

'EMPHASISES POTENTIAL OF OUR LAND'

PM Modi praises Mohan Bhagwat's centenary address

PM Modi extended warm greetings to the nation on the occasion of Vijayadashami and prayed that people draw inspiration to move forward with courage and wisdom

Agencies

New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's centenary Dussehra address, calling it an "inspiring" speech that highlights the organisation's contributions to nation-building.

"An inspiring address by Param Pujya Sarsanghchalak Dr Mohan Bhagwat Ji, highlighting the rich contributions of the RSS to nation-building and emphasising the innate potential of our land to attain new heights of glory, thereby benefiting our entire planet," PM Modi wrote in a post on X.

PM SPEAKS TO KHARGE, WISHES HIS RECOVERY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday and enquired about his health. He also wished him a speedy recovery, a day after the Congress president underwent a procedure for pacemaker implant.



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary during a prayer meet held at Gandhi Smriti, in Delhi.



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat with Chief Guest and ex-President Ram Nath Kovind during 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Vijayadashami Utsav 2025', in Nagpur on Thursday.

BHAGWAT'S VIJAYADASHAMI SPEECH

TERROR ATTACK IN PAHALGAM, TESTING FRIENDSHIPS ABROAD

1 The Pahalgam terror attack exposed global double standards on terrorism and highlighted India's resilience and strong leadership.

'NAXAL MOVEMENT LARGELY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL'

2 Naxalism has weakened due to security efforts, but sustainable development is essential to prevent resurgence and ensure lasting peace.

ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH WIDENING INEQUALITY

3 Bhagwat criticized the current economic model for fostering inequality, exploitation, and environmental harm; urged focus on self-reliance and Swadeshi.

ECOLOGICAL CRISIS IN THE HIMALAYAS

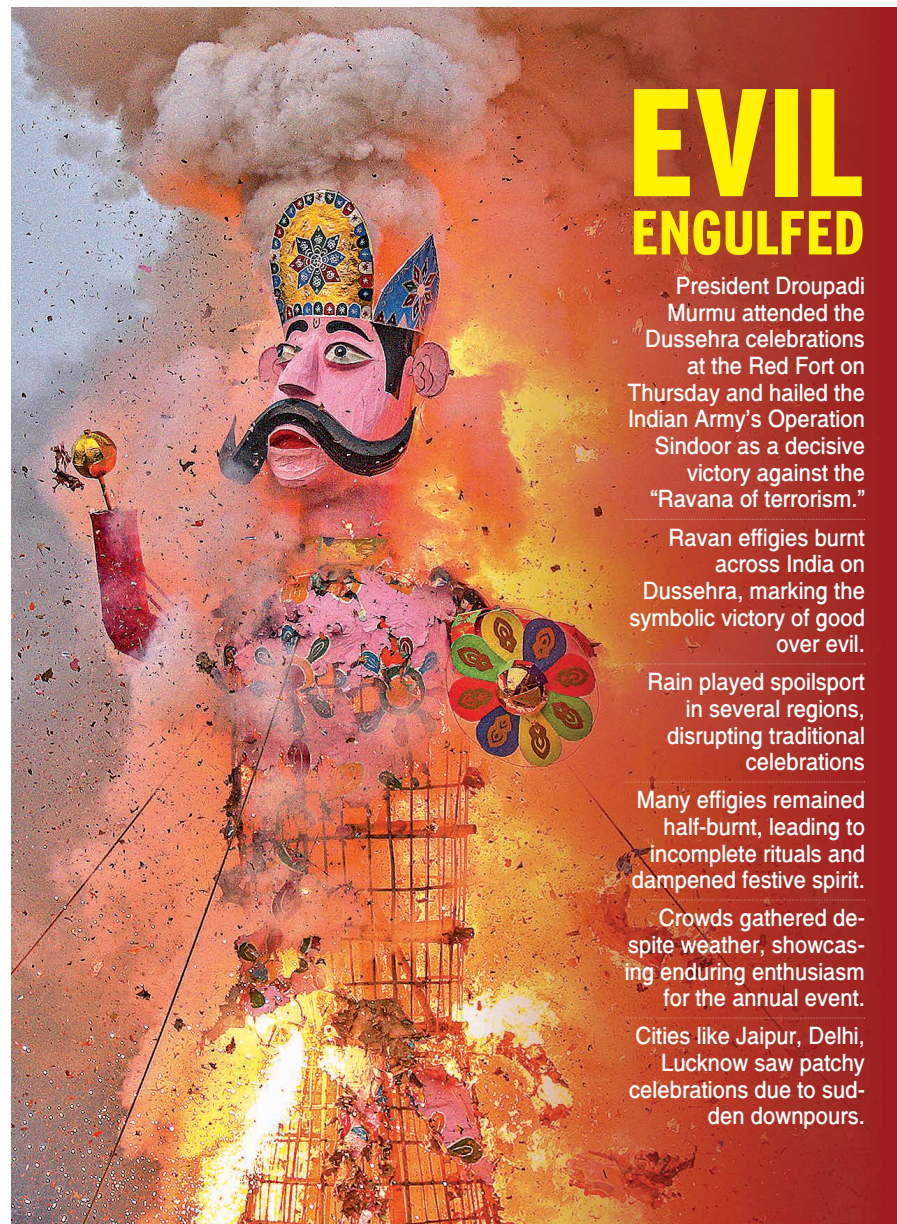
4 Environmental degradation in the Himalayas signals urgent need to rethink development models, as climate impacts threaten South Asia's water security.

DEMOCRATIC CHANGE AND STABILITY

5 Violent protests in neighbouring countries raise concerns; Bhagwat advocates democratic change and regional stability rooted in shared cultural affinity.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma along with Kota MP and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and State Education minister Madan Dilawar receives Asia Book of Records certificate for the tallest Ravan effigy (233 ft), in Kota on Thursday.



EVIL ENGULFED

President Droupadi Murmu attended the Dussehra celebrations at the Red Fort on Thursday and hailed the Indian Army's Operation Sindoor as a decisive victory against the "Ravana of terrorism."

Ravan effigies burnt across India on Dussehra, marking the symbolic victory of good over evil.

Rain played spoilsport in several regions, disrupting traditional celebrations

Many effigies remained half-burnt, leading to incomplete rituals and dampened festive spirit.

Crowds gathered despite weather, showcasing enduring enthusiasm for the annual event.

Cities like Jaipur, Delhi, Lucknow saw patchy celebrations due to sudden downpours.

IN BRIEF



India emerged right on top while dismissing West Indies for 162 runs on Day 1 of the first test at Ahmedabad. KL Rahul hit fifty to take India to 121/2 at stumps. **P7**

Internet shut for 48 hours in tense Bareilly

Internet services were suspended for 48 hours Thursday afternoon - till 3 pm on Saturday - in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly division amid ongoing tension over the 'I love Muhammad' poster row and in light of Dussehra and Durga Puja festivities.

MP: 11 killed as tractor trolley plunges in lake

At least 11 devotees, three of them minors, died after a tractor-trolley carrying idols of Goddess Durga for immersion on Vijayadashmi plunged in a lake in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. Three injured were rescued and admitted to hospital.

India clears Sikhs' visit to Pak for Prakash Parv

The Centre granted permission for Sikh jathas to visit Pakistan for the upcoming Prakash Purab of Guru Nanak Dev, to be observed in November. The decision follows growing pressure from political leaders and Sikh organisations in Punjab.

Former NSG commando held with 200 kg ganja

Rajasthan Police has arrested a former National Security Guard (NSG) commando, who had participated in the 26/11 anti-terror operation in Mumbai, for allegedly being the kingpin of a cannabis smuggling racket, an official said on Thursday. **P2**

Starting a war was not objective of Operation Sindoor: Rajnath

ANI

Bhuj

In a stern warning to Pakistan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said any misadventure by Islamabad in the Sir Creek sector will invite a "decisive response" that will be strong enough to change both "history and geography".

His remarks at a military base near the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Bhuj came against the backdrop of the neighbouring country expanding military infrastructure in the disputed region.

Singh said in retaliatory action after Pahalgam, Indian forces completely exposed the Pakistani air defence system.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performs rituals during the 'Shastra Pooja' on Vijayadashmi, in Bhuj Sector on Thursday.

ANY MISADVENTURE FROM PAKISTAN IN SIR CREEK WILL RECEIVE DECISIVE RESPONSE: MIN

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh warned that any misadventure by Pakistan in the Sir Creek area would be met with a decisive response that both history and geography will change. Singh attended a multi-agency capability exercise and performed the Shastra Poojan ceremony at the Lakki Nala Military Garrison in Kutch, held on the occasion of Vijayadashmi. He said India has repeatedly tried to resolve the border dispute.

DEFENCE MINISTER PERFORMS SHASTRA POOJA IN BHUJ

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh conducted

Shastra Pooja at the Bhuj Military Base on the occasion of Vijayadashmi. Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Lt General Dhiraj Seth, Commander of the Southern Army, were also present on the occasion. The L-70 Air Defence (AD) gun, which had been instrumental in Operation Sindoor, was also specially presented to the Defence Minister during the ceremony. During Operation Sindoor, the L-70 Air Defence Gun demonstrated exceptional effectiveness.

Shah urges for more use of swadeshi, Khadi

...links them to the employment and acceleration of the freedom movement

ANI

New Delhi

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that the introduction of the concepts of Swadeshi and Khadi to the country not only improved the lives of impoverished people but also accelerated the freedom movement.

Shah said that the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, awakened the people of the country.

Appealing to the people to invest in at least Rs 5,000 worth of Khadi products annually, Shah said that both the campaigns would bring employment to the people.



Amit Shah at Khadi India.

AMIT SHAH TO VISIT HARYANA TODAY

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will visit Haryana on Friday, with programmes in Rohtak and Kurukshetra. As part of efforts to promote the cooperative sector, Shah will inaugurate the newly constructed Sabar Dairy Plant at Industrial Model Township, Rohtak.

Direct flights to China likely by month-end

Agencies

New Delhi

India and China have agreed to resume direct air services by the end of this month, following sustained discussions between the civil aviation authorities. The agreement was announced today by India's Ministry of External Affairs, marking a major development after the recent ice-breaker meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the SCO Summit.

According to the ministry's statement, technical-level talks between aviation officials from both sides had been on since earlier this year.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Working to give a new dimension to Raj's development through strength of cooperatives, says CM Bhajan Lal

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the efforts of Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, the country is scripting a new story of prosperity through cooperatives.

He said that the state government is working to give a new dimension to Rajasthan's develop-



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma speaking at the launch event of the cooperative membership campaign at Constitution Club.

ment through the strength of cooperatives. In this direction, a cooperative membership campaign is

being organized from October 2 to October 15, with a focus on involving women and youth.

Over 77 lakh farmers have been provided interest-free short-term crop loans worth Rs 42,765 crore, while 2.48 lakh new farmers have received crop loans of Rs 433 cr: CM

Sharma was addressing the launch program of the campaign at the Constitution Club on Thursday. He informed that around 8,300 camps are being organized at the

PACS level, covering five departmental activities. The target is to increase the number of cooperative societies by 10 percent. He said that in 2,158 gram panchayats without PACS, new committees will be set up, and land will be allotted to those village service cooperative societies that do not have land for building warehouses.

CM said cooperatives empower people in every village by enabling them to work collectively. **P8**

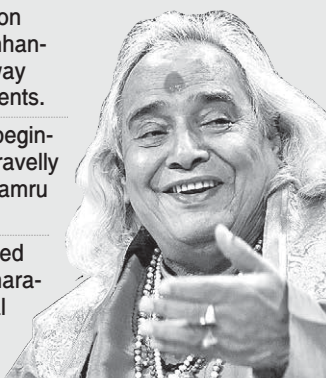
03 AUGUST 1936- 02 OCTOBER 2025

THUMRI LOSES ITS VOICE Pt Chhannulal Mishra no more

Thumri lost its voice on Thursday, as Pandit Chhannulal Mishra passed away due to age-related ailments.

