



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



## JANATA SETS THE BAR HIGH!

● Polling is now complete in 14 States/UTs in the first two phases

● For Rajasthan, Kerala & Tripura, polling is over; results on June 4



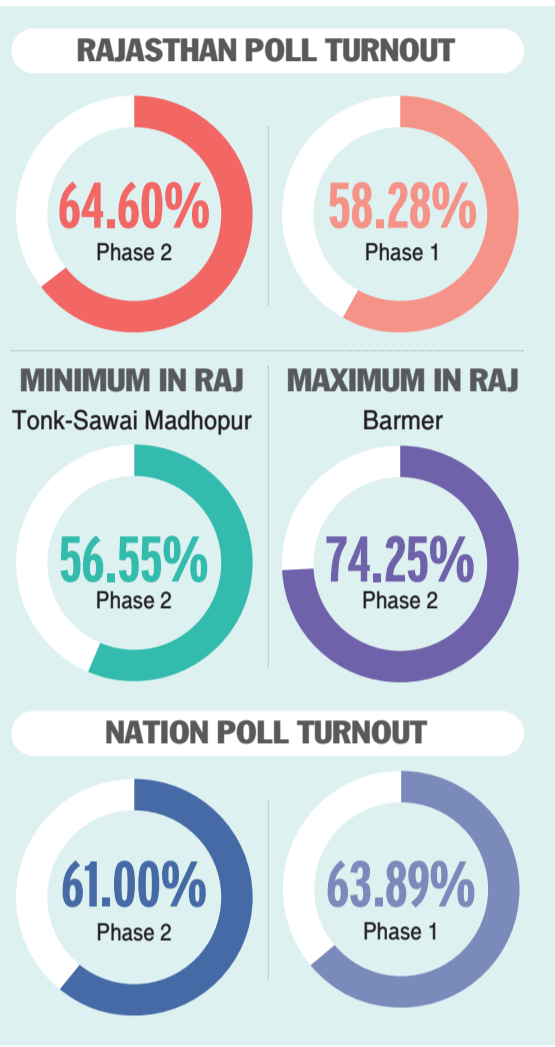
Moni Sharma  
Jaipur/New Delhi

In the scorching heat of the second and final phase of the Lok Sabha election in Rajasthan, voter turnout surpassed 64% in 13 out of 25 constituencies on Friday. Across most constituencies, polling was brisk, with queues forming outside booths early in the morning. The Barmer constituency recorded the highest turnout at 73.68%, followed closely by Banswara at 72.24%, contributing to the state's average turnout of 64.02%. During Phase 1, the desert State witnessed a 58.28% voter turnout. Meanwhile, in Phase 2 of polls conducted in 88 seats across 13 states/UTs on Friday, nearly 61% of voters cast their ballots. Tripura and Manipur led with highest voter turnouts at 78.53% and 77.18%, resp, while UP recorded lowest turnout at 53.71%. **P2, 5 & 8**



“Gratitude to the people across India who have voted today. The unparalleled support for NDA is going to disappoint the Opposition even more. Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support.”

**NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER**



(From Top) During Phase 2 of the LS polls, Om Birla casts vote in Kota, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Jodhpur, Nirmala Sitharaman in Bengaluru, Ashok Gehlot in Jodhpur, Dr Jitendra Singh in Udhampur & Shashi Tharoor in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.

### MAJOR HAPPENINGS

- A five-member team of the Election Commission of India on Friday searched a helicopter used by Odisha Chief Minister and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik's close aide, VK Pandian.
- BJP Bangalore South Candidate Tejasvi Survyva booked for seeking votes on religious grounds.
- Voters in some villages of UP's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maha's Parbhani boycotted polls over various issues but were persuaded by authorities to cast their franchise.
- The Banjarumale hamlet in Dakshina Kannada in K'taka records 100% voting.

PHASE 3 VOTING OF LOK SABHA POLLS ON MAY 7

### SENSEX

BSE: 73,730.16 (+609.28)  
NIFTY: 22,419.95 (+150.40)

### IN BRIEF

Yuvraj Singh is ICC Men's T20 WC 2024 Ambassador which is set to begin on June 1.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares lighter moment with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar during a public meeting in Munger on Friday.

## SC's tight slap to Oppn: PM after pleas rejected

First India Bureau  
Munger

PM Narendra Modi while addressing rally in Bihar's Araria on Friday welcomed SC's ruling in EVMs-VVPAT case and said order is a 'tight slap' on those people who continuously tried to 'malign EVM'. Modi highlighted how every leader of the INDI alliance 'committed sin of creating doubts

### BJP CROSSES ₹100 CR ON GOOGLE ADVTS

→ The BJP has become the first political party in India to have crossed ₹100 crore in political advertisements on search titan Google and its video platform YouTube.

in minds of public regarding EVM' but SC's order 'shattered all their dreams' who 'intended to loot the ballot boxes'. **P5**

## TOP COURT VERDICT ON PLEA FOR 100% EVM-VVPAT VERIFICATION

### EVMs win SC battle, ballot papers vetoed

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

In a significant development on Friday morning - as the country voted in Phase 2 of the 2024 Lok Sabha election - the SC has given Electronic Voting Machines, or EVMs, a big vote of confidence. A 2-judge bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sanjiv Khanna rejected petitions seeking 100% verification of votes cast on the EVMs using the VVPAT, or Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail.

“We have discussed, elaborately, all protocols and technical aspects and we reject all pleas. Blindly distrusting a system can lead to unwarranted suspicions,” Bench said, while rejecting a plea to return to paper ballots.



### SC ISSUES DIRECTIONS TO ECI

- 1 Specifically, after completing loading of symbols into the machine, the Symbol Loading Unit (SLU), must be sealed and the seal is to be signed by candidates, and stored for a period of at least 45 days. The SLU storage containers must be sealed and seal is to be signed by candidates.
- 2 The burnt memory in the EVM microcontroller must be checked by a team of engineers — after results are declared — if candidates make such a request. This request — which can be made by candidates placing second and third in poll — must be made within seven days of declaration of results.
- 3 The expenses for verification will be borne by candidate. The cost will be refunded if the EVM is found tampered. The SC suggested the EC explore possibility of using a machine to count VVPAT slips. Currently, VVPAT slips of 5 randomly selected EVMs in every Assembly segment are verified.



### SC ISSUES NOTICE TO ECI ON PIL IF NOTA GETS MAX VOTES

→ The SC bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, on Friday issued notice to ECI on a PIL seeking to publicise None of the Above (NOTA), a fictional candidate. PIL also seeks to disallow candidates who get less than NOTA to contest by-polls to the same constituency. A entertained the PIL by motivational speaker and author Shiv Khera, who seeks to take further the SC judgment of 2013 that introduced NOTA as an option in the EVMs.



### EVMs CANNOT BE TAMPERED, SAYS EX-CEC SUNIL ARORA

→ Former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora reiterated that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), like any other machine, may have flaws but cannot be tampered. Despite multiple court challenges, integrity of Election Commission has never been questioned.

