



FIRST INDIA

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Wild Warmth

At Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, tigress ST-30 relaxes as her energetic cubs playfully gather around her, offering a glimpse of tender bonding and a thriving future for the big cats. Third of her cub was also playing nearby. The sight reflects the growing tiger population in the reserve and the success of ongoing conservation and habitat protection efforts. The number of tigers in Sariska has risen to 50 including cubs.

IFS Sangram Singh Katiyar
Field Director, Sariska Tiger Project, Alwar

IN BRIEF



India's Mohammed Siraj celebrates with teammates after dismissing South Africa's Tony de Zorzi on Day 1 of 2nd Test in Guwahati.

HECI Bill to debut in Parl's Winter Session

New Delhi: A bill to create the Higher Education Commission of India will be introduced this winter, replacing UGC, AICTE and NCTE as a single regulator.

Chandigarh Bill trigger's AAP-Cong showdown

New Delhi: Centre plans Amendment Bill to place Chandigarh under L-G via Article 240, sparking strong AAP, Congress backlash over Punjab's claim.

PM Modi's G20 Summit Agenda: Wisdom, security and sustainable inclusive growth

● Our collective goal should be to create 1 million certified trainers in Africa within the next decade, says PM Modi

● He also proposes the setting up of a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team

PTI
Johannesburg

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday urged a rethink of global development benchmarks and stressed inclusive, sustainable growth at the G20 Leaders' Meeting. He proposed a Global Traditional Knowledge Repository and a G20 Healthcare Response Team. Modi also called for a G20 initiative to counter the drug-terror nexus, citing threats like fentanyl. "Integral Humanism offers the way forward," he said, adding: "Let us weaken the wretched drug-terror economy."



PM Narendra Modi attends a plenary session on the opening day of the G20 Summit at Nasrec Expo Centre, in Johannesburg, South Africa, Saturday. Also seen is EAM Dr S Jaishankar & others. PTI

MODI'S WARM EXCHANGES DOMINATE G20 BUZZ

PM Modi shared a lighthearted exchange with Italy's Giorgia Meloni and warm hugs with Brazil's Lula, drawing brief attention on the G20 sidelines in Johannesburg.



INDIA JOINS AUSTRALIA, CANADA IN NEW GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

A new trilateral technology and innovation partnership: Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership. The initiative will deepen collaboration between democratic partners across three continents and three oceans in emerging technologies, support diversification of supply chains, clean energy and mass adoption of AI.

PM MODI'S KEY INITIATIVES AT G20 SUMMIT

- **Global Traditional Knowledge Repository** - A platform documenting eco-friendly, culturally rich practices, with India's knowledge systems as a base, to preserve and share sustainable living models.
- **G20-Africa Skills Multiplier** - A train-the-trainers programme aiming to create one million certified trainers in Africa over a decade to skill millions of youth.
- **Countering the Drug-Terror Nexus** - A G20 initiative to disrupt trafficking, choke illicit finance, and curb terrorism funding linked to synthetic drugs.

Bengaluru ATM Heist: Constable, 2 others held



Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh & senior officials display recovered cash linked to Rs 7.11 cr robbery case in Bengaluru.

Agencies
Bengaluru

The Bengaluru police on Saturday announced the arrest of a police constable and two others, recovering Rs 5.76 crore from the broad-daylight heist in which Rs 7.11 crore was stolen from an ATM cash van on November 19. The arrested include Constable An-

nappa Naik, former CMS employee Xavier, and current staffer Gopi. Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said a six-to-eight member gang is involved, and a multi-state manhunt is underway. The culprits avoided mobile communication, and delayed reporting by CMS staff hampered early tracking.

HIGH-PROFILE FESTIVITIES IN RANAKPUR

Top brass gather for Om Mathur's family wedding

First India Bureau
Ranakpur (Pali)

Ranakpur in Pali has rapidly emerged as a preferred venue for high-profile celebrations, drawing major political attention with the marriage of Komal, granddaughter of Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur. The ceremony at Lal Bagh Resort witnessed a large gathering of VVIPs, reaffirming Mathur's strong influence in Rajasthan's political landscape. The



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with bride Komal, Sikkim Governor Om Mathur and other family members during the gala wedding celebrations in Ranakpur. Also seen are BJP leader Dr Satish Poonia, Cabinet Minister Jogaram Patel, BJP State President Madan Rathore, Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, Dy CM Dr PC Bairwa & BJP leader Rajendra Rathore.

turnout sent a clear message across the Marwar region about his continued goodwill and relevance. Despite holding a constitutional post, Mathur remains organisationally significant,

sparking renewed speculation about a possible return to active politics.

Union Home Minister

Amit Shah, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and several senior leaders attended the event. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath also arrived to bless the couple. Dy CM Diya Kumari, MPs Ghanshyam Tiwari and Manju Sharma, RSS functionary Dr RC Agrawal, ministers Sanjay Sharma, Joram Kumawat & Avinash Gehlot were present, along with Bhagirath Choudhary, Rajendra Rathore, Madan Rathore, Pushpendra S Bali, Pushp Jain, Shrichand Kriplani & Lalchand Kataria. P8



Sikkim Governor Om Mathur warmly greets Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-chief, First India News, as he arrives to attend the wedding of Mathur's granddaughter in Ranakpur on Saturday.

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan congratulates Komal, granddaughter of Sikkim Governor Om Mathur, during the grand wedding celebrations at Lal Bagh Resort in Ranakpur on Saturday. Also seen are Om Mathur, Sagna Mathur and Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade. MUKESH KIRADOO

Police nabbed two involved in robbery at jewellery shop & recovered stolen goods

Vyapar mandal felicitates DCP North for swift robbery probe



First India Bureau
Jaipur

A delegation from the Jaipur Vyapar Mandal on Friday visited the Manak Chowk police station to felicitate DCP North Karan Sharma and his team for their swift and effective action in a recent robbery case. The delegation honoured the officers with garlands and sweets, lauding what they termed an exemplary police operation.

The case relates to a robbery reported on 19 November, in which three security guards of a jewellery showroom were attacked with weapons and the assailants escaped with valuables. Upon receiving the alert,



The accused in police custody in Jaipur on Saturday.

DCP Sharma rushed to the spot and, given the gravity of the incident, formed a special team to expedite the investigation.

According to officials, the case was cracked within four days. The police arrested two suspects

involved in the robbery and recovered the stolen goods. Appreciating the prompt and efficient response, members of the Jaipur Vyapar Mandal visited the station to extend their congratulations to DCP Sharma and his team.

JAIPUR ROBBERY SOLVED IN TWO HOURS: CAR AND CHOW CHOW DOG RECOVERED, ONE HELD

Jaipur: A shocking robbery in Jaipur's Brahmपुरi area saw armed assailants flee with a car and a Chow Chow dog. The police cracked the case within two hours, arresting a woman from Punjab named Navseerat, while two accomplices remain absconding. Police said the gang had earlier attempted a car robbery in Indore before targeting Jaipur. CCTV footage shows the crime was executed in a film-style manner. Thanks to the car's GPS, police traced and intercepted the vehicle on Delhi Road and later in Shahpura. The car and the dog were safely recovered, and interrogation of the arrested accused is underway.

RAJASTHAN LINK EMERGES IN LUDHIANA TERROR ENCOUNTER; SRIGANGANAGAR YOUTH ARRESTED

Jaipur: A possible Rajasthan link has emerged in the recent terror-related encounter in Ludhiana, prompting Lalgarh police to conduct a late-night visit to Takhranwali village in Sriganganagar district. Officers questioned the family members of accused Ramial, who is said to be working as a priest at a local temple. Villagers claim that very few people were aware of any alleged criminal activity associated with him. A youth from Takhranwali has been arrested in Ludhiana following a police encounter. Two youths were detained after the confrontation, and officials allege that both had been in contact with Pakistan-based terrorists. Police recovered hand grenades, a pistol, and cartridges from their possession. Meanwhile, Sriganganagar police have launched their own investigation as more details about the suspected terror network continue to surface.

2 labourers die during 'illegal' mining at riverbed in Bhilwara

First India Bureau
Bhilwara

Two labourers were killed on Saturday after a heap of bajri collapsed on them while they were illegally excavating it from the Kothari riverbed in Bhilwara, police said. The incident occurred near the Kamdhenu Balaji temple, under the Sadar police station area, when a group of workers arrived with a tractor-trolley to collect bajri.

During excavation, a large mound of it caved in, burying two workers — Deepu Singh and Puran Bagariya — under the debris, officials said.

Police rushed to the spot after receiving information and, with the help of a JCB machine, retrieved the bodies after nearly half an hour of effort. Police said further investigation into the illegal mining activity is underway.



CM Sharma's bureaucratic strategy highlights capability-driven governance

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has asserted firm control over both political affairs and the state bureaucracy. The latest IAS reshuffle reflects his strategic and capability-based approach, with officials being assigned roles that match their strengths. Hard-working officers have been given key responsibilities, while the appointment of Akhil Arora to the CMO is seen as a carefully thought-out move. Shikhar Agrawal is set to play a vital role in organising Pravasi Rajasthan Divas and executing MoUs from Rising Rajasthan.

CM Sharma to hold key political review

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma is scheduled to conduct a political review on Tuesday. He will hold discussions at the CM's Residence with key BJP office-bearers & leaders from the Bikaner & Ajmer divisions. The consultations will be held division-wise, covering political issues, organisational matters. The meeting is expected to be significant in shaping upcoming political strategies within the party.

Gehlot meets NSUI workers in Jodhpur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot held a series of meetings with party workers during his day-long visit to Jodhpur on Saturday. NSUI workers, led by district president Dr. Bablu Solanki, met him at the Circuit House and discussed various organisational matters. State General Secretary Om Singh Dewasi, along with Jitendra Kadla, Somraj Bishnoi, Rakesh Khoja and Rajesh Patel, also attended the meeting.

Mines department orders complete paperless functioning; monitoring begins December 1

The Department of Mines will shift entirely to paperless operations for all online modules and mobile application-based tasks related to mining activities starting 15 December. Principal Secretary of Mines, Geology and Petroleum, T. Ravikant, has directed that all departmental officials must operate exclusively through the existing online modules. Monitoring of compliance will begin on 1 December, and after 15 December, all offline work connected to these modules will be strictly prohibited.

Ayushman Bal Sambal Yojana to support Raj's ailing kids

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Rajasthan government is prioritising support for the deprived and vulnerable under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's leadership, with the newly launched Mukhyamantri Ayushman Bal Sambal Yojana emerging as a major relief for children suffering from rare diseases.

Initiated by the chief minister, the scheme offers free treatment and financial assistance of up to Rs 50 lakh for children below 18 years who are diagnosed with rare diseases and cannot afford specialised care. It also provides an additional monthly aid of Rs 5,000 to eligible beneficiaries.

Aligned with the Union Health Ministry's National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, the initiative aims to ensure timely treatment, proper medical support and transparency in the assistance process. The state government has simplified the application and approval procedures to make the scheme easily accessible.

Water dept issues ₹251cr tender for 3 dams on Karai river

First India Bureau
Baran

The Water Resources Department has issued tenders worth Rs 251 crore for constructing three dams on the Karai river in Baran. The company that gets the contract will

have to complete the work within 36 months.

The filling capacity of Kunjay Gated Dam will be 7 MCM, Semri Gated Dam will be 4.10 MCM and Bamangaon Gated Dam will be 3.40 MCM. A total of 5600 hectares of command area will get

water from these three dams. Kota division's Chief Engineer DR Meena said that the dams will be at a height to mitigate the danger of overflow. Thirty-one villages of Shahabad, which have been getting water from anicuts, stand to benefit

from this. Dams will be connected to solar-powered sprinkler irrigation systems. Thirty hectares of land will be acquired for the construction of the dams. More than 10,000 farmer families from 31 villages will get irrigation water.



Candle march for late Amayra



People pay tributes to nine-year-old Amayra during a candle march at Shaheed Smarak, in Jaipur on Saturday. Amaira died after jumping from the fourth floor of Neeraj Modi School on November 1. CBSE has served notice to the school after a probe. **NAIM KHAN**

Choudhary participates in social gatherings in Jayal

First India Bureau
Nagaur

Former PCC member Virender Choudhary visited Jayal on Saturday, where he took part in a series of community events and social gatherings. Choudhary first travelled to Chhajoli to attend a condolence meeting held in memory of Kamla Devi, mother of Mahendrapal and Indraraj Roz. He was accompanied by Nagaur Automobile Director Vijender Choudhary, Jayal Deputy Pradhan Tilok Ram Roz, Bhaira Ram Choyal, former Agriculture Mandi Chairperson Shivdan Fardoda, and Mahendra Kunwar. During the visit, Choudhary also attended



Former PCC member Virender Choudhary attended the wedding ceremony of the nephew of his friend Ravi Patel in Ladnun on Saturday. Also seen are Suresh Choudhary, Ramnarayan Choudhary, Shankar Akash, Ganesharam, and others.

the wedding of the son of Taranu Sarpanch Shaitan Ram, where the same delegates joined him.

