to Bills, today

tional principles related to the separation of powers and judicial independence.

The verdict said that this amounted to a "legislative override in the strictest sense: an attempt to nullify binding judicial directions without addressing underlying constitutional infirmities".



(L-R) VP CP Radhakrishnan and Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Vice President, Shah to visit Pali on Nov 22

First India Bureau
Pali

VP CP Radhakrishnan to Pali district on November 22. VP will arrive at Sadri Helipad at 10:20 am by an IAF helicopter and proceed to Lal Bagh, Ranakpur, Pali district for a reserved programme. On the same day, UHM Amit Shah will reach Dabok Airport in Udaipur at 3:45 pm and will travel by helicopter to Ranakpur. He will attend wedding of granddaughter of Sikkim Governor Om Mathur.

MAJOR DECISIONS FROM CABINET MEETING LED BY CM BHAJAN LAL SHARMA

CM Sharma boosts the global presence of 'Brand Rajasthan'

● A new 'Department for the National and International Non-Resident Rajasthanis' to be established

● Approval for the Rajasthan Global Capability Centre Policy-2025; centres to benefit from attractive provisions of the RIPS-2024

● Joint venture between RVUNL and Singareni Collieries to be formed; energy projects of 2,300 MW to be developed

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday at the CMO under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, a decision was taken to establish new department dedicated to Non-Resident Rajasthanis. Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Industries Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel briefed media about the Cabinet decisions.



(L-R) Industries Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel and Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa during the media briefing after the Cabinet meeting, on Wednesday.

A policy framework to address issues of NRRs
Cabinet has approved the proposal to form the 'Department for National and International Non-Resident Rajasthanis Affairs'. This department

will serve as strong platform for communication & coordination between NRRs and state govt, strengthening bond with their homeland. Through various activities, it will also promote 'Brand Ra-

jaasthan' at global level.

Rajasthan to emerge as global excellence hub
Cabinet has approved the Rajasthan Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy-2025. This aims to

set up over 200 GCCs in Rajasthan by 2030, create 1.5 lakh employment opportunities and contribute to India's 100-billion-dollar GCC market. State govt will develop cities like Jaipur, Udaipur & Jodhpur as GCC hubs.

Energy projects worth ₹15,600 crore

Cabinet has approved the formation of a joint venture company between Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUNL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), RVUNL and

SCCL will hold 26% and 74% equity respectively. This JV will establish an 800 MW coal-based thermal power project at cost of ₹9,600 crore at mining site, with 1,500 MW of solar projects in Rajasthan costing ₹6,000 crore.

Cabinet also approved renaming of Government College, Kalandri in Sirohi district as Sanghvi Hirachandji Phoolchandji Govt College, Kalandri and Govt College, Kailash Nagar as Matushri Puribai Poonamaji Mali Torso Govt College, Kailash Nagar.

Raj hosted its first simultaneous state-level Ghoomar Fest across 7 divisions, led by Diya Kumari

Jaipur hosts massive Ghoomar festival

A total of ₹2,34,000 was awarded across various categories to participants

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Jaipur hosted the state-level Ghoomar Festival, inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari, who struck the ceremonial nagada and joined performers symbolically.

For the first time, the Tourism Department organised the festival simultaneously across all seven divisions, earning a place in the Asia Book of Records with nearly 6,000 women and girls dancing. At Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium, participants showcased traditional Ghoomar, including the oldest style performed to Ek Baar Ho Piya Jaipur Shehar Padhar Jo, celebrating Rajasthan's cultural identity.

Diya Kumari said such events would connect youth with folk traditions and strengthen tourism by building a sustainable cultural model. A documentary honoured Padma Shri Rajmata Govardhan Kumari's contributions to preserving Ghoomar. Jaipur residents attended in large numbers, adding colour and enthusiasm.



By CM Diya Kumari performed Ghoomar with the participants during the event. The event featured vibrant Ghoomar performances by participants from 7 divisions of Rajasthan. Women and girls turned up in large numbers at the Vidyadhar Nagar Stadium to participate in the celebrations.

PANKAJ SHARMA



Children from a sword-fighting academy demonstrated self-defence and combat techniques, energising the audience.



By CM Diya Kumari and Jaipur MP Manju Sharma during the Ghoomar Festival in Jaipur.



Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism, Art and Culture Minister Diya Kumari playing Nagada as MLA Gopal Sharma applauds during the event in Jaipur on Wednesday.



Technical glitch stalls RERA registrations; only 54 projects cleared

Rajasthan continues to overlook the Chief Secretary's orders as a major technical fault on its website remains unresolved, hindering online registration of projects. During a 27 October meeting, officials informed former Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant that 163 projects were fully ready for approval. Pant directed that the glitch be fixed by 30 October and all pending registrations completed immediately. However, registrations increased only from 4,329 to 4,383 between 30 October and 12 November.

Cong dist president list nears release

A major update has emerged regarding Rajasthan Congress district presidents. Rahul Gandhi has completed his review, and today Govind Dotasra, Tika Ram Jolly and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa met KC Venugopal to finalise details. Rahul had sought inputs on several districts earlier. After thorough discussions, the list is nearly complete. The count-down has begun.

Minimal wedding card creates buzz

The wedding card for Madan Rathore's son has drawn attention for its simplicity. When Rathore delivered the invitation to a senior Congress leader, he was told the card looked unusually simple. Rathore explained that the choice reflected Gandhian values, and even his children insisted on avoiding a flashy, costly card. The understated design has since become a symbol of simplicity.

Experts weigh in as GS Dotasra faces action review before winter session

With the next assembly session scheduled for January–February, a decision regarding MLA Govind Singh Dotasra is expected during that period. Dotasra's remarks against Speaker Devnani after the earlier assembly deadlock displeased the ruling benches, and he has since kept his distance from the House. Internal discussions on the matter have intensified ahead of the session. Two senior leaders and parliamentary experts, though not current MLAs, are now active behind the scenes, and they may influence the final outcome.

Protests erupt at RU over results; Police use force, detain students



First India Bureau
Jaipur

A large-scale student protests erupted over dissatisfaction with recent semester exam results at the University of Rajasthan on Wednesday. Hundreds of students gathered on campus, marching to the Exam Controller's Office under

the leadership of student leader Shubham Rewar. Many adopted a symbolic form of protest by wearing garlands made of currency notes.

Simultaneously, another group led by student leader Neeraj Khichad continued a sit-in at the Vice Chancellor's Secretariat, with some climbing onto the build-

Students at RU held intense protests over semester results, leading to the detention of several students.

NAIM KHAN

ing's roof to highlight their grievances about a high number of students being declared failed.

As tensions escalated, police was deployed in significant numbers. Eventually, police used mild force to disperse the crowd and detained student leader Shubham Rewar along with several other students.



First India Bureau
Jaipur

ACB Outpost Jaipur Nagar III detained Rajkumari Juneja, Sub-Inspector at Gandhinagar Police Station, Jaipur, for accepting a bribe of Rs 1.25 lakh. ACB Jaipur Nagar III received a complaint that a case against the complainant was being used to demand a Rs 2 lakh bribe for filing an FIR. On 19 November, Sub-Inspector Rajkumari Juneja was caught accepting Rs 1,25,000 in a trap led by DSP Suresh Kumar Swami. Detained by the ACB, she now faces action under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Further inquiry is underway now thereafter.



Sub-Inspector Rajkumari Juneja in ACB custody.

2 HELD WITH 9K DRUG CAPSULES IN JAITSAR

Jaitsar Police arrested two youths near the Bugiya Tirahe and recovered 9,000 prohibited intoxicating capsules from them. The accused, Lokesh Kumar of 6 DBN and Ajay Kumar of 4 DBN, had brought the capsules to sell in the town. Before they could begin selling them, a team comprising ASI Chhoturam and constables Rajendra Kumar, Narendra Kumar and Anil apprehended them.

HEAVY POLICE DEPLOYMENT IN RATHIKHEDA AMID ETHANOL PLANT ROW

In the Rathikheda area of Tibbi, where an ethanol factory is under construction, around 500 personnel have been deployed in Rathikheda and Tibbi. Police, RAC and Border Home Guard units are stationed there, with additional forces arriving from Sriganganagar and Bikaner. Senior police officials are monitoring the situation closely. Three ASPs, four DSPs and around twelve station officers have been posted in Tibbi. Internet services in Tibbi remain suspended for the second day and may be restored tonight at midnight. Construction of the factory is continuing in the presence of police, while local residents are holding meetings to decide their next course of action.



POLICE BUST MAJOR INTER-STATE CYBER FRAUD NETWORK UNDER 'OPERATION CYBER SHIELD'

Under the leadership of SP Mridul Kachhava, Nagaur Police have carried out a major operation and uncovered a large cyber fraud network during 'Operation Cyber Shield'. An inter-state cybercrime racket involving 84 bank accounts has been exposed. Account holders were providing their accounts for Rs 8,000 to 15,000, through which crores of rupees linked to cyber fraud were routed via Nagaur. Twenty-one mobile numbers linked to UPI and payment apps had also been supplied to the fraudsters. As soon as the reports surfaced, swift action followed, and the team conducted A-level raids within 72 hours. Twenty-four mules who provided bank accounts have been arrested, and questioning is underway. Nagaur Police have warned that even providing an account is now a serious offence under BNS 2023. Nagaur has emerged as a leading district in the country in mule-busting operations.

KID DIES BY SUICIDE; TEACHERS ACCUSED

A Class 9 student in Karauli, Ankit Gurjar, died by suicide after allegedly facing harassment and physical abuse by two teachers. His family demanded strict action. Heavy police deployment followed, senior officials including the Todabhim DSP and multiple SHOs intervened, and the family agreed to a post-mortem. The accused teachers have been detained for questioning by the police.

HOPE IN JHALANA LEOPARD RESERVE

'Flora' gives birth for the 9th time

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

In a remarkable development from Jhalana Leopard Reserve, the celebrated female leopard Flora has given birth for the ninth time.

The 11-year-old big cat, often called the 'Mother of Jhalana', has now delivered 21 cubs across nine litters.

However, only six of her offspring have survived so far. Five died in territorial fights during adolescence, while



FILE

ten cubs, aged between two and ten months, were killed by other leopards.

Flora's first litter produced Prince, Katrina

The 11-year-old leopard has now delivered 21 cubs across nine litters, though only six have survived due to natural territorial conflicts. Forest staff are monitoring Flora and her newborns to ensure their safety

and Jalebi—of whom Katrina is no longer alive. Flora has now been spotted on the hillside with her latest litter of three cubs, estimated

BLO dies on SIR duty; family alleges pressure

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A BLO on SIR duty died of a heart attack in Baharawada Khurd, with his family alleging he collapsed after a call from the tehsildar. They claim he faced daily pressure and growing stress, and have filed a complaint. The tehsildar denies wrongdoing.