Rising from humble beginnings in Benaras, his gravely voice echoed Shiva's damru and Ganga's serenity.

He seamlessly blended Kirana and Benaras Gharanas, mastering classical depth and semi-classical lyricism.



PM MODI CONDOLES PANDIT JI'S DEMISE

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved family of Pandit Mishra ji, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that their grief is his personal grief. He prayed that Baba Vishwanath grant Pandit Chhannulal Mishra ji a place at His feet and give strength to his well-wishers in this hour of sorrow.

BRIBE BUST

ACB lays trap, arrests Phulera SHO, broker with ₹50K bribe

Navin Sharma
Jaipur

The ACB Jaipur Rural Unit, on Thursday, arrested Chandra Prakash Yadav, Station House Officer, Phulera Police Station, and broker Happy Mathur red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000.

Additional Director General of Police, ACB, Smita Srivastava, stated that the ACB unit received a complaint alleging that Yadav was harassing the complainant's brother through Mathur and demanding Rs 70,000 for not arresting him in a cybercrime complaint and hushing up the matter.

"Acting on the com-



Arrested SHO Chandra Prakash Yadav



Broker Happy Mathur

plaint, the ACB laid a trap on Thursday and caught Inspector Yadav and Mathur red-handed while accepting Rs 50,000 as a bribe," Sriv-

astava said. Under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General of ACB Jaipur, Rajesh Singh and led by Additional Superintendent of Police

of ACB Jaipur Rural, Sunil Kumar Sihag, a team conducted a trap operation and arrested the two. Broker Mathur had already collected Rs

Additional Director General of Police, ACB, Smita Srivastava, stated that the ACB unit received a complaint alleging that Yadav was harassing the complainant's brother through Mathur and demanding Rs 70,000 for not arresting him in a cybercrime complaint and hushing up the matter.

20,000 before. The interrogation and proceedings against the accused are ongoing. Further investigation is underway, the officials said.

Cong leader's flat among illegal constructions sealed by JDA

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The enforcement wing of the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) conducted a major operation on Wednesday against unauthorised construction at Prabhuraj Apartments near Transport Nagar, Chomu House. While the five-storey building had been approved, additional penthouse structures on the terrace above the fifth floor violated the sanctioned building plan.



The illegal construction involved flats 501 to 505, including a penthouse built by Congress leader Rukshmani Kumari. Notices under Sections 32 and 33 of the JDA Act had been issued, directing the builders to remove the structures. As the construction was not removed, the enforcement wing, under DIG Rahul Kotoki, obtained higher-level approval and issued a Section 34(a) notice.

With assistance from the engineering branch, the JDA sealed the illegal penthouses, including locking gates and entrances, ensuring compliance with regulatory norms.



State Congress to announce new district presidents by Oct end; fresh faces likely

Rajasthan Congress is set to announce new district presidents in the coming weeks. From October 4, a party organisational drive will commence, with observers tasked to visit the respective districts by October 20 and evaluate leaders at the booth, block, and district levels and gather feedback from press club, bar association representatives, and local NGOs. Observers will submit reports containing six names for each district panel. After Diwali, Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal will hold discussion with the observers.

Madan Rathore buys Khadi products

Rajasthan BJP president Madan Rathore recently purchased two sets of kurta-pyjama and a dupatta from the Bajaj Nagar Khadi shop. The total bill of ₹6,250 was paid by Rathore himself using a credit card. While present, he also told fellow BJP leaders, "Anyone who wants to buy, can buy; I will make the payment." BJP leaders present at the shop expressed admiration for Rathore's gesture.

State RLD to hold rally in Bharatpur

A farmers-labourers rally is scheduled to be held in the Bharatpur division which is being organised by the Rajasthan wing of the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The event will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Baagad Field, Bayana, in Bharatpur district. Jayant Chaudhary, National President of RLD and Union Minister of State, will be the chief guest at the rally.

RMSCL faces scrutiny as Keyson cough syrup linked to side effects, quality lapses

Questions have arisen over the quality of medicines supplied by the Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited (RMSCL) following a rise in reported side effects from a cough syrup, including cases where children's health deteriorated and a suspected death occurred. Samples of medicines from the company Keyson have reportedly failed quality tests 40 times over the past few years, including cough syrups, anti-cold, and anti-anxiety medications.

Khandelwal new Cong PCC observer for Barmer, Balotra



Giriraj Khandelwal

NEET aspirant found hanging in Kota PG

First India Bureau
Kota

A 20-year-old NEET aspirant from Delhi was found hanging in his PG room here, police said on Thursday.

Lucky Choudhary, a native of Patna in Bihar, was found hanging on Wednesday from a ceiling fan in his PG located in Sector-2 under the Vi-



NEET aspirant Lucky Choudhary

gyan Nagar Police Station limits. Circle Inspector Mukesh Meena said the

The victim's father said Lucky had told his sister that he had borrowed Rs 40,000 and was under pressure from the lender to repay it.

room was bolted from the inside at two places.

"We have found no sign of foul play at this

stage," he said.

Meanwhile, another student from Bihar, living in an adjoining room in the same PG, was reported to have gone missing.

Lucky's maternal uncle (Mama), Koshal Kumar Choudhary alleged foul play and suspected the involvement of a youth named Rahul, also hailing from Patna, who is now missing.

ANAEMIA SCREENING DRIVE

Show-cause notices to 19 CMHOs for negligence

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Nineteen Chief Medical and Health Officers (CMHOs), including those from Jaipur, have been served show-cause notices for negligence in implementing the central government's "Swasth Nari Shashakt Parivar" (Healthy Women, Empowered Families) campaign. The action was taken due to indifference in conducting haemoglobin tests, a key activity under the campaign aimed at anaemia screening among women.

Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM), Amit Yadav, issued the notices, expressing dissatisfaction



tion with the progress achieved up to September 30. Officers have been asked to submit their replies within three days due to unsatisfactory performance.

The notices were served to CMHOs from Jaipur I, Jaipur II, Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Dausa, Jhalawar, Banswara, Kotputli-Behror, Dholpur, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Bikaner, Udaipur, Alwar, Baran, Salumbar, Jodhpur, Beawar, and Pratapgarh.

117 liquor shop licences junked over unpaid dues

First India Bureau
Jaipur

In a major crackdown, the Excise Department has suspended the licences of 117 liquor shops across Jaipur for failing to pay their annual licence fees. The order, issued by DEO Jaipur City Mahipal Singh, affected shops in all seven city circles.

Officials stated, 2.5% of the total guarantee amount was required to be deposited by September 30. The number of shops whose licences have been suspended is 12 in East East Circle, 16 in Jhotwara, 15 in North, 28 in Sanganer, 35 in South Circle, eight in South East, and 13 in West Circle.

The total annual licence fee pending amounts to Rs 9.87 crore.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan Police has arrested a former National Security Guard (NSG) commando, who had participated in the 26/11 anti-terror operation in Mumbai, for allegedly being the kingpin of a cannabis smuggling racket, a senior official said on Thursday.

Bajrang Singh was arrested late Wednesday night from Ratangarh in Churu. He was allegedly involved in smuggling 'gaanja' from Telangana and Odisha into Rajasthan and was caught with 200 kg of the substance, said Inspector General of Po-



REPRESENTATIONAL PIC

lice Vikas Kumar. The "drug kingpin" belonged to Sikar district and carried a bounty of Rs 25,000, Kumar said.

The two-month operation to track Singh succeeded after a crucial tip that he always travelled with a trusted Odiya cook.

Singh had joined the NSG after finishing his Class 10. He was part of the commando team that responded to the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, Kumar said.

OVER 3,000 LITRES OF ILLEGAL CHEMICALS SEIZED IN CHURU

Churu police, led by AGTF in-charge IPS Abhijeet Patil, carried out a major operation in Sadulpur with support from Taranagar police, seizing large quantities of illegal chemicals from different locations. During the raids, authorities recovered 1,320 litres of chemicals from a factory on NH-52 at Hadial, and 1,950 litres from a field near Mitish Dhani. Police said the seized chemicals were being used in biodiesel production.



QUACK HELD IN JAIPUR AFTER PREGNANT WOMAN DIES

Police in Kaladera, Jaipur, have arrested an unqualified practitioner following the death of a pregnant woman, allegedly caused by medical negligence. The accused, Dharam Singh Lonia of Sidharth Nagar, Chomu, was operating a hospital without proper registration or a valid medical degree. The case was registered after the woman's family lodged a complaint, claiming her death resulted from negligent treatment. Authorities confirmed that the facility, operating as Sunita Women and General Hospital, had no official registration. The Health Department found the functioning without legal authorisation and subsequently sealed the premises.

MEWAR ROYAL FAMILY'S AGE-OLD CUSTOM

Dr Lakshyaraj performs Shastra Puja on Vijaya Dashami

Ravi Sharma
Udaipur

In a grand display of Mewar's rich heritage and devotion, Dr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, a descendant of the legendary Mewar dynasty and Chairman of the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, performed the traditional Shastra Puja on the occasion of Vijaya Dashami at the historic Salehkhana (armory) on Thursday.

As part of the age-old custom, Dr Mewar of-

fered prayers with Vedic chants to a collection of ancestral arms and weaponry once used by Mewar's valiant Maharanas. The ceremonial display included seven swords, a shield, a spear, two guns, two daggers and a bow with arrows.

During the ritual, Dr Mewar introduced his son Haritraj Singh Mewar to the legacy of his forefathers—including legendary warriors like Maharana Sanga, Maharana Prata, and Maharana Raj Singh.

The weapons, forged



Dr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, Chairman and Managing Trustee of the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, along with his son Haritraj Singh Mewar, performs Shastra Puja in Udaipur.

from steel and adorned with intricate craftsmanship, reflect the excel-

lence of Mewari artisans. The sword hilts feature gold filigree, enamel

work and embedded gemstones.

The shield showcases gold detailing, while the spears and daggers stand out for their exceptional design.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mewar highlighted the significance of Ashwin Shukla Dashami in the Suryavanshi tradition, where the worship of weapons marks the culmination of the Navratri festival.

He also shared insights into the military legacy of the Mewar rulers. Under Maharana Sa-

jjan Singh (1874–1884), the Sajjan Infantry was formed, later reorganised as part of the Indian States Forces in 1942.

The famed Mewar Lancers, established by Maharana Fateh Singh (1884–1930), remain a part of India's military heritage today as Unit 'A' of the Indian State Forces.

The flags of these historic military units, including the Sajjan Infantry and Mewar Lancers, continue to symbolise valour, pride and honour in the legacy of the Mewar dynasty.

Birthday Celebration



Malviya Nagar MLA Kalicharan Saraf celebrates his birthday by performing aarti and feeding fodder to cows at Duragapura Gaushala, interacting with devotees and accompanied by his wife Alka Saraf, son Ashish Saraf, family members, and party workers.

IGNITING HOPE, BANISHING EVIL

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

The Ravan effigy in Kota created the record of being the world's tallest effigy but the effigy could not burn completely. Although the effigy of Kumbhakarna burnt to ashes in a short time, but the face of the effigy of Meghnad also did not burn completely and the face, crown, sword and chakra of the 233 feet tall Ravan could not catch fire even after several explosions. Excessive use of fibre glass and moisture caused by rain after the effigy was erected are being considered responsible for this.

Ambala-based artisan Tejendra Chauhan (58) along with his 25-member team worked for four months to design and prepare the effigy of Ravan, along with 60 feet tall effigies of Kumbhakaran and Meghnath on either side of the Ravan. Meanwhile, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, speaking at the 132nd National Dussehra Fair in Kota described Vijaya-dashami as a celebration of the triumph of truth over falsehood and righteousness over wrongdoing. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the gathering, calling the Dussehra Fair an exemplary model of promoting indigenous products.



The Ravan effigy in Kota created a record for being the tallest, measuring 233 feet. However, the effigy couldn't burn completely due to excessive moisture.



The Ravan effigy in Jaipur's Adarsh Nagar also couldn't burn completely due to being drenched in rain in last couple of days.