Separately, as Director of First India, Choudhary visited Ladnun to attend the wedding ceremony of the nephew of his friend Ravi Patel, a Spain-based resident. The event saw the pres-

ence of Churu MP Rahul Kasba, Jat Mahasabha State President Rajaram Mill, and former Didwana MLA Chetan Dudi, who participated in the mayra ritual.

After concluding his engagements, Choudhary returned to Jaipur following a visit to the Balaji temple.

Chaturvedi's vehicle meets with accident

First India Bureau
Jaipur

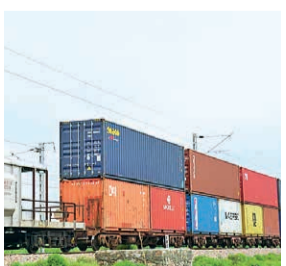
State Finance Commission Chairperson Arun Chaturvedi's official vehicle was severely damaged after a black cow suddenly came in front of it near Beawar. Chaturvedi was returning to Jaipur from a family function of Sikkim Governor Om Mathur when the incident occurred. He escaped without injuries, and authorities are examining the incident.



Railways cross 1 BT freight mark in FY26

Ziauddin Khan
Jaipur

Indian Railways has crossed a major milestone in freight movement, transporting more than one billion tonnes of goods so far in the current financial year 2025-26. According to official data, Railways carried 1,020 million tonnes of freight till November 19, with coal continuing to lead the load share. Coal alone contributed 505 MT, accounting for over half of the total freight moved. Other key commodities



including iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT), containers (59 MT) and raw iron and finished steel (47 MT) also saw robust loading, alongside increased movement of fertiliser and petroleum products. Operational efficiency has also shown improvement.

55-yr-old flyer collapses, dies at Jaipur Airport

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A 55-year-old passenger, Ashok Kumar, died after a sudden medical emergency at Jaipur Airport on Saturday evening. He was scheduled to board an Air India Express flight to Mumbai at 6:45 pm when his health deteriorated inside the terminal. Airport authorities immediately arranged for an ambulance, & the passenger was rushed to EHCC Hospital. However, according to officials, the passenger passed away before reaching the hospital.

PROMOTING POSITIVITY & BONDING

City youths connect with 'Cafe Satsangs'

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A unique 'Cafe Satsang' was organised at The Rope & Roast, C-Scheme by the Art of Living Jaipur on Friday. The program was hosted by city's renowned Dr Saurabh Shekhawat and his team.

Cafe Satsang aims to bring spirituality, live music, bhajans and meditation in a casual, informal and youth-friendly environment. The unique format has become extremely



Participants enjoying the 'Cafe Satsang' at The Rope & Roast, C-Scheme, organised by the Art of Living, Jaipur.

popular among Jaipur's youth over the past few months. Cafe owners Lovely Jain and Aditi Dhaga said that Cafe Satsang

creates an environment of peace, positivity and community bonding among the youth, and we are blessed to host such events.

Cafe Satsang aims to bring spirituality, live music, bhajans and meditation in a casual, informal and youth-friendly environment. The unique format has become extremely popular among Jaipur's youth over the past few months

Over 250 participants of all age groups experienced this unique atmosphere filled with music, peace and spiritual bliss.

The recent Dandiya Special Cafe Satsangs and Cafe Concert Satsangs held in Vaishali Nagar and other areas of the city received tremendous response from the residents. Shekhawat has conducted satsangs at more than 20 renowned cafes, including Been There, Tea Tradition and Akukuu, attracting thousands of young people. The Art of Living team said that many events are planned and a grand event will be held on December 21st—World Meditation Day.

Shift in Judiciary

Raj first in judicial digitisation, says Min Jogaram Patel

Rajasthan to review High Court's request for additional judges

Rajeev Gaur
Jodhpur

The Rajasthan High Court has formally proposed an increase in the number of judges, and the matter is now under consideration by the state government. State Law and Justice Minister Jogaram Patel confirmed the development during a conversation with First India, noting that the govt will take a decision strictly in accordance with established parameters such as case pendency, disposal rates, workload distribution and administrative capacity. He said that any expansion in the sanctioned strength of judges would follow a struc-



FILE

tured review process and the necessary approvals at multiple levels.

Patel added that the government is committed to strengthening the justice delivery system and will take action that ensures more efficient

adjudication for the people of Rajasthan.

Addressing the long-standing public demand for establishing High Court benches in Bikaner and Udaipur, Patel said the landscape of judicial access has fundamentally

changed. With the courts in Rajasthan adopting digital technology at an unprecedented scale, he explained that the necessity of physical benches has significantly diminished. Rajasthan is the first state in the country

to implement such comprehensive digitisation in its judicial processes.

He said virtual hearing facilities have now made justice more accessible to litigants, who can participate in proceedings without travelling long distances or incurring heavy costs. This, he added, has broadened the reach of the judicial system and ensured that citizens from even remote districts can approach Court seamlessly.

Patel reaffirmed that the state government remains fully committed to enhancing judicial efficiency, expanding digital infrastructure and ensuring that justice becomes swift, transparent and accessible for all.

Bus carrying baraat catches fire; 1 woman seriously injured

First India Bureau
Dholpur

A sleeper bus carrying a wedding procession caught fire after coming in contact with high-tension power lines. A passing female shepherd sustained severe burns. The incident occurred in the Rajakheda police station area of Dholpur district on Saturday. A female shepherd Bhagwan Devi was seriously injured. After first aid, she was referred to Agra. Five to six goats also died due to electrocution.

SHO Gambhir Singh said that on Saturday at 5:15 pm, a sleeper bus came in contact with a high-tension power line in Samona village of the police station area, causing it to catch fire. The fire was brought under control within 30 minutes.

SC reprimands Raj police

SC directs DGP to form SIT; submit key report

First India Bureau
Jaipur/New Delhi

The Supreme Court has expressed strong displeasure over what it termed the negative action of the Rajasthan Police and directed the state DGP to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and submit a report within two days.

The court passed the order while hearing a plea seeking transfer of a contempt petition from Rajasthan to Delhi. The petition was filed over the alleged non-compliance of a Rajasthan High Court order directing the state government to provide security to Sitwat Qazi. During the hearing, the SC delivered strong remarks against the conduct of the Raj Police, observing that the force had shown a "casual and

evasive approach" in complying with court-ordered security directions. The bench further noted that there appeared to be deliberate attempts to shield a Maharashtra Police official allegedly linked to the matter.

The petitioner had approached the Supreme Court after the Rajasthan HC's order directing protection was not implemented on the ground. The petitioner requested the proceedings against the police officials be transferred to Delhi.

Centre clears acquisition of land for Jpr Ring Road

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Centre has approved land acquisition for the Jaipur Ring Road (North), paving the way for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to begin the process across several rural pockets of Jaipur district. According to the notification issued by NHAI, land from 25 villages of Jamwaramgarh tehsil will be acquired. The acquisition will also cover parts of Chomu, Amer and Bassi areas. The proposed route of the Ring Road North section will span 99.35 km.

Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan

Congress appoints 45 new district heads in Rajasthan

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Congress on Saturday appointed 45 Presidents of the District Congress Committees of Rajasthan with immediate effect. These appointments are made as part of the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan. Under this initiative, AICC Observers assigned to each district conducted detailed reviews, engaged with party functionaries and other stakeholders, and submitted their comprehensive reports.

Following the submission of these reports, one-to-one discussions were held with each Observer, as well as with senior leaders. The new appointees include Vikas Chaudhary from



Ajmer Rural, Dr. Rajkumar Jaipal from Ajmer City, Shishupal Singh Nim as the Pali Dist President. Prakash Gangawat in Alwar, Priyanka Meghwal in Balotra, Arjun Singh Bamaniya in Banswara, Laxman Singh Godara in Barmer, Kishore Chaudhary from Beawar, Dinesh Singh Supa from Bharatpur, Ramlal Jat from Bhilwara Rural, Shivram Khatik from Bhilwara City, Kishore Chaudhary of Beawar, MLA Rupinder Singh Kunnar in Sriganganagar, and Saud Saidi in Tonk.

Sectoral talks to drive new ideas, new ties at PRD 25

First India Bureau
Jaipur

As Rajasthan gears up for 'Pravasi Rajasthani Divas' 2025, a series of sectoral sessions across key areas like Industries, Tourism, Water, Health, Education, Energy, Mines and a dedicated NRR Roundtable are being organised to bring fresh ideas, new collaborations, and a shared vision for the state's future. The Sectoral Session on Industries stands out as a powerful platform where members of the community will come together to unlock new opportunities.



PRAVASI RAJASTHANI DIVAS
10 DEC 2025 + JAIPUR

Election dept eases BLO duties; no extra burden

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Election Department has launched a major initiative to reduce work-related stress on Booth Level Officers (BLOs) by appointing additional BLOs and information assistants during the ongoing special summary revision.



The move comes after the suicide of one BLO and the death of another, which had triggered

political allegations and counter-allegations. The decision was taken with sensitivity so that workload on BLOs can be eased.

Under the special summary revision being conducted from Nov 4 to Dec 4, BLOs are required to distribute forms and carry out door-to-door verification. District collectors

have been instructed to appoint support staff to assist them. Taking into account the upcoming half-yearly school examinations, the Election Department has also directed that school teachers should not be burdened with additional duties. It said teachers' academic work should not be affected.

Bolly, global icons gather at Mantena wedding; Udaipur City Palace lights up

First India Bureau
Udaipur

The high-profile wedding celebrations of US-based industrialist Raju Ramalinga Mantena's daughter continued in full swing here as a star-studded sangeet ceremony lit up the Manak Chowk of City Palace.

Vamsi Gadiraju will tie the knot with Netra Mantena today. On Saturday, the wedding procession left for Rameshwar Ghat from Badi Pal Jetty. The wedding guests danced to the songs of Punjabi singer Sukhbir and the tunes of the band. Then as the evening approached, the mehendi ceremony started at Manak Chowk.

The wedding will take place at Jagmandir on the morning of November 23, followed by a reception in the evening. Guests will depart on chartered flights from Dabok airport on November 24.

TRUMP JR. RECEIVES TRADITIONAL WELCOME FROM LAKSHYARAJ SINGH



Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar welcomes Donald Trump Jr. and other guests to the City Palace with a ceremonial bouquet in Udaipur.



Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar presents a traditional Mewari memento to Donald John Trump Jr. at Udaipur City Palace.

Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar met the son of US president Donald Trump, Donald John Trump Jr. and American businessman Raju Mantena, at the Udaipur City Palace. The two are in Lake City to attend a wedding. The meeting lasted for about half-an-hour. Lakshyaraj hosted Trump Jr., his girlfriend Bettina Anderson and Raju Mantena in Mewari tradition and they discussed Mewar's history and culture and global issues. Trump Jr. was deeply impressed by the bravery of Mewar's historical figures, including Maharana Kumbha, Maharana Sanga and Maharana Pratap. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar introduced Trump Jr. to the culture of Mewar and presented the guests with mementoes from the Mewar region, which the latter described as special and memorable.




BUILD STRONG



NEVER TOO OLD TO PLAY: INDIA'S 70+ CRICKETERS KEEP THE GAME ALIVE



Siddhaarth Mahan

The author is a prolific sports writer, presenter and creates digital sports programs. He brings a storyteller's touch for the game's deeper narratives.

Cricket has always been more than a sport in India. It is a spirit, a memory, a lifelong companion. For most people, the dream of wearing national colours blooms in childhood and fades somewhere along the way, surrendered to the practicalities of age. But every now and then, cricket reminds us that age is just a number, and that the pride of representing your country does not dull with the passing of years. Sometimes, that childhood dream waits patiently and returns when you are seventy!

It was that rare, heartwarming chapter that unfolded in Lonavala this month, far from the noise of international cricket. While the spotlight stayed fixed on India-South Africa and the Ashes, something quieter yet deeply meaningful was taking shape. On a modest ground in the hills, India's Over-70s cricket ecosystem took an important step toward the 2026 World Cup in New Zealand. No buzzing media tent, no blinding floodlights, just a group of men who have lived full lives, raised families, built careers, yet still chase a cricket ball with the urgency of teenagers.