Leader of Opposition Tikaram Jolly said two recent BLO deaths suggest SIR-related work pressure and called for a serious investigation into it.

DGP Sharma holds high-level crime review meeting; issues crucial orders

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A high-level crime review meeting was held at Jaipur Police Headquarters, chaired by Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar Sharma. All Range IGs and district SPs joined the meeting through video conferencing. The session took place in the presence of DG Law and Order Sanjay Agarwal, DG Special Operations Anand Srivastava and other senior police officials.

The DGP issued key directives relating to



crime control, law and order, traffic management, illegal narcotics, illegal arms, celebratory firing, lane driving and mandatory training through the iGOT platform. In view of recent terror incidents in the country, he instructed all officers to maintain maximum vigilance.

DGP Sharma emphasised the use of technology for effective crime prevention and encouraged the Rajasthan Police team to work proactively. He reiterated a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption-related complaints.

With the tourist season underway, he directed the force to provide better facilities and support to visitors. Instructions were also issued regarding CCTV coverage at public places and border areas, along with ensuring proper linkage with the Abhay Command Centre.

PM's vision focuses on uplifting farmers: CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

CM Bhajan Lal joins PM's address as 21st PM-Kisan instalment released

'Government committed to welfare of those on society's last rung'

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision places farmers, labourers, youth and women at the centre of national development. Speaking at the state-level programme organised at the State Institute of Agricultural Management in Durgapura, he said the government is working in accordance with the ideals of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar to uplift the person standing on the last rung of society. Ensuring that welfare schemes reach every deserving beneficiary is the government's top priority, he added.

Sharma joined PM Modi's address through video conferencing as PM released the 21st instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi during an



(LtoR) Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma with Cabinet Ministers Jogaram Patel, Dr Kirodi Lal Meena, Gautam Kumar Dak, and Agriculture Secretary Rajan Vishal during the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi programme, in Jaipur, on Wednesday.

FROM LOANS TO DAYTIME ELECTRICITY: GOVT STEPS UP FARMER SUPPORT

Increased Financial Aid

- Farmers now receive Rs 9,000 annually (combining state and central schemes), with plans to increase this to Rs 12,000 in phases.

Electricity & Subsidies

- Over Rs 41,000 crore in electricity subsidies have been provided. 22 districts already receive daytime electricity, and by 2027, all farmers will benefit.
- 2 lakh farmers are now using solar energy under the PM Kusum scheme.

Livestock Support

- A Rs 5-bonus per litre of milk is provided, along with interest-free loans through the Gopal Credit Card scheme for livestock owners.

Loans & Seed Support

- Rs 43,000 cr in interest-free crop loans have been given to 77 lakh farmers.
- Quality seed kits are being distributed to boost crop yields.

Cooperative Support

- PACS computerisation is benefiting over 1.17 crore members through 41,000 cooperative societies.
- Subsidies on agri machines and crop damage prevention efforts, including implementation of 28,000 km of fencing.

Agriculture Education

- Rs 97 crore in incentives for agricultural education, particularly for girls, have been distributed—five times more than previous support.

CENTRE OKAYS MSP PROCUREMENT PLAN

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for approving Rajasthan's proposals under PSS and MIS for Kharif 2025-26. The approval will enable record MSP procurement of moong, urad, groundnut and soybean worth around Rs 9,436 crore in the State.

CM REVIEWS PREPS FOR PRAVASI RAJASTHANI DAY

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed preparations for Pravasi Rajasthani Day, calling it a roadmap to strengthen diaspora engagement in Rajasthan's development. Sectoral sessions on education, health, industry, tourism and water will highlight investment opportunities with leading institutions participating.

Ajmer set to transform into modern urban hub: Devnani

First India Bureau
Ajmer

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani on Wednesday reviewed a wide range of development schemes and budget announcements for Ajmer, noting that the city is set to transform into a well-planned urban centre with strong tourism potential and improved employment opportunities.

At a meeting held at the Circuit House with officials of the Ajmer Development Authority (ADA) and the Municipal Corporation, it was



Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani launches various development works in Ajmer, on Wednesday.

revealed that projects worth billions of rupees are underway.

Devnani directed that work begin quickly on the multi-purpose sports stadium near the Prithvi-

raj Nagar scheme on Makadwali Road. Designed to seat more than 30,000 spectators, the stadium will also host large gatherings and cultural events in its first phase at a cost of 12 crore rupees.

He instructed the ADA to start work on the city's new entry plaza and complete it by 30 June 2026, along with widening and beautifying key roads. Plans for beautifying Varun Sagar, installing a statue of Jhulelal, and preparing the DPR for a metropolitan-style convention centre were also reviewed.

Gehlot observes Indira's birth anniv, slams SIR; BJP says attempt to create unrest

First India Bureau
Jaipur

On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visited the PCC office to pay tribute, recalling her contributions to national unity and the creation of Bangladesh. Gehlot urged political leaders to follow her legacy of serving the nation and working for poverty eradication.

Gehlot also strongly criticised the Election Commission over the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) process, alleging it was a mistake and claiming the Commission was acting in collusion with the BJP. He said BLOs were working



Ex-CM Ashok Gehlot pays floral tribute to former PM Late Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary, at PCC HQ, on Wednesday.

under fear, with some reportedly facing extreme stress.

In response, BJP President Madan Rathore accused Gehlot of politicising the issue and undermining democratic institutions. He said Gehlot's comments were an attempt to create unrest following Congress's defeat in Bihar.

'Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan' historic move: Khandelwal

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Giriraj Khandelwal, Secretary of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee and Observer for the "Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan" in Barmer and Balotra, hailed the campaign as a historic move to strengthen the party.

He praised the transparent, grassroots-based process for selecting district presidents, initiated by Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. Khandelwal emphasised that district observers spent 15 days engaging with party workers to submit panels of dedicated candidates.

He recommended district presidents to focus solely on party's development, not elections, to promote transparency.

Annual General Meeting of the Rose Society of Rajasthan

TWO-DAY ROSE SHOW TO BE HELD ON 7-8 FEBRUARY ON WORLD ROSE DAY

V Srinivas, Chief Secretary, appointed Chairperson; Pawan Arora appointed Prez

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The annual general meeting of the Rose Society of Rajasthan was held on Wednesday in Jaipur. In the meeting, it was unanimously decided to appoint V Srinivas, CS of Rajasthan, as Chairperson; Pawan Arora, IAS (Retd) as President; Anil Kumar Bhargava as GS; and Arun Kumar, IAS (Retd), IC Shrivastava, IAS (Retd), Ashok Jain, IAS (Retd), DB Gupta, IAS (Retd) and Ram Mohan, IAS (Retd) as Patrons. V Saravana Kumar, Anandhi, Dr Jitendra



CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, Pawan Arora, holds discussion with members during annual general meeting of Rose Society of Rajasthan in Jaipur on Wednesday.



V Srinivas, Chief Secretary

Kumar Soni, Bhagwati Prasad Kalal, Rukmini Riar, Dr Rashmi Sharma, Dr Gaurav Saini and ML Goyal were appointed as Vice Presidents. Vinay Suran was named Chairperson, Rose Show, Dr SS Mehta Chairperson of Chrysanthemum Show, and Dr Yashbala Seth, Narendra Singh Shekhawat, Santaram Meena and Kailash Mishra Addl Secys of Executive Committee.

Mukesh Agarwal, Dr Dilip Kumar Sharma, Suresh Narayan Sharma, RS Jain, Badri Prasad Sharma and Manoj Bansal were appointed Joint Secretaries. Ravindra Singh and Akhay Singh Rajpurohit Vice Presidents for Rose Show, while Bhojraj Singh and Suresh Kumar Choudhary Vice Presidents for the Chrysanthemum Show. Rajkumar Baid was appointed as

Publicity Coordinator.

Since 1973-74, the Rose Society of Rajasthan has been organising All Rajasthan Rose Exhibition every year. It was also decided to hold 51st All Rajasthan Rose Show at City Park, Mansarovar as a two-day event for the first time on International Rose Day, on 7-8 February 2026, along with essay, painting and quiz competitions etc.

Honour Run '25 curtain raiser held in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Curtain Raiser Ceremony for Honour Run 2025 was held in Jaipur under the Sapta Shakti Command, aimed at honouring the valour of India's Armed Forces.

Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh, Army Commander, Sapta Shakti Command, addressed the event, calling it a tribute to veterans and a call for unity and patriotism.

Scheduled for 7 December, the Honour Run will feature 21 km and 10 km categories, with Rs 22.70 lakh in prize money.

Motivational messages were shared by Paralympian Deepa Malik, golfer Anirban Lahiri, and other prominent figures.

JDC Anandhi orders 'strict' inspection of construction projects across city

First India Bureau
Jaipur

JDA Commissioner Anandhi has taken a strong stance on construction quality in the city, directing immediate inspections after flaws were identified during site visits and through public complaints. She instructed the JDA Quality Control Cell to examine various projects across half a dozen zones and submit detailed reports.

In Zone 5, complaints surfaced about the use of old curve stones on



Madhyam Marg, despite the project costing around Rs 11 crore. In Zone 6, during an inspection of the Sikar Road renovation, engineers reported that the contractor had refused to provide road material samples, prompting

Anandhi to direct the Executive Engineer to take action.

She also ordered quality checks for the BRTS corridor removal and road construction on Ajmer Road in Zone 7. Further, Anandhi mandated an inspection of the road built in Science Tech City in 2023, noting multiple defects despite the road being under the Defect Liability Period.

Additionally, she instructed an investigation into the road from C-Zone Bypass to Kanakpura, which has deteriorated significantly.

24.75 LAKH ASPIRANTS, ONE VIRAL TWEET

"Line Lag Jayegi": Army veteran-turned-RSSB Chairman wins internet with light-hearted exchange

Rajendra Chhabra
Jaipur

The chairman of the Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB), Major General Alok Raj (Retd), remains highly active on social media, often posting content that attracts considerable public interest. One of his recent posts has gone viral over the past two days, drawing widespread attention across platforms. The post relates to the recruitment exami-

nation for peon positions conducted by the board. A total of 24.75 lakh candidates appeared for the examination held for 53,749 posts. The results are expected to be announced next month.