## CM SHARMA SPEAKS AFTER PHASE 2 VOTING... People have 'marked' confidence in PM Modi

Aishwary Pradhan  
Jaipur



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses BJP leaders and workers after completion of Phase 2 voting at BJP office in Jaipur on Friday.

After the end of Phases 1 and 2 voting for Lok Sabha polls in the state on Friday, elections have been completed on all 25 seats. After end of voting on 13 seats of Phase 2, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma reached BJP office on late Friday where he took feedback from the team engaged in the elections. Talking to the media on this occasion, CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said that no

matter what the voting is like in the state, it is in favour of BJP. He said that the mood of the people of the state is good and they have voted on the confidence of PM Modi. CM said that I want to thank the people of the state for participating enthusiastically in the voting. He said that the people of the state have voted to increase the pride of the country in the world, to stop corruption and appeasement, and to develop the country and Rajasthan.

“People of the state have voted to increase the pride of the country in the world, to stop corruption and appeasement, and to develop the country and Rajasthan.”

**BHAJAN LAL SHARMA, CHIEF MINISTER**

## 9 lose lives in Dausa, Anupgarh accidents

Hemshingh Rajpurohit and Laxmikant Sharma  
Anupgarh/Dausa

Six people, including 5 women died in a road accident in Anupgarh when their car rammed into a trailer in front on Friday. They were returning from Kikrawali after attending condolence meet. Meanwhile in Dausa, a speeding car crushed 11 people sleeping by the roadside in Mahwa town. 3 died while 8 injured on Thursday. All deceased and injured belonged to the nomadic tribes. **P2**



Mangled remains of car after accident in Anupgarh, Friday.

### Lightning strike kills 4

→ During the worsening weather on Friday afternoon in the Dabi area of Bundi, 3 people standing under a tree died due to lightning strikes. A woman died from coming into contact with a high-tension power line. **P2**

# 9 die in separate accidents in Anupgarh and Dausa

In both accidents the vehicles were said to be overspeeding

Hem Singh Rajpurohit & Laxmikant Sharma  
Anupgarh/Dausa

Six people, including five women died in a road accident in Anupgarh when their car ramed into a trailer in the front. They were returning from Kikrawali after attending a condolence meet.

DSP Amarjit Chawla said that the deceased have been identified as Hetram (45), Sunita (42), Lichma Devi (55), Vidya Devi (40), Kalavati Devi (48) and Kanta (35). The driver of the car, Ramesh (38), tried to overtake the trailer going towards Raisinghnagar. Meanwhile, a bus was coming from Raisinghnagar towards Anupgarh. The driver could not overtake and collided with the trailer. After the accident, the driver of the trailer fled the spot.

In Dausa, a speeding car crushed 11 people sleeping by the roadside in Mahwa town. Three people died while eight were seriously injured. Two injured are undergoing treatment in the government hospital in Mahwa, while six seriously injured have been referred to Jaipur. The accident happened on Thursday night. Police have confiscated the car.



Cruiser car collided with the rear of the trailer in Anupgarh on Friday.

## 4 of a family drown while fishing in a pond near Pali

Subhash Trivedi  
Pali

Four individuals died from drowning after entering a pond to fish in Pali. The bodies of the father and two sons have been recovered from the pond, and rescue efforts are underway in search of a young guy.

This incident occurred in the Chamunderi pond near Nana police station. According to police, the deceased were Dinesh Kumar, his son Gaurav, Armaan, and nephew Mohit. While fishing in



the pond, all four people slipped and drowned while attempting to save one another. The police have held all four bodies in the mortuary, where they will be handed over to relatives following a postmortem.

## Car crash at Chaksu: Couple dies, minor injured

First India Bureau  
Chaksu

A car lost control and crashed into a ditch on the side of Highway 52 at the Girdharilalpur-Tigararia interchange in the Chaksu police station area. The accident killed one woman and one man in the car and injured a 4-year-old kid. The girl is being treated at the hospital. According to Police Station Officer Kailash Dan, Murari Bhagel, a Jaipur resident, was driving from Tonk to Jaipur.

## Ganesh Dugri Mahant Heeradas passes away

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The devotees in Jamwaramgarh mourned the demise of Mahant Heeradas Maharaj from Ganesh Dugri. Following the news of the Mahant's passing away, a large number of devotees gathered at Ganesh Dugri to pay their respects.

With the Mahant's demise, waves of sorrow swept through the surrounding villages. As the journey for the final glimpse commenced, a procession was organized to bid farewell.

# Tragic Friday: Lightning kills 4 in Bundi & injures four

PK Agarwal  
Chittorgarh/Bundi

During the worsening weather on Friday afternoon in the Dabi area of Bundi, three people standing under a tree died due to lightning strikes. Additionally, a woman died from coming into contact with a high-tension power line.

SHO Anil Joshi of Dabi stated that after voting during the Lok Sabha elections on Friday, some people had come towards the Gujarghata Patpadiya area in the Dabi region. During this time, the



A view of the isolated road in Laibai Phoolbai chowk in Chittorgarh on Friday evening.

weather changed. To escape the rain and wind, three people stood under a tree. During this time, lightning struck them. All three died at the scene, while four others were

injured. The deceased, Amar Bhil, son of Chatar Bhil, Deva's son Pema Bhil, and Kanha Bhil's son Sohan Bhil, are all residents of Bansarodgadh in Gujarkala Thana.

# Bomb scare at Jaipur Airport, email traced to B'luru man; cyber team launches probe



First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Jaipur International Airport administration has sounded an alert after an e-mail from an unknown person threatened to bomb the airport on Friday. The airport security personnel as well as the BDS team (Bomb Disposal Squad) conducted a search operation at the airport. The cyber team has also started an investigation.

Jaipur Airport officials



File

said that the mail came on the official ID of the airport. The person has identified himself to be from Bengaluru and has threatened to blow up the entrance gate of the airport. The suspect challenged that he is from

Bengaluru and if the authorities can catch him. All the security agencies of the airport conducted a joint operation. After about one-and-a-half-hour of search, no suspicious object was found in the airport area.

## SHOPKEEPER HELD FOR MOLESTING MINOR WHO CAME TO BUY TOFFEE

Churu: In the instance of molesting a juvenile girl who had gone to buy toffee from a shop in the Ratangarh police station area around a week ago and performing obscene actions, the police took swift action and arrested the accused, Ratangarh resident Sagar Ali. SP Jai Yadav stated that on April 20, a resident of the Ratangarh police station area informed that accused shopkeeper Sagar Ali lured his daughter with candy, performed lewd acts, and threatened her not to inform anyone.

## Bovine breach



A massive traffic jam was seen at the Bharat Jodo Setu in Jaipur after a bunch of cows climbed the bridge and with no exit in sight managed to cross it at snail's pace leading to traffic chaos.