Veterans Pro Cricket International (VPCI), the global body shaping senior cricket's future, held its selection camp at the SPJ Ground, assessing 22



veteran cricketers from India and around the world. They gathered not for nostalgia, but for competition, the Over-70s World Cup, to be held in Christchurch from February 17 to March 5, 2026. With the Macwise Group stepping in as title sponsor, the campaign stands as proof that the competitive fire of cricket is not extinguished by age; it merely changes form.

The squad at the trials was remarkably diverse and widely travelled. Former club cricketers, state veterans, NRIs, British Indians, and senior pros from the USA and Canada all came in with one common purpose: to show they could still perform at the highest level available to them. Keith Alexander, a wicketkeeper-batter based in the UK, set the tone with a composed 62 off 85 in the first pink-ball game. All-rounders like Hemachandran Nair and Vasudevan Kalpathy impressed with both bat and ball, while pacers such as Parmjit Jaggi and Raman Krishna Iyer showed that even at 70, a good outswinger still has menace.



The two trial matches were anything but ceremonial. Team A, led by Alexander, took the opening contest while Team B responded in the second match with a tight, hard-fought win under the leadership of Chandrasekharan P. S. There were tactical discussions, arguments

over field placements, small celebrations for dot balls, the kind of intensity you expect in a Ranji trial, not from men in their seventies.

But beneath the competitive edge lay something deeper. For VPCI and Macwise, this World Cup is not just another tourna-

ment; it is a celebration of longevity, fitness, community and identity. It is a reminder that cricket does not belong only to the young and globally marketed stars. It equally belongs to the generation that watched matches on black-and-white televisions, and still lifts a bat

with the same joy they felt five decades ago.

Through its structured Over-40s, Over-50s, Over-60s and Over-70s programmes, VPCI has built pathways for senior athletes to represent India internationally. For those who missed the bus in their youth, these categories offer a second doorway to a long-cherished dream. Whether you are in your forties, fifties or pushing into your seventies, cricket's tricolour remains within reach. Few sports in the world offer such a possibility, and fewer still offer it with this level of professionalism, and international exposure.

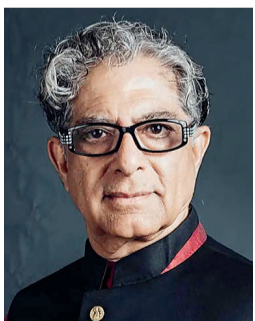
The memories of the 2024 World Cup, however, add a layer of determination. India endured a challenging run, six matches, six defeats against New Zealand, England, Australia, Sri Lanka, Canada and Wales. That campaign has shaped a more rigorous approach this time: better fitness routines, planned acclimatisation for New Zealand's conditions, and a renewed emphasis on role clarity.

Players flew in from the UK, USA, and Canada, joining seniors from Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Delhi, Mumbai and Kerala. Some had not played competitive cricket in decades. Others still turn up for league matches every weekend. But everyone arrived with the same spark, a chance to compete again, to belong to a team again, to rediscover a version of themselves they thought time might have taken away.

With the final squad announcement approaching, preparations will enter the next phase. All matches will be broadcast on VPCI's YouTube channel, where a growing community follows this extraordinary journey.

In a sporting world obsessed with youth, speed and spectacle, the Over-70s team offers a gentle yet powerful reminder that cricket never stops belonging to you, no matter how old you are. And sometimes, dreams don't expire, they simply arrive on a different timeline!

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



Deepak Chopra

The writer is MD, FACP, FRCP founder of the Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global

At one time or another, everyone experiences the modern version of fear, which is anxiety. Anxiety disorders affect millions worldwide, costing billions in treatment and lost productivity. Yet, the real solution may not lie in a pill—but in the power of awareness. Modern fear doesn't

Healing Modern Fear: How awareness can overcome anxiety

come from wild animals or physical threats like it did for our ancestors. Instead, it creeps in through chronic stress, worry, insomnia, and distraction. Left unchecked, these symptoms can build into debilitating anxiety.

The way we respond to this modern fear determines how creative, fulfilled, and content our lives can be. Medication can help temporarily, but when the drug wears off, anxiety often returns. What if the answer lies within us—through awareness?

We need a better way to face modern fear and its daily emotional cost. The answer lies with the aspect of the human mind that can heal fear: awareness. Once you realize that awareness can heal fear, you can assume the role of self-healer, which is empowering. Modern everyday fear certainly does not pose the threats that war, violence, and natural disasters do, but it still makes people feel weak and helpless.

Awareness is the antidote to fear. It empowers us to become self-healers rather than victims



of anxiety. Awareness comes in three forms, each offering a path to healing:

- Rationality
 - Self-awareness
 - Interoception (awareness of the body from the inside)
- Let's explore each.

1. Rationality: Asking the Right Questions

The human brain reacts first and thinks second. When anxiety strikes, fear often enters before reason. To counter this,

- start with rational questions:
 - Am I really in danger?
 - Do I need this anxious thought?
 - Do I want this anxious feeling?
 - Is this just a familiar response from the past?
- Almost always your rational mind can see that you aren't in danger, you don't need to feel afraid, and anxious thoughts are relics from the past. Having made this assessment, you can face the anxious thought or

feeling and say, "I no longer need you."

Repeat this statement to yourself silently if the anxious thought persists. If it does, don't force anything. Ignore the anxious impulse and do whatever you are doing. Let the low-level anxious impulse fade away. Over time, this practice weakens anxiety's grip.

When you ask these questions, you are remaining present with an anxious thought/feeling without giving in to it.

This puts you in a more powerful position. Anxiety is largely a learned response left over from the past. When faced with a challenge in our past, almost always beginning in childhood, anxiety gained control because we favored timidity, avoidance, denial, passivity, running away, feeling weak, and adopting the attitude that there was no one there to help.

These behaviors and attitudes aid fear in taking root.

As a child it isn't possible to bring reason in to change things. (There is also the dam-

aging input of other people, particularly in a dysfunctional family, and the possibility of early traumas.)

Now you are an adult and can confront each of these elements. This is done when you feel calm, not when you are afraid. It also helps to have a close sympathetic confidant to talk to. Take each of the allies of fear listed above, and write down how much it affects you today and how you can reasonably begin to change.

2. Self-Awareness: Making Conscious Choices

Fear thrives in unconscious reactions—denial, avoidance, running away. Self-awareness brings these patterns into the light. Whenever anxiety appears you have a choice to be aware of it and feel it. Running away or going into denial are unconscious choices that perpetuate the fear. The more consciously you choose, the more empowered you become.

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RS chief reconstitutes Vice-Chairpersons panel ahead of Winter Session

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday reconstituted the Panel of Vice-Chairpersons ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament. The new panel, which will come into effect from November 21, includes Dinesh Sharma, Bhubaneswar Kalita, S Phangnon Konyak and M. Thambidurai.

Rajani Ashokrao Patil, BJD MP Sasmit Patra and DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, will also be part of the panel. The vice chairpersons are eligible to preside over the house in the absence of the chairman or the deputy chairman. The Winter Session of Parliament, which is scheduled to be held from December 1 to 19, will be the first Parliament session under the chairmanship of Vice President CP Radhakrishnan.



Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan, Deputy Chairman Hariwansh and Secretary General P K Mody to discuss preparations for the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament. **FILE**

CP Radhakrishnan was elected as the Vice President and ex officio chair-

man of the Rajya Sabha following the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar

BILL ON CIVIL NUCLEAR SECTOR AMONG 10 PROPOSED LEGISLATIONS PLANNED FOR PARL

A bill seeking to open up the civil nuclear sector for private players is among the 10 new proposed legislations listed by the government for introduction in the winter session of Parliament. As per Lok Sabha bulletin, the proposed law seeks to set up a Higher Education Commission of India to facilitate universities and other higher educational institutes to become independent and self-governing institutions and to promote excellence through a robust and transparent system of accreditation and autonomy. It has long been on the government's agenda. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, also listed for introduction, seeks to ensure faster and transparent land acquisition for national highways.

due to health issues during the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that

the winter session of Parliament will be held from December 1 to 19.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh has made it clear that the Opposition will raise the issue of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Along with it, Jairam Ramesh said, "Prime Minister's silence on Trump's statements, relationship with China, among other issues."

"There hasn't been a border agreement with China. We haven't re-

turned to the previous situation. Negotiations are being held between the two countries based on the new normal that China has established. So, there are many such issues regarding the economy, the rate of economic growth, GDP, unemployment is a major issue. There is no shortage of issues. We keep issuing notices again and again, but no action is ever taken on them. The government does whatever it wants," he said.

In Bihar Ace shooter aims high, becomes youngest minister

First-time minister Singh takes charge of IT, Sports

ANI

Patna (Bihar)

Janata Dal (United) MLA Ashok Choudhary on Saturday took charge as the Minister for the Rural Works Department in Bihar. Choudhary was re-appointed as the minister after the NDA's landslide victory in the Bihar Assembly polls.

BJP Shreyasi Singh, a new face in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's cabinet, also took charge as the Bihar IT Minister.

Shreyasi Singh said, "This department, which I've assumed charge of today, is a favourite department of PM Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and CM Nitish Kumar. We will work beyond our 100 per cent capacity."

Along with the IT department, Shreyasi Singh has also been allocated the Sports department.



BJP's Shreyasi Singh, a new face in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's cabinet, took charge as the Bihar IT Minister.



Bihar Deputy CM and State Home Minister Samrat Chaudhary at the BJP office, in Patna, Saturday.

SEVERAL MINISTERS ASSUME CHARGE OF RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS

- Nitish Kumar gave up the Home department to the ally BJP. Samrat Choudhary, the Deputy Chief Minister and a BJP leader, has been given charge of the Home department.
- CM Kumar has retained the General Administration Department (GAD), Cabinet Secretariat, Vigilance, Election, and other departments not allocated to any minister.
- Vijay Kumar Sinha, Deputy CM and BJP MLA, will oversee the Land and Revenue departments, along with Geology and Mines.
- Mangal Pandey, BJP MLA from Siwan, has retained the Health department and has been allocated the Law department. Bihar BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal has been allocated the Industries department.
- BJP MLA Nitin Nabin has taken charge of the Roads and Urban departments. Arun Shankar Prasad of the BJP will take charge of the Tourism department, along with the Art, Culture, and Youth department. Ramkrishna Yadav of the BJP will oversee the Agriculture department.
- BJP's Lakhendra Kumar Raushan and Sanjay Singh 'Tiger' will oversee the SC/ST welfare and Labour resources departments, respectively.



SIR: BJP slams CM Mamata for 'politics of appeasement'

PTI
New Delhi

The BJP on Saturday claimed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is raising objections to the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls and engaging in politics of appeasement as she senses imminent defeat of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) in the assembly polls next year.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed Banerjee is "scared" of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) because it will expose the "infiltrators" that the ruling TMC has "nurtured" as its vote bank in the state. "When the news came on various TV channels that the infiltrators were returning to their country... Mamata Banerjee appeared sad, worried and deeply distressed," Bhatia said.

'Sardar Patel's contribution ignored by Congress leaders'



BJP National President JP Nadda during the Unity March marking 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, in New Delhi, Saturday. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj and others are also seen. **PTI**

PTI
New Delhi

BJP president **JP Nadda** on Saturday hailed the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting the country and alleged that India's first Deputy Prime Minister did not receive the honour he "truly deserved" in history for four decades after Independence due to the Congress' "conspiracy".

If anyone has placed Sardar Patel in the "correct and rightful place" in the country's history, it's

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nadda said.

The BJP chief made these remarks here at an event after flagging off '@150 Unity March' to mark the birth anniversary of Patel, who also served as India's first Home Minister.

Nadda said, "The British wanted India to remain weak and divided. We got freedom from that mindset as well. Our nation was divided into 562 princely states. We stayed under foreign rule because we were separated."

Sardar Patel united

these states within two years, weaving them together into one nation, he said. "He transformed a divided land into a strong and united India -- 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. But, unfortunately, the respect that he deserved in history and in the country was ignored by the Congress leaders for malicious and self-serving reasons during Congress rule," Nadda said.

"Conspiracies were hatched to ensure he does not receive the respect he deserved in history," Nadda charged.

Books not only source of knowledge but also medium for personality devp: Shah

Agencies

New Delhi/Ahmedabad

Highlighting the role of books in personality development, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Saturday distributed books to children and visited various stalls at the Ahmedabad International Book Fair.