In a message posted on X, Alok Raj wrote, "दस बार फेल होकर सीखना छोड़ना चाहोगे, बस इसी स्टेज पर हार नहीं माननी होती है, give up नहीं करना होता है।" (Even after failing ten times, one should not give up. Never lose hope.) Responding to this post, a candidate named Anil



Yadav, who appeared for the fourth-grade (peon) recruitment examination,

asked, "फौजी साहब एक बात बताओ, चतुर्थ श्रेणी में सिलेक्शन होने के बाद मुझे कोई अपनी बेटी तो दे देगा ना या उसके लिए कोई दुसरी नौकरी की तैयारी करनी पड़ेगी?" (Tell me one thing, General sir. After being selected for a fourth-grade post, will anyone be willing to marry their daughter to me, or should I start preparing for another job for that?)

The reply that Alok Raj posted on X has since become widely discussed. He wrote, "अनिल जी, लाइन लग जाएगी लड़की वालों की। कहां मिलते हैं आजकल सरकारी नौकरी वाले लड़के?"

बस आप अपनी वैल्यू बनाए रखना, सोले वाली मौसी के जैसे लड़की वालों को समझाना न पड़े कि आप क्या क्या शौक नहीं रखते हो।" (Anil ji, there will be a line of prospective brides. Where do you find boys with government jobs these days? Just maintain your value so that people do not start wondering, like the aunt in Sholay, what hobbies you do not have.)

Alok Raj, a retired Major General, has been serving as RSSB chairman since August 2023, appointed for a six-year

term by the previous Congress government. After the BJP came to power, he offered to resign, but the Bhajan Lal Sharma administration retained him, citing his 37 years of Army service and strong performance. Under the current government's two-year tenure, he has led major improvements at the board, conducting regular recruitment exams without any paper leaks or irregularities, and has so far supervised 116 examinations.

Pink toilets launched on World Toilet Day

First India Bureau
Jaipur

On World Toilet Day, observed on 19 November with the theme "Sanitation in a Changing World," Rajasthan launched ten newly constructed Aspirational/Pink toilets in seven urban local bodies.

The online inauguration was led by Urban Development Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra and officials from the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Secretary Ravi Jain highlighted that Rajasthan aims to construct 7,938 toilet seats, with 672 already



Cabinet Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra and LSG Secy Ravi Jain during virtual inauguration of Pink Toilets, on Wednesday.

completed. The state has received approval for 86 new pink toilet blocks, with 132 seats already finished. Kharra urged urban bodies to ensure the quality and maintenance of these facilities to enhance urban sanitation services.

'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 155

CHAMPS SPEAK

Inside PM Modi's quiet, powerful influence on India's sporting spirit

Narrators recall PM Narendra Modi's rare blend of empathy and leadership that shaped some of the most defining moments in sports, where his words and actions lifted them through defeat, injury, and the toughest phases of their sporting journeys



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

'True leaders don't just celebrate wins but also heal defeats'

I still remember that day vividly — the air was thick with emotion, and our hearts were heavy. We had come so close to winning the 2017 World Cup, only to fall short in the final. The pain of that loss was raw. As captain of the Indian women's cricket team, I felt the weight of our collective disappointment. We had given everything, yet the trophy had slipped through our fingers. When we were invited to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence, I assumed it would be a brief, formal interaction — perhaps 15 or 20 minutes over tea and a photo-op. We were still nursing our wounds, unsure of what to expect. But the moment we entered, something shifted. He welcomed us not as defeated athletes, but as champions in our own right. He encouraged us to speak freely, to ask questions, to share our thoughts. That openness was unexpected, and it created space for vulnerability. One of my teammates, her voice trembling, finally broke the silence. "Sir, we lost the World Cup finals. We're sorry for disappointing you and the nation. We played well but lost." Her words echoed what all of us felt. The room was silent, the pain palpable. And then, the Prime Minister responded with a calm and empathy that I'll never forget. "You may not have won the World Cup," he said, "but you have won the hearts of the people."

Those words hit me like a wave. In that moment, I realised that leadership isn't just about strategy or speeches — it's about understanding, about lifting others when they're at their lowest. He reminded



Mithali Raj, Former India skipper, Women's cricket team

us that our journey had inspired millions, that our performance had transformed the landscape of women's cricket in India. He wasn't just speaking to one player — he was speaking to all of us. To the girl who had trained in silence, to the bowler who had fought through injury, to the batter who had carried the hopes of a nation. His words didn't erase the pain of defeat, but they gave it meaning. They helped us see beyond the scoreboard. I walked out of that room with a renewed sense of pride. We hadn't failed — we had sparked something powerful. We had shown young girls across the country that their dreams were valid, that they belonged on that field just as much as anyone else. That meeting became more valuable than any medal. It reaffirmed our purpose and reignited our passion. True leadership, I learned that day, reveals itself not in moments of triumph, but in how it responds to heartbreak. And in that moment, Prime Minister Modi reminded us that we were more than cricketers — we were role models, trailblazers, and symbols of hope.

'KIND OF LEADERSHIP ATHLETES NEED'

In sports, winning medals is important — but so is feeling supported and appreciated. For many athletes, the journey is full of hard work, sacrifices, and tough moments. That's why encouragement from leaders means so much, especially when things don't go as planned.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always shown that he understands this. He doesn't just celebrate victories — he also values the effort behind every performance. His words often lift athletes when they're feeling low, reminding them that their dedication matters. One thing he often

says is, "Getting a medal itself is a big thing." Even if someone doesn't win gold or misses a medal by a small margin, he still appreciates their spirit and hard work. That kind of support makes a big difference. I remember one moment clearly — after the 2021 Olympics, the Indian women's team met the Prime Minister. We had finished fourth, just missing a medal. Everyone was disappointed. But PM Modi welcomed us warmly and said, "It doesn't matter, you have done really well." He spoke to us with pride, as if we had won gold. That changed the mood completely. His words reminded us that we had made the country proud, even



PV Sindhu, Badminton player

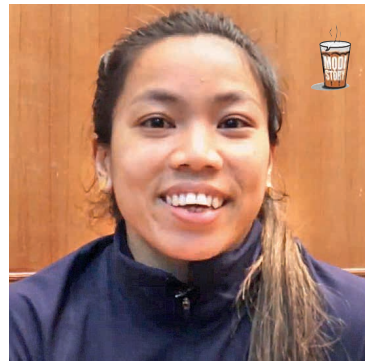
without a medal. He didn't see us as players who lost — he saw us as athletes who gave everything for India. For me, and for many

others, this kind of appreciation means everything. It shows that our leaders care not just about results, but about the journey. It motivates us to keep going, to train harder, and to aim higher. PM Modi's support is not just about big speeches or public praise. It's about understanding what athletes go through — the early mornings, the injuries, the pressure. When he speaks to us, it feels personal. It feels real. That's the kind of leadership athletes need. Someone who sees the effort, not just the outcome. Someone who reminds us that we matter — win or lose. And when that happens, it gives us the strength to keep chasing our dreams.

'PM Modi's one decision changed my journey'

Before the Tokyo Olympics, I found myself at a difficult crossroads. An injury had disrupted my training, and with the pandemic tightening its grip on the world, everything felt

uncertain. Travel restrictions were in place, and I knew that to recover properly and prepare for the Olympics, I needed to go abroad — to the U.S., where I could access the best facilities and medical support. We submitted a request to the government, hoping for permission to travel. Honestly, I didn't expect a quick response. The world was dealing with so much, and I was just one athlete trying to find a way forward. But within a day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved our request. That moment changed everything for me. It wasn't just about getting the green light to travel — it was about feeling supported, trusted, and valued. That decision gave me the strength to push through the pain and focus on my goal. I trained hard, recovered well, and returned stronger than ever. Winning a medal at the Olympics was a



Mirabai Chanu, Weightlifter

dream come true. But what made it even more special was knowing that my country had stood behind me when I needed it most. After the Games, Prime Minister Modi personally congratulated me. He didn't just offer kind words — he asked about my journey, gave suggestions, and showed genuine interest in my growth as an athlete. That kind of encouragement

means everything. It's not just about recognition — it's about knowing that someone believes in you, that your efforts matter. For me, that belief came from the highest level of leadership, and it made all the difference. "This is all that a player wants from the leadership," I said — and I meant it. Support, trust, and appreciation. These are the things that fuel us, especially when the path gets tough.

I feel blessed — not just because I won a medal, but because I was given the chance to fight for it. That trust, that timely support, became the foundation of my strength. And today, when I look back, I see more than a podium. I see a journey shaped by resilience, belief, and the quiet power of leadership that lifts you when you need it most.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY SHASHIKANT SHARMA



You read PART 154 on NOVEMBER 13, 2025

PM Modi said Coimbatore’s textile sector had long been a major contributor to the country’s economy

Winds of Bihar have arrived in Tamil Nadu: PM Modi

The PM’s remark assumes significance as Tamil Nadu will go to assembly polls next year

First India Bureau
Coimbatore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the sight of farmers waving their gamcha (towel) made him feel as though “Bihar winds had arrived in Tamil Nadu before me.” Fresh from his NDA’s stunning victory in Bihar, Modi quipped, citing the audience waving their ‘gamcha’ (towel) upon his arrival, that it looked like “Bihar winds” had arrived in Tamil Nadu before him.

While addressing a gathering of farmers and textile workers, he said, “When I came on the stage here, I saw several farmers waving their ‘gamcha’ in the air. I felt as if Bihar’s breeze reached here even before I could.” The Prime Minister’s remark assumes significance as Tamil Nadu will go to assembly polls next year. The BJP, which is in alliance with the AIADMK, is trying to make inroads in the southern state.

He said that had he known Tamil, he would have had the honour of fully understanding the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Union Ministers K Rammoohan Naidu and G Kishan Reddy, former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and others during the birth centenary celebrations of late spiritual guru Sri Satya Sai Baba, in Puttaparthi.

India is on path to becoming global hub of natural farming: PM Modi in Coimbatore

ANI
Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)

Noting that India is on the path to becoming a global hub of natural farming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that there has been a transformation in the agriculture sector of the country in the last 11 years, and agricultural export has almost doubled. The PM said that in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during the inauguration of South India Natural Farming Summit-2025, in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

years to come, there would be several major transformations in India’s agriculture.

“India is on the path to becoming a global hub for natural farming. Our biodiversity is taking a new shape, the youth of the country are seeing agriculture as a modern, scalable opportunity. This will give a major boost to the rural economy of the country,” he said.