SANTOSH SHARMA

## SI recruitment case

# HC ordered to decide on bail withdrawal by May 1

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Supreme Court heard an appeal today against the High Court's order to withdraw the bail of 12 defendants, including 11 trainee SIs and a constable, who were arrested in the SI recruitment case. During this time, the Supreme Court has asked the High Court to issue its decision within a week of May 1. The accused filed an SLP in the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court's April 15 order. On April 12, the CMM Court of Jaipur Metro-II ordered that the accused be given bail. The accused have now taken their case to the Supreme Court, challenging the



The accused filed an Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court, challenging the High Court's April 15 order

High Court's verdict. It was stated on behalf of the accused that release orders had been issued.

Apart from this, SOG had also arrested constable Abhishek Bishnoi posted at Sadar Bazar police station of Jodhpur.

## Fake NOC case: Accused face production warrant

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Jawahar Circle Police on Friday took the production warrant of the three accused in the organ transplant fake NOC case from the court.

ACMM-8, Amit Kumar Sharma issued warrants for jailed AAO Gaurav Singh of SMS Hospital and Fortis Hospital's organ coordinators Vinod Singh and Giriraj Sharma. Anil Joshi, organ coordinator of EHCC hospital, has also been arrested by ACB. Police have arrested Ahsanul, Nurul Islam, Mehndi and Azad Hussain from Haryana jail. Meanwhile, brokers Murtaza Ansari, Sanchi, Suleman, Rajvi, Mohan and other accused are absconding.

# Investigate Chonp Cricket Stadium construction: RCA



Naresh Sharma  
Jaipur

Inquiry related to the construction of a new cricket stadium of RCA in Chonp, Jaipur will be conducted.

The construction work of the international cricket stadium is currently stalled and the ad-hoc committee of the cricketing body had found gross irregulari-

ties and negligence. A letter has also been written by the company which was giving funds for the stadium.

It is learnt that now RCA has made a recommendation to the state government to conduct inquiry in this matter. This case of alleged irregularities which are said to be running into crores may be handed over to SOG for investigation.

## MAYOR DRIVES CLEANUP BLITZ

# 250 drains cleaned, 244 more in progress

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Municipal Corporation Greater Mayor Dr Somya held a marathon meeting on Friday with the Superintending Engineer of Zone and Headquarters, the Executive Engineers, and the Garage Deputy Commissioner. 250 drains have previously been cleaned, while 244 are now being cleaned. The mayor asked executive engineers to finish the drain cleaning job before the monsoon, and



Dr Somya held a marathon meeting with the the Superintending Engineer of Zone and Headquarters, the Executive Engineers, and the Garage Deputy Commissioner in Jaipur on Friday.

any material that came out should be gathered right away. She recommended that drains that were opened for cleaning be se-

curely closed with coverings. She also requested that the sewer issues be resolved promptly. The Mayor also oversaw the

reconstruction of faulty sewer lines, as well as the repair and installation of new lights across the wards.

## HERITAGE COMMISSIONER URGES TIMELY ACTION

Heritage Commissioner Abhishek Surana advised all of the officers and staff that whoever has the assignment should do it on time or else action will be taken and that those who perform good work will be recognized. He emphasised on the open waste depot. Special attention was placed on keeping the park open and garbage-free. He asked CSI and SI to remove the remaining open waste depot as quickly as feasible. No garbage should be gathered on the road.

# Minor injured after ceiling collapses at JLN Hosp in Ajmer

First India Bureau  
Ajmer

A portion of the ceiling fell in Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JLN) Hospital's Male Medical 3 ward, which is the largest in the Ajmer division. During this, the toddler seated below was hurt on the head. Following the accident, the child received prompt treatment. He has sutures on his head. According to reports, the roof over bed number five crumbled and plummeted on Friday afternoon. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Ar-



A portion of the ceiling fell in Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JLN) Hospital's Male Medical 3 ward on Friday.

vind Khare stated that the hospital administration acted swiftly following the accident. The child has received treatment.

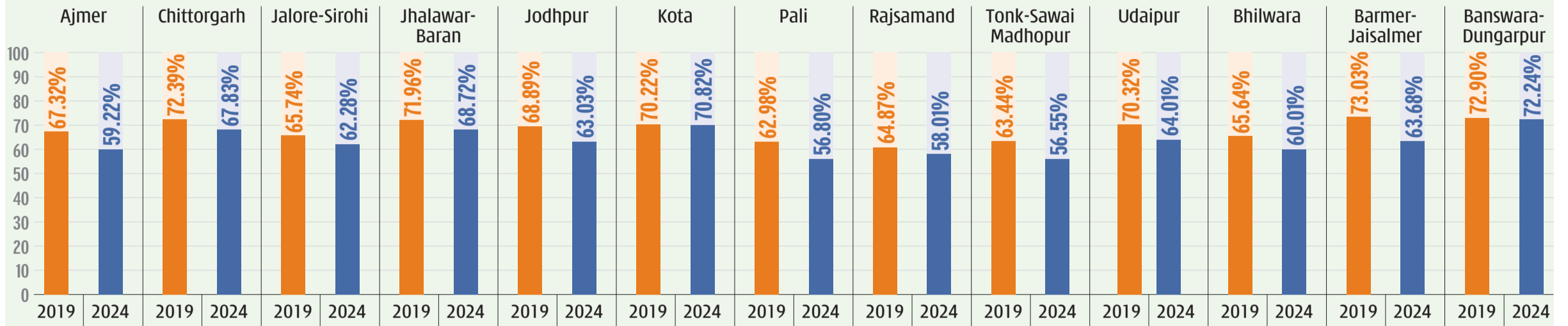
PWD department personnel were immediately notified of the situation. The ward will undergo renovations soon.



# Ballot Beat



**PHASE 2 VOTER-TURNOUT IN RAJASTHAN ON 13 LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCIES**



The voter turnout for Rajasthan's 13 constituencies in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Lok Sabha elections was recorded at 64.56% on Friday, according to ECI data. Total voting stood at 61.60%, which is 6.3% less than 67.09% in 2019

## Fate of 266 candidates SEALED ON 25 SEATS

Soubhagya Sharma

Jaipur

In the great festival of democracy i.e. polling that happened on Friday, enthusiasm was seen from young to old. Amidst the scorching heat in the state, voters went to the booths and cast their votes.

This excitement was visible in kekri when a groom reached the allotted booth to vote before he left with his wedding procession! A similar incident occurred when a bride and groom, in their complete wedding regalia, arrived in a tractor to cast their vote.

At Asind, four generations of a family exercised their franchise in Barsani village. All the family members voted at booth number 172 where in a 101 year old woman Jamku Devi Regar voted with her son, grandson and great granddaughter.

Another 'centurian' - 101 year old Soni Devi from Pindwara - cast her vote at Lotana Government Primary School while 86 year old saint Santeshwar Maharaj voted for the first time in Jodhpur. He said that he lived away from politics and elections all his life but this time he felt like voting and thus he cast his vote for the first time in life. Meanwhile, at Bhilwara, an elderly woman - Kailashi - reached the polling booth in an ambulance. 75 year old Kailashi Baheti understood the importance of voting and even though she is undergoing treatment in a hospital.