Shah said that books are not only a source of knowledge but also an important medium for personality development. He said, today, I distrib-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Ahmedabad International Book Festival 2025, in Ahmedabad, Saturday. **PTI**

uted books to children and visited various stalls at the Ahmedabad International Book Fair organised by AMC and National Book Trust (NBT).

Civic Polls: Cong divided over tie-up with MNS

PTI
Mumbai

The Congress in Maharashtra appeared divided on allying with the MNS in the upcoming local body polls, with the grand old party's senior leader Vijay Wadetiwar favouring a united contest.

On Saturday, Wadetiwar referred to NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's statement underlining the importance of Opposition unity for defeating the BJP.

2026 polls: Congress appoints 5-member panel for seat-sharing talks with DMK

Agencies
New Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has constituted a 5-member committee to hold seat-sharing parleys with DMK for the 2026 Assembly election, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee President K Selvaperunthagai said on Saturday. The Congress team tasked to hold talks with the ruling DMK will be led by party in-charge for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Girish



Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Chodankar, the TNCC top leader said.

Selvaperunthagai and legislature party leader S Rajeshkumar will be part

of the panel. Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram welcomed the party brass appointing the committee and said this

would strengthen the INDIA bloc's unity. The Congress veteran said he believed that this announcement would bring to an end some claims regarding alliance.

Chidambaram's statement assumes significance as claims had been made on and off that the Congress party may dump the DMK and join hands with the actor-politician Vijay-led Tamizhaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) to face the 2026 Assembly polls.

MURMU AT BIRTH CENTENARY PROGRAMME IN ANDHRA

Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired millions of people: Prez

PTI

Puttaparthi (AP)

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday said revered spiritual leader Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired millions of people to follow the path of selfless service.

Addressing the birth centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba, the President said Sathya Sai Baba propagated the belief that 'Service to Mankind is Service to God'. "He linked spirituality with selfless service and



President Droupadi Murmu during the birth centenary celebrations of Sathya Sai Baba, at Puttaparthi in Sri Sathyasai district, Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday. **PTI**

personal transformation. Sai Baba inspired millions to follow the path of service," said Murmu. According to the Pres-

PRESIDENT MURMU TO LEAD CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT CENTRAL HALL

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu will lead Constitution Day celebrations in the historic Central Hall of the old Parliament building on Wednesday. Besides the president, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will also attend the event, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said. Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas is observed to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. While some of the provisions of the Constitution came into force immediately, the rest came into effect on January 26, 1950 when India became a republic. Before 2015, the day was observed as Law Day.

tees in so many countries serving the underprivileged, she said, adding that Sri Sathya Sai Baba's message of self-

less love through selfless service is inspiring the Sri Sathya Sai organisation to volunteer for service. Sathya Sai Baba's

message-- love all and serve all and help ever and hurt never-- are eternal and universal. Sathya Sai Baba viewed the world as a school in which the five human values of truth, good conduct, peace, love and non-violence form the core curriculum, said the President.

The President said since ancient times our saints and sages have guided the society through their actions and words undertaking numerous initiatives for public welfare.

'Lotus will bloom again': Yadav on 2027 UP polls

PTI
Amethi



Aparna Yadav

Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission Vice Chairperson Aparna Yadav on Saturday dismissed the Samajwadi Party's PDA pitch, asserting that the BJP will counter it decisively and return to power with a full majority in the 2027 assembly elections.

The yatra was part of a series of events organ-

ised by the party to mark Patel's 150th birth anniversary this year.

Expressing confidence that "the lotus will bloom" wherever elections are held in the country, she added, "Our intentions are clear, every BJP worker works 365 days a year for the people and for the nation."

In Delhi Foreign pistols, Turkiye-made guns, cartridges seized

Pak-linked arms racket busted; four arrested

Agencies
New Delhi

In a breakthrough against transnational criminal networks, the Delhi Police Crime Branch dismantled a major international arms trafficking module with direct links to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The operation led to the arrest of four key operatives of the interstate arms smuggler's module and the seizure of a substantial cache of sophisticated foreign-made weapons intended for illicit distribution. The operation was conducted by a team led by DCP Sanjeev Kumar Yadav.

Cops confirmed that the weapons were smuggled into the country from Pakistan using drones, indicating a highly modern and concerning method of cross-border infiltration. "The seized consignment includes 10 high-end foreign-made semi-automatic pistols along with 92 live cartridges," Special CP (Crime) Devesh Srivastava said.

Of particular concern among the recovered firearms is the Turkiye-made PX-5.7 pistol, a high-end weapon known to be exclusively utilised by special forces, underscoring the serious nature



The police arrested four key members of the gang, including a wanted criminal, Mandeeep, of Punjab, and two of his close aides, Rohan and Monu, both from Uttar Pradesh.

'SUPPLIED ARMS TO GANGS; DRONES DELIVERED WEAPONS ACROSS BORDER'

Addressing a press conference, Joint CP Surender Kumar on Saturday said the police busted an ISI-backed arms trafficking syndicate and seized five Turkish-made pistols and three Chinese-made pistols. The first arrest in the case was made on November 19 after investigators learned that a weapons delivery was planned in Delhi's Rohini. Officers laid a trap and apprehended the suspect. The police official revealed that Mandeeep, the first accused arrested, is a known member of the Sonu Khatri gang in Punjab and was in touch with a Pakistan-based handler. The smugglers allegedly relied on drones to deliver weapons across the border. "The location is sanitized and then the drone drops the weapons," Kumar said. Police said eight weapons were earlier dropped in Punjab before being transported to designated coordinates in Delhi for handover to local gang operatives. Further arrests are expected.

and intended use of the trafficked arms.

The module was also found to be smuggling the China-made PX-3 pistol, further highlighting the diverse international ori-

gins of the weaponry being channelled by the ISI-linked network. "The arrests and seizures are expected to provide critical leads in tracing the full extent of the network's

Delhi and the NCR have been on alert since the November 10 Red Fort blast, in which a suicide bomber exploded a car on a busy road near the capital's iconic Red Fort. Two days later, the government termed it a terrorist act

operations, its forward and backward linkages, and the individuals or groups who were the ultimate intended recipients of these deadly weapons," Joint CP Surender Kumar said. The successful operation marks a major blow to the cross-border smuggling of sophisticated firearms intended to destabilise the region.

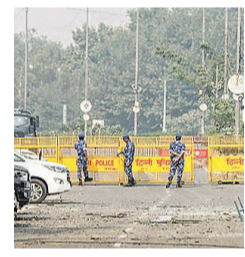
Delhi Blast Probe: Terror doctor makes major revelation

Agencies
New Delhi

The Delhi blast investigation has uncovered a Jaish-linked white-collar terror module's plan for serial blasts across Indian cities. One accused revealed the conspiracy was hatched in 2023. The Red Fort i20 blast, which killed 13, was a panic detonation.

Dr. Muzammil Shakeel, associate of suicide bomber Umar Mohammad, told the NIA he had been preparing for two years, procuring explosives, remotes, urea, ammonium nitrate, and 26 quintals of NPK fertilizer from Haryana. Electronic components were bought from Faridabad, and a deep freezer used to store chemicals.

The module self-funded the plot, raising Rs 26 lakh, with Umar contributing Rs 2 lakh toward purchasing explosive materials.



'Under influence of a cyclonic circulation'

IMD: Low pressure area formed in Bay of Bengal



A train runs amid low visibility due to a layer of smog, in Gurugram, Saturday.

PTI

Bhubaneswar

A low-pressure area has formed over the Bay of Bengal, and it is likely to intensify into a depression around November 24, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Saturday.

"Under the influence of a cyclonic circulation, a low-pressure area has formed near the Malacca Strait over the South Andaman Sea. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining south Andaman Sea around November 24, 2025," the IMD said in a special bulletin.

The weather office also said that the system

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that the government is making continuous efforts to control pollution and launched a drive to distribute 10,000 electric heaters to watchmen of RWAs to prevent wood or coal burning during winter.

With Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) remaining in the 'very poor' range, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has announced that certain measures from Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will now be implemented under Stage 3.

(possible depression) is likely to move west-northwestwards and is very likely to intensify further over southwest Bay of Bengal during

subsequent 48 hours.

Though the IMD scientists are uncertain whether the low-pressure system will develop into a cyclonic storm, they said the weather agency will update people well ahead of the formation of any system.

Anticipating heavy rains in coastal and southern regions of the state, the people have resorted to harvesting paddy crops, which are almost mature. However, the state Agriculture department was yet to issue any advisory for farmers, an official said.

Meanwhile, the director of Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, Manorama Mohanty, said that the low-pressure area is at a very long distance from the Odisha coast.

Yogi orders crackdown amid SIR; illegal immigrants in focus

UP to find infiltrators, keep them in detention centres

Agencies
New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has directed all district magistrates to take swift and stringent action against illegal immigrants. Reiterating that law and order, national security, and social harmony remain his administration's top priorities, he said no form of illegal activity would be tolerated.

"The chief minister has directed that each district administration ensure the identification of illegal immigrants liv-



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit to Prayagraj on Saturday. UP Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Dev Singh and others are also seen.

PTI

ing in their area and initiate action as per the rules," the statement

read, according to news agency PTI. "The chief minister has also directed

that temporary detention centres be established in each district to house in-

filtrators," it added.

As per the statement, illegal immigrants holding foreign citizenship will be kept in these centres until the required verification process is completed.

Adityanath said those held in the detention facilities will be deported to their countries of origin following established procedures. This comes at a time when a nationwide SIR is being carried out in 12 states and union territories, including Uttar Pradesh, with the final elector's list to be published on Feb 7, 2026.

FI TOON

Prashant Kishor will meet only those who pay ₹1,000



SHEKHAR

STOCK MARKET ANALYSIS

The journey of setting new records in the rally begins again



Vimal Kothari

Associate Editor, First India News & Senior Journalist

The stock markets remained buoyant during the past week. The benchmark indices of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE)

have reached very close to their previous record highs. It is now expected that this week the BSE will cross its highest level of 85,978.25 and the NSE will cross its highest level of 26,277.37 points and attempt to set new records. BSE and NSE indices created these records on 27 September 2024, but thereafter they began to decline for various reasons.

Technical experts say that due to a fall in inflation data, positive trends regarding the India-US trade agreement, an increase in jobs in the US, and a reduction in expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Bank, there are broad

possibilities of continued gains in both Indian benchmark indices. However, the direction of international markets will play a major role. If, for any reason, there is a decline in global markets or profit-booking begins, then a fall in Indian markets is certain, and investors will have to wait longer for the indices to surpass their previous records. But investors who are investing in fundamentally strong companies with a strategic approach will remain unaffected by any correction in the market, although they too must focus on selling shares at their predetermined targets to book profits.



FILE

During the week ending last Friday, the BSE index gained 669.14 points (0.79%) and closed at 85,231.92 points, while the NSE Nifty index rose by 158.10 points (0.61%) and also closed at 26,068.15 points. On a weekly basis, the improvement seen in the stock market appeared weak in the midcap and smallcap indices for the

second consecutive week, which cannot be considered good from the market's perspective.

Due to the improvement in Indian markets and future prospects, foreign institutional investors (FII) have slowed their selling, but even last week the selling continued, and they made net sales of ₹188.33 crore. Meanwhile, domestic institutional in-

vestors (DII) bought shares worth ₹12,969.03 crore during this period, which is nearly ten times the FII selling.

Talking about the bullion market, speculative activity at the international level also affected gold and silver prices, resulting in fluctuations in both metals. In the Jaipur market, 24-carat gold rose by ₹1,000 per 10 grams from last Saturday's ₹1,26,500 per 10 grams to reach ₹1,27,500 per 10 grams, while silver fell by ₹1,300 per kg from ₹1,59,800 per kg to reach ₹1,58,500 per kg. Regarding consumer buying, jewellers say that wedding season purchases are satisfactory, and if

gold and silver prices remain stable, an improvement in consumer demand may be expected.

Regarding the future trend of the market, stock traders say that the possibilities of further improvement are continuously increasing, but a section remains concerned due to the recent decline in the value of the rupee compared to the dollar and the distressed state of the Japanese economy. This week will also see the monthly derivatives expiry in the futures market, which may create some pressure on the market, but it could also prove to be a buying opportunity for long-term investors.

In the current situation, from an investment perspective, stock traders consider companies such as Reliance, GMR, L&T, Indian Hotel, Parag Mills, Fortis, Max Healthcare, State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Federal Bank, Travel Food, Mid-West, Vikrant Engineering, Lenskart, BHEL to be safe investments, but if the market declines further for any reason, a fall in these companies cannot be ruled out.