 SANTOSH SHARMA, NAIM KHAN, MUKESH KIRADOO, SUNIL SHARMA



Union Minister GS Shekhawat along with former Maharaja of Jodhpur Gaj Singh, Rajendra Gehlot, Mayor Kunti Devda and others participated in Ravan Dahan programme in Jodhpur.



DY CM Diya Kumari participated in RSS' Dussehra celebration event at Laxmi Narayanpuri Basti in Jaipur.



A glimpse of Dussehra celebration in Ajmer.

 NADEEM KHAN

Rajasthan's GST growth outpaces National average

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The GST revenue collection in the state was better than the national average. The revenue collection after refunds stood at Rs 160,360 crore in September. The state's growth was around 10 % in September. The credit for this success is being attributed to the efficient monitoring of departmental officers as the revenue collection in September was better than that of the state's major competitors. A total of Rs 11.93 lakh crore in GST revenue was collected between April and September. Notably, the GST revenue collection in the country in the month of September was Rs 1,89,017 crore.

COUGH SYRUP ROW CM demands detailed report; advisory issued

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma has taken note of recent incidents involving alleged side effects of cough syrups, including the death of a child in Bharatpur. The CM has sought detailed reports from senior health officials and directed strict action if any negligence is found. Sharma reviewed the developments with Principal Secretary Health Gayatri Rathore and NHM Mission Director Dr Amit Yadav. CM Sharma has ordered a thorough investigation into all cases. Sharma said strict action would



The Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide cough syrup.

be taken against anyone found responsible for negligence or lapses in public health safety. Advisory has been issued to doctors, pharmacists, and ANMs across the state. Doctors have been told to exercise special caution in pediatric patients and to avoid the use of cough syrups containing dextromethorphan.

TWO-YEAR-OLD DIES IN BHARATPUR, COUGH SYRUP LINK ALLEGED

A two-year-old boy from Luhasa village of Bharatpur district died last week after allegedly consuming a cough syrup. The two-year-old boy, Teerthraj, from Luhasa village in Bharatpur's Weir subdivision, died on September 27 after falling ill on September 23. His family alleged a cough syrup containing Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide caused his death, but officials denied the claim. CMHO Dr Gaurav Kapoor said the child was prescribed only a general anti-cold syrup at Weir CHC. A medical team has been sent to investigate, with lab reports awaited to confirm the cause.

Priyanka wraps up R'bore trip, returns to Delhi

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Congress General Secretary and MP Priyanka Gandhi was in Ranthambore along with her son Rehan and daughter Miraya for three days. She had reached Ranthambore on September 29 for her three-day visit. Priyanka Gandhi spent three days at the Sher Bagh Hotel with her children. This time, Priyanka and her family skipped visiting the Ranthambore National Park and the tiger safaris. Ranthambore is reportedly one of Priyanka Gandhi Vadera's favorite destinations. She left for Delhi on Thursday.

Diya promotes use of indigenous products



Dy CM Diya Kumari interacting with a woman artisan at the Swayamsiddha Handicrafts Exhibition 2025 in Jaipur.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Dy CM Diya Kumari inaugurated the 'Swayamsiddha' Handicrafts Exhibition 2025 at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur. The exhibition showcases the skills of women entrepreneurs, cottage industries, and artisans. Diya interacted with artisans and commended their efforts. She also pro-

moted the use of indigenous products by making purchases through digital payment, underscoring support for Digital India initiative. She also visited the Sumangal Diwali Fair organized by the Rajasthan Grameen Aajeevika Parishad. She interacted with shopkeepers and assured them that efforts would be made to provide permanent spaces for their businesses.

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve's core zone opens for tourists after three months

First India Bureau
Sawai Madhopur

As the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve's core zone opened after three months on Thursday, a huge number of enthusiastic tourists thronged on the very first day. Even the big cats did not disappoint the tourists and regaled them with their antics. Tourists were lucky to spot three tiger families. Tigress T-124 Riddhi was seen with her three cubs in Zone 3 near Malik Talab. Another Tigress T-111 Shakti was also spotted with her cubs near Camera Tiraha.



A male tiger T-120 Ganesh was seen with his family that was feasting on a hunted deer near Malik Talab. The tiger families were there for about one-and-a-half-hours. Expert Abhishek Chaudhary and guide Vijay Singh Meena captured the thrilling scene with their cameras.

The spectacular sights on the first day have raised hopes of tourists for the entire season. The new tourist season officially began on Wednesday, which was a holiday.

LoP seeks time to meet Prez over CCTV row

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Following the controversy over 'spy camera' in Rajasthan Assembly, Leader of the Opposition Tika Ram Jolly sought time to meet President Draupadi Murmu. Jolly said, "This raises questions on the dignity of democracy and the sanctity of constitutional institutions. This is not only a violation of the privacy of MLAs of the opposition, it is also a direct betrayal of public trust. Opposition party representatives had met the



LoP Tika Ram Jolly

Governor and apprised him of all the facts and sought an impartial investigation into the matter." The row was triggered on 10 September when PCC chief GS Dotasra and LoP Tika Ram Jolly questioned the installation of extra cameras behind the opposition benches.

STATEWIDE 'SWACHHOTSAV'

Guv urges better waste disposal, clean habits

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Governor Haribhau Bagade, while addressing the state-level 'Swachhotsav' ceremony organized on Thursday, said that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has achieved a significant milestone in eliminating open defecation. He said that he has visited all the districts of the state and was pleased to learn that toilets have been built in every village. The Governor urged



Governor Haribhau Bagade, Urban Development Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra, JMCG Mayor Dr Somya, JMCH Mayor Kusum Yadav and Secretary LSG Ravi Jain taking the 'Swachhata Shapath' during the event in Jaipur on Thursday.

everyone to make effective arrangements for

proper waste disposal in cities and villages.

Governor Bagade also honoured district officials

and employees who performed exceptionally well under the campaign. Governor Bagade urged everyone to work towards cleanliness and shun bad habits like spitting in public places. Bagade narrated incidents from the lives of Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mahatma Gandhi while urging everyone to be moral and honest in their conduct. Urban Development Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra said that service is a duty and praised the sanitation workers.

RSS: A CENTURY OF SERVICE, SACRIFICE, AND NATION-BUILDING



Rajnath Singh

The writer is
Defence Minister of India

When Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar founded the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur on September 27, 1925, few could have imagined the remarkable journey it would embark on over the years. The RSS today stands as a living epitome of selfless service that has shaped India's social fabric, defended its sovereignty, empowered its vulnerable communities, and also nurtured timeless civilizational values. Today, as the RSS celebrates its centenary, it is worthwhile to revisit its journey.

At a recent event in Delhi, RSS Sarsanghchalak Shri Mohan Bhagwat reminded the nation of the organization's inclusive ethos. He asserted, "Religion is by individual choice; there should be no allurements or force in this". This view echoes the Sangh's founding philosophy: to build a society rooted in harmony rather than conflict, collective strength rather than division, and character building, not just material wellbeing.

Through daily shakhas and volunteer-driven initiatives, the RSS has sought to foster discipline, resilience, and pride in India's cultural heritage, shaping individuals who view service to society and the nation as their highest calling.

It was therefore not a surprise when PM Shri Narendra Modi, in his speech on this Independence Day, lauded the RSS for its century-long role in nation-building. Calling it the "biggest NGO in the world", he reminded Indians how the RSS stands out as one of the most influential socio-cultural movements in independent India.

Independence came shrouded in the tragedy of Partition, which caused immense loss of life and forced millions from their homes. Amid this tragedy, RSS swayamsevaks stood out as a disciplined and selfless force, rescuing, rehabilitating, and protecting countless victims of the carnage. Under the leadership of the second Sarsanghchalak, Shri Gururajji (M.S. Golwalkar) and other senior leaders, the RSS mobilized communities, set up refugee camps, provided food and medical aid, escorted vulnerable families to safety, and organized defences for besieged homes.

Such was the contribution of the RSS that even Congress leaders, overwhelmed by the situation, reportedly sought the Sangh's assistance to protect their families and communities in Punjab. No wonder The Tribune, in one of its reports, called the RSS "the sword arm of Punjab".

This spirit endured beyond Partition. During the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the RSS again stepped in as a saviour. It provided shelter, protection, and relief to the Sikh community.



Through daily shakhas and volunteer-driven initiatives, the RSS has sought to foster discipline, resilience, and pride in India's cultural heritage, shaping individuals who view service to society and the nation as their highest calling. It was therefore not a surprise when PM Shri Narendra Modi, in his speech on this Independence Day, lauded the RSS for its century-long role in nation-building. Calling it the "biggest NGO in the world", he reminded Indians how the RSS stands out as one of the most influential socio-cultural movements in independent India.

Noted author Khushwant Singh acknowledged this publicly when he said that the RSS played an honourable role in maintaining Hindu-Sikh unity before and after the assassination of Mrs. Indira Gandhi."

Considering this legacy, it is unfounded and erroneous when some people accuse RSS of being a majoritarian organization. During Independence, it helped protect India's minorities and their places of worship. In March 1947, when mobs instigated by the Muslim League headed toward the Golden Temple, RSS volunteers, armed with swords and lathis, confronted them, forcing a retreat. Three days later, when another coordinated assault threatened the sacred Sikh shrine, RSS swayamsevaks formed a human ring of defence and fought for hours, successfully repelling the attackers and safeguarding the gurdwara again.

The RSS's role in the country's integration is even less known. From Kashmir to Goa to Dadra and Nagar Haveli, it has played a decisive role in preserving India's territorial integrity. When Pakistan-backed tribal invaders attacked Jammu & Kashmir, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel sought Shri Gururajji's help to persuade Maharaja Hari Singh to join India. Shri Gururajji travelled to Srinagar and impressed upon him the strategic necessity of immediate accession. RSS volunteers also aided the Army during the 1947-48 war by managing supplies, logistics, and relief for refu-

gees fleeing areas like Mirpur and Muzaffarabad.

In 1954, swayamsevaks spearheaded the liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli from Portuguese control. According to K.R. Malkani's book *The RSS Story*, "On 2 August 1954, some 200 RSS swayamsevaks, led by Nana Kajrekar and Sudhir Phadke, liberated Dadra and Nagar Haveli, putting to flight 175 Portuguese soldiers armed with rifles, Bren guns, and Sten guns." Similarly, the RSS joined underground freedom movements to fight for Goa's liberation.

Thus, RSS has always fought for strengthening India and its spirit. During the 1975 Emergency, the Sangh became the resistance's

backbone, mobilizing millions to defend India's constitution. According to *The Economist*, published in January 1976, "The shock troops of the movement come largely from the Jana Sangh and its affiliate RSS, which claim a combined membership of 10 million, of whom 80,000, including 6,000 full-time workers, are in prison." At a time when people and institutions were willing to crawl when told to bend merely, the RSS fought against authoritarianism and worked towards strengthening Indian democracy.

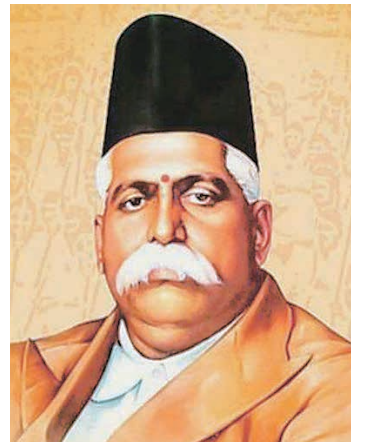
Furthering its commitment to the constitutional values, the RSS has also devoted itself to uplifting tribals and marginalized communities. The Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, founded in 1952, is the country's largest tribal welfare organization. Today, it operates more than 20,000 projects across 52,000 villages in 323 districts of the country, covering education, healthcare, skill development, and cultural revival.

The RSS's approach has been to bring tribals into the national mainstream without compromising their original identities, bolstering their tribal pride while integrating them with the larger Indian identity.