Women of minority community came to cast their votes in Tonk.



Female voters in queue to exercise their right to vote in the second phase of polling in Tonk district of Rajasthan.

**BHATI ALLEGES ADMIN STOPPED HIS VOTERS IN BAYTU CONSTITUENCY**



Independent candidate from Barmer Lok Sabha seat, Ravindra Singh Bhati has alleged that the administration kept his polling agent out of the booth in Baytu assembly. "My name on the EVM has been hidden with a strip so that I don't get votes. The vehicles of migrants, who came to vote for me, were stopped," he said. Bhati posted on X, "What kind of democracy is this? Under whose pressure is the administration working?"

**JAUNAPURIA ALLEGES BOGUS VOTING DONE AT BAHTED POLLING BOOTH**



BJP candidate from Tonk Sawai Madhopur, Sukhbir Singh Jaunpuria, reached the polling booth of Bahted in Malarna Dugar subdivision after 3 pm on Friday along with his bouncers. He began checking the IDs of the women in the queue to vote. During this, a woman had a voter slip issued by the election department, but had no other identity card. Alleging fake voting going on, Jaunpuria stopped the voting.

**MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS**

- An elderly man died before he could cast his vote in Pur town of Bhilwara. Chhaganlal (80), had come with his grandson to vote at the community centre, where he collapsed while standing in the queue.
- Villagers boycotted voting in booth number 149 Mehraj Singh Dhani of Madhopura in Jaisalmer. Magistrate Gunesaram Jaipal and Pokaran SDM reached the spot to persuade them to vote.
- In Ajmer, people breached the secrecy by posting photographs of themselves on social media while they were voting.
- A 92-year-old differently-abled woman in Lakheri refused to vote as she did not get her pension. After she was convinced that her pension would start again, she voted at booth no. 140.

**BAGIDAURA BY-POLL: BJP vs. BAP; CONG CANDIDATE STANDS FIRM**

By-election was also held on an assembly seat in Rajasthan. Voting was also going on in Bagidaura assembly seat of Banswara where there was a direct contest between BJP and BAP. However, despite the alliance with Congress, Karpoor Singh did not withdraw his nomination.

**AMEEN KHAN, BALENDU SUSPENDED BY CONG FOR ANTI-PARTY ACTIVITIES**

Congress suspended former MLA Ameen Khan and former secretary of RPCC Balendu Singh Shekhawat from the party for 6 years for anti party activities and indiscipline. In an office order issued by incharge Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, the decision was taken.



Newly weds reach to cast their vote in Dungarpur.



108 years old Bhuri Bai casts her vote.



Transgenders participate in voting at Kota.



Voters arrived by boat in Kadana of Dungarpur district.



A total of 33 voters from four generations of the same family arrived together to vote at a polling center in the Sagwara assembly constituency.

# The Resurgence of RR

## CAN THE ROYALS GO ALL THE WAY TO GLORY IN IPL 2024?



**Siddhaarth Mahan**

The writer is a specialist on Sports and Cinema who works as an actor in the Hindi film industry



### THE ROYAL FUSION

Unlike their unconventional approach in the inaugural season, this year the Royals have blended experience with youth, forming a cohesive unit capable of challenging any team. They face stiff competition from previous champions- Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad, who are hot on their heels.

Significantly, they have shown a special expertise in crisis management. Whether batting first or chasing, they have often got into trouble but this season Samson's warriors have found a way to win both in home and away games! The journey towards redemption is fraught with challenges, but the Royals look determined to rewrite history and etch their name among IPL champions once again.

As the league stage reaches its crescendo, the Rajasthan Royals are focused on securing a top-two finish, laying the foundation for a successful campaign in the playoffs. With 6 crucial matches remaining in the group stage, every game becomes a stepping stone towards their ultimate goal - lifting the IPL trophy for the second time!

**W**ith the Indian Premier League (IPL) juggernaut rolling into its second half, the Rajasthan Royals (RR) continue on a triumphant march this season. In IPL 2024, the Royals have played with such flair that after a 16-year wait, RR fans are eagerly anticipating a shot at the IPL trophy. RR's last victory came in the inaugural 2008 season, led by Shane Warne in a remarkable underdog triumph. Since then, however, the team has struggled to reach the finals, much to the disappointment of their supporters. But this year, under the able leadership of Sanju Samson, the Royals have shown remarkable form, prompting excited fans to speculate - will this finally be the year for a second title for RR?

The way the table toppers are playing currently, it seems the Royals have embarked on a journey of redemption in IPL 2024, aiming to reclaim the glory they tasted in the inaugural season. Led by Sanju Samson, the Royals have had a great first half of the season, igniting hopes of a second title triumph with 7 wins out of their 8 games. Except for KKR who have so far lost just two games, all other teams have lost 3 or more matches this season.

After their first championship victory, the subsequent years saw a dip in RR fortunes, leaving their loyal fans yearning for more. In the 15 previous seasons of the IPL, besides their triumph in 2008, the Royals have reached the finals just once, in 2022 (they were also banned for 2 years in 2016-2017). But this year,

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RR have emerged as formidable contenders, captivating the cricketing world with their stellar performances and as table toppers they look all set to enter the playoffs easily.

The resurgence of the Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2024 is not just a stroke of luck but the result of astute leadership and strategic planning along with meticulous talent scouting. Under Sanju Samson's captaincy, the Royals have found stability and inspiration. Samson's leadership, coupled with his batting prowess, has bolstered the team's confidence and provided the necessary impetus in crucial moments. His contributions have not only lifted the team but also elevated the Royals' batting lineup to one of the most balanced in the competition.

Initially, their opening combination was not yielding desired results. But now, at the heart of the RR resurgence lies the dynamic duo of Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal. While Buttler's 2 centuries have been a spectacle to behold, Jaiswal's

return to form with a scintillating ton in the previous game has bolstered hopes of sizzling starts. With a steady and explosive middle order led by skipper Sanju Samson, complemented by the likes of Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, and Rovman Powell, the Royals boast a batting lineup capable of dismantling any bowling attack. No wonder, they have lost just 1 match till now which was also a close contest that Gujarat Titans won on the last ball!

What truly sets the Royals apart in the competition is their bowling brilliance. Trent Boult's swing bowling has been nothing short of exceptional, wreaking havoc on opposition batsmen in the early overs and providing crucial breakthroughs. In addition, the resurgence of leggie Yuzvendra Chahal has been a revelation, as he is not only stifling runs but also picking up vital wickets in the middle overs. Chahal's milestone feat of becoming the first bowler to claim 200 IPL wickets underscores his

impact on the game.

The Royals' bowling arsenal extends beyond Boult and Chahal. The likes of Sandeep Sharma, Avesh Khan, and the wily Ravi Ashwin add depth and variety to the attack. Sandeep's recent five-wicket haul exemplifies the team's ability to strike at crucial junctures, while Avesh Khan's raw pace and Ashwin's guile and experience are key weapons.