Meanwhile, in the IPO market this week, one company on the mainboard and three companies on the SME platform will open their IPOs.

— These are the author's personal views.

UN chief Guterres urges G20 to use power to ease hardship

Guterres urges G20 to show real leadership and steer the world toward lasting peace

PTI

Johannesburg

The G20 nations hold enormous potential to ease suffering and set the world on a more peaceful course, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, urging the bloc to lead the action required.

Guterres made the remarks at a media briefing shortly after arriving in Johannesburg on Friday to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit for the next two days. "My message to G20 leaders over the next two days is simple. Now is the time for leadership and vision," Guterres said as he cited conflicts, climate chaos, economic uncertainty, inequality and a collapse in global aid as causes of inflicting massive suffering



UN chief Antonio Guterres urges G20 leaders in Johannesburg summit to ease global hardship and drive progress.

around the world.

He added that rising military spending is drawing resources away from development. "As the world's largest economies, the G20 nations can hold enormous influence to ease suffering, ensure that economic growth is widely

shared, and set our world on a better, more peaceful course for the future," he said.

Guterres said that during the Summit, he would call on G20 members to use their leverage to lead the required action needed. "Developing countries - in par-

ticular in Africa - are suffering from a perfect storm of shrinking fiscal space, crushing debt burdens, and a global financial architecture that is failing to support - or even represent - them adequately.

"Today, Africa remains woefully under-

represented across global institutions. This must change," the UN chief said. Guterres said many decisions at global financial institutions are disproportionately in the hands of some G20 members across the governance bodies of these institutions.

G20 DECLARATION OFFICIALLY ADOPTED DESPITE US ATTEMPT TO STOP IT

Johannesburg: The heads of state attending the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg on Saturday adopted a Declaration by consensus despite US attempts to stop it. "It is a great moment for us because we believe that this will revolutionise the (African) continent," South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola said on host broadcaster SABC, calling the Declaration as "an affirmation of multilateralism. Generally, the adoption of the Declaration happens at the end of the Leaders' Summit. This time it happened at the start of the meet. "The Declaration has been negotiated and agreed upon by the Sherpas that needed to agree on (it). The various leaders who are here have been briefed by their Sherpas on what is in the Declaration, so there was nothing that stops us from putting the Declaration forward for adoption by the leaders who are in the first segment of this (two-day) meeting," Lamola said.

Trump corners Zelensky with new plan to end Russia's war

Agencies
Washington

With his new 28-point plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine, President Donald Trump is resurfacing his argument that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky doesn't "have the cards" to continue on the battlefield and must come to a settlement that heavily tilts in Moscow's favour.

Trump, who has demonstrated low regard for Zelensky dating back to his first term, said on Friday he expects the Ukrainian leader to respond to his administration's new plan to end the war by next Thursday. "We think we have a way of getting peace," Trump told reporters in an Oval Office appearance. "He's going to have to approve it."

Buffeted by a corruption scandal in his government, battlefield setbacks and another difficult winter looming as Russia continues to bombard Ukraine's energy grid, Zelensky says.



Trump unveils 28-point plan pressuring Zelensky toward a Moscow-favoring settlement amid Ukraine's ongoing war.

UKRAINE, US TO MEET IN SWITZERLAND TO DISCUSS ENDING WAR

US President Donald Trump gave Ukraine less than a week to approve the 28-point plan to end the nearly four-year conflict, which would see the invaded country ceding territory, cutting its army, and pledging to never join NATO. Meanwhile, Ukraine's European allies, who were not included in drafting the agreement, were scrambling at the G20 summit in South Africa to come up with a counter-offer to Trump's plan to beef up Kyiv's positions. "In the coming days in Switzerland we are launching consultations.

TRUMP, MAMDANI MEET SAYING BOTH CARE ABOUT COST

Washington: President Donald Trump has called New York City's Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani a "100 per cent Communist Lunatic" and a "total nut job." Mamdani has called Trump's administration "authoritarian" and described himself as "Donald Trump's worst nightmare." But their first-ever meeting Friday at the White House focused more on their shared goals rather than their combustible differences. They discussed housing affordability and the cost of groceries and utilities, as Mamdani successfully used frustration over inflation to get elected,

Nigeria suffers massive school abduction as 315 students taken



St Mary's School, in Niger state, was attacked Friday morning.

Agencies
Abuja

More than 300 children and staff are now thought to have been kidnapped by gunmen from a Catholic school in central Nigeria, making it one of the worst mass abductions the country has seen. The Christian Association of Nigeria said 303 students and 12 teachers were taken from on St Mary's School in Papiri, Niger state - substantially more than previously estimated.

It said the figures have been revised upwards "after a verification exercise". The kidnapping comes amid a surge of attacks by armed groups.

The revised number of people taken surpasses the 276 abducted during the infamous Chibok mass abduction of 2014.

Local police said armed men stormed the school at around 02:00 local time (01:00 GMT) on Friday morning, abducting students who were staying there. Dominic Adamu, whose daughters attend the school but were not taken, told the BBC: "Everybody is weak... it took everybody by surprise."

One woman tearfully told that her nieces, aged six and 13, had been kidnapped. Police said that security agencies were "combing the forests with a view to rescue the abducted students".

Israel strikes Gaza again, testing ceasefire with Hamas

Agencies
Deir al-Balah

Israel's military on Saturday said it launched airstrikes against Hamas militants in Gaza in the latest test of the ceasefire that began on October 10. Health officials in Gaza reported at least 14 people killed and another 45 wounded, including children.

Similar waves of strikes have occurred during the ceasefire after reported attacks against Israeli forces. One strike targeted a vehicle, killing seven and wounding 18 Palestinians in Gaza City's Rimal neighbourhood, said Rami Mhana, managing director of Shifa Hospital, where the casualties were taken.

The majority of those wounded were children. Another strike targeting a house near Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza killed at least three people and wounded 11 others, according to the hospital. It said a strike on a house in central Gaza killed one child, and wounded 16 others.

US and China discuss maritime security in Hawaii

Agencies
Beijing

The Chinese and US militaries held the second working group meeting and annual session of the China-US Maritime Consultative Agreement (MMCA) for 2025 from Nov 18 to 20 in Hawaii, the United States, the Chinese navy said on Saturday.

The exchanges were conducted on the basis of



equality and respect, and the two sides had a candid and constructive exchange of views primarily

on maritime and aerial security situations of China and the United States, the Chinese navy

said in a statement.

They reviewed typical cases of encounters at sea and in the air, evaluated

the execution of the Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters, and discussed measures to improve maritime military security between the two countries, the statement said.

Both sides agreed that the MMCA mechanism has helped frontline forces of the two militaries interact more professionally and safely, reduce misunderstandings, avoid misjudgments.

China developing world's 1st nuke-resistant artificial floating island

Agencies
Beijing

China is in the process of building a 78,000-tonne artificial island designed to withstand nuclear blasts. It is a mobile, semi-submersible, twin-hull platform that could support 238 people for four months without the need of new supplies.

The infrastructure is as large as China's Fujian aircraft carrier and will be operational in 2028. It can withstand rough seas with 6-9 metre waves and typhoons



of category 17, the most powerfully rated tropical cyclones. "We're racing to complete the design and construction, aiming for operational status by 2028," Lin Zhongqin, an academician leading the project,

told Economic Information Daily.

According to a report by the South China Morning Post, scientists say the facility uses "metamaterial" sandwich panels that are capable of turning "catastrophic shocks into gentle squeezes". "This deep-sea major scientific facility is designed for all-weather, long-term residency," wrote the team led by Professor Yang Deqing with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). It will make nuclear blast protection for these spaces absolutely vital.

23 children die of malnutrition in Sudan's Kordofan region

Agencies
Cairo

Almost two dozen children died of malnutrition-related causes within a month in central Sudan, where fierce fighting between the country's military and a paramilitary group has centred, a medical group said.

The deaths of 23 children in the Kordofan region underscore the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the northeastern African country, where famine is spreading after more than 30 months of devastating



war. Sudan plunged into chaos in April 2023 when a power struggle between the military and the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

The devastating war has killed more than 40,000 people, according to UN figures.

INDIA SHINES

Blind cricketers eye cricket WC T20 history

Agencies
Colombo

The ongoing inaugural Inaugural Women's T20 Cricket World Cup has put the spotlight on visually impaired Indian women who have overcome immense challenges to reach this stage. They come from villages, farming families and small-town hostels, with many learning the sport only in the past few years.

The T20 tournament - a six-team event featuring India, Nepal, Paki-



India's visually impaired women cricketers shine brilliantly at inaugural Blind T20 World Cup in Colombo.

stan, Sri Lanka, Australia and the USA - began on 11 November in Delhi. After a few matches in Bengaluru, the venue for

the knockouts has now moved to Sri Lanka's capital Colombo.

The 16-member Indian squad represents nine

states - Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Assam, and Bihar. Many players were introduced to the sport through schoolteachers, disability organisations, or community camps.

"Most of the players are from rural backgrounds," said team manager Shika Shetty. "Language and culture were barriers, families and teachers were often unwilling to let them pursue the sport, and even introducing the rules of blind

cricket took time. But now they are all competing with pride."

Blind cricket uses a plastic ball with metal bearings that jingle, and players are grouped by sight: B1 (fully blind), B2 and B3. Teams must field a mix of all three. The ball is bowled underarm along the ground. B1 batters use runners for safety, and each run they score counts as two.

The World Cup features six teams in a single round-robin. India won all five matches and qualified for the semi-finals.

HZL breaks two Guinness records at Sweden's deepest marathon

First India Bureau
Udaipur

Hindustan Zinc Limited has made history with two Guinness World Records at the World's Deepest Marathon, held 1,120 metres below sea level at Boliden's Garpenberg Mine in Sweden. CEO Arun Misra and COO Kishore Kumar S. participated, with Misra becoming the first Indian to enter the Guinness records for these categories.

The event on October 23, 2025, organised by BecomingX, Boliden and



HZL sets two Guinness records in underground marathon.

ICMM, featured 57 runners from 18 countries completing 11 laps of a 3.84 km tunnel to raise over \$1 million for global charities. The marathon showcased modern mining's safety, technology and collaboration.

As ICMM's first Asian member, HZL strengthens sustainable mining, promoting fitness and community well-being through initiatives like Vedanta Zinc Half Marathon & Zinc Football programs.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Belief is the compass that guides you through the fog of doubt.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08



Mirch Masala

FIRST INDIA SUNDAY SPECIAL



By Tridib Raman

The author is a journalist and political commentator and views expressed are his personal

IS NITISH A TWO-AND-A-HALF-YEAR CHIEF MINISTER?

Although Nitish Kumar has taken the oath of office as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the tenth time with full ceremony, it is being believed that considering his health-related reasons, he may be able to cover only half the distance of his chief ministerial tenure this time. Trusted sources claim that before Nitish's oath-taking ceremony, three key leaders of the JD(U) suddenly reached Delhi in a special aircraft, where an important meeting with the BJP top leadership had already been scheduled. It is also being said that this JD(U) trio—Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh, Sanjay Jha, and Manish Verma, who was once

counted among Nitish's most trusted bureaucrats—proceeded directly from the airport to meet the BJP leadership. There, an agreement was reached that even though the BJP is the largest party in the NDA alliance this time (with 89 seats), it is prepared to allow Nitish to take the oath as Chief Minister, and in return the BJP will wait for two and a half years. After two and a half years, Bihar will have its own BJP Chief Minister, and Nitish will be appointed to a senior constitutional office in Delhi (President or Vice President). After this, these JD(U) leaders spoke to Nitish about the BJP proposal, and it is said that Nitish agreed to this formula.



THE ALLAVARU MATTER

According to sources, Kharge's pain regarding Rahul ran so deep that he continued his conversation with Sonia Gandhi over the phone. Kharge said that he comes from Karnataka, and Krishna Allavaru is also from his own region. But before making Allavaru the in-charge of Bihar, Rahul ji did not ask him even once. Otherwise, he would have made Rahul aware of Allavaru's true character beforehand. Allavaru worsened Congress's relations with the Lalu family, he faced allegations of selling tickets, and Congress workers chased him away at Patna airport. After this, Kharge told Sonia, "If we were contesting elections in 58 seats, then Rahul ji and Priyanka ji should have gone to campaign at least in these 45 seats. But at the last moment, Rahul ji's office finalised that Rahul ji would address 11 public meetings and Priyanka ji only 6." Then Rahul ji's office said that the expenses of running Congress candidates in Seemanchal should be given directly to Pappu Yadav. But has anyone been able to investigate to this day how much money actually reached our candidates? When the Bihar elections ended, instead of assessing the political situation, Rahul ji went to Abu Dhabi. It is said that Sonia called Rahul in Abu Dhabi, reprimanding him and urging his immediate return to Delhi. He reportedly flew back that night and met Kharge the next morning, apologising and assuring him that future decisions, including strategies for West Bengal and Assam elections, would be made with his full consultation.