SOUTH INDIA LIVING VARSITY OF AGRICULTURE: PM

Coimbatore: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, backing organic farming, on Wednesday said South India has been a living university of agriculture. Inaugurating the South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 here, the PM noted that Coimbatore region is home to some of the world’s oldest functioning dams, and that the Kalingarayan canal was built here in the 13th century. The temple tanks in this region became models of decentralized water conservation systems and this land pioneered scientific water engineering thousands of years ago by regulating river water for agriculture. Building a futuristic agricultural ecosystem for a developed India requires collective effort, the Prime Minister said and urged farmers to begin and practice “One acre, one season” of natural farming and to move forward based on the results they observe. He appealed to scientists and research institutions to make natural farming a core part of the agricultural curriculum, encouraging them to treat farmers’ fields as living laboratories.

₹3.25 lakh cr deposited in banks under Sukanya Samriddhi scheme: PM



PM Modi felicitates a child during the birth centenary celebrations of late spiritual guru Sri Satya Sai Baba, in Puttaparthi. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is also seen.

PTI
Puttaparthi (AP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said more than four crore accounts have been opened under the Sukanya Samriddhi scheme so far and more than Rs 3.25 lakh crore has been deposited in these accounts.

In his address at the birth centenary celebrations of Sri Satya Sai Baba, Modi also said in Indian tradition, cows are considered a symbol of life, prosperity and compassion as they help in the financial, nutritional and social well-being of these families. “Ten

years ago, the Indian government started the Sukanya Samruddhi Yojana for the education and betterment of daughters. This is one of the plans of the country in which our daughters get the highest interest rate of 8.2 per cent. And you will be happy to know that more than Rs 3.25 lakh crores has been deposited in these bank accounts,” Modi said.

On cow protection, Modi said a few years ago, under the National Gokul Mission, more than 480 cows were distributed in Varanasi, leading to over 1700 cows in the temple town.

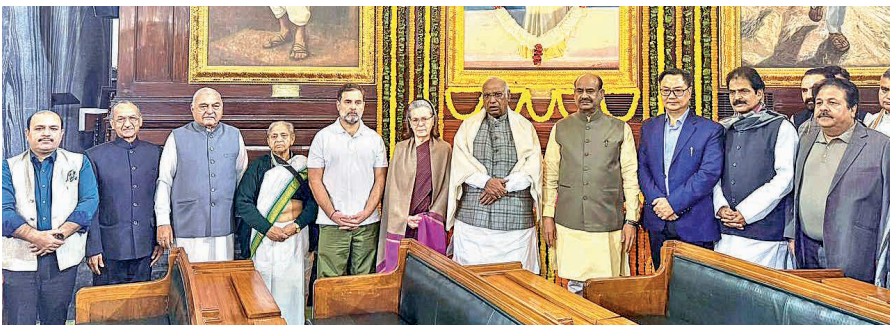
Her courage, patriotism inspire me to stand against injustice: Rahul Gandhi on Indira’s birth anniversary

PTI
New Delhi

The Congress on Wednesday paid rich tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary, with Rahul Gandhi saying that he was inspired by his grandmother to make fearless decisions for India.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her memorial, Shakti Sthal, here. In a post on X, Kharge said the exemplary and dynamic leadership of Indira Gandhi, showing immense political courage, will forever inspire.

“Her unwavering resolve and lifelong dedi-



Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Rajya Sabha MP Rajiv Shukla and others pose for a group photograph after paying tribute to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 108th birth anniversary at the Central Hall of Parliament House, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

cation to public service left an indelible mark on India’s journey of progress. Her ultimate sacrifice in safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation deserves a million salutations,” Kharge said. “On her birth anniversary, we offer our respectful homage to her enduring leg-

acy,” he said. In a post in Hindi on X, he said, “I got inspiration to make fearless decisions for India and to put national interests first in every situation from my grandmother. Her courage, patriotism, and morality continue to inspire me to stand firmly against injustice.”

PM MODI’S TRIBUTES TO INDIRA GANDHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday offered tributes to former prime minister late Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary. “Tributes to former PM Indira Gandhi Ji on the occasion of her birth anniversary,” Modi said in a post on X.

‘MADE THE WORLD ACKNOWLEDGE INDIA’S MIGHT’

New Delhi: On the occasion of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s 108th birth anniversary, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday remembered her grandmother, crediting her with making India a nuclear power. “Patriotism, compassion, strength, courage, dedication, and sacrifice - a steely personality forged from all these sentiments, which made the world acknowledge India’s might. Made the country a nuclear power. Strengthened the infrastructure to fortify India’s foundation,” Gandhi posted on X.

Modi to attend high-level DGP meeting in Nawa Raipur from Nov 28–30

Alkshay Rai
New Delhi

The Prime Minister’s Office will operate from Nawa Raipur for three days during the upcoming DGP Conference, which will be held at the end of November. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the three-day event scheduled from 28 to 30 November, where Director Generals of Police from across the country, Home Minister Amit Shah, the National Security Adviser and other senior security officials will participate.

In view of the Prime Minister’s visit, extensive security and logistical preparations have begun in Nawa Raipur. Senior PMO officials will arrive



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

two days before the conference to inspect various venues. For security reasons, traffic restrictions may be implemented for a few days on the Nawa Raipur–airport route.

The main venue of the DGP Conference will be the IIM Naya Raipur, where the Prime Minister is also likely to stay. Key discussions will focus on terrorism, cybercrime, the Naxal challenge, border security and internal security.

Mamata slams ECI after another BLO suicide

ANI
Jalpaiguri (WB)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday expressed deep shock over the death of Booth Level Officer Shanti Muni Ekka, who allegedly died by suicide due to heavy pressure from the Special Revision of Electoral Rolls (SIR) work. Banerjee claimed this was the 28th such death since the revision drive began, blaming the Election Commission of India for imposing an “unplanned, relentless workload” by compressing a three-year process into two months. She urged the ECI to halt the ongoing drive immediately. A similar incident was reported in Kerala’s Kannur on Tuesday.

FIFTH CONVOCATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

Build technologies that reduce inequality in society: Prez

PTI
New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu attended the fifth convocation of the National Institute of Technology Delhi on Wednesday, where she urged the graduating students to focus on innovations that meaningfully uplift society, stressing that true progress lies not only in invention but in its ability to reduce inequalities and inspire hope.

Posting on X, the President’s office wrote,

“President Droupadi Murmu graced the fifth convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Technology Delhi at New Delhi. She urged the students to remember that the measure of true progress is not just the invention, but also the positive impact it has on society. She said that the systems, technologies and solutions they develop should strive to reduce inequalities and inspire new hope in people’s lives”

Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday presented the



President Droupadi Murmu presents degree to a student during the fifth convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Technology Delhi, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

sixth National Water Awards and the Jal San-chay-Jan Bhagidari

Awards at a function held in New Delhi, according to a release from the Pres-

ident’s Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the story of human civilisation is the story of groups settling in river valleys, along seashores, and around various water sources. In our tradition, rivers, lakes, and other water sources are revered. In our national song, the first word that Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote is ‘Sujalam’. This means “blessed with abundant water resources.” This fact highlights the country’s priority for water.”

PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO BEGIN 3-STATE VISIT TODAY

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will be on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh from Thursday, her office has said. Murmu will grace the Janatiya Gaurav Diwas celebration, organised by the Chhattisgarh government at Ambikapur on Thursday, it said. On November 21, she will inaugurate the Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav 2025 at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Bolarum in Secunderabad.

Judges write to Rahul not to defame EC on vote chori

ANI
New Delhi

A group of 272 eminent citizens, including retired judges, bureaucrats and armed forces officers, has written an open letter criticising what they call sustained attempts by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and the Congress to undermine constitutional institutions, especially the EC of India. The letter follows Gandhi’s recent remarks, in which he accused the Commission of creating electoral irregularities and claimed the Congress was being forced to act “to save de-



LoP Rahul Gandhi

mocracy”, alleging that the ECI’s refusal to provide machine-readable electoral rolls was preventing transparency in the process.

The letter further criticised several Congress leaders and other political parties for being selective in their criticism of the ECI.

IN BRIEF

Duo from ‘Tala-Chaabi’ gang held in ₹1.5 cr Shahdara Case



New Delhi: Two alleged members of the ‘tala-chaabi’ gang, which scouts locked houses while posing as key-makers, have been arrested in a Rs 1.5 cr burglary case in Delhi’s Shahdara, police said. The September 12 break-in saw theft of nearly one kg gold, 11 kg silver, diamond ornaments & other valuables. Scanning 2,500 CCTVs and tech inputs helped police arrest Samrat Singh and Samit alias Sumit Singh.

Jammu IGP visits Poonch, reviews security situation

Jammu: Jammu Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti on Wednesday visited the border district of Poonch and reviewed security situation, officials said. Security has been beefed up and surveillance operations enhanced in the border district following a blast in Delhi on Nov 10 that claimed 15 lives. The senior officer visited Poonch & held a meeting with senior security officials & was briefed about the security measures.

Double-decker bus to Varanasi overturns in UP’s Mau, 14 hurt



Mau (UP): A double-decker bus travelling from Bihar to Varanasi overturned near a roadside eatery in Mau on Wednesday after the driver allegedly lost control, leaving 14 passengers, including women and children, seriously injured, police said. All were taken to the district hospital, with three in critical condition. Two passengers alleged the driver was drunk. A Circle Officer said the driver may have dozed off.

Imposters stop cash van, escape with ₹7 cr in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Unidentified men posing as central government officials intercepted a cash van in Bengaluru and allegedly fled with about Rs 7 cr on Wednesday, police said. The incident took place near Ashoka Pillar while the van was transporting cash from a JP Nagar bank. The gang used a car with a GoI sticker & forced staff inside before escaping. CCTV footage is being examined.

WINTRY TURN

Early chill sweeps across North & Central India

The cold wave may intensify with rain and fog affecting several regions in the coming days

First India Bureau
New Delhi

A cold snap is gripping large parts of the country, making the first half of November feel more like the full-fledged onset of winter. Minimum temperatures have stayed below normal almost every single day this month, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Across India, minimum temperatures were 2°C to 6°C below normal in several regions. The IMD said minimum temperatures will continue to hover between “below normal” and “normal” over the next five days.

Delhi is already shivering through an unusually chilly start to winter. While gasping through very poor air quality, the national capital recorded its earliest single-digit minimum in 11 years. Since November 15, the minimum temperature has stayed below 10°C.



Winter birds fly over the waters of the Narmada river on a winter morning, in Jabalpur, Wednesday.