The RSS is also often unfairly criticized regarding its relationship with Mahatma Gandhi. While it is true that there were some differences of opinion between Mahatma Gandhi and the RSS on certain issues—just as there were within the Congress fold itself—it would be misleading to portray their relationship in terms of hostility or rivalry.

Their differences never stood in the way of the mutual regard they shared. This was evident in 1934, when Gandhi Ji visited an RSS camp in Wardha. He was struck by the organization's "discipline, complete absence of untouchability, and rigorous simplicity". On September 16, 1947, amid the Partition mayhem, Gandhi Ji addressed an RSS meeting in Delhi, praising its spirit of service and sacrifice. The RSS too, soon after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination on January 30, 1948, suspended all shakhas for 13 days as a mark of respect—the only time in the Sangh's history.

This spirit of engagement—where differences do not preclude respect or constructive work—is also reflected in the way the RSS approaches regions and communities beyond its traditional base. The Northeast, for instance, was a region marked by alienation and insurgency due to colonial duplicity and policy shortcomings after



RSS founder Keshav Hedgewar

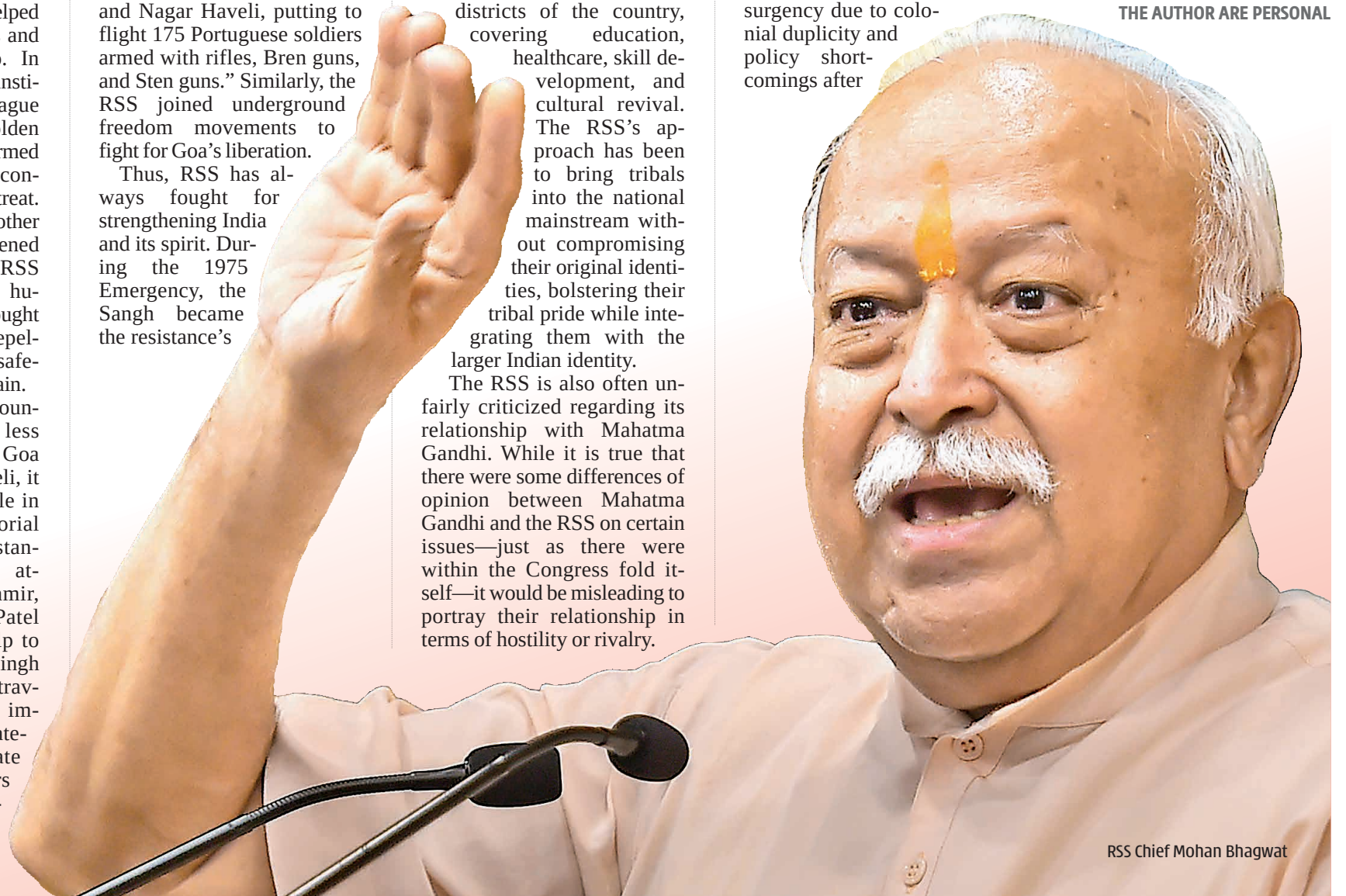


MS Golwalkar, second Sarsanghchalak of RSS

Independence. The RSS, since establishing its first shakha in Guwahati in 1946, has played a transformative role in bringing the region to the national mainstream. Through schools, healthcare camps, disaster relief, and community-building initiatives, it has built trust and bridged divides among different communities.

As the RSS completes a century of service, its contribution to nation-building remains steadfast and ever-growing. A recent testament to this spirit was seen during the COVID-19 outbreak, when in May 2021, nearly 300 swayamsevaks revived the long-defunct BGML hospital in Kolar within two weeks, offering much-needed relief to hundreds of patients. Such examples reflect how, even after a hundred years, the RSS continues to quietly perform its role as it was envisioned a century ago.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY
THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

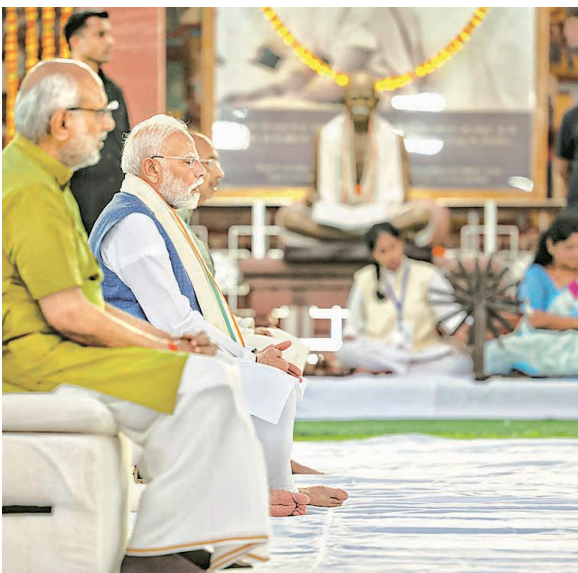


RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

PM pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, Shastri on birth anniv



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group picture with Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, Piyush Goyal, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajya Sabha MP Rajeev Shukla and Minister of State, L Murugan, and others after paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and ex-PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries at the Central Hall, Samvidhan Sadan, in New Delhi on Thursday. **PTI**



PM Narendra Modi and Vice President CP Radhakrishnan attend a prayer meeting on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi. **PTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by children during a prayer meeting. **PTI**

As Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh celebrates its 100th year

BJP's Nadda hails RSS' unique contribution to nation-building

PTI

New Delhi

The RSS has made a "unique contribution" to nation-building by inspiring youth to dedicate every moment of their lives to the service of the motherland, BJP president JP Nadda said on Thursday, when the outfit celebrated its centenary.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, founded by Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar on the day of Vijayadashmi in 1925, has completed 100 years. The outfit is considered the ideological fountainhead of the ruling BJP.

Nadda described the RSS as a "strong promoter" of service, discipline, and national ideals, and a source of inspiration for countless people.



BJP president JP Nadda **FILE**

It propagates national ideas in society and connects people with the "divine goal" of building a strong and united India, he said in a post on X.

For 100 years, the BJP chief said, countless RSS swayamsevaks have dedicated their lives to fulfil the resolve of 'rashtra nirman' (nation-building) through 'vyakti nirman' (character-building) for the motherland's progress.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the crores of swayamsevaks of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the world's largest social and cultural organisation, a strong promoter of service, discipline, and national ideals, on its centenary year," Nadda said.

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RSS EMBRACES ALL WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF RELIGION, CASTE: VICE PREZ RADHAKRISHNAN

Amid the RSS' centenary celebrations, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday said the organisation embraces all without distinction of religion, caste, or language, embodying unity in diversity. He said this "inclusive approach" has made the RSS and its affiliated organisations enduringly successful, driving the all-round progress of the nation. In a post on X, Radhakrishnan said that as the world's "foremost patriotic organisation" completes 100 years, its greatest contribution remains the man-making ethos of creating self-disciplined and responsible citizens essential for a strong society. Since its founding by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in 1925, the RSS has inspired youths to build strong inner character and voluntarily serve society, said Radhakrishnan, who has roots in the organisation.



Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on Thursday.

Attack on democratic system in India: RaGa

From Colombia, Cong leader again accuses BJP of eroding nation's democratic fabric

PTI

New Delhi

Claiming that there is a "wholesale attack on the democratic system" in India currently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said allowing different traditions to thrive is important for the country, as "we cannot do what China does, which is to suppress people and run an authoritarian system".

Gandhi said India has a much more complex system as compared with China & India's strengths are very different from that of the neighbouring country. India also has a very old spiritual tradition and a thought system with profound ideas that are useful in today's world.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi speaks at an event at EIA University of Colombia in Medellin, Colombia on Thursday.

BJP SLAMS RAHUL GANDHI FOR HIS REMARKS AT SEMINAR IN COLOMBIA

The BJP on Thursday slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks at a seminar in Colombia, accusing him of insulting and degrading India on foreign soil. Posting on X a video clip of Gandhi's remarks at an event held at EIA University, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "Rahul Gandhi does it again, degrades India on foreign soil. From defaming our democracy in London, to mocking our institutions in the US, now in Colombia he spares no chance to insult Bharat globally." In the video posted by the BJP leader, Gandhi is heard saying there are fault lines within the Indian structure and that there are risks which India has to overcome.

Lalu Prasad Yadav is Bihar's 'Ravan': Giriraj

Agencies

Patna

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday targeted RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, calling him the "Ravan" of Bihar. Addressing a gathering during Dussehra, Singh, the Begusarai MP, said, "Before 2005, 'Ravan' Lalu Prasad Yadav ruled Bihar."

Drawing comparisons between the Lalu and Nitish regimes, the Un-



Lalu Prasad

Giriraj Singh

ion Minister said, "Lalu once opened shepherd schools, while today Nitish Kumar is opening medical and engineering colleges in every district. Today, our government is wiping the tears of the poor."

'Garg died while swimming'

PTI

Kolkata

Singer-musician Zubeen Garg died due to drowning while swimming off a Singapore island and not while scuba diving as reported earlier, media reports said on Thursday.

Assam-based Garg, who was in Singapore for the 60th year of India Singapore Diplomatic Relations and to celebrate India ASEAN Year of Tourism, North East India Festival, died on Sept 19.



Singer-musician Zubeen Garg

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) said they have extended a copy of the autopsy report, along with its preliminary findings on Garg's death, to the High Commission of India, upon its request, a newspaper reported. The

Indian High Commission says it has received the report. As per source, the report says that Garg died due to drowning.

The SPF had earlier ruled out foul play in the death of the 52-year-old singer. "In the case of Zubeen Garg, a coroner's inquiry could possibly shed light on the sequence of events leading up to his drowning," the Singapore broadsheet quoted Ng Kai Ling, associate director at LIMN Law Corporation here, as saying.

Afghan foreign minister Muttaqi set to visit India

PTI

New Delhi

Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi is expected to visit India next week, in the first high-level trip from Kabul after Taliban captured power overthrowing the Ashraf Ghani government around four years ago.

The Afghan foreign minister is expected to visit India from October 10, people familiar with the matter said on Thurs-



Amir Khan Muttaqi

day. However, there is no official word on the visit yet. Muttaqi was scheduled to visit New Delhi last month but it was called off in view of a travel ban that he faced under United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions.