Unlike their unconventional approach in the inaugural season, this year the Royals have blended experience with youth, forming a cohesive unit capable of challenging any team. They face stiff competition from previous champions - Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad, who are hot on their heels. Significantly, they have shown a special expertise in crisis management. Whether batting first or chasing, they have often got into trouble but this season Samson's warriors have found a way to win both in home and away games!

The journey towards redemption is fraught with challenges, but the Royals look determined to rewrite history and etch their name among IPL champions once again. As the league stage reaches its crescendo, the Rajasthan Royals are focused on securing a top-two finish, laying the foundation for a successful campaign in the playoffs. With 6 crucial matches remaining in the group stage, every game becomes a stepping stone towards their ultimate goal - lifting the IPL trophy for the second time!

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

### IN-DEPTH

## AND WHAT ABOUT VIOLATION OF RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

**W**hile America portrays India as a friend and vital strategic ally, it simultaneously releases recurring reports that are critical of India, making one doubt its sincerity as an ally. In the latest instance, the US State Department has voiced concern over alleged serious human rights violations in Manipur last year, extra-judicial killings, attacks on minorities, journalists and dissenting voices. The report comes at a time when pro-Palestine protesters are being driven away from university campuses across the US. Released by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the report accuses India of not acting against officials responsible for rights violations.

Should this report be given a serious thought when one Indian origin man was shot dead by the US police as they tried to apprehend him and an Indian student, Achintya Shivalingam, was arrested for taking part in the pro-Palestine protest? It is time to question the human rights abuses in the US and push aside the "biased" State Department report.

## SC SETS DOUBTS ON VVPAT TO REST



**T**he Supreme Court has dismissed pleas seeking 100 percent cross-verification of EVM-VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Trail) slips. The Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta summarily rejected pleas for going back to ballot paper system of voting, full EVM-VVPAT verification and giving VVPAT slips to voters for being put in ballot boxes. At the very outset the prayers were impractical and deserved to be rejected.

Return to the old ballot box system which made elections look farcical because of the extent of bogus voting that took place would have been retrograde and a mockery of the democratic process. Complete verification of EVM-VVPAT to ensure there was no bogus voting would have made the electoral process more time-consuming and cumbersome.

The petitioners pleaded that instead of cross-verification of the EVM-VVPAT slips in only five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency, all VVPATs should be verified. The Election Commission opposed the prayer as it amounted to doubting the functioning of EVMs and VVPATs on "vague grounds". Justice Datta spoke against "blindly distrusting" any aspect of the system. The Bench issued two directions which should allay any doubt in the minds of petitioners. One, sealing of Symbol Loading Unit (SLU) once the symbol loading process is over. The order will be applicable on or after 1. 05. 2024. The SLUs have to be kept in sealed containers in strong rooms along with EVMs. Two, the court ordered technical verification of 5 percent EVM's control unit, ballot unit and VVPAT per assembly segment after the announcement of results to check tampering.

**The Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta summarily rejected pleas for going back to ballot paper system of voting, full EVM-VVPAT verification and giving VVPAT slips to voters for being put in ballot boxes. At the very outset the prayers were impractical and deserved to be rejected**

### TOP TWEETS



**X** The Congress and Indi alliance want to snatch the rights of our SC, ST and OBC people and give them to Muslims. This is their hidden agenda. Appeasement is clearly visible in the manifesto of Congress as well.

Jagat Prakash Nadda (Modi Ka Parivar) @JPNadda



**X** Greetings to FM @JMakamba and the Government and people of Tanzania on their 60th Union Day. As strategic partners, we are committed to working together for advancing our flourishing partnership.

Dr. S. Jaishankar (Modi Ka Parivar) @DrSJaishankar

### SPIRITUAL SPEAK

THE SPIRIT IS BEYOND DESTRUCTION. NO ONE CAN BRING AN END TO SPIRIT WHICH IS EVERLASTING.

BHAGAVAD GITA



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**LOK SABHA POLLS PHASE 2**

## 61% voting till 7 pm; polling complete in 14 states, UTs



Voters wait in a queue at a polling station to cast their votes, in Kozhikode, on Friday. **PTI**

**First India Bureau**  
New Delhi

Voter turnout of 60.96 per cent was recorded till 7 pm in phase two of the Lok Sabha elections held on Friday across 88 constituencies spread in 13 states, the Election Commission said.

Voters in some villages of Uttar Pradesh's Mathura, Rajasthan's Banswara and Maharashtra's Parbhani boycotted polls over various issues but were persuaded by au-

KEY STATS VOTING PERCENTAGE (TILL 5 PM)		PROMINENT FACES	
Tripura	77.53%	UM Rajeev Chandrasekhar (BJP)	
Kerala	63.97%	Hema Malini (BJP)	
Uttar Pradesh	52.74%	Arun Govil (BJP)	
Madhya Pradesh	54.83%	Shashi Tharoor (Cong)	
Assam	70.66%	Karnataka Dy CM DK Shivakumar's brother DK Suresh (Congress)	
Manipur	76.06%	Former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy (JDS)	
Karnataka	63.90%		

thorities to cast their franchise. Polling for the second stage of the seven-phase elections started at 7 am and continued

till 6 pm. Several states are experiencing intense heat conditions.

One person each reportedly died at Palakkad,

Alappuzha and Malappuram after casting their vote and a polling agent died after collapsing at a booth in Kozhikode.

Polling was held in all 20 seats of Kerala, 14 of the 28 seats in Karnataka, 13 seats in Rajasthan, 8 seats each in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, 6 seats in Madhya Pradesh, 5 seats each in Assam and Bihar, 3 seats each in Chhattisgarh and West Bengal, and 1 seat each in Manipur, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir.

**SIDELIGHTS**

Some EVMs were destroyed at a polling station in Indiganatha village in of Karnataka during a clash between two groups of people over whether to vote or not. Officials said an FIR is being filed the Election Commission will take a call after getting a detailed report.

The process of filing nomination papers for 49 Lok Sabha constituencies in 8 states and 35 Odisha Assembly segments to be held on May 20 started on Friday with the Election Commission of India and Odisha's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) issuing the notification in this regard.

**PM'S PEP TALK** Says people's support to NDA is unparalleled  
**Phase 2 voting, too good for BJP-led NDA: PM Modi**

**PTI**  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that the phase two of the Lok Sabha polls has been "too good" for the BJP-led NDA, describing the support to the ruling alliance as unparalleled.

He said on X as polling ended, "Phase Two has been too good! Gratitude to the people across India who have voted today. The unparalleled support for NDA is going to disappoint the Opposition even more."

"Voters want NDA's good governance. Youth and women voters are powering the strong NDA support," Prime Minister Modi said.

The Prime Minister had made a similar assertion after phase one of voting on April 19, saying the ruling alliance has seen a great response.