WHAT BREWED BETWEEN AKHILESH & STALIN?

After the recent Bihar election results, a period of intense turbulence has begun within the politics of the INDIA alliance. Immediately after the results, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin and SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav had a long conversation. Tamil Nadu is also set to hold assembly elections in the coming months (April–May 2026), so Stalin wanted Akhilesh to come to Tamil Nadu for campaigning, as the state has a significant population of North Indians. And even in this Bihar election, the rallies addressed by Akhilesh drew considerable crowds. In the conversation, Stalin also appeared deeply serious about Rahul Gandhi and the Congress. He believed that the effort Rahul Gandhi put in Bihar did not convert into votes. Stalin was also concerned that Muslim voters in Bihar were disillusioned with Congress and shifted towards Owaisi's party AIMIM. Not only did Owaisi's five candidates win, but his candidates stood second in nine seats. It is said that Stalin told Akhilesh that although his alliance with Congress would continue in Tamil Nadu, he had instructed his cadre not to depend too much on Congress in the elections. Akhilesh also made it clear to Stalin that he too was confused about Congress. In the recent Bihar elections, Congress's strike rate was only around 10 percent, compared to 27 percent last time. Muslim voters also could not place full trust in Congress. With Congress demanding 100 seats in the 2027 UP elections, while he plans to offer only 30–35, he may contest without the party. He also instructed his leaders to avoid offending forward-caste voters, a stance Stalin disagreed with given Tamil Nadu's Dravidian political base.

...AND FINALLY

At present, mainstream Congress politics is going through a period of intense upheaval. Its tremors can also be felt in Congress-ruled states. It is being said that in Karnataka, once again Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar have come face to face. It appears that Siddaramaiah has rejected the two-and-a-half-year formula. Now he is firmly stating that he will complete his five-year term. On the other hand, DK has surprised Delhi by saying that all 140 MLAs in Karnataka are his MLAs, and forming groups is not in his blood. Meanwhile, when the review meeting regarding Bihar's defeat was taking place in Delhi, Diggi Raja sharply criticised Mukul Wasnik, saying, "What do you know about ground reality? You wouldn't even know what a BLO is!" Senior leaders continue to take jibes at some of Rahul's close favourites such as KC Venugopal and Ajay Maken. Some major satraps of the party are exploring the possibility of forming a new party called "Real Congress." Meanwhile, a significant group of leaders angry with Rahul—such as Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, and Karti Chidambaram—are said to be glowing in the saffron aura. So, the days ahead could become even more difficult for Congress.

CS calls for strengthening trauma centres statewide

State to prepare comprehensive action plan under SC panel guidelines

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Chief Secretary V Srinivas on Saturday inspected the Trauma Centre at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Hospital and announced that a comprehensive action plan would be prepared to prevent road accidents and reduce fatalities in Rajasthan. He said a detailed report is being compiled in line with the guidelines issued by the



Chief Secretary V Srinivas interacts with a patient during his visit to SMS Hospital Trauma Centre, in Jaipur, on Saturday.

Supreme Court-appointed committee, based on field studies and inspections covering all aspects of road safety.

Srinivas emphasised that trauma centres

across the state must be strengthened to ensure immediate treatment during road accidents. "Adequate ICU beds, life-saving equipment, diagnostic facilities, medi-

cines, and trained doctors and nursing staff proportional to patient load are essential," he said. He also interacted with patients and their families to gather feedback. Stating that the SMS trauma centre is a Level-1 facility, he added that efforts will be made to upgrade other centres with state-of-the-art infrastructure to save lives within the crucial golden hour.

Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, Gayatri Rathore said more than 8,000 participants have been trained at the Skill Lab to assist during emergencies.

CM to launch statewide pulse Polio drive today

First India Bureau

Jaipur

The Pulse Polio campaign will be conducted across the state on Sunday, 23 November, with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma launching it by administering polio drops at his residence.

Over one crore children under five will be vaccinated free. Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar urged parents to ensure participation. Principal Secretary Gayatri Rathore said 58,823 polio booths, along with transit and mobile teams, will operate, followed by door-to-door visits for missed children.

Leaders gather for grand wedding ceremony



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma welcomes Union Home Minister Amit Shah (top) and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath (below) at Maharana Pratap Airport, Dabok, in Udaipur, on Saturday.



Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat greets Vice President CP Radhakrishnan at Maharana Pratap Airport, Dabok, in Udaipur, on Saturday.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, BJP leader Satish Poonia, Cabinet Minister Jogaram Patel, MPs PP Chaudhary, CP Joshi, Dy CM Prem Chand Bairwa, and others during the wedding ceremony at Hotel Lal Bagh, in Ranakpur, Pali, on Saturday.



Sikkim Governor Om Prakash Mathur, his granddaughter Komal, Deputy CM Diya Kumari, UP CM Yogi Adityanath, Jaipur MP Manju Sharma, and other dignitaries pose together during the wedding ceremony at Hotel Lal Bagh, in Ranakpur, Pali, on Saturday.



Newlyweds Komal and Maaniti pose for a picture during their wedding ceremony at Hotel Lal Bagh, in Ranakpur, Pali, on Saturday.

© MUKESH KIRADOO

LONG PENDING IAS TRANSFERS; SIGNIFICANT POWER SHIFTS IN STATE ADMIN

AKHIL ARORA APPOINTED AS ACS TO THE CM IN HIGH-IMPACT BUREAUCRATIC RESTRUCTURING

Shikhar Agrawal moves to Industry; Praveen Gupta, Gayatri Rathore among those assigned bigger roles

In a first, no addl charge for any officer

Rajendra Chhabra

Jaipur

After a prolonged wait, the long-pending IAS transfer list was finally released on Friday. The list had been on hold until the arrival of the new Chief Secretary V Srinivas, and it was issued within a week of his assuming office. According to administrative observers, the posting decisions in the list have been considered appropriate and logically structured. For the first time, no officer has been assigned any additional charge.

The most notable highlight of the list is the change in command within the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). In place of one trusted and efficient officer - Shikhar Agrawal -, another trusted and efficient officer - Akhil Arora - has been appointed as the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to CM. Both Arora and Shikhar belong to the 1993 batch of the IAS.

Arora, who has handled significant responsibilities



Akhil Arora

Shikhar Agrawal

Praveen Gupta

Gayatri Rathore

Manju Rajpal

Ravi Jain

Dr Joga Ram

AKHIL ARORA BEGINS TENURE WITH REVIEW MEETING AT THE CMO

Akhil Arora has taken charge as the Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister. The handover took place at around 10:30 am, when he received the charge from Shikhar Agrawal. An informal farewell was held for Shikhar Agrawal at the Chief Minister's Office following the transition. Later in the afternoon, Arora conducted a review meeting with all IAS and RAS officers posted at the CMO. The meeting focused on reviewing pending matters in the Chief Minister's Office and gathering feedback from officials to outline the upcoming work strategy. After being relieved from the CMO, Shikhar Agrawal also joined his new posting the same day as ACS, Industries.

in the Finance Department for a long period, will now take on the extensive duties of the CMO. The key point is that the CM has expressed confidence in his competence, experience, and efficiency. For this reason, Arora has been brought into the CMO team. Notably, he will continue to oversee the PHED, which remains under his command.

Shikhar Agrawal, who had been serving as ACS to CM since February 2024, showed exceptional performance as a close and trusted aide to the CM during his 22-month tenure. He has now been assigned the equally significant responsibility of overseeing the entire industry sector. A major set of events scheduled under this department next

month will fall under his supervision. Among the officers who have been entrusted with greater or expanded responsibilities are Praveen Gupta, Gayatri Rathore, Manju Rajpal, Naveen Jain, Ravi Jain, Ravi Kumar Surpur, Jogaram, Tina Soni, Suresh Kumar Ola, Purushottam Sharma and Navneet Kumar.

Those whose responsibilities have been relatively reduced include Alok Gupta, Dinesh Kumar, Rajesh Yadav, Ambaresh Kumar, Shuchi Tyagi, Iqbal Khan, Shaheen Ali and Shubham Choudhary. A notable point is that, except for Praveen Gupta, none of the officers holding ACS positions have been shifted; all have been retained in their existing

roles. The decision to assign Praveen Gupta the responsibility of Tourism in addition to PWD has drawn considerable attention. Gupta is also considered a trusted officer of the CM. The added responsibilities significantly increase his workload.

Gayatri Rathore's additional charge of Medical Education is viewed as practical, since both departments have often been handled together. Still, overseeing the entire medical sector now presents a major challenge for her.

For Manju Rajpal, adding Agriculture to her existing roles in Cooperation and the Registrar's office significantly raises expectations, reflecting the administration's confidence in her abilities.

The decision to shift Naveen Jain from Finance to the General Administration Department (GAD) is also being viewed as significant. During his tenure in Finance, Jain earned wide appreciation for exposing irregularities and malpractices in RGHS.

Ravi Jain has been appointed the overall head of the Local Self Government (LSG) Department, serving as both Secretary and Commissioner. This is possibly the first time both positions have been assigned to a single officer. After the departure of Indrajeet, Jain had already been functioning as the department's "all-in-one." With administrators now appointed in urban local bodies, he has emerged as a powerful bureaucrat.

Dr Joga Ram, who had long been managing responsibilities across a dozen positions, has now been appointed Secretary of the influential Revenue Department. The Panchayati Raj portfolio remains with him. This shift is being regarded as a major "jump" for him.



SALUTING ACHIEVERS!

In a grand tribute to dedication, service and regional excellence, First India News hosted the Wagad Gaurav Samman Banswara 2025 on Friday at Royal Kesari Garden, Banswara. **P10-11**

KHUSHI, PALAK & RUDRA REDEFINE YOUNG INDIAN GLAMOUR

BEACHSIDE DREAMERS

The golden shores of Goa recently turned into a runway of dreams as three rising supermodels; Khushi Yadav, Palak Kansal and Rudra Sharma, came together for a breathtaking fashion photoshoot that beautifully blended style, self-belief and the serenity of nature. City First highlights glimpses of this shoot, where each frame captured not just outfits and aesthetics, but the journeys, vulnerabilities and victories of three young women determined to make their mark in the world of fashion and pageantry.

Born on October 26, 2009 in New Delhi, Khushi Yadav had already created history by representing India at Miss Teen Earth 2025. A 10th-grade student, she carried a deep sense of purpose towards femininity, empowerment and the environment. The Goa photoshoot, for her, had been more than a professional assignment; it became a reminder of why she chose this path. The calm beaches, soft breeze and lush greens strengthened her bond with nature. "The serenity of Goa boosted my love for Mother Earth and reminded me of my purpose of keeping it sheltered," she had shared. Khushi openly spoke about facing criticism and competition at a young age, but chose courage over doubt. She often believed, "You're never too young or too old to achieve something you truly want." Her biggest pillar of strength remained her mother, Sarita Yadav, an English teacher and artist, who taught her to use art, fashion and modelling as mediums to express her heart.

From Bharatpur, Rajasthan, Palak Kansal emerged as a re-



Mitali Dusad

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freshing new face in the world of modelling and content creation. While pursuing her graduation along with BSTC, she gradually turned her creative instincts into a promising career. Her recent shoot with First India in Goa had been a turning point, a space where she felt seen, valued and creatively free. "The team, the energy, everything made me feel confident and truly understood as an artist," she had said. Palak viewed fashion as storytelling and believed that every outfit carried a personality. Grounded in Indian culture yet open to experimenting, she saw the evolving fashion industry as a place where authenticity mattered more than stereotypes. Supported strongly by her family, she learned to balance academics, health and work through discipline, mindful routines and planning.

Meanwhile, Rudra Sharma, born in Bhopal and brought up in Jaipur, brought a royal yet rooted aura to the Goa frames. A student at Amity University, Noida, Rudra had always felt that modelling was a calling rather than a casual decision. Inspired by powerful women on screen, she grew to understand that modelling was not just about appearance, it was about voice and presence. Men-

City First highlights glimpses of a stunning Goa photoshoot featuring rising supermodels Khushi Yadav, Palak Kansal and Rudra Sharma, showcasing their fashion journeys, personal growth and inspiring stories of confidence, culture and individuality on and off the camera!

tored by Yogesh Mishra & Nimi-sha Mishra, she worked on her skills and mindset with equal sincerity. Her Rajasthani roots added a regal touch to her personality, allowing her to blend tradition with contemporary elegance. Recalling one of her proudest moments, she often spoke of walking as a finalist at Miss Rajasthan 2025, where she felt that the little girl who once dreamed quietly was finally walking with purpose. "In an industry where everyone wants to shine, staying true to yourself becomes your biggest strength," she believed.