People perform rituals in the Narmada river on a winter morning, in Jabalpur, Wednesday. PTI



The city skyline enveloped in a layer of haze, in Mumbai, Wednesday.

NORTH CHILL: FARIDKOT MARKS 6.5°C, NARNAUL SLIGHTLY WARMER AT 6.8°C

Chandigarh: Faridkot was the coldest place in Punjab with a minimum temperature of 6.5 degrees Celsius. According to Met department, on Wednesday, Bathinda experienced a cold night at 7.8 degrees Celsius, while Gurdaspur recorded a minimum temperature of 8 degrees Celsius. Amritsar registered 9.1 degrees, Ludhiana 9.4 degrees, Patiala 9.5 degrees, and Ferozepur 8.7 degrees Celsius. In Haryana, Narnaul was the coldest at 6.8 degrees Celsius, followed by Hisar at 7.5 degrees Celsius. Gurugram recorded a minimum temperature of 11.1 degrees Celsius, Karnal and Bhiwani 9 degrees.

BAD WEATHER IN SRI LANKA SENDS TWO INT’L FLIGHTS TO THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Thiruvananthapuram: Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) served as a temporary landing spot for two international flights on Wednesday after they were diverted from their original destination in Colombo, Sri Lanka, due to inclement weather conditions. The diverted flights included a Turkish Airlines flight originating in Istanbul and a SriLankan Airlines flight from Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The Turkish Airlines flight was carrying 258 passengers, 10 crew members, while SriLankan Airlines aircraft had 188 passengers, including 8 crew members, according to officials at Thiruvananthapuram Airport Ltd.

Gold Surge: Rates rise ₹1,500 to ₹1,27,300/10g

Silver rebounds rising, ₹4,000 to ₹1,60,000/kg, ending a three-day slump

PTI
New Delhi

Gold prices climbed ₹1,500 to ₹1,27,300 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, tracking a strong rally in global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.5% purity also advanced by ₹1,500 to ₹1,26,700 per 10 grams, inclusive of taxes. Silver prices staged a sharp rebound, surging ₹4,000 to ₹1,60,000 per kilogram, snapping a three-day losing streak in the local bullion market.

Analysts attributed the rise in gold to renewed safe-haven demand amid persistent signs of weakness in the US labour market, which kept expectations of a potential interest rate cut alive. Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst – Commodities at HDFC Securities, said



Analysts attributed the rise in gold to renewed safe-haven demand amid persistent signs of weakness in the US labour market, which kept expectations of a potential interest rate cut alive. Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst – Commodities at HDFC Securities, said

gold strengthened as investors sought safety. Globally, spot gold extended its gains for the second straight session, rising USD 46.32, or 1.14%, to USD 4,114.01 per ounce.

Praveen Singh, Head of Commodities at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, noted that spot gold is trading above the USD 4,084

level as investors await the release of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes. Kaynat Chainwala of Kotak Securities added that softer US employment data and caution ahead of delayed macroeconomic releases supported the rebound. In overseas trade, spot silver appreciated 3.09% to USD 52.26 per ounce.

56th Int’l Film Festival of India begins in Goa today

Devyani Vyas
Goa

The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) begins today in Goa and will run till November 28, bringing new records, innovations and a vibrant blend of Indian and global cinema. For the first time, the festival opens with a grand parade featuring tableaux from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Goa, major film studios, and a special NFDC display. Over 100 artists will present “Bharat Ek Soor”, celebrating India’s diverse folk traditions.

The festival includes competitions, master-classes and 15 curated sections, along with tributes to Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Ritwik Ghatak and others.

Superstar Rajinikanth will be honoured at the closing ceremony. IFFI also highlights young talent, Film Bazaar, an AI hackathon and UNICEF’s global showcase on childhood.

‘First Vande Bharat Sleeper set for launch after minor tweaks’

PTI
New Delhi

Minor retrofitting on the first Vande Bharat sleeper train is underway to enhance passenger comfort, and the upgraded train will be launched next month, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. He noted that testing of the first rake led to minor changes in the bogie and



seats, which are now being addressed in both the first and second trains. “The issues are minor, but we are treating them

as major to ensure high passenger comfort,” he said, adding that safety and long-term quality remain priorities.

Officials at BEML, which is manufacturing 10 sleeper trains, confirmed the prototype has returned for modifications after extensive testing under RDSO and Commissioner of Railway Safety supervision.

Pilgrim Rush



Rush of people to offer prayers at the Sabarimala temple during the Malayalam month of ‘Vrichikam’, in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, Wednesday. PTI

Red Fort Blast: 200 Al Falah Univ staff and doctors under scanner

PTI
Faridabad

More than 200 doctors and staff at Al Falah University are under investigation following the Red Fort car blast on November 10, sources said. Security agencies are checking the campus and questioning individuals who left the university after the incident, suspecting links to terrorists. Over 1,000 people have been questioned, and mobile data of several individuals is being examined. A 35-year-old woman who rented a



room to suicide bomber Dr. Umar Un Nabi in Nuh has been detained, along with seven others. Investigators are probing potential handlers inside the university, noting Umar’s unusual attendance & night-shift assignments. Patient vis-

its at university hospital have halved since the blast. Multiple agencies, NIA, Delhi Police Special Cell, UP ATS, Faridabad Crime Branch, J&K Police, & ED, are probing case, with a temporary command centre established on campus.

WORLD TOILET DAY

India’s ODF plus count soars to 5.67 lakh

PTI
New Delhi

A total of 5.67 lakh villages across the country have been declared ODF Plus, marking a 467 per cent rise from 1 lakh in 2022, according to Jal Shakti Ministry data released on World Toilet Day. Of these, 4.86 lakh villages have reached the ‘ODF Plus Model’ stage, maintaining open-defecation-free status while managing solid and liquid waste and ensuring visual cleanliness.



Union Minister of Jal Shakti CR Paatil addresses the gathering during the World Toilet Summit 2025, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil said the progress reflects strong public participation and government support,

noting that the Centre assisted states in building over 12 crore toilets. He said the wider coverage has driven major

GUJARAT’S UMRALA VILLAGE LEADS WITH SMART, HYGIENIC PUBLIC TOILETS

Umrala (Gujarat): On World Toilet Day, Umrala village in Gujarat’s Bhavnagar district stands out as a model for rural sanitation with its innovative smart public toilets. Built through state grants and donor support, these facilities use sensor-based lights, fans and sanitation systems to ensure cleanliness and efficiency. Sarpanch Dharmendrabhai Hejam said the smart toilets conserve electricity and water while providing dignified, hygienic spaces. Installed at three locations, they feature urine pots and sensor seats, earning villagers’ appreciation.

behavioural change, adding that improved sanitation has helped save nearly 3 lakh children.

The government will continue funding sanitation infrastructure. Over 95 per cent of villages are now ODF Plus.

Diplomacy drive New consulates set to deepen India-Russia ties

EAM Jaishankar inaugurates 2 Indian consulates in Russia

PTI
MOSCOW

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday inaugurated two new Indian consulates in Russia, saying their establishment will boost trade, tourism, economic, scientific, technological, academic and cultural ties between the two countries.

Expanding its diplomatic footprint in Russia, India opened the new Consulates General in the cities of Yekaterinburg and Kazan. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko and India's Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar were also present at the function held to mark the opening.

"This is a very important day in the diplomatic history of India in the Russian Federation," Jaishankar said. The top Indian diplomat alluded to the days when he had served in diplomatic assignments at the Indian embassy in Moscow.

"This is an important day for us, when we are adding two more Consulates General in this country... Over the last few months, consistent



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurates a new Indian consulate in Russia, joined by senior officials, marking a major step in expanding India's diplomatic presence and strengthening bilateral economic, cultural, and strategic cooperation.

work has been underway to establish these consulates," he said and asserted that India recognises the support received from the Russian government.

Jaishankar said Yekaterinburg is often called the "third capital of Russia" due to its industrial importance, and is a "gateway to Siberia". It is known for its heavy engineering, gem cutting, defence manufacturing, metallurgy, nuclear fuel, chemicals

and medical equipment, he said.

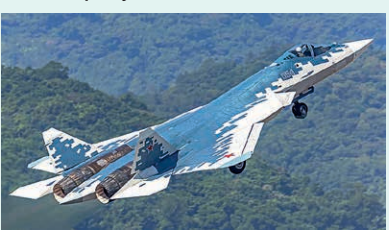
"The opening of the consulate will give impetus to enable and to strengthen technological, scientific, economic and trade collaborations between Indian and Russian industries," the external affairs minister said. Kazan, one of the most visited cities of Russia, hosted the 2024 BRICS summit, which was also attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

RUSSIA AGREES TO SUPPLY SU-57 STEALTH JETS, TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY TO INDIA

→ Russia has agreed to supply India with Su-57 stealth fighter jets. Sergey Chemezov, CEO of the Russian company Rostec, said at the Dubai

Air Show that they would also transfer the technology for these fighter jets without any conditions. The Russian Su-57 jets are considered a counter to the US F-35.

Like the Su-57, the F-35 is a fifth-generation fighter. The US has long sought to sell the F-35 to India.



'Bundi Ke Ratna 2025' Awards First India News to honour Bundi's achievers today

First India Bureau
Jaipur

First India News is set to host the "Bundi Ke Ratna 2025" awards on Thursday at 11:30 AM at Classic Sapphire Ananta, Bundi. The event will honour distinguished individuals and organisations who have contributed significantly to the growth and identity of Bundi.

Rajasthan Energy Minister, Heeralal Nagar, will be the Chief Guest. The event will also be graced by Bundi MLA Harimohan Sharma, Nagar Parishad Bundi Chairperson Saroj Agrawal, Bundi District Collector Akshay Godara, and Bundi Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Meena. The programme, being held in collaboration



Minister Heeralal Nagar

with Nagar Parishad Bundi and the Kota Development Authority, is organised under the leadership of First India News CMD and Editor-in-Chief Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and CEO and Managing Editor Pawan Aroda. The "Bundi Ke Ratna 2025" ceremony aims to celebrate excellence and recognise individuals who have brought pride to Bundi through their achievements.

Neeti Gopendra Bhatt
New Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has said that in the changing global landscape, there is a need to realign the United Nations structure to suit contemporary challenges. He said that dialogue, coop-

eration, and rapid reforms are essential today amid war, terrorism, climate crisis, and digital risks.