EC appoints new Additional CEO, Joint CEO of WB

PTI

Kolkata

The Election Commission has appointed Arun Prasad as the new Additional Chief Electoral Officer and Harishankar Panikkar as Joint Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal, an official said on Thursday. This came ahead of the anticipated rollout of the Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in October.

Guj BJP to elect state president, nat'l council members on Oct 4

Agencies

Ahmedabad

The ruling BJP in Gujarat on Thursday issued a notification for the election of its state president and national council members. Interested candidates should submit their nomination papers at the party's state headquarters in Gandhinagar before 2 pm on Friday, it said.

With the form-filling process beginning on 3 October and voting scheduled for 4 October, the suspense over caste and regional equations has intensified.



This election holds unusual significance because of the caste and regional balancing act the BJP leadership has been struggling with for 9 months.

While the scrutiny of forms will take place between 3 pm and 4 pm, candidates can withdraw their nominations be-

tween 5 pm and 5:30 pm.

If more than one candidate is in the fray, voting would take place between 10 am and 11 am on October 4, and results will be declared in the afternoon, said the notification.

If only one person files nomination papers, he or she will be declared as elected unopposed on Friday.

Union Jal Shakti Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Navsari, C R Paatil, is the present state BJP president though his three-year tenure came to an end in July 2023.

MURMU AT RED FORT

Op Sindoor symbol of victory over terror: Prez

PTI

New Delhi

Amid rain, President Droupadi Murmu attended the Dussehra celebrations at the Red Fort on Thursday and said the Indian armed forces' Operation Sindoor represents a decisive victory over the Ravana of terrorism.

Symbolically drawing a bow to mark the "Ravan Dahan" at Madhavdas Park in the Red Fort, the President said the festival has always symbolised the triumph of good over



President Droupadi Murmu greets the gathering during the 'Dussehra' festival celebration at the Red Fort, in New Delhi on Thursday. **PTI**

evil, humility over arrogance and love over hatred. The event was organ-

ised by the Dharmic Ram-lila Committee. "When terrorism strikes

against humanity, it becomes necessary to counter it. Operation Sindoor is

a mark of victory against the Ravana of terrorism, and we salute our soldiers for this," Murmu said.

The Operation Sindoor was a military operation which was launched against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan on May 7. It was a response to the terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam on April 22, when 26 civilians, mostly tourists, were gunned down by armed terrorists.

Despite the downpour, a large number of people gathered at the Red Fort to witness the Ravan Dahan, she said.

DEEP DEPRESSION CROSSES ODISHA COAST

2 injured as heavy rain continues, causing landslides and waterlogging

Red alert in 7 districts as heavy rain lashes Odisha



A flock of birds fly past a rainbow that appeared over Mumbai's skyline after rain on Thursday.

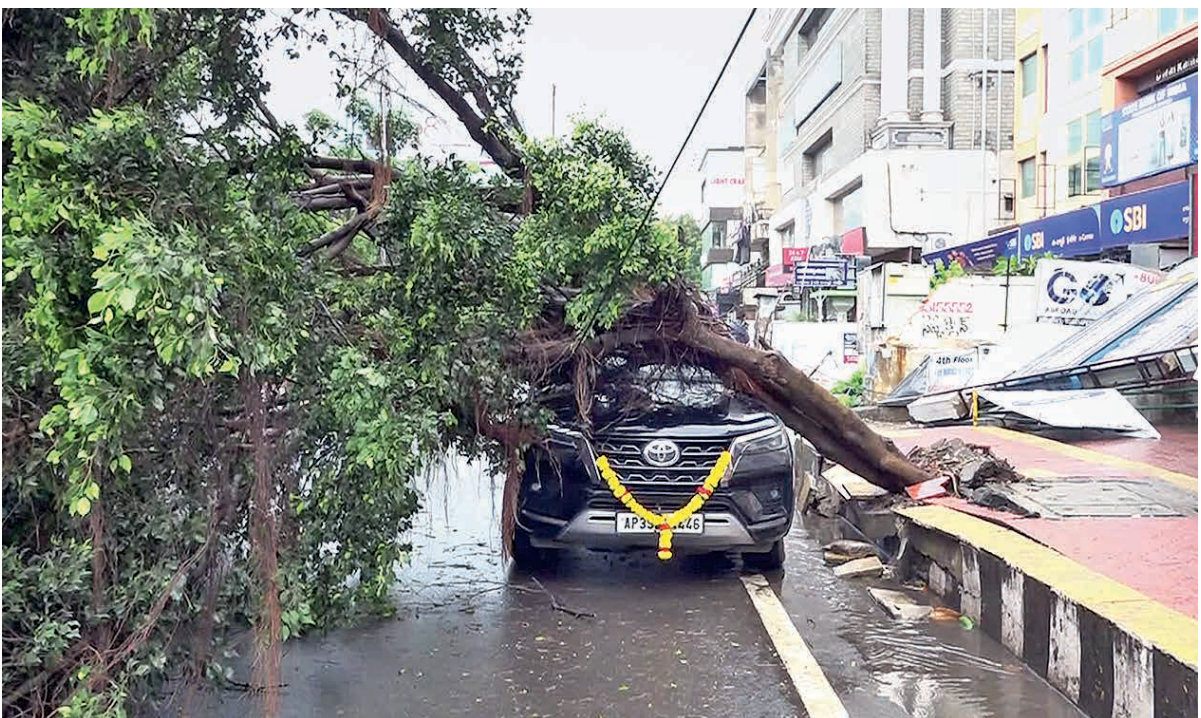
PTI
Bhubaneswar

Heavy rain lashed Odisha on Thursday as a deep depression is set to cross the state's coast near Gopalpur in Ganjam district in the evening, prompting the IMD to issue red alert of extremely heavy downpour for seven districts, orange warning for 16 and yellow alert for the remaining seven districts, officials said.

The road communication between Jagatsinghpur and Machhagaon has also been affected due to heavy rain

The two persons suffered injury in Jagatsinghpur district after a decorative bamboo gate, erected on the occasion of Durga Puja at Balikuda, collapsed, and they were admitted to a local community health centre, police said. State revenue department officials said that heavy rain triggered landslides in Gajapti, Rayagada and Koraput districts, while some trees fell in Ganjam.

Rainwater submerged a bridge in Koraput, disrupting vehicular movement on National Highway 326, connecting Odisha with Andhra Pradesh.



A tree falls on a car after being uprooted in the middle of the road after severe rain, in Visakhapatnam on Thursday.

ANI



Commuters cycle amid rain on the day of Dussehra, in Nadia on Thursday.

ANI

- MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS
- Kolkata recorded heavy showers on Thursday which caused inconvenience to Durga Puja committees
 - Kerala leaders on Thursday criticised the Central government over its allocation of funds for reconstruction following the Wayanad disaster, calling it politically discriminatory and inadequate
 - Curtains also came down on the 11-day Dasara celebrations in Mysuru and Durga Puja in West Bengal. Tragedy struck during two Durga idol immersion processions in MP in which 11 people, including two children, were killed

Bomb thrown at home of BJP leader in Kannur

PTI
Kannur

A bomb was thrown at the home of a local BJP leader near Kannapuram in wee hours of Thursday, police said. The incident occurred around 2.30 am. The parents of the BJP leader Viju Narayanan were at home when the incident occurred. However, no one was injured in the incident but there was damage to the windows and some of the walls of the house, they added. A case was registered against unknown persons, and an investigation was launched. The saffron party accused the police of being complicit in the matter.

NIA files chargesheet against 2 in India & US 'dunki' route case

Agencies
New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted two men for involvement in the illegal human trafficking from India to the US via the 'dunki' route, officials said on Thursday. Sunny, a resident of Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh) and Shubham Sandhal alias Deep Hundi of Peeragardhi, New Delhi, have been named in the chargesheet filed on Wednesday in a NIA special court in Mohali, they said. The duo have been charged with illegal human trafficking and cheating in the case, the officials said. Both of them were arrested in



NIA, which took over the case from the Punjab Police in March this year, found during investigation that Sunny was a 'donkar' actively involved in human trafficking via the 'dunki' route, a statement issued by the probe agency said

July this year, around three months after the arrest of the main accused, Gagandeep Singh alias Goldy, from Tilak Nagar area of New Delhi. The case was initially registered by Punjab Police on February 18 this year.

LEH VIOLENCE

Vice-chief of Air Staff visits Ladakh; reviews operational preparedness

PTI
Leh

Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari visited forward areas in the Union Territory of Ladakh to review the operational preparedness, a defence spokesman said on Thursday. The VCAS interact with personnel deployed in eastern Ladakh region during his visited from September 28 to 30, the spokesman said in a statement here. During the visit, Air Marshal Tiwari reviewed the infrastructure and operational facilities in the sector and forward oper-



Markets in Leh opened early on Thursday morning as police extended the curfew relaxation to full day.

ational locations. He interacted with Air Force and Army personnel and commended them for their dedication and professionalism in safeguarding the nation's frontiers despite the challenging terrain and climatic conditions, the spokesman said. He also appreciated the efforts of Border Roads Organisation and other agencies executing critical infrastructure projects in the region. The VCAS emphasised the importance of synergy between the Armed Forces and civil agencies in strengthening India's operational readiness in high altitude areas, the spokesman said. He stated that the timely completion of infrastructure projects provide a significant boost to India's strategic reach and air power capabilities in Ladakh.

MUCH-ANTICIPATED GOAT TOUR OF INDIA 2025

India a passionate football nation: Messi

PTI
Kolkata

Lionel Messi on Thursday confirmed his participation in the much-anticipated GOAT Tour of India 2025, calling it an "honour" to revisit the "passionate football nation" where he last played 14 years ago. "It is such an honour for me to make this trip. India is a very special country, and I have good memories from my time there 14 years ago -- the fans were fantastic. "India is a passionate football nation, and I



Messi will begin his whirlwind four-city tour in Kolkata on Dec 13 before travelling to Mumbai, New Delhi & Ahmedabad. The trip will end with a meeting with PM Narendra Modi on Dec 15.

FILE

look forward to meeting a new generation of fans while sharing the love I have for this beautiful game," Messi said in an official statement. The organisers had already unveiled the itinerary on August 15, and

Messi's statement on Thursday marked the first time the football icon himself confirmed the visit. Messi will begin his whirlwind four-city tour in Kolkata on December 13 before travelling to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. The trip will end with a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 15. During the tour, the Argentine superstar will headline concerts, meet-and-greet sessions, food festivals, football masterclasses, and even a padel exhibition at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium.

Sindoor Khela on Vijayadashami



Women smear vermilion on one another during 'Sindoor Khela' on 'Vijayadashami', last day of the 'Durga Puja' festival, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday.

PTI

India command Test opener as West Indies collapse early

Siraj's fiery spell and Bumrah's precision put India ahead in a dominant bowling display



India's KL Rahul plays a shot on the first day of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India on Thursday. PTI

Agencies
Ahmedabad

India began their home Test season with a dominant display, easing concerns about the team's transition phase after the retirement of senior stalwarts. Despite coming into the series on the back of a 0-3 defeat in their last encounter here, the hosts showed plenty of grit on the opening day.

West Indies, opting to bat first, folded for just 162 before tea, handing India an early advantage. By stumps, the visitors held only a slim lead of 41 runs.

Mohammed Siraj once again led from the front

with the ball, carrying his fine form from the England series. Bowling a fuller length and attacking the stumps, he dismantled the West Indian top order, finishing with impressive figures of 4 for 40. He was unlucky to miss out on a maiden five-wicket haul at home after a DRS review overturned an lbw decision.

Jasprit Bumrah, his pace partner, complemented him well, cleaning up the tail with lethal yorkers. Bumrah also reached a personal milestone—50 Test wickets on Indian soil—achieved faster than any bowler before him.

India's reply highlighted both promise and fragility.



India's Mohammed Siraj, center, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of West Indies' Brandon King on the first day of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies.