It is clear that people across India are voting for the NDA in record numbers, he had said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and others during an election campaign roadshow amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, in Bareilly, on Friday. **PTI**

**PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI SAYS HIS REBIRTH IS GOING TO BE IN WEST BENGAL**



Kolkata: PM Narendra Modi lashed out at TMC gov't in West Bengal at a Lok Sabha election rally on Friday while reiterating his fondness for the people of the state. Pointing to the turnout at BJP rally in Malda, Modi said: "Your love makes me think that I was born in Bengal in my last life or my next birth will be in Bengal." "You people have come in such large numbers that the ground has become smaller. I apologise for the inconvenience caused to you. I will return your love through development," he said.

**PM RAPS CONG OVER 'DOUBLE STANDARDS'**

New Delhi: PM Modi on Friday stepped up his offensive on Congress and said his plain-speak on the party's double standards has ruffled many feathers in I.N.D.I.A. bloc, so much so, that they have launched a tirade at him for speaking the truth. Modi doubled down his attack on the grand old party for spreading lies and canards and devising a fake propaganda.

Thakur raps Opposition's blame game on EVMs

**ANI**  
Bilaspur

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's decision regarding EVMs. "We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court. The Opposition tried to spread confusion and blame EVMs for its defeat but now the Supreme Court has made it clear and has rejected the petition," he said.

He said, "My request to the Opposition is that if they want to fight elections, then fight on issues, fight on ideology."



## Amit Shah rails against Rahul Gandhi, Congress



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav and others at a rally amid the ongoing Lok Sabha elections, in Guna district. **PTI**

**ANI**  
Guna

In a no-holds-barred attack on the Congress, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday it wants to restore the Muslim Personal Law in a bid to advance its appeasement politics, adding that the BJP would never let them succeed in their ulterior motives.

At a public meeting here on Friday, Shah said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be in force across the country.

"If you have cared to read Congress' manifesto

**SHAH BATS FOR JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA IN GUNA**

Bhopal: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday called Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia a 'committed leader for development' as he urged the voters to elect him to the Lok Sabha from Guna in Madhya Pradesh. Addressing a public rally in Guna, Shah said he will decide the future of incumbent BJP MP KP Yadav' after the elections are over and sought public support for Scindia.

closely, it states that they will restore the primacy of the Muslim Personal Law. They want to bring it back. You tell me: will this country run on Sharia now? Rahul Baba, do whatever you have to for appeasement. But as long as the BJP is around, we will not allow the personal law to return," he said.

"This country will be run on the basis of the UCC, as it upholds and safeguards the spirit of our Constitution. We have introduced UCC in Uttarakhand and Narendra Modi-ji has guaranteed that it will be rolled out across the country (if BJP is elected for a fresh term at the Centre)," he added.

This election is different from previous ones: Rahul Gandhi



**ANI**  
Bijapur

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday took a veiled swipe at PM Narendra Modi saying that this election is different from previous ones.

"This election is not an ordinary election, it's not like the previous elections because, for the first time in the history of India, a party and an individual are trying to abolish the constitution and democracy of India," he said.

He claimed that on one hand, Modi is trying to abolish the constitution, their MPs have clearly said that if they win the election, they will change and abolish the constitution. On the other hand, there is the Congress party and the I.N.D.I. Alliance who are trying to save the constitution.

## Oppn aims to divide country on religious grounds: Yogi

**ANI**  
Lucknow

Lashing out at the Congress on Friday, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Congress manifesto is harmful to India, the world's largest democracy. Talking to reporters at his official residence, the chief minister



said that the BJP had entered the elections with the issues of development, security, and governance.

## Cong-I.N.D.I.A. bloc's 'hidden agenda' is to snatch rights of SC, ST, OBC: JP Nadda

**Agencies**  
New Delhi

Launching a scathing attack against Congress and I.N.D.I.A. bloc, BJP National President JP Nadda on Friday said the Opposition's "hidden agenda" is to "snatch" the rights of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled



Tribes (ST) and other backward classes and give them to Muslims. He said, "BJP does not

want Muslims to be neglected, but they should not take undue advantage at the expense of other communities."

"The Congress says that Muslims have the first right to the country's resources, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that they belong to the poor," Nadda added.

## Total support for the BJP-JD-S alliance in K'taka: Pralhad Joshi

**Agencies**  
Hubballi

The BJP is going to get total support in the elections to 14 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Pralhad Joshi stated in Hubballi on Friday.

Speaking to reporters, Joshi said that during voting in south Karnataka, people are backing the BJP-JD-S alliance. "Popular support is needed in the interest of the country towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The people should come out in large numbers and participate in voting," he appealed.

"The increase in percentage of voting does not mean that Prime Minister Modi has won. The party workers of the alliance should not sit at home and see to it that the voting is done to the highest level," Joshi added.

Meanwhile, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda attacked Con-



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

**ASHWINI VAISHNAW SAYS...**

## "PM working to make India developed by 2047"

**PTI**  
Rajkot

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working 24x7 to make India a developed nation by 2047 and the people of the country are lucky to have such a hardworking and visionary leadership.

At a gathering here, Vaishnaw accused Congress of wasting five decades, between 1950 and 1990 and during 10 years of UPA rule from 2004 to



Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses at Viksit Bharat@2047 talk show, in Rajkot, on Friday. **PTI**

2014. He said the country was brimming with enthusiasm when it gained independence in 1947. "But unfortunately, af-

ter 1947, the governments that came during the first four decades finished India's core strengths and entrepreneurial spirit. The four decades between 1950 and 1990 were our lost decades," said Vaishnaw. "Young entrepreneurs

today won't believe that during those days you had to contact a Congress leader in Delhi if you wanted to change the design of your car steering or increase production in your factory. Such an ugly situation was prevalent under Congress rule back then," he said.

Vaishnaw, who also handles Communications, Electronics and Information Technology portfolios, said though former PM AB Vajpayee took steps to improve the situation, everything came to nought under Congress rule between 2004 and 2014.

**HDK ACCUSES ECI OF MISCONDUCT**

Bengaluru: Former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy stirred a political row by accusing the Election Commission of India (ECI) of electoral misconduct in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha seat. Allegations surfaced following claims that the Congress candidate distributed gift coupons with QR codes to voters, sparking clashes between party workers and heightening concerns over electoral integrity.

gress over distribution of guarantee handbills to people in the state.

## WEATHER REPORT

The IMD has also predicted a fresh spell of rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds

## Heatwave in East, South India for next 5 days

ANI

New Delhi

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions likely to continue over East and south Peninsular India during the next 5 days, the India Meteorological Department said on Friday.

"A spell of rainfall accompanied by isolated thunderstorms/lightning and heavy rainfall is likely over Northeast India from 28-30 April," it said.

As per IMD, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions will likely prevail in many places over Gangetic West Bengal, in some parts of Odisha, and in isolated pockets over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal during next 5 days.



Commuters pass on a road amid rain, in Gurugram.