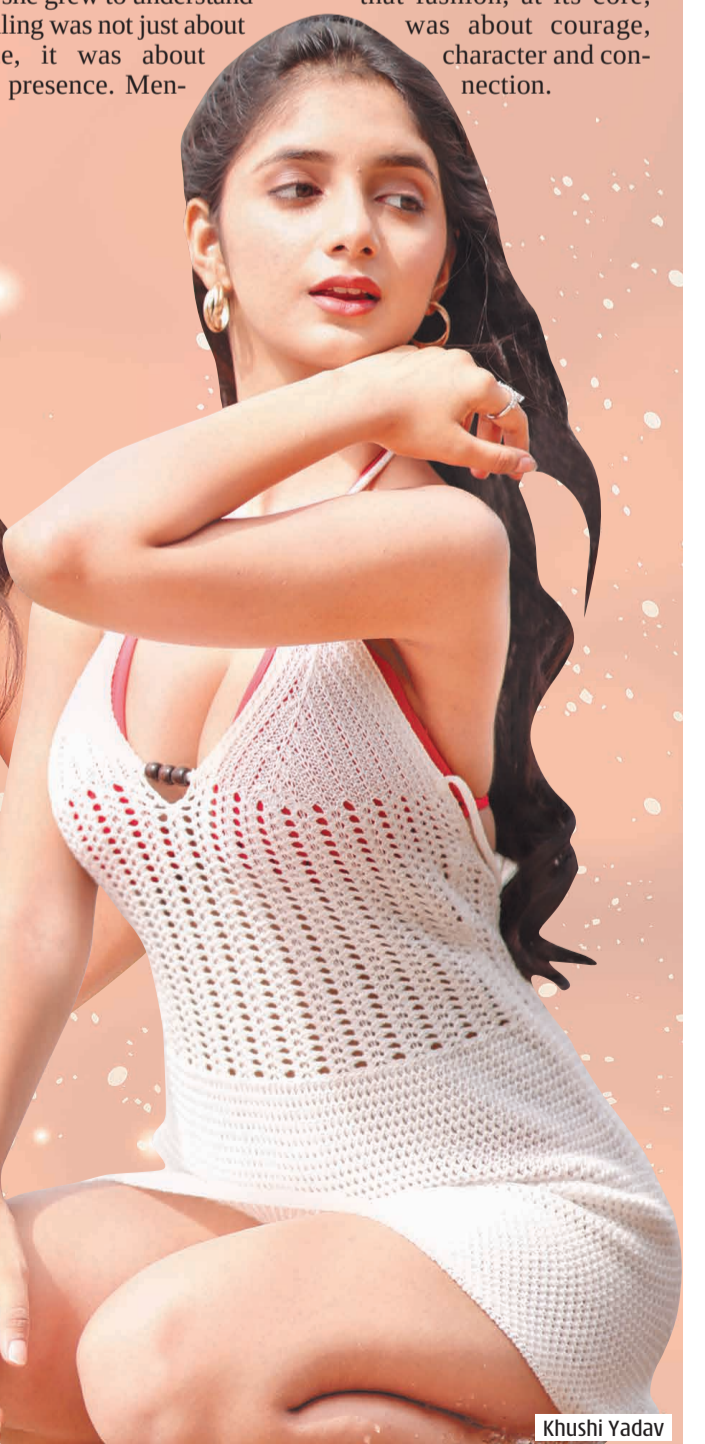
For all three, Khushi, Palak and Rudra, Goa had not just been a destination, but a chapter. Their photoshoot days started with careful outfit selection, devy makeup, minimal styling and lots of good music. The wind turned into a natural prop, the waves into a dynamic backdrop and the greenery into an organic mood board. Together, they reflected a new generation of Indian models who were not just walking for the camera, but walking with intention, advocating individuality, celebrating diversity and proving that fashion, at its core, was about courage, character and connection.



Rudra Sharma



Palak Kansal



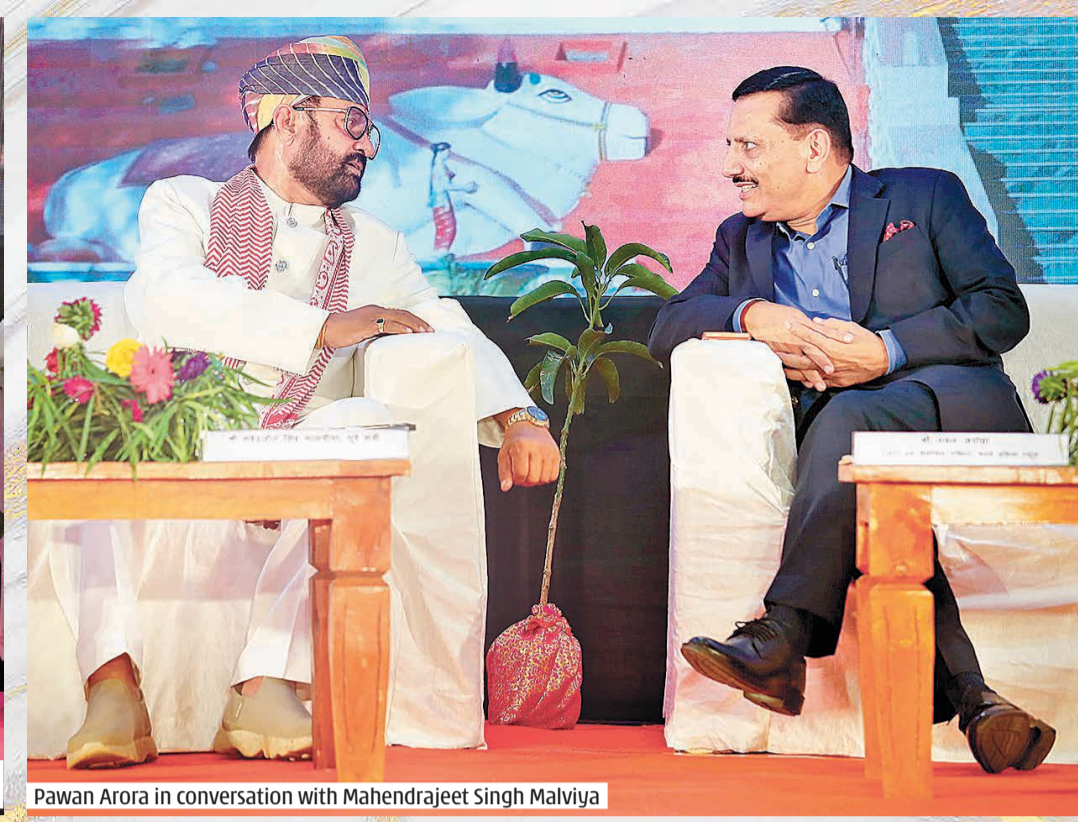
Khushi Yadav



Pawan Arora felicitates Dhan Singh Rawat



Pawan Arora and Cabinet Minister Babulal Kharadi in conversation with each other



Pawan Arora in conversation with Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya



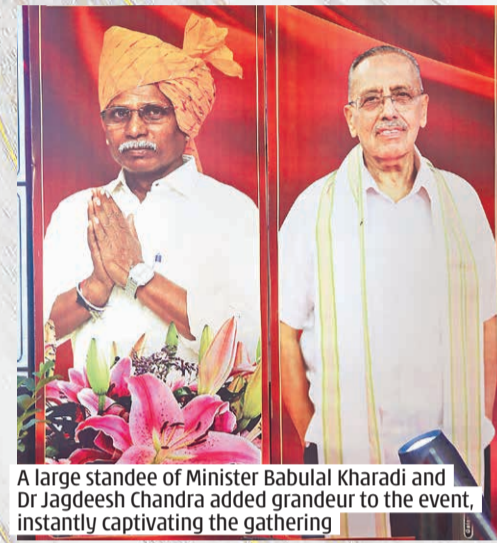
Pawan Arora, Babulal Kharadi and Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya felicitate Manish Trivedi



Cabinet Minister Babulal Kharadi addressing the gathering



Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya felicitates Yusuf Mevarosh



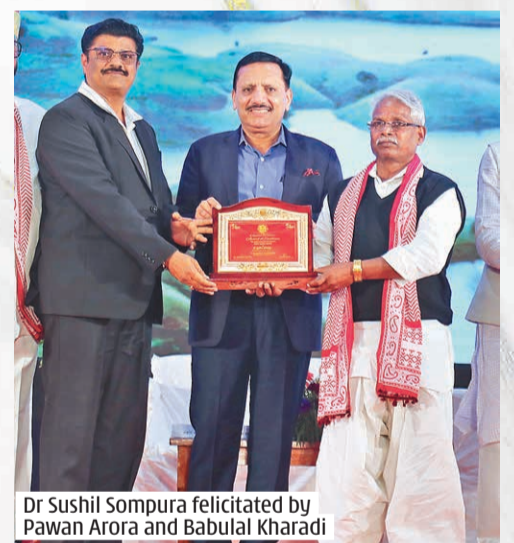
A large standee of Minister Babulal Kharadi and Dr Jagdeesh Chandra added grandeur to the event, instantly captivating the gathering



Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi felicitate Head Constable Mahipal Singh



Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi felicitate Gopichand Meena



Dr Sushil Sompura felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Shikha Kothari felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Tarun felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



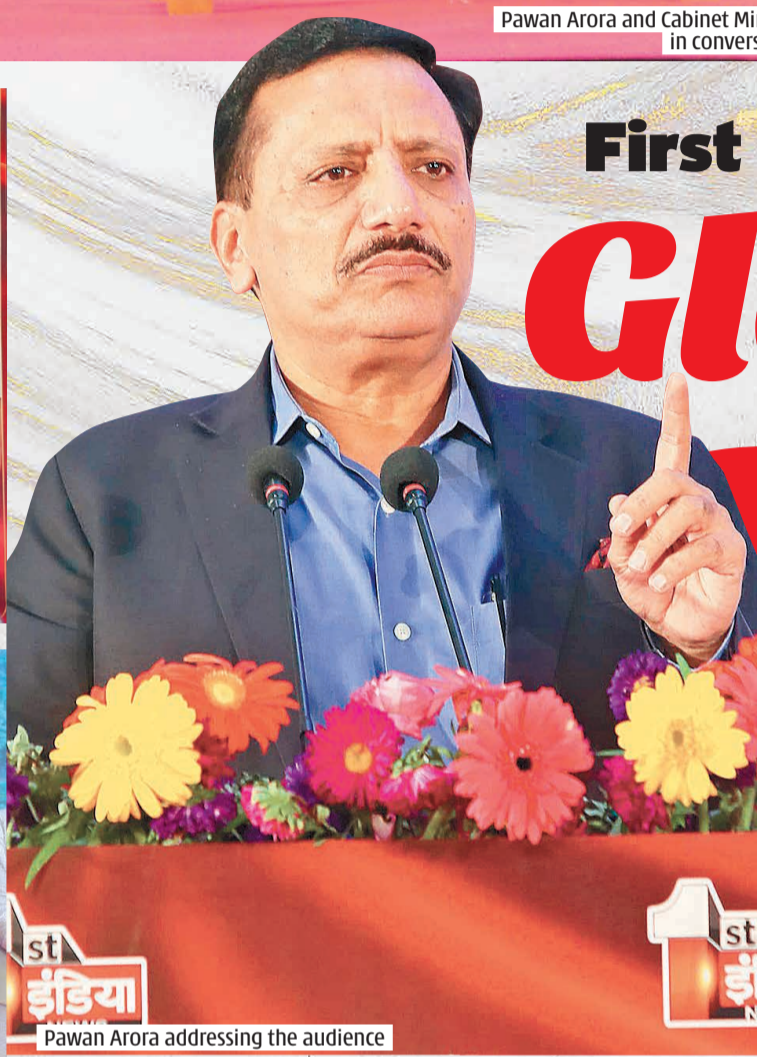
Amit Garg felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Dr Deepa Katara felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Yash Vyas felicitated by Pawan Arora, Babulal Kharadi and Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya



Pawan Arora addressing the audience

First India News Hosts "Wagad Gaurav Samman Banswara 2025" Glorious Recognition

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In a grand tribute to dedication, service and regional excellence, First India News hosted the Wagad Gaurav Samman Banswara 2025 on Friday at Royal Kesari Garden, Banswara. The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Babulal Kharadi, Rajasthan Cabinet Minister for Tribal Area Development and Home Guard Department, who honoured distinguished personalities for their exceptional contributions to the Wagad region. Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, along with eminent dignitaries including former ministers Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya and Dhan Singh Rawat, District Collector Dr Indrajeet Yadav, SP Sudhir Joshi, and GGTU Vice Chancellor Professor KS Thakur graced the event. Adding a ceremonial touch, students of New Look Girls College performed an NCC piloting display to welcome the guests. Minister Kharadi highlighted the pivotal role of media in spreading awareness and lauded First India News for recognising the selfless efforts of community leaders, encouraging more individuals to serve society. City First brings you some more glimpses of the event!