Youngster Sai Sudharsan fell cheaply, underlining the absence of experienced names like

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, R Ashwin and the injured Rishabh Pant. However, KL Rahul

steadied the innings with a composed half-century, showing maturity and responsibility in the new

batting order.

For West Indies, individual failures added to their woes. Openers Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Brandon King fell tamely, while debutant Alick Athanaze was lured into a loose drive by Siraj.

A brief stand between Shai Hope and Roston Chase offered resistance, but Kuldeep Yadav's clever drift and Siraj's seam movement broke it apart.

Overall, India outshone their opponents by sticking to the basics, proving sharper in execution and more disciplined in approach on a day they clearly and completely owned throughout.

Trump wields shutdown to reshape federal workforce

Agencies
Washington

President Donald Trump has seized on the government shutdown as an opportunity to reshape the federal workforce and punish detractors, by threatening mass firings of workers and suggesting "irreversible" cuts to programmes important to Democrats.

Rather than simply furlough employees, as is usually done during any lapse of funds, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said layoffs were "imminent." The Office of Management and Budget announced it was putting on hold roughly USD 18 billion of infrastructure funds for New York's subway and Hudson Tunnel projects — in the hometown of the Democratic leaders of the US House and Senate.

Trump has marvelled over the handiwork of his budget director.

"He can trim the budget to a level that you couldn't do any other way," the president said at the start of the week of OMB Director Russ Vought, who was also a chief architect of the Project 2025 conservative policy book.

"So they're taking a risk by having a shutdown," Trump said during an



ASIAN SHARES RISE ON TECHNOLOGY OPTIMISM SURGE

Manila: Asian shares advanced on Thursday, tracking Wall Street's rise to records despite the shutdown of the US government. Technology shares jumped on expectations of higher demand for computer chips due to a partnership between South Korean tech and OpenAI. US futures and oil prices also rose. South Korea's Kospi climbed 2.9 per cent to 3,555.63 after Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix announced their agreement with OpenAI.

event at the White House.

Thursday is day two of the shutdown, and already the dial is turned high. The aggressive approach

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HALTS \$18B IN RAIL FUNDING, CITING SHUTDOWN & DEI

Washington: President Donald Trump's administration, citing the government shutdown, said Wednesday it was putting a hold on roughly USD 18 billion to fund a new rail tunnel beneath the Hudson River between New York City and New Jersey and an extension of the city's Second Avenue subway. The White House budget director, Russ Vought, said on X that the step was taken due to the Republican administration's belief the spending was based on unconstitutional diversity, equity and inclusion principles. In a statement, Trump's Transportation Department said it had been reviewing whether any "unconstitutional practices" were occurring in the two massive infrastructure projects but that the shutdown, which began Wednesday, had forced it to furlough the staffers conducting the review.



coming from the Trump administration is what certain lawmakers and budget observers feared if Congress, which has the

responsibility to pass legislation to fund government, failed to do its work and relinquished control to the White House.

Elon Musk reaches half-trillion net worth

Agencies
Washington

Tesla boss Elon Musk has become the first person ever to achieve a net worth of more than \$ 5 0 0 b n (£370.9bn), as the value of the electric car company and his other businesses have risen this year.

The tech magnate's net worth briefly reached \$500.1bn on Wednesday afternoon New York time, before dipping slightly to just over \$499bn, the Forbes billionaires index reported.



Chernobyl blackout sparks global radiation concern

Agencies
Kyiv

Russia's sustained bombardment of Ukraine's power grid is deepening concerns about the safety of the country's nuclear facilities after a drone knocked out power for more than three hours at the site of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and as Europe's biggest atomic power plant remains disconnected from the grid, officials said.

Neither Chernobyl nor the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is working, but they require a constant



Volodymyr Zelenskyy

power supply to run crucial cooling systems for spent fuel rods in order to avoid a potential nuclear incident.

A blackout could also blind the radiation monitoring systems, installed to boost security at Chernobyl and operated by

the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"Russia is deliberately creating the threat of radiation incidents," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Wednesday, criticising the U.N. watchdog and its chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, for what he described as weak responses to the danger.

"Every day of Russia's war, every strike on our energy facilities, including those connected to nuclear safety, is a global threat," he said. "Weak and half-measures will not work. Strong action is needed."

Pakistan PM expands committee to address protests in PoK

PTI
Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday expressed "deep concern" over the deteriorating law and order situation in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as he expanded the negotiation committee to find a solution to end the violent protests.

Sharif's move came following a three-day strike by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JK-JAAC), prompted by the failure of the talks between the JKJAAC, representatives of PoK and the federal government to address the issues raised by the protesters.



Deteriorating law and order situation in PoK.

At least six civilians and three police personnel have been killed during the ongoing demonstrations in PoK, The News reported.

Local authorities said that nearly 172 police personnel were injured in the protests, with the condition of 12 reported as critical.

UK Synagogue attack kills two, injures three

Agencies
London

Two people were killed and three seriously injured in a synagogue attack in northern England on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism. Greater Manchester Police said the suspect was also believed dead after being shot by officers, though confirmation was delayed due to bomb concerns. The attack occurred around 9:30 am at Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation after reports of a car ramming-stabbing.

PEACE UNITY LEGACY

Indian missions worldwide celebrate Gandhi Jayanti

PTI
Moscow

On October 2, Indian missions across Russia, China, Pakistan, and several other countries celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 156th birth anniversary, emphasizing his enduring message of peace, non-violence, and truth.

In Moscow, Minister of State Pabitra Margherita paid floral tributes at Gandhi's statue in Ramenki Rayon Park, joined by local dignitaries and the Indian community. In Beijing, Ambassador



(Left) Ambassador Vinay Kumar paid tributes at Gandhiji's statue in Moscow on Mahatma Gandhi's 156th birth anniversary. Ambassadors in Saudi Arabia (Middle) and Cambodia (Right), with embassy officials and Indian diaspora members, paying floral tributes & honouring his timeless ideals of peace, truth, and non-violence.



Pradeep Kumar Rawat offered tributes at the Jintai Art Museum, where a multicultural musical tribute featured Gandhi's favourite bhajans. Gandhian scholar Shobhana

Radhakrishna reflected on his legacy.

In Islamabad, Chargé d'affaires Gitika Srivastava, along with High Commission staff, paid homage and planted a

tree to honour Gandhi's environmental ideals. In Colombo, Sri Lankan PM Harini Amarasuriya and Indian envoy Santosh Jha garlanded Gandhi's statue at Temple Trees.



Floral tributes and cultural events also marked the day in Nepal, South Korea, and Japan, with student performances and community participation. Indian missions

in the Philippines, Turkey, France, Saudi Arabia, and Mongolia also commemorated the occasion, reinforcing Gandhi's global relevance and timeless values.

Meloni criticises Gaza Flotilla, union strike

Agencies
Rome

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni criticised an aid flotilla intercepted off Gaza by the Israeli military, saying on Thursday the activists' mission and a strike called in their support in Italy would do nothing to help Palestinians.

Israeli forces have boarded dozens of ships carrying hundreds of activists, including about 40 Italians, as they attempted to breach a maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Italian unions called a general strike for Friday



Protesters rally across Italy supporting Gaza flotilla.

in solidarity with the flotilla, while protests sprang up in a number of cities after news spread late on Wednesday that the ships were being halted.

Meloni sarcastically suggested the planned strike was simply an excuse for unionists to have a nice weekend break.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Kindness is the seed that turns strangers into family.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

HONOURING LEGACY...



Governor Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade and CM Bhajan Lal Sharma pay floral tributes at the statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and portrait of former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri on their birth anniversaries at Gandhi Circle in Jaipur. Later, the Governor and the CM also listened to 'Ramdhun' at Gandhi Circle. Dy CM Dr PC Bairwa and others were present. **SUNIL SHARMA**



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari pays floral tributes to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary at Gandhi Vatika in Jaipur on Thursday.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma pays floral tributes at the statue of 'Bapu' on his birth anniversary at Secretariat in Jaipur.



Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa performs 'Shramdan' at his official residence in Jaipur on Thursday on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.



BJP State President Madan Rathore participates in a cleanliness drive under 'Seva Pakhwada' on Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti. He promoted cleanliness, paid floral tributes at Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the railway station. Also present were Jaipur MP Manju Sharma and MLA Gopal Sharma.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma purchases 'Khadi' products at the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan in Bajaj Nagar, Jaipur on Thursday. During the visit, he also promoted Digital India by making payments through UPI and urged people to buy 'Swadeshi' products. JMC Mayor Dr Somya, officials of the Khadi and Village Industries Board, and others were present.



PCC Chief GS Dotasra pays floral tributes to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and former PM Late Lal Bahadur Shastri to mark their birth anniversaries during a 'Prarthana Sabha' held at PCC Headquarters in Jaipur on Thursday. LoP Tika Ram Jolly, and Congress leaders Sanyam Lodha, Amin Kagzi, Shakuntala Rawat and others were also present.

Jodhpur gears up for Shekhawat's B'day today

Rajeev Gaur and Shiv Prakash Purohit
Jodhpur

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat turns 58 today, with birthday wishes pouring in from across Jodhpur and social media. Posters conveying greetings have been put up at key city locations by BJP workers, office-bearers, and well-wishers. Party

workers & community leaders are set to organise events in Jodhpur to mark the occasion.

He will attend the birth anniversary celebrations of Rao Jaimal in Merta City at 8 am. He will participate in several events in Gaushala & Luni. He will celebrate his birthday with supporters at BJP office at 5 pm. The Minister will stay overnight in Jodhpur today & leave for Jaisalmer on Saturday & attend the Deesa meeting there.

Birla to attend various events in Jaipur today

First India Bureau
Jaipur

LS Speaker Om Birla will visit Jaipur today to attend the state-level talent & Bhamashah Awards at Shyam Auditorium, Durgapura, and the Indian Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation annual conference at RIC. On Thursday, he met Gulab Kothari, editor-in-chief of Rajasthan Patrika, and attended the Kota Dussehra fair with CM Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Devnani to represent Raj at CPC in Barbados

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani will represent the Rajasthan Legislature at the 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Barbados from October 5 to 12. Devnani left Jaipur for New Delhi on Thursday and will travel via London on Friday en route to the Caribbean nation. As part of the Indian delegation, he will participate in key discussions on strengthening democracy and parliamentary systems, present



(L-R) Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani calls on GUV Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur. Speaker Vasudev Devnani calls on CM Bhajan Lal Sharma at CMR.

a paper on democratic institutions, and share recent innovations in the

functioning of the Rajasthan Assembly.

In London, he will tour

the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association headquarters and hold deliberations with officials, besides meeting members of the Indian diaspora and social organisations. Accompanied by Assembly Principal Secretary BB Sharma, Devnani paid courtesy visits to Governor Haribhau Bagade and CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, extending Dussehra greetings and discussing higher education and legislative developments. Assembly officials also conveyed best wishes for a successful visit.

CM Sharma: PM Modi's co-operation push drives development



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma unveils a poster related to the 'Sahkar Sadasyata Abhiyan' during the launch of the programme at the Constitution Club in Jaipur on Thursday. State Ministers Joraram Kumawat, Gautam Kumar Dak, Principal Secretary and Registrar of Co-operatives Dept Manju Rajpal, RCDF MD Shruti Bhardwaj, and others were present.

First India Bureau
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, at the launch of the 'Sahkar Sadasyata Abhiyan,' highlighted PM Modi's Ministry of Co-operation, established in July 2021, as a key pillar of national development. Under PM-Kisan, over 76 lakh Raj farmers received Rs 7,054 cr, with Rs 1,355 cr under the

state scheme. Sharma credited Union Home Min Amit Shah for strengthening PACS, dairy, fisheries, co-op banks, and governance, including computerization and forming two lakh multipurpose co-operatives.

State Ministers Joraram Kumawat and Gautam Kumar Dak spoke on dairy, PACS, and women's enrolment.