ANI

"Heatwave conditions in isolated pockets over Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Inte-

rior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, East Uttar Pradesh during the next 5 days; Kerala & Mahe during

26th-28th; Konkan during 27th-29th and West Uttar Pradesh, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yan-

am during 28th-30th April 2024," IMD said.

The IMD also predicted a fresh spell of rainfall ac-

## IMD PREDICTS THUNDERSTORMS, RAIN IN 10 DISTRICTS OF HIMACHAL DURING NEXT 48 HOURS



Shimla: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday predicted thunderstorms, hail and rainfall in 10 districts of the state during the next 48 hours.

"Thunderstorms with lightning, hail and strong wind (30-40kmph) are very likely at isolated places over Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan, Una during the next 48 hours," said IMD Shimla.

India from April 26-27.

The IMD further said that fairly widespread to moderate rainfall/snowfall accompanied by isolated thunderstorms & lightning & gusty winds (40-50 kmph) is very likely over Arunachal Pradesh and scattered to fairly widespread rainfall over Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura during 26th-30th April 2024.

It added that isolated light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms & lightning is very likely over Sikkim on April 28, 2024. It added that heavy rainfall is likely over Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

panied by thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds is likely to occur over Western Himala-

yan region from April 26-29 and the plains of North-west India from April 26-28 and adjoining Central

## IN BRIEF

## Wanted sharpshooter of Naresh Sethi gang nabbed in Delhi

New Delhi: The Delhi police has arrested a 24-year-old sharpshooter of Naresh Sethi gang, officials said on Friday. According to police, the accused, identified as Mohit was wanted in connection with a firing incident at a property dealer's office in Rohini for extortion.

## Mahadev app head arrested by STF in Lucknow

New Delhi: UP STF nabs two including company's head from Lucknow, agencies intensify probe into multi-crore scam. A UP STF team has arrested the India head of the Mahadev gaming app and his associate from Vibhuti Khand in Gombti Nagar, Lucknow.



## Spiderman stunt goes wrong, two booked

New Delhi: Two youths, wearing "Spiderman" costumes were booked for various offences while performing stunts on the road in Delhi, an official said on Friday. Accused have been identified as Aditya and Anjali, both residents of Najafgarh. Cops said a post went viral on social media where a person without a helmet was riding bike and was doing a stunt in Spiderman costume. They have been booked for various offences.

## Madras HC rejects plea against bond agreement for docs

Chennai: Madras High Court has dismissed the petitions filed by three doctors, challenging the proceedings of the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine appointing them as Assistant Surgeon based on a bond agreement under relevant rules.

## Delhi HC orders deregistration of GoFirst Aircraft

New Delhi: Delhi HC issued directives to DGCA to proceed with deregistration of leased aircraft belonging to Go-First. Justice TV Ganju dismissed Resolution Professional's request to delay enforcement of order, leaving GoFirst vulnerable to losing all 54 of its aircraft.

## Firing outside Salman's residence

## 2 sent to police custody till April 30

PTI

Mumbai

A court on Friday remanded to police custody till April 30 two men arrested from Punjab in connection with the firing outside actor Salman Khan's residence in Bandra.

Subhash Chander (37) and Anuj Thapan (32) were produced before a magistrate's court. The crime branch on Thursday arrested the duo, who had allegedly provided weapons and cartridges to the shooters, from Punjab.

The police said the accused were key persons in crime and were arrested



Subhash Chander (37) and Anuj Thapan (32) were produced before a magistrate's court.

based on technical evidence. They need to be interrogated to find out who supplied them with weapons and asked them to give the same to the two

shooters arrested earlier. The police alleged that Chander and Thapan had come to Panvel (in Raigad dist near Mumbai) on March 15 to hand over

two country-made pistols and 38 live rounds to Sagar Pal and Vicky Gupta.

The court remanded Pal (21) and Gupta (24) to police custody till April 29. Besides these four accused, the police have declared jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his younger brother Anmol Bishnoi as wanted accused in the case.

Appearing for the accused, advocate Ajay Dubey submitted that Chander and Thapan had not provided weapons to the other accused or visited Panvel, and they had no connection to the Bishnoi gang.

## CBI seizes arms during search operation in Bengal's Sandeshkhali

PTI

New Delhi/Kolkata

The CBI on Friday unearthed arms and ammunition during its search at a house in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali in connection with its investigation into an attack on an ED team by a mob allegedly instigated by now-suspended TMC leader Shajahan Sheikh.

Five teams of CBI officials, with support from WB Police and central forces including NSG, conducted the search at the house in Sarberia in Sandeshkhali area of North 24 Parganas dis-



Screengrab showing army personnel patrolling Sandeshkhali as CBI conducts searches across the area on April 26.

trict, an official said.

"We had received information regarding the stockpiling of this huge cache of arms and ammunition, and explosives. A total of 12 firearms, including foreign-made pistols, have been seized," he said.

## 6 people killed as wedding pandal catches fire in Bihar's Darbhanga

PTI

Darbhanga

Six people were killed in a massive fire that broke out at a wedding pandal in Bihar's Darbhanga district, police said on Friday.

The incident happened around 11.15 pm on Thursday in Alinagar in Bahera police station area, they said. The pandal caught fire during the bursting of firecrackers.

The deceased were identified as Sunil Paswan (26), Lila Devi (23), Kanchan Devi (26), Sidhant Kumar (4), Shashank Kumar (3) and Sakshi Kumari (5).

## Uproar in MCD after mayoral elections postponed in Delhi

PTI

New Delhi

The MCD House session witnessed an uproar over the postponement of the mayoral polls that were slated to be held on Friday, with both AAP and BJP councillors raising slogans against each other before the proceedings of the House began. Polls to elect the mayor and deputy mayor were postponed late Thursday night due to the non-appointment of the presiding officer.

BJP councillors surrounded the mayor's seat and raised slogans demanding the presence of Mayor Shelly Oberoi



BJP councillors protest in the MCD House, in New Delhi, on Friday.

who was running late.

AAP initially raised slogans against the BJP at the corporation headquarters. Later, they reached the House and continued raising slogans against the opposition party call-

ing them "Dalit Virodhi BJP". The AAP called the BJP "anti-Dalit", saying it was trying to ensure that a candidate from the reserved category does not become the mayor of Delhi.

## UP gov't now focuses on problem of beggary

Agencies

Lucknow

Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has asked municipal commissioners of major cities in the state to deal with the problem of beggary.

The principal secretary of the urban development department, Amrit Abhijat has directed officials to take immediate steps to check the increasing nuisance being caused by beggars at busy traffic junctions and markets.

Abhijat said on Friday, "Some people could be pushing able-bodied peo-

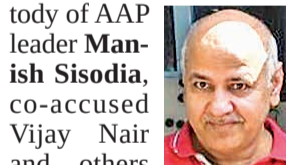
## Court extends Manish Sisodia's judicial custody till May 8 in ED case

PTI

New Delhi

A court here on Friday extended the judicial custody of AAP leader Manish Sisodia, co-accused Vijay Nair and others till May 8 in a money laundering case related to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam.