Birla made this statement while addressing the first session of the 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World held at the India International Cen-



LS Speaker Om Birla

CS Srinivas emphasises digitalisation drive at 167th SLBC Raj meeting

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The 167th SLBC Rajasthan meeting was held on Wednesday in Jaipur, chaired by Sanjay V. Mudaliar. Chief Secretary V. Srinivas emphasised digitalisation, economic growth, and increasing CD ratios. SLBC Chairperson highlighted banks' role in achieving 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. Deputy IG Vikas Sharma



L-R: Sanjay V. Mudaliar, Chairperson, SLBC, V. Srinivas, Chief Secretary, Rajasthan, and Bhawani Singh Detha, Principal Secretary, Planning Department.

presented cybercrime prevention measures. The meeting was attend-

ed by senior state & central officials, RBI & NABARD representatives.

Russia's strike kills at least 20 in Ukraine's Ternopil

Buildings, cars ablaze; power cuts hit many regions across Ukraine

Agencies
Kyiv

At least 20 people have been killed including two children in a Russian drone and missile attack on the western city of Ternopil that hit two blocks of flats, Ukrainian officials say. Another 66 people were wounded, 16 of them children, police said, in one of the deadliest Russian strikes on western Ukraine since the full-scale war began in February 2022.

Two other western regions were hit, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk, and a drone attack targeted three districts of the northern city of Kharkiv, wounding more than 30 people. Photos posted online showed buildings and cars ablaze.

Power cuts were affecting a number of regions across the country, Ukraine's energy ministry said. Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia had fired more than 470 drones and 47 missiles, leaving "significant destruction". He warned that people could be trapped under the rubble in Ternopil.



Buildings ablaze and cars destroyed in western city of Ternopil after Russian drone and missile attack kills at least 20.

ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE STRIKE ON PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP IN LEBANON CLAIMS 11 LIVES



→ Sidon: An Israeli airstrike on a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon on Tuesday killed 11 people and wounded four, state media and the Lebanese health ministry said. State-run National News Agency reported that the drone strike hit a car in the parking lot of a mosque in the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp on the outskirts of the coastal city of Sidon. The Health Ministry said 11 people were killed and four wounded in the airstrike, without giving further details. The Israeli military said it struck a training center for Hamas adding that the place struck was used to prepare attack against the Israeli army. It added that the Israeli army will continue to act against Hamas wherever the work.

Birla highlights UN reforms at 26th Chief Justices conference

tre in New Delhi.

Birla said that India's spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and the Constitution's ideals of peace, harmony, and respect strengthen our global commitment. He stated that India's extensive contribution to UN peace-keeping operations and

the assistance provided to 150 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic are evidence of our responsible global role.

Birla said discussions at this conference for world justice, peace, stability will prove a stepping stone for humanity from conflict to solution.

Brazil's Supreme Court sentences officials over Prez Lula plot

Agencies
Rio De Janeiro

A panel of Brazilian Supreme Court justices sentenced high-ranking military officials and a federal police officer to 24 years in prison on Tuesday after finding them guilty of attempting a coup and plotting to kill President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and other authorities.

In September, the Supreme Court panel sentenced former President Jair Bolsonaro to 27 years and three months in prison for leading the criminal organisation that sought to overturn the 2022 election, when Lula defeated Bolsonaro. The panel also sentenced other close allies who justices said formed part of the "core group."

New SGOs to boost administrative output

From Pg 1...

Newly appointed Chief Secretary V. Srinivas has reorganized the state administration under a new structure called the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGOs). The SGOs cover key areas: Rural and Agriculture, Infrastructure, Resources, Social Welfare, Commerce and Industry, Finance and Economy, Security,

Technology, and Governance. Each group comprises between four and ten departments; for instance, the Infrastructure Group includes Water Resources, PHED, PWD, Planning, UDH, Transport, LSG, and Civil Aviation.

Planning Department schedules SGO briefing sessions from Nov 24, 25, 26, 28, and Dec 1; new model aims to boost administrative efficiency.

PRESERVING HINDU LEGACY

Prem Bhandari's plan drives Ram temple in Trinidad

First India Bureau
Port of Spain

Ram Temple modelled on Ayodhya's shrine is set to be built in Trinidad and Tobago, raising expectations of a rise in religious tourism. The country, with a population of around 1.5 million, has a significant Indian-origin community.

Recently, this community received a replica of Ayodhya's Ram Lalla idol, and they now plan to develop a beautiful "Ayodhya Nagari", which will



Minister Barry Padarath addresses media, highlighting Trinidad as a 'Ramayan nation' alongside Prem Bhandari.

include a grand Ram Temple. The initiative aims to strengthen Hindu cultural identity in the Caribbean.

In May 2025, more than 10,000 devotees gathered in Port of Spain to welcome the replica idol from Ayodhya, during an emo-

The idea of Ayodhya Nagari comes from Prem Bhandari, founder of the Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir in New York. His vision is to create a spiritual hub for Hindu devotees of North America and the Caribbean

tional ceremony marking 180 years of Indian arrival in Trinidad and Tobago. Indian-origin Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bis-

nessar also attended the event, which was seen as a moment of cultural pride and an effort to preserve Hindu traditions.

The Trinidad and Tobago government is now planning to build a magnificent Ram Temple, intending to establish the Western Hemisphere's key cultural and spiritual centre for Hinduism. Public Utilities Minister Barry Padarath said, "We are a 'Ramayana nation', where Hindu traditions have survived since the nineteenth century." The temple is expected to unite the local

community as well as attract Hindu visitors from around the world.

The idea of Ayodhya Nagari comes from Prem Bhandari, founder of the Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir in New York. His vision is to create a spiritual hub for North America and the Caribbean, offering devotees who cannot travel to Ayodhya an alternative destination. Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister has welcomed the proposal, viewing the temple project as a major opportunity to boost religious tourism.

MP Hawk Force Inspector killed in Maoist clash

Agencies
Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Hawk Force inspector Ashish Sharma was killed in an encounter with Maoists on the MP-Chhattisgarh border on Wednesday. The 26-year-old inspector was reportedly shot during a joint operation by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Maharashtra forces in a forest area of Balaghat. "Information was received that Maoists were hiding near Bor Talab on the border of the three states. Upon arrival, police asked



Ashish Sharma

them to surrender, but they opened fire. Inspector Sharma, leading the three-person team, was shot and rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead," said Pankaj Srivastava, Dy Director General of anti-Naxal operations.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Honesty is the sun; it cannot hide without casting a shadow.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

GARDA UDA DIYA: DR JAGDEESH CHANDRA DECODES THE NAMO-NITISH CHEMISTRY BEHIND BIHAR'S 202-SEAT SWEEP



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Srishti Pandey, Preeti Negi, Shikha Thakur, Aditi Nagar and Poornima Mishra during 'The JC Show.'

● The headline of today's JC Show is "Garda Uda Diya." What exactly does this phrase signify? Deendayal Upadhyay's dream has been fulfilled, and the NaMo-Nitish chemistry has created a 202-seat miracle in the Bihar polls. How would you like to define this chemistry?

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra: Narendra Modi has emerged as a hero in the Bihar elections. With his charisma and his unique chemistry with Nitish Kumar, he has helped secure a miraculous figure of 202 seats. For the first time in history, under his leadership, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party in the real sense. This election may have been fought in the name of Nitish Kumar, but the real face of the campaign was Narendra Modi. It was on his face that the BJP and the NDA fought the election. Earlier, it was said that the Congress held the rural vote while the BJP held the urban vote. But this election proved otherwise. Narendra Modi demonstrated — by 'garda uda diya', as they say — that the rural vote is also with us. Both rural and urban votes have come to the BJP. This is a significant message from Bihar. That is why Western media wrote in their newspapers that the massive victory in Bihar sends out one clear message: Narendra Modi is the tallest political leader in India at present, who has no alternative, and who will rule the nation for years to come — one can say even for ten years. You can say that the tremendous victory, the miracle in Bihar, the extraordinary outcome — all of it has sent a wave across villages and cities alike. Just as 'garda uda diya' in Bihar, the same will be repeated in Bengal. They will go to Bengal and 'garda uda' the election there as well.



● Despite emerging as the single largest party in the results, why is the BJP not staking claim to form the government on its own, and why is it once again placing Nitish Kumar in the Chief Minister's chair? Why did the BJP let go of the opportunity to appoint its own Chief Minister in Patna?

Some political compulsions — and the goodwill of Amit Shah and Narendra Modi. Otherwise, naturally, as the single largest party, with 117 seats already and 122 required with the alliance, the BJP could have gone to the Raj Bhavan and requested an invitation to form the government. The Governor would have had no option but to invite the BJP, being the single largest party. The BJP Chief Minister would have taken oath, a show of strength would have followed, and in the meantime four or five people could have joined — as we see in politics these days. But Narendra Modi showed goodwill. Some advisors also believed it was too early to sideline Nitish Kumar; doing so might have boomeranged because of women and economically backward votes. So, a cautious view was taken. Nitish Kumar's longstanding desire to remain Chief Minister at any cost was also a factor — there was a possibility that he might shift elsewhere if denied the post. The BJP took a sensible step, respected

Nitish Kumar, sacrificed some of its own interests, and allowed his coronation to proceed in this manner. But when you say the BJP has lost an opportunity — I do not believe so. It is not a lost opportunity. I firmly believe this is a temporary arrangement. Maybe six months, maybe a year — ultimately there will be a BJP Chief Minister in Patna.



● Do you believe that within this same Assembly term, the BJP will replace Nitish Kumar with its own Chief Minister? One hundred percent. The Assembly term is five years; you will see this happening in less than a year. The reason is clear: the BJP has a dream that in every state of North India, there should be a BJP Chief Minister. Bihar was an exception. Narendra Modi and Amit Shah worked tirelessly to win it and create the conditions for forming the

In the latest offering of The JC Show, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra stresses that Bihar's historic mandate is a testament to Narendra Modi's unmatched charisma and the unique chemistry he forged with Nitish Kumar, enabling the NDA to achieve an unprecedented 202 seats. He opines that despite emerging as the single largest party, BJP chose a cautious and magnanimous approach by allowing Nitish Kumar to take the Chief Minister's chair, though he believes this arrangement is temporary and a BJP Chief Minister in Patna is inevitable within a year. Dr Chandra further notes that women voters, welfare schemes, and Modi's personality cult decisively shaped the election outcome. (Part-I)

government. Now that power is within reach and the Chief Minister's chair is available, how long will they leave it? The party workers in Patna will not tolerate it; the leaders will also start pressing for greater participation in power. The workers no longer want governance through remote control. They do not want Nitish Kumar controlling everything. They want direct control and direct participation in decision-making. So much pressure will come from within that the BJP high command will not be able to withstand it. Eventually, they will have to tell Nitish Kumar — we showed goodwill when the time came, now you must also show goodwill and leave the chair for the BJP's Chief Minister. This is natural. Nitish Kumar has held the post multiple times. Today the BJP has the chance to claim a state that is theirs. Therefore, I am convinced that very soon — maybe within a year — Patna will have a BJP Chief Minister.