Min Yadav unveils ₹ 50L sports ground in Alwar

Ashvini Yadav
Alwar

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav on Thursday announced the construction of a sports ground in Tijara at a cost of Rs 50 lakh, fulfilling a long-standing demand of local residents during his visit to the Dussehra fair at Shankargarh Ashram. Earlier, he visited Kotkasim, participated in the Ramleela, offered prayers at Hanuman temple, and laid the foundation stone for a new Shringar Bhawan. For-



Union Min Bhupender Yadav during the Ramleela event in Kotkasim, Kishangarh Bas. mer MLA Ramhet Yadav, Zila Pramukh Balbir Chhillar, MLA Sukhwant Singh, BJP district prez Ashok Gupta were present. Later, he attended the Ramleela and grand Ravan Dahan in Alawda village, Ramgarh.



Former CM Ashok Gehlot meets NSUI worker Ravindra Meghwal at SMS Hospital.

Gehlot visits injured NSUI worker at SMS, condemns attack

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot visited the trauma centre of SMS Hospital to meet NSUI worker Ravindra Meghwal, injured during a protest against an RSS programme at RU two days ago. Gehlot inquired about Meghwal's condition from doctors and condemned the attack, saying, "It is unfortunate that no action has been taken so far against those who attacked Ravindra." Cong MP Murari Lal Meena and party leader Dharmendra Rathore accompanied him. A local court sent NSUI state president Vinod Jakhar and eight student leaders sent to judicial custody; Moti Doongri police in-charge Ajaykant Ratudi is investigating the case.

BHARAT 24'S TOURISM CONCLAVE TODAY

Diya Kumari to share vision for Rajasthan's global tourism drive

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Bharat24, Vision of India, will host a grand Tourism Conclave on Friday, October 3, with the theme "How to Make Rajasthan a Global Destination." The event will bring together policymakers, industry leaders and stakeholders to chalk out the future roadmap of the state's tourism sector.

The highlight of the conclave will be the presence of Deputy Chief Minister and MoS for Finance, Tourism, Culture, PWD, and WCD, Diya Kumari, who will deliver her vision for strengthening Rajasthan's global positioning.

The event will begin with the welcome of the Deputy CM by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, Bharat24, Virender Choudhary, Director,



RAJASTHAN
The Incredible State of India !

First India News, and Pawan Arora, CEO & Managing Editor, First India News. Key dignitaries in-



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari

FILE

cluding Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Principal Secretary, Tourism Department, Rukmani Riari, Commissioner, RTDC, Ashok Rathore, General Manager, Rambagh Palace, Gaj Singh Alsisar, National General Secretary, Indian Heritage Ho-

tel Association, Surendra Singh Shahpura, Senior Vice President, FHTR, and Rajiv Arora, Former President, Tourism Development Corporation along with senior representatives from heritage hotels and tourism bodies will also be present.

A special felicitation ceremony will honour prominent contributors to Rajasthan's tourism, including officials from the Tourism Department, Hotel Federation of Ra-

jasthan, Palace on Wheels, and leading heritage hotels.

Two panel discussions have been planned—first with Deputy CM Diya Kumari, who will participate in an exclusive interaction with senior anchor Aditi Nagar. This will be followed by an industry session featuring experts, including Principal Secretary, Tourism Department Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Commissioner RTDC,

Rukmani Riari, GM, Rambagh Palace, Ashok Rathore and National General Secretary, Indian Heritage Hotel Association Gaj Singh Alsisar.

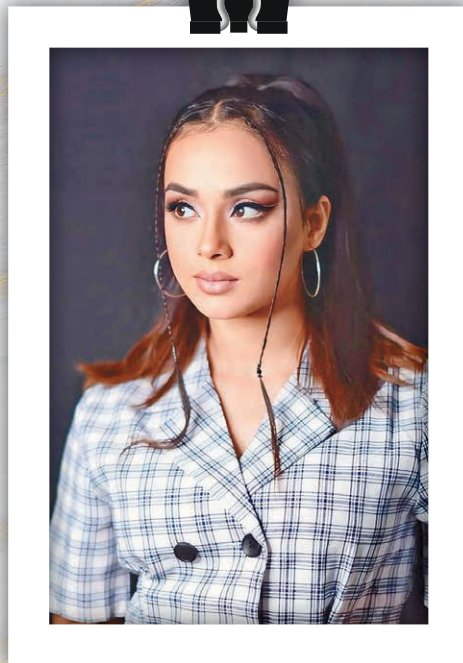
The conclave, organised by Bharat24 in association with First India News and First India, promises to be a landmark platform to deliberate on how Rajasthan can transform its immense cultural and heritage wealth into a truly global tourism brand.



ROYAL DUSSEHRA PUJA!

On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra and Vijayadashami, Sawai Padmanabh Singh conducted a traditional puja at the City Palace on Thursday, following age-old customs.

P12



Soaring Ambition

Miss Rajasthan 2025, Twinkle Purohit, has crafted a journey of impact and inspiration. City First presents her story of perseverance, advocacy, and creativity, showing how she motivates women to embrace multiple passions fearlessly!



Bhavika Khunteta

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Twinkle Purohit, crowned Miss Rajasthan 2025, is a model, content creator, Bharatnatyam dancer, and lawyer. She embodies the belief that women are not one-dimensional, and neither should their dreams be. Through her diverse pursuits, she emphasizes the importance of self-expression, creativity, and embracing multiple passions. Twinkle's journey demonstrates that ambition and authenticity can go hand in hand, and that pursuing varied interests can be both fulfilling and empowering. Twinkle hails from Jodhpur, where her ancestry is deeply rooted. The city's rich cultural heritage instilled in her authenticity, pride, and a strong sense of belonging. She also spent formative years in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, each leaving a unique mark on her personality. Mumbai taught her resilience and the value of pursuing dreams with determination, while Ahmedabad emphasized balance, blending tradition with modernity and prioritizing well-being. Together, these experiences shaped her into a grounded yet ambitious young woman with clarity and purpose.

Her creative journey began early with Bharatnatyam, which she started at the age of seven and continues to practice weekly. Encouraged by her parents—her father nurturing her singing skills and her mother guiding her in dance—she also explored public speaking, swimming, reading, and community service.

For the past seven years, her initiative, Project Prayas, has focused on raising awareness about autism, reflecting her commitment to meaningful causes beyond the stage.

Twinkle's entry into pageantry was both a calling and a conscious choice. During the pandemic, she realized that her passion for creativity, fashion, and pageantry outweighed the certainty of a legal career. With no industry connections, she persevered and undertook commercial work with homegrown and international brands, steadily building her portfolio. Her efforts culminated in winning the Miss Rajasthan 2025 crown, a testament to her determination and hard work.

Her parents have been her unwavering support system throughout this journey. Their encouragement helped her navigate the uncertainties of leaving a secure legal path to pursue modeling and pageantry. She also acknowledges the mentorship of Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra, Founders and Directors of the Miss Rajasthan Beauty Pageant and Fusion Group, for their guidance and encouragement.

Spirituality remains central to Twinkle's life. Daily prayer, meditation, and Sudarshan Kriya help her stay grounded, while music provides calm and inspiration. Looking ahead, she aspires to represent India on the global stage, continue her legal career, and expand her advocacy for autism awareness. For Twinkle, success is about evolving, inspiring others, and proving that women can pursue multiple passions while making a meaningful impact.



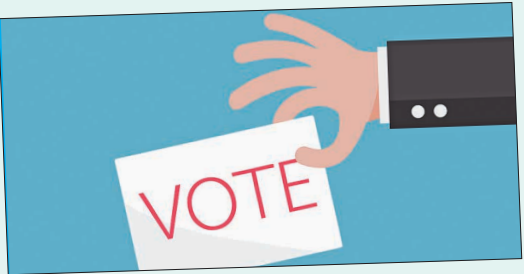
WHAT'S NEXT?



Patrakar Mahakumbh: Organised by Rajasthan Patrakar Parishad, the event will see 200 journalists from 28 states. The role of journalists in the changing scenario of journalism will be discussed. The National Executive Committee meeting of Indian Journalist Union will be held.

Where: Parshuram Bhawan, Sector 4, Vidhyadhar Nagar

When: October 4-5, 11:00 AM Onwards



AIBM ELECTIONS: All India Bairwa Mahasabha elections will be held for the posts of National President, General Secretary, and Rajasthan Provincial President & General Secretary. Polling will take place at Bundi, Kekri, and Nihalpura, Dausa, & Jaipur. Delhi and Indore for national posts. Madanlal Lalawat, Chief Election Officer, and Roduram Sulania said counting votes will be on October 7.

When: October 5, 8 AM to 4 PM

Where: Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Welfare Society, Jhalana, Jaipur



VISAAL: A soulful poetry & ghazal performance by Jaipur's poet & singer Rohit Singh, Gautam Gupta on guitar and Utkarsh Soni on tabla. The special presentation has been curated by Jaipur's theatre director, Mumal Tanwar.

Where: Krishnayan, Jawahar Kala Kendra

When: October 4, 6:30 PM onwards

THE POWER OF CONNECTION



DR. REKHA RATHI

Mystic Healer, Jaipur
rekharathi10@gmail.com

True connection isn't about how often you talk, but how deeply you understand and hold space for another. Soulful connection is healing—it reminds us we are not alone. Presence, listening, and empathy build bonds that transcend time and distance.

TAKEAWAY: Reach out to someone today with genuine presence. Let them feel seen and heard.



Jaipur Flight Plan

NEW DELHI: Air India Express, Alliance Air, Indigo, Air India

MUMBAI: Air India Express, Indigo, Air India, Spicejet

SURAT: Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

BENGALURU: Air India, Indigo, SpiceJet, Air India Express

GOA: Air India Express, Indigo, Air India

MANGALORE: Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

KOLKATA: Indigo, Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, SpiceJet

HYDERABAD: Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, Alliance Air

DUBAI, UAE: Indigo, Air India Express, Air India, SpiceJet



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Small Gesture, Big Impact



Every year, the first Friday of October is celebrated as World Smile Day, a day dedicated to spreading joy and kindness through the simplest yet most powerful expression we all carry, a smile. Initiated by Harvey Ball, the artist behind the iconic yellow smiley face in 1963, the day reminds us of a profound truth: while technology, trends and timelines keep changing, the language of a smile remains timeless. The 2025 theme, "One Smile, Countless Ripples," could not be more relevant in today's world of fast-paced lives, digital screens, and often unseen loneliness.

As a journalist, I have written about several global observances, but World Smile Day is perhaps one of the most heartwarming. Because unlike most days, this one needs no elaborate preparation, just a moment of genuine warmth.

WHY SMILING MATTERS MORE TODAY:

In a world that is increasingly connected yet emotionally fragmented, smiles are more than expressions; they are acts of human connection. According to a study by the University of California, smiling can activate the release of dopamine, endorphins and serotonin—the brain's feel-good chemicals, reducing stress and boosting immunity. Another research from Sweden revealed that people naturally mimic the smiles of those they see, creating a chain of positivity.

Think about it: in today's scenario where headlines often highlight conflict, economic concerns and uncertainty, a smile becomes a soft rebellion, a way of saying "hope still exists."

SMALL WAYS TO SPREAD SMILES:

The magic of a smile lies in its simplicity. Here are some thoughtful yet practical ways you can spread smiles in every-day life:

- **Smile at Strangers:** Whether it's the shopkeeper handing you change or the security guard opening the gate, a warm smile can brighten their day.
- **Send a Note:** A handwritten "thank you" or a quick "thinking of you" message can feel like a hug in today's digital world.
- **Compliment Generously:** Genuine compliments are like surprise gifts—unexpected but deeply cherished.
- **Lend a Listening Ear:** Sometimes, the best way to make someone smile is to let



them be heard.

- **Be Playful:** Share a silly joke, send a funny meme, or recall an inside memory with a friend, it creates smiles that last.

THE CHILDHOOD CONNECTION: SMILES THAT STAY FOREVER:

I still remember a moment from my school days at Saint Angela Sophia School, Jaipur. During our annual function day, I had tripped while my performance on stage. Instead of laughter or judgment, what greeted me was a wave of smiles from my classmates and teachers cheering me back up. I did not win the medal that day, but I walked away with something far more precious—a memory of compassion, encouragement and collective joy. That simple moment taught me that smiles heal faster than words.