The accused persons were produced before Special Judge Kaveri Baweja through video conferencing on the expiry of their judicial custody granted earlier.



## VP DHANKAR AT NATIONAL SANSKRIT VARSITY

## 'India set to become global power; rise unstoppable'

PTI

Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar on Friday said that India is heading towards becoming a global power and its rise is unstoppable.

The Vice President made these remarks at the third convocation ceremony of the National Sanskrit University here and congratulated students for graduating at a time when India is on the rise.

"You now take a big leap in the larger world.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar with Sudesh Dhankar at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Tirumala, in Tirupati. PTI

You are lucky to be taking a leap at a time when Bharat is on the rise. The

rise is unstoppable. We are heading towards global power. You are fortunate,"

the Vice President said, addressing the students.

Commending the students for their dedication, hard work and scholarly pursuit of Sanskrit, he claimed that "one language which can uniquely fit in without error in technological sciences of all kinds is Sanskrit language."

"It is the only language whose expression orientation does not lend to two meanings," he claimed, adding that it was an essential requirement for use in technology.

According to the VP,

Sanskrit is seen as the mother of many Indian languages.

He observed that it occupies a unique position in India's linguistic evolution, contributing to the vast diversity of Indian languages.

Further, he underlined that the grammar, structure and vocabulary of Sanskrit have significantly enriched Hindi and numerous other languages spoken across South Asia, exemplifying its profound impact on the region's linguistic landscape.



ple into beggary. Reports of territorial conflicts among them are also on the rise. It needs to be checked if some organised gang is behind the menace." As per estimate, Lucknow alone has about 10,000 beggars. No official survey is available on their latest population.

# INDIA KA TYOHAR



# PBKS STUN KKR, REGISTER HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASE



Punjab Kings batter Prabhsimran Singh raises his bat after scoring half century as his teammate Jonny Bairstow greets him during IPL match between KKR and Punjab Kings, at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.



KKR batter Sunil Naraine and Phil Salt during IPL 2024 cricket match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings, at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, on Friday.

First India Bureau  
Kolkata

Punjab Kings stunned Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens in Match 42 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season on Friday.

KKR posted a massive score of 261/6 in 20 overs. Phil Salt and Sunil Naraine hit fifties.

In response, Punjab floored the Knights, riding on some brilliant hitting from the likes of Prabhsimran Singh, Jonny Bairstow and Shashank Singh.

Sunil Naraine and Phil Salt's smoking hot opening partnership set the

## KKR SMASH THEIR SECOND-HIGHEST TEAM TOTAL IN THE HISTORY OF IPL

- The Knights had earlier hit 272/7 in the IPL this season and have now surpassed the 250-run mark for the second time.
- KKR recorded the highest team total against Punjab. They broke a score of 257/5 registered by Lucknow Super Giants against PBKS in 2023.
- KKR also hold the 3rd-highest score against Punjab (245/6).

tone as Kolkata Knight Riders posted an imposing 261 for six against Punjab Kings in an IPL match here on Friday.

This was KKR's second ever 250-plus total, both coming during the

current season. Narine blasted nine fours and four sixes in his 32-ball 71 -- his third fifty plus score of the season after 85 against Delhi Capitals and 109 versus Rajasthan Royals previously.

## Pro-Palestine protests intensify in US universities



An Israeli police officer searches an activist before she is taken away by police car after she was blocking a road along with a delegation of American and Israeli rabbis, in Israel on Friday.

Agencies  
New York

Pro-Palestine, anti-war protests have gained momentum across universities in the US leading to the arrest of hundreds of students at Columbia University among others.

The University of Southern California on Thursday cancelled its graduation ceremony, and dozens more college students were detained on other campuses throughout the country.

An Indian-origin student at Princeton University was also arrested and barred from the campus for staging pro-Palestine protests.

The protesting students are asking that institutions cut their financial ties with Israel and divest from firms that they believe are aiding the Gaza conflict.

Last week, pro-Palestinian student demonstrators set up a tent encampment at New York's Ivy

### INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT ARRESTED

New York: An Indian-origin woman studying at the prestigious Princeton University in the US is among two students arrested over pro-Palestine protests on the campus. Tamil Nadu-born Achintha Sivalingan and Hassan Sayed were arrested after the protesters set up tents for an encampment in a university courtyard on Thursday.

League universities. Police attempted to evict the encampment on April 18, arresting over 100 demonstrators. However, the approach backfired, energizing students around the country and prompting demonstrators at Columbia to regroup.

On Wednesday, university administrators announced that they were extending the time for demonstrators to clear out.

'US safe nation, cares deeply for well-being of Indian students'

Agencies  
New Delhi

Amidst concerns growing following reports of several tragic deaths of Indian students in the United States since January, US Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, said the United States is a safe country and it "cares deeply" for the well-being of Indian students.

Garcetti expressed concern over the recent incidents while assuring parents that their children's safety is a top priority for the US.

"We care so deeply for the well-being of Indian students in the US. We want parents to know that their children are our children when they are in United States. And, there is a wealth of resources that can help students prepare...in the US, whether it is mental health... and resources for that being far away for home, parents & families," he said.

While the US remains a preferred destination for higher studies among Indian students, the string of such cases has raised concern among the Indo-American community as well as the Indian population.

## "US, China must be partners, not rivals"

Agencies  
Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday told top US diplomat Antony Blinken that the world's biggest economies should be "partners, not rivals" as the two sides pressed for headway on a range of concerns.

Blinken, in China for the second time in less than a year, pointed to improvements in the relationship but urged greater action from Beijing on areas including curbing

support for Russia. Meeting Blinken in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said the two countries had "made some positive progress" since he met with US President Biden in November.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken shakes hand with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Meeting Blinken in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said the two countries had "made some positive progress" since he met with US President Biden in November.

## Ex Dustlik concludes in Termez Uzbekistan

Agencies  
United Nations

Joint India-Uzbekistan Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK' conducted at Termez Combined Arms Training Ranges concluded.

Exercise 'DUSTLIK' commenced from 15 Apr 2024 wherein Amogh Division, Saviours of Fazilka Brigade and Mooltan Battalion of Sapta Shakti Command represented the Indian Army, whereas two platoons of Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan represented the Uzbekistan Army.

To stand together and



The exercise had great significance in cementing relationship between India and Uzbekistan.

fight terrorism is the resolve of two nations of the world that is India and Uzbekistan. The resolve for peace and fight against terrorism mani-

festated and was amply demonstrated in this joint exercise.

Exercise 'DUSTLIK' was the fifth edition of bilateral exercises be-



The joint exercise focused on Counter Terrorism operations and it was a Platoon level exercise.

tween India and Uzbekistan. The joint exercise focused on Counter Terrorism operations and was aimed at achieving maximum cohesion

and inter-operability between the two armies with focus on exchange of ideas, concepts and best practices between both the armies.

## COURT OVERTURNS WEINSTEIN