● In the new Nitish Kumar government, how many Deputy Chief Ministers do you expect, and what will the shape of the cabinet be? Given the overwhelming support from women and youth, shouldn't at least one Deputy Chief Minister be a woman? The decision about Deputy Chief Ministers will be taken by the BJP — by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. It is not in Nitish

Kumar's hands right now. But one thing appears clear: Samrat, who was earlier Deputy Chief Minister, is being talked about. People say he performed reasonably well, and the caste equation also favours him. So, it is almost certain he will become Deputy Chief Minister. There may be one or two more. In my personal view, at least two Deputy CMs will be appointed, and possibly even three, depending on power balance and formation requirements. But for now, only Samrat's name is prominent. Let us see — in two or three days it will be clear. Regarding your second point — it should happen. The suggestion should reach the leadership. Women definitely deserve it. At least one Deputy Chief Minister should be from the women's category. It is a good suggestion, and perhaps your suggestion will reach the right place and be considered. On merit, the proposal stands strong. Given the massive support from women, there should certainly be one woman Deputy Chief Minister in the cabinet.

● At this stage of his political career, has Nitish Kumar identified his successor? If he were to voluntarily retire today, what options would be available to him? This is a peculiar situation. It appears that the position of the JDU in Bihar may become similar to that of the BJD in

Odisha, where Naveen Patnaik, despite ruling for a very long time, never chose a successor. The party is now leadership-deficient. People within the JDU have often suggested that Nitish Kumar hand over leadership to his son. They have said this many times, but he has not agreed. There are two reasons: First, perhaps the Chief Minister does not want to bring his son into politics. Nitish Kumar's son is around 40 years old, his name is Nishant. When I asked someone what he is doing, I was told he is learning work under Nitish Kumar's nephew Manish, who is the IT head — learning some kind of training, but not directly political. Nitish Kumar is still not ready to declare him as his successor. Last time, I told you two government vehicles had gone to pick him up once, and officers got suspended. Nitish Kumar is maintaining distance very cautiously so that he cannot be accused of promoting family rule. The second aspect is that he does not want to give up power. I do not think Nitish Kumar has any successor plan. He does not seem to have such a vision for the future. Regarding your second question — in politics, there are always many options. He could go to the Rajya Sabha, for example. He would then have two bungalows — one in Patna, one in Delhi. He will remain a hero in Bihar. At one time, during Lalu Prasad's era, Nitish Kumar was the closest

advisor. He has the capacity to make himself flexible. If he goes back to Bihar, he will be considered a hero; he can assume role of a friend, philosopher, and guide. If he shifts to Delhi, he can visit Amit Shah for tea — life will go on. So there are many options. But giving up power is difficult for anyone. Nitish Kumar is no exception.

● Despite Nitish Kumar's 20 years in power, Mahagathbandhan failed to create any major issue or anti-establishment factor against him. How do you view this failure? You are right — it is a failure. If Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi continue fighting among themselves and fail to devise a strategy, then where will they find issues? The second major point is that Nitish's camp claims this was a pro-incumbency election. Even if I call it negative, it was not so negative that people felt strongly about ousting Nitish. After 20 years, people were a little tired and bored, but then welfare schemes arrived — money was transferred into people's accounts. One man from Bihar told me that in his family, there were four women, and they received ₹40,000. For a poor family, ₹40,000 is enough to reduce negative sentiment. I once read somewhere that Bihar seems to be carrying an ancient curse — the land that produced revolutions is not prosperous today.

People of Bihar are very active in politics, but in development, it seems the state is stuck. This is a major challenge before the new double-engine government and especially for PM. Making Bihar a developed and industry-prone state is the biggest agenda. But the anti-government sentiment you mentioned could not fully develop.

● Bihar recorded a historic voter turnout of 67.13%. What is the message behind this?

The message is Women Power. In this election, 2.51 crore women voters and 2.47 crore men voters cast their votes — meaning 4.25 lakh more women voted than men. Interestingly, if you look at the voter list, there are 42 lakh fewer registered women voters compared to men. Yet, despite this gap, women came out to vote in very large numbers. Women voted overwhelmingly in favour of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar. This is a major factor. Another supplementary reason may be that 25% of voters who are non-Dalit usually do not vote in Bihar — neither in Assembly nor in Lok Sabha elections. They have little interest, thinking this is a backward state. Perhaps this time they voted. But the main reasons remain the women factor and Narendra Modi's attraction, leadership, and crowd-pulling capacity.

TO BE CONTINUED...



Click or Scan to watch The JC Show

During the show #JConBiharResult2025 trended top All-India on X

First

JAIPUR, THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2025

DESTINATION WEDDING INSIGHTS!

First India News organised a workshop marking Jaipur's Foundation Day titled "Rajasthan Unveiled: Destination Weddings & Lesser-known Destinations," on Tuesday at Hotel Clarks Amer. **P11-12**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the participants. Also seen are Somya Anand, Muskan Mishree & Chief Mentor Akanksha Bhalla



The stunning participants of Elite Miss Rajasthan 2025 during the final auditions in Jaipur

ELITE MISS RAJASTHAN 2025 DRAWS RECORD-BREAKING TALENT

Elite Miss Rajasthan 2025's second and final audition was held at Pratishtha Banquet, Jaipur, on Wednesday, where over 500 participants from across Rajasthan competed for the coveted crown. City First captured the key moments, showcasing the glamour, talent and inspiration of this prestigious, fee-free state-level beauty pageant, with Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India Newspaper as proud media partners!

Runway of Dreams



Mitali Dusad

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

Rajasthan's one of the most prestigious beauty pageant, Elite Miss Rajasthan 2025, presented by Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India Newspaper successfully concluded its second and final round of auditions at Pratishtha Banquet in Jaipur on Wednesday, in a spectacular manner. With more than 500 participants arriving from different parts of the state, the audition turned into a vibrant celebration of confidence, dreams and rising talent.

Among the aspirants were several young women pursuing demanding professional courses such as medicine, chartered accountancy and engineering, reflecting how the platform had become a preferred destination for ambitious, educated youth.

Each participant displayed remarkable poise and determination, aspiring to wear the coveted Elite Miss Rajasthan crown.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Encouraging the participants, he said, "Elite Miss Rajasthan has emerged as a powerful platform where Rajasthan's daughters transform their confidence into a career. We at Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India News believe in empowering young talents, especially in fashion, entertainment and glamour. I congratulate Gaurav Gaur and his team for giving young women a dignified, fee-free stage to chase their dreams with courage and clarity."

The event also saw the presence of eminent supermodels Akanksha Bhalla, Mitali Kumawat, Nisha Chouhan, Muskan Mishree, Neha Shekhawat, Bhavya Kumawat, Al-firdoush Khan, Pihu Choudhary, Shrishti Khatri, Riya Sulodia and Sneha Sharma, along with several Elite models, whose presence added glamour and mentorship energy to the evening.

Founder-Director Gaurav Gaur shared, "Elite Miss Rajasthan is now recognised as the largest beauty pageant in the state, and we are proud that we do not charge any partici-

tion fee. Looking at the overwhelming response, we organised this second audition in Jaipur. Our mission is to identify raw talent from every corner of Rajasthan and provide them with structured training and national-level exposure."

From various cities across Rajasthan, Top 30 finalists were selected. They were scheduled to receive seven days of intensive, complimentary professional training, preparing them for the grand finale on December 22 at Anant Mahal Resort, Mansarovar and future national platforms.

Reflecting on the journey, mentor Akanksha Bhalla and Elite Miss Rajasthan 2024 winner Nisha Chouhan expressed in a joint statement, "Every year, Elite Miss Rajasthan sets a new benchmark. These girls are not just beautiful faces; they are disciplined, educated and emotionally strong individuals. This pageant is shaping a generation of women who know their worth and are ready to shine on any stage."

The second audition thus not only became a launchpad for Rajasthan's talented young women but also reaffirmed Elite Miss Rajasthan's role in redefining pageantry as a blend of grace, grit and genuine opportunity.



Founder and Director Gaurav Gaur addressing the gathering



(L-R) Jaya Daya, Nisha Chauhan, Akanksha Bhalla & Bhavya Kumawat



Participants Rinky, Rajnandini, Anuradha Panwar and other during the grand audition round



Dy CM Diya Kumari extended a warm greeting to everyone

Pawan Arora addressing the audience



Pawan Arora with (L-R) Mahendra Singh Rathore, Hussain Khan, Pinki Kumari, Nirmal Tiwari, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Siddharth Chaturvedi, Pradeep Bohra, Surendra Singh Shahpura, Rukmani Riar, Rajesh Yadav, Deepraj Singh, Naresh Arora, Sanjay Kaushik, Kuldeep Singh Chandel, Rajendra Singh Pachar and Shalendra Singh Khawda

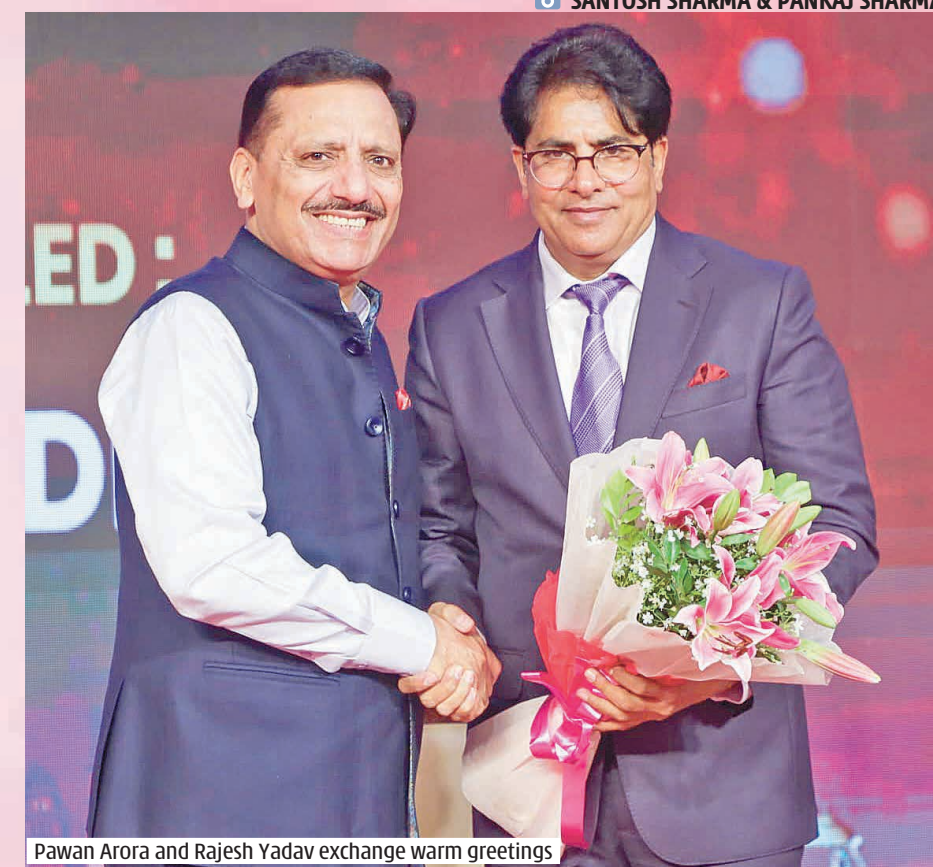
First India News organised a workshop on Wedding Destination on JAIPUR FOUNDATION DAY