Isn't it true that most of our happiest childhood memories carry the backdrop of laughter and

carefree smiles? As adults, perhaps it is time we return to that innocence and generosity of spirit.

THE SCIENCE AND FUN FACTS ABOUT SMILES:

- Smiles aren't just beautiful, they're fascinating:
- **Universal Language:** Smiling is understood across all cultures and languages, making it one of the most inclusive human expressions.
- **Health Booster:** Smiling lowers blood pressure and strengthens the heart. Even a forced smile can trick the brain into feeling happier.



- **Contagious Nature:** Psychologists confirm that seeing someone smile often triggers a mirror smile in us.
 - **Social Impact:** People who smile frequently are perceived as more approachable, trustworthy, and competent. In fact, a study in the UK found that smiling during a job interview increased chances of selection by 20%.
- Isn't it incredible that something so small can hold such great power?



Mitali Dusad

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Today marks World Smile Day 2025, celebrated globally to spread kindness and joy through the simplest gesture, a smile. City First highlights the day's essence by sharing meaningful insights, fun facts and easy ways to inspire smiles and happiness around us!

SMILING IN TODAY'S DIGITAL ERA:

In an age dominated by emojis and filters, we often send virtual smiles more than real ones. While digital expressions are convenient, they can never replace the warmth of eye contact and a heartfelt grin. Imagine this: you've had a rough day, but then a child in the neighborhood waves and flashes a toothy smile at you. Suddenly, the stress softens. That moment cannot be replicated by a yellow emoji on a screen.

This World Smile Day is an invitation to step away, even briefly, from our screens and spread smiles in the real world.

As Victor Hugo once said, "Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise." A smile is that very sunrise in human form. Mother Teresa too believed in its power: "We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."

HOW TO KEEP YOURSELF SMILING:

Of course, the ability to make others smile starts with nurturing your own happiness. Here are simple rituals to keep your smile genuine:

- **Practice Gratitude:** Write down three small joys daily.
- **Stay Active:** Exercise naturally uplifts your mood.
- **Spend Time with Loved Ones:** Shared laughter is the richest currency.
- **Indulge in Simple Pleasures:** Be it a walk in the park, your favorite song, or cooking a childhood recipe—joy hides in small things.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF ONE SMILE:

The beauty of a smile is that it never stops with one person. A smile shared with your colleague might be carried to their child, who then brings it to school and it continues across invisible threads of humanity.

DEVOTION & CELEBRATION

City First
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Jaipur's Shree Shree Maa Durga Puja Mahotsav, organised by the Bengali Samaj Jankalyan Vikas Samiti at Purani Chungi, Vaishali Nagar, concluded on Thursday with devotion, fervor, and cultural splendor. The final day featured the traditional darpan visarjan of Maa Durga along with

pushpanjali, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. Ladies enthusiastically participated in the grand Sindoor Khela, celebrating with joy and grace. A special prize distribution ceremony was also held, honouring participants of various competitions organized during the festival. The day culminated in a vibrant immersion procession to Newta, where devotees bid an emotional farewell to the Goddess. The rituals concluded with Shanti Jal, or "Peace Water," sprinkled on devotees to bless them with peace, protection, and prosperity. The seamless blend of devotion, cultural performances, and community participation kept the festival lively, while the premises resonated with the heart-felt chants of "Maa Durga," leaving devotees spiritually fulfilled and eagerly anticipating next year's celebrations.

Women participated in the vibrant Sindoor Khela festivities

SANTOSH SHARMA



The beautifully adorned idol of Maa Durga

DURGABARI CELEBRATES DASHAMI PUJA

The Dashami Puja for the clay idol of Goddess Durga was solemnly celebrated at Durgabari on Thursday, culminating in the traditional Sindoor Utsav. Married women offered vermilion to the Goddess and applied it to each other, praying for long married life, prosperity, and good fortune, filling the atmosphere with devotion and joy. In the evening, the clay idol was immersed in Jaipur's Akera Dungar Dam. This year, for the first time, a permanent marble idol from Vietnam will be worshipped at Durgabari throughout the year, marking a historic moment.



PROBASHI BENGALI DURGA FAREWELL

The 31st Durga Puja Mahotsav of the Probashi Bengali Cultural Society concluded recently with devotion and festivity at Jai Club Lawn, C-Scheme. The day began with the Darpan Visarjan ritual and final bhog, followed by prize distribution for competitions held during the week. Married women joyously participated in Sindoor Khela, praying for family well-being. The celebrations culminated in a grand immersion procession at Nevta Dam, with devotees chanting "Jai Maa Durga," dancing to the dhak, and bidding an emotional farewell, symbolizing triumph, power, and hope for the Goddess's return.



AGRAWAL CULTURAL EVENT



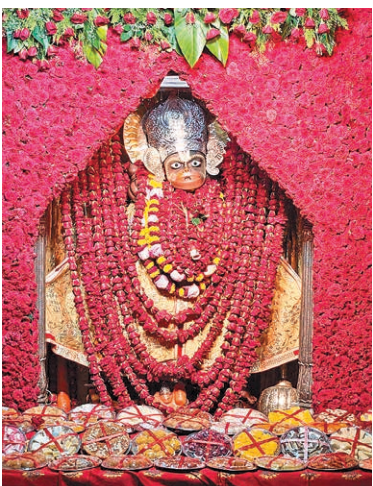
Agra Yuva Shakti Jaipur recently staged Agra Mahalila, a play depicting the life of Lord Agrasen, at Maharaja Agrasen Auditorium, Agrawal College. The program highlighted Agrasen's birth, education, coronation, marriage, worship of Mahalakshmi, founding of Agroha Republic, and his eighteen sons through drama and dance. Over 500 Agrawals attended. Chief guests included Radhika Goyal, Radhika Agarwal, Jyotsna Neemuchaniya, and Girija Shankar Turkaswala. The event was organised by Roop Kishore Goyal, Sandeep Bhutia, Kishan Agarwal, Vikas Goyal, Rajesh Agarwal, and other committee members, with stage management by Neha Jain Kejriwal, Sakshi Agarwal, and Shubhra Ladiwala.

RISEING FOOTBALL STAR

Jaipur's Falgun Pareek, a 12th-grade student at St Xavier's School, has been selected for the national football team after excelling at a selection camp in Bikaner. Having showcased outstanding performances in district and state-level competitions, he earned a spot in the 69th Under-19 National Football Championship, scheduled in Srinagar this October. Son of BJP leader Alok Pareek, Falgun has received congratulatory messages from MLA Gopal Sharma, Minister Arun Chaturvedi, former MLA Mohan Lal Gupta, and many others, as he begins preparations for the championship.



DEVOTEES MARK VIJAYADASHAMI



On Vijayadashami, the Kale Hanuman Temple at Chandi ki Taksal witnessed a grand celebration. In the presence of Mahant Gopal Das, the son of the wind was anointed with Panchamrit and dressed in new attire, adorned beautifully with red roses. Yuvacharya Pt Yogesh Sharma conducted the final havan offering for the welfare of all, along with 56 additional offerings. A large number of devotees visited the temple, and the celebrations concluded with the recitation of the Sunderkand.

On Vijayadashami, the Kale Hanuman Temple at Chandi ki Taksal witnessed a grand celebration. In the presence of Mahant Gopal Das, the son of the wind was anointed with Panchamrit and dressed in new attire, adorned beautifully with red roses. Yuvacharya Pt Yogesh Sharma conducted the final havan offering for the welfare of all, along with 56 additional offerings. A large number of devotees visited the temple, and the celebrations concluded with the recitation of the Sunderkand.

Temple Reverberates Jai Shri Ram

Jaipur's Gupt Vrindavan Dham witnessed grand celebrations of Vijaydashami as devotees filled the temple complex with chants of "Jai Shri Ram." The Dussehra festivities featured a spectacular Ram Laxman decoration, vibrant lights, and floral adornments. A captivating Ramlila performance, including the enactment of 'Bharat ka Virah Prem' by 40 artists, en-



thrilled the audience, culminating in the dramatic burning of Ravana. Devotees also participated in Naam Ramayan recitations throughout the day, and the celebrations concluded with a solemn and grand Maha Aarti, drawing thousands from across the city.

MUKESH KIRADOO



A still from the Ramlila performance

NAVRATRI Concludes with Devotion

Hindaun's 24th Navratri festival at the Tika Kund Hanuman Temple concluded on Wednesday with grandeur and devotion. On the final day, devotees offered special prayers to Goddess Siddhidatri, seeking her blessings. The celebrations culminated in a spectacular immersion procession from the temple to Jalsen Talab, passing through major city thoroughfares, accompanied by DJs, bands, flower showers, and fireworks.

Magnificent tableaux of deities like Radha-Krishna, Lord Shiva, and Hanuman added to the festivities, while the beautifully decorated idol of Goddess Durga drew immense enthusiasm. Over nine days, devotees participated in special prayers to all nine forms of the Goddess, devotional Jagran, Chhappan Bhog, and Phool Bangla, highlighting the festival's religious, social, and cultural significance, supported by the organizing committee and city residents.



RAM LALLA CHARIOT PROCESSION



On the eve of Dussehra, Ramlalla embarked on his first-ever city tour, giving darshan to devotees amid flower showers, aarti, and chants. The grand procession, marking the inauguration of Ayodhya Ram Temple idol distribution by the Ravi Foundation, began at Ramlila Maidan with Maha Aarti performed by saints and dignitaries. Carrying Ram Lalla and his brothers Laxman, Bharat, and Shatrughan, the chariot traversed Tripolia and Chhoti Chaupar, reaching Ramchandra Temple by 8 pm. Devotees and temples along the route offered flowers and aarti, celebrating devotion and tradition, while 74-year-old Radheshyam Bhagat decorated the idol, continuing his five-decade-long legacy.

THE CIRCLE OF KARMA



Dr Sanchita Lekhi Singhi

Tarot expert & Life Coach

Karma seems to be a simple word but with a complex meaning, let's take a deep dive to understand how karma works, its a magical engine of life, we sometimes can't

foresee our future in the present but karma keeps a record of each and every step we take in our day to day life, our actions towards people with love, kindness, gentleness do produce positive results for us and those who carry anger, resentment and hate in their heart tend to attract more suffering towards them,

karmas laws are clear from the beginning of time "what you reap is what you sow" this might sound quite simple and a bit clique. But our thoughts truly can change our lives; wear a different lens to see the world

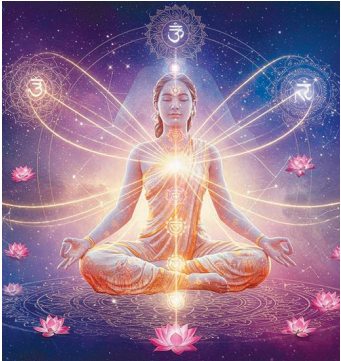
Lessons We Can't Ignore

differently today. If someone is complaining every day, people tend to distance themselves from them as you radiate negativity and create negative karma unknowingly, but if you are happy and helpful, you are sending out positive karma and end up attracting more people into your life.

As a tarot reader, I see a lot of people facing similar problems day in and day out, attracting toxic partners, bad job situations, family feuds, car acci-

dents, and many more, but have you wondered why you are facing the same problems over and over again? It seems to feel you are stuck in a repetitive pattern. These patterns carry karmic messages that we need to carefully understand and look for a lesson. Having a heartbreak might seem hurtful, but maybe that's necessary for your emotional growth, and it makes you stronger as an individual. Sometimes, we need a little push to choose a path that is truly meant for us.

There is a hidden truth in all of this that is the karmic lesson



for your soul. Take a moment today to observe if you are facing any repeating cycles and find your lesson of truth. Our soul is in the school of life, trying to make sense of this world, but truly here to learn the lessons that are meant for you and grow into a better version of you.