Pawan Arora felicitated by Anshul Raina



Shweta Mishra Awasthi hosted the event with elegance



Pawan Arora, Babulal Kharadi & Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya felicitate Deepth Sarangdevot and Kamraj Singh Jhala



Hemant Sharma and Ghanshyam Karol felicitate Jinendra Singh Shekhawat



Imran Khan presented a sapling to Prof KS Thakur



Vishal Mathur presented a sapling to Dr Indrajeet Yadav



Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi felicitate Pradeep Kothari and Deep Kothari



Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi felicitate Vishesh Pandya



Sanat Jain Kuber felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Mahesh Teli felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Lalit Kalaal felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Aruna Dindor felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Pawan Arora and Minister Babulal Kharadi felicitate Newlook School and College Girl Band



Jinendra Singh Shekhawat felicitates Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya



(L-R) Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Ayushi Das, Arpana Naku, Dhanraj Yadav, Surendra Soni, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat & Vishal Mathur



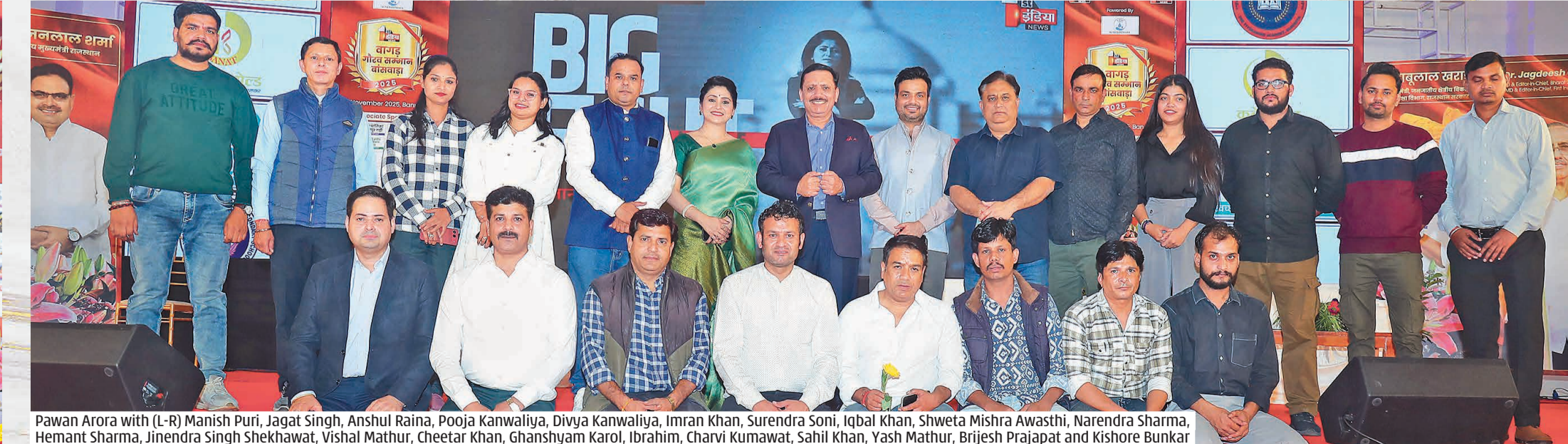
Basant Lal Soni felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Kuldeep Singh Shaktawat felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Surendra Soni felicitates Sudhir Joshi with a sapling



Pawan Arora with (L-R) Manish Puri, Jagat Singh, Anshul Raina, Pooja Kanwalia, Divya Kanwalia, Imran Khan, Surendra Soni, Iqbal Khan, Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Narendra Sharma, Hemant Sharma, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Vishal Mathur, Cheetar Khan, Ghanshyam Karol, Ibrahim, Charvi Kumawat, Sahil Khan, Yash Mathur, Brijesh Prajapat and Kishore Bunkar



Dr Nilesh Soni felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi



Head Constable Vishal Singh felicitated by Pawan Arora and Babulal Kharadi

BIKANER TO HOST LARGEST-EVER BICYCLE RACE "TOUR DE THAR"



Bikaner is set to host its biggest-ever bicycle race, "Tour de Thar", modelled after the world-famous Tour de France. The race will start at 6:30 AM from Norang Desar and conclude at Raiser Village in the evening. Organised under the guidance of Bikaner Parliament and Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the event will see participation from over 750 cyclists from countries including France, Switzerland, Singapore, and various Indian states. Over 50 cyclists from Jaipur's Rajasthan Road Riders will also join. The race features 100 km and 200 km categories with prizes totalling ₹27 lakh. **LAXMAN RAGHAV**

SPIRITUAL VISIT!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra visited the renowned Ranakpur Jain Mandir and soaked in the deep spiritual atmosphere of the unique temple, which is also an architectural marvel, during his visit to the city to attend a wedding, on Saturday.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulated rising model Divisha Paliwal from Elite Miss Rajasthan as she reached at Hotel Taj Lalit Bagh, Udaipur to seek blessings on the occasion of her birthday on Saturday.

Dr CHANDRA'S WARM WELCOME



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra visited Nagaur district on Friday, where he received a grand welcome at Merta City during an event organised by the local press. He inspected the under-construction Press Club office and addressed journalists, sharing insights on journalism while emphasising the theme "Khabar hi Jeevan Hai". He expressed gratitude to the local media and announced a donation of ₹11,000 to the Press Club. Press Club patrons Pukhraj Tak, Virendra Verma, Sandeep Bohra, President Nandu Shri Mantri, Vice President Sunil Puri, Sushil Divakar, Jugal Singh and others attended. He was later honoured at the newly built Merta Municipal Hall and at Gram Butati Dham, where he offered prayers. Temple Committee President Devendra Singh Rathore welcomed him. First India News reporters were also present.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION TOUR



As part of the National Integration Tour, students from Churachandpur, Manipur visited Jaipur and HQ. Sapta Shakti Command on Saturday. They interacted with Lt Gen HS Vandra, Chief of Staff, gaining insights into the Army's ethos and role in national unity. The group also visited Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jal Mahal, Nahargarh, Birla Planetarium, Babu Bazaar and GT, enriching their cultural and historical understanding.

KAILASH KUMARI SHARMA CHARITABLE TRUST HOSTS CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT FAIRMONT JAIPUR

Certificates for Talent



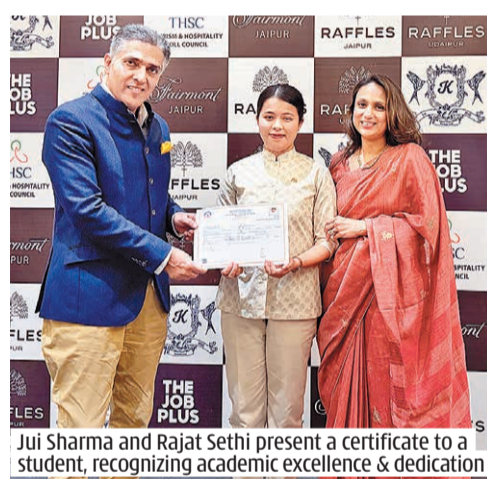
Jui Sharma and Rajat Sethi with students during the certificate distribution ceremony



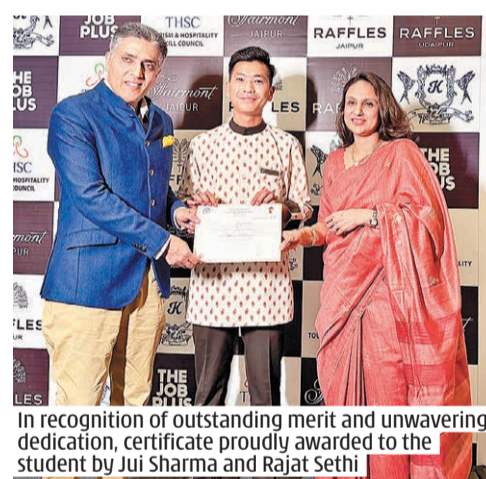
Rajat Sethi warmly welcomed Jui Sharma during the event

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The Kailash Kumari Sharma Charitable Trust organised a certificate distribution ceremony for the first batch of its Skill Development Program at Fairmont Hotel, Kukas, Jaipur recently. The program, conducted in collaboration with the Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council and Job Plus, successfully trained 30 underprivileged youth from Northeastern states in hotel-industry skills. During this, Rajat Sethi, Cluster General



Jui Sharma and Rajat Sethi present a certificate to a student, recognizing academic excellence & dedication



In recognition of outstanding merit and unwavering dedication, certificate proudly awarded to the student by Jui Sharma and Rajat Sethi



Jui Sharma and Rajat Sethi felicitate a student for highlighting the trust's commitment to education and skill development

Manager – Fairmont & Raffles Jaipur, presented a certificate to the students. All participants completed the program free of cost and secured placements in prestigious

hotels, including Fairmont Jaipur, Raffles Jaipur, and Raffles Udaipur. Speaking at the event, Jui Sharma, COO of Trident Hotels and trustee of

the Trust, highlighted that 45% of participants come from rural areas with limited educational and employment opportunities, while over 25% are women, many of

whom are primary earners for their families. The Trust emphasised its commitment to expanding such initiatives in the future, aiming to empower talented youth

from Jaipur and across Rajasthan with skill-based training and employment opportunities, bridging gaps in education and career development.

JNU Media Students Gain Industry Exposure at First India News Studio

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Jaipur National University's 40 media students visited the First India News Studio on Friday under the network's flagship SLP – Smart Learning Program. During the session, SLP & Digital Head Shishir Awasthi explained the vision of CEO & Managing Editor Pawan Arora behind SLP, emphasising how the initiative equips young aspirants with real newsroom skills and future-ready training. SLP Student Coordinator (Channel) Priyanka Beniwal briefed students about the channel's workflow. The industry-oriented



Shishir Awasthi and Priyanka Beniwal with the students

tour offered them first-hand exposure to the complete news production cycle. Students explored the newsroom, witnessing story selection, scriptwriting, editing, and bulletin preparation. They then visited the PCR, where they learned about switching, graphics, sound, and live broadcast op-

erations. The studio tour included insights into lighting, camera setup, and teleprompter handling. The highlight was an on-camera recording session, which enhanced their understanding of delivery, framing, and on-screen performance, boosting confidence in TV and radio production.

SMART LEARNING PROGRAM (SLP – YOUTH SPECIAL)
First India Media Group presents the Smart Learning Program (SLP – Youth Special), a focused, professional training initiative designed to empower students with the skills they truly need. With active involvement from expert trainers and enthusiastic learners, SLP ensures structured guidance, interactive learning and real-world readiness.



Scan the QR code to register for SLP and take the next step towards a smarter future!

JAIPUR HERITAGE EXHIBITION



The Jaipur Heritage Photo and Painting Exhibition commenced on Saturday at Amer Fort's Diwan-e-Aam, attracting tourists from around the world who admired striking visuals of temples, palaces and hidden heritage sites. Inaugurated by MLA Balmukund Acharya, Dr Rakesh Chholak and other dignitaries, the three-day showcase curated by Aditi Agarwal runs till November 24. Part of the Rajasthan Photo Festival, it features works by photojournalists, officials and students, celebrating Jaipur's rich cultural legacy.

CAKE MIXING CEREMONY AT DSHM



The Dangayach School of Hotel Management (DSHM), Jaipur, celebrated its Annual Cake Mixing Ceremony 2025 with festive cheer and active student participation. Dignitaries from Marriott, Clarion Bella Casa, and sponsors Kirana King and Kairos graced the event, along with social media influencer Lavina Tandon. Students presented Christmas carols and cultural performances before the traditional mixing of dry fruits with rum and wine. Principal Dr Jyoti Arora highlighted the event's aim of promoting teamwork, cultural bonding, and practical industry exposure.