Rajasthan

THE NEXT WEDDING FRONTIER



Dy CM Diya Kumari received a floral welcome from Pawan Arora



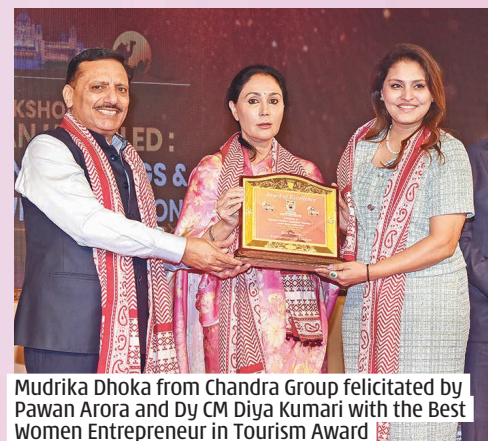
Pawan Arora and Rajesh Yadav exchange warm greetings



Pawan Arora in conversation with Dy CM Diya Kumari



Ratna Kumari from Shahpura Group of Hotels felicitated by Pawan Arora and Dy CM Diya Kumari with the Best Rural Tourism Initiative Award



Mudrika Dhoka from Chandra Group felicitated by Pawan Arora and Dy CM Diya Kumari with the Best Women Entrepreneur in Tourism Award



Dy CM Diya Kumari, Pawan Arora & Rajesh Yadav felicitated Shalendra Singh of Khandwa Haweli with the Best Sustainable Eco-Tourism Project Award



Dy CM Diya Kumari, Pawan Arora and Rajesh Yadav felicitated Anoop Shrivastava from Nahargarh Wax Museum with the Heritage Property Restoration Award

Divya Kanwalia
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

First India News organised a workshop marking Jaipur's Foundation Day titled "Rajasthan Unveiled: Destination Weddings & Lesser-known Destinations," on Tuesday at Hotel Clarks Amer. The

event brought together leading names from Rajasthan's tourism and hospitality sectors. Deputy Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Diya Kumari attended as Chief Guest, along with senior officials including IAS Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Tourism Principal Secretary; Rukmani Riar, Tourism Commissioner; Kuldeep Singh Chandel, President, FHTR; and Gaj Singh Alsisar, IHHA.

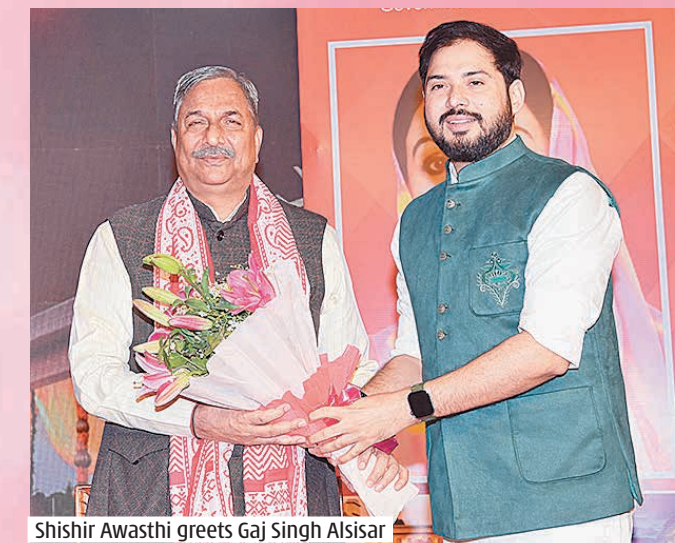
Led by Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, the workshop focused on Rajasthan's booming wedding tourism industry and the potential of unexplored destinations. Panel discussions highlighted both the state's royal appeal and emerging attractions such as wellness retreats, bird sanctuaries, spiritual circuits and one-stop tourism app. The event also honoured notable contributors from the tourism industry with awards.



Pawan Arora and Rajesh Yadav felicitated Manju Singh, Nahargarh, Ranthambore with the Best Heritage Wedding Destination - Luxury Segment Award



Pawan Arora greeted by Nirmal Tiwari



Shishir Awasthi greets Gaj Singh Alsisar



Dy CM Diya Kumari & Pawan Arora felicitated Dhananjay Pachar from Pachar group of Hotels with the Best Creative Wedding Decor Concept



Dy CM Diya Kumari, Pawan Arora and Rajesh Yadav felicitated Anag Deo Singh Mandawa with the Best Travel & Hospitality Promoter of Rajasthan Award



Dy CM Diya Kumari and Pawan Arora felicitated Kuldeep Singh Chandel with the Rajasthan Tourism Icon (Lifetime Contribution Award)



Dy CM Diya Kumari welcomed by Pawan Arora, Divya Kanwalia, Kavita Pant and Moni Sharma



Dy CM Diya Kumari and Pawan Arora felicitated Bhawani Singh, Nagarnagar Meena, Naresh and other members of the Lohargarh group of Hotels with the Best CSR Contribution in Rural or Heritage Tourism



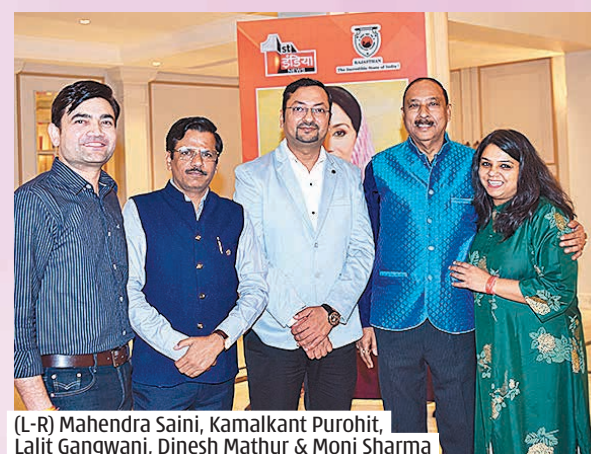
Balendu Singh felicitated by Pawan Arora. Dy CM Diya Kumari & Rajesh Yadav with the lifetime achievement award



Ashish Aman greets Jinendra Singh Shekhawat



Dy CM Diya Kumari, Pawan Arora and Rajesh Yadav felicitated Deepraj Singh of Lakshmi Vilas Palace, Bharatpur with the Best Boutique Wedding Venue - Mid-Segment award



(L-R) Mahendra Saini, Kamalkant Purohit, Lalit Gangwani, Dinesh Mathur & Moni Sharma



Vishal Mathur felicitates Kuldeep Singh Chandel



Jinendra Singh Shekhawat welcomes Rukmani Riar



Dy CM Diya Kumari received a warm welcome from Jinendra Singh Shekhawat. Also seen are Pawan Arora, Shishir Awasthi, Ashish Aman & Karina Sharma



Dy CM Diya Kumari greeted by Shantnu Varshneya & Sanjeev Kumar. Also seen are Pawan Arora, Manish Beniwal, Manjeet Singh Tanwar, Pranjal Jain, Saurabh Aggarwal & Kedar Raghuveer Sharma



Guests received a traditional welcome through the lively Kachi Ghodi dance of Rajasthan



Pawan Arora with (L-R) Shantnu Varshneya, Saurabh Aggarwal, Pooja Kanwalia, Divya Kanwalia, Hemant Sharma, Mukesh Sharma, Simran Mansuri, Nikhil Raj, Pranjal Jain, Karina Sharma, Deepak Bhati, Ashok Raj Singh, Ghanshyam Karol, Iqbal Khan, Lalit Gangwani, Ibrahim, Vishal Mathur, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Chetkar Khan, Narendra, Yash Mathur, Kamalkant Vyas, Vimal Kothari, Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Surendra Saini, Kavita Pant, Shishir Awasthi, Ram Shekhawat, Nirmal Tiwari, Dimple Sharma, Rohitash Kumar, Ashish Aman, Radheshyam Agarwal & Pankaj Goyal



ONE LAKH DEVOTEES TO MARCH FOR GAUMATA'S 'RASHTRA MATA' RECOGNITION

COURTESY MEETING!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was warmly greeted by Shreeyutt Rathore, son of Madan Rathore, State President BJP and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), along with Ankit Jain, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Wednesday. During the interaction, Shreeyutt Rathore extended a formal invitation to Dr Chandra for the wedding ceremony of his younger brother.

A photograph of two men standing together. The man on the left, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, is wearing a brown shirt and a red and white patterned stole. The man on the right, Actor Nirbhay Wadhwa, is wearing a light blue shirt and a green vest. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a blue banner with the text 'LOVE by An A' and a book titled 'LOVE' is visible on a table.

Ayushi Maharshi during the interview with Actor Nirbhay Wadhwa

(L-R) Geeta, Apra Kuchhal, Rajnishi Singhvi, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, JD Maheshwari & Rainu Singh during the lamp lighting ceremony

The sixth edition of the ten-day National Contemporary Miniature Painting Workshop, organised by Kalavrit in collaboration with the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy, brought together 70 painters from states including Maharashtra, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Rajasthan. Held

from November 2 to 12, the workshop encouraged artists to merge traditional miniature techniques with contemporary themes. Kalavrit President Sandeep Sumhendra highlighted his father, Dr Sumhendra's legacy of innovation in Kishangarh-style painting and praised the new generation's creative commitment. Painters of all ages participated, and the five best artworks will be honoured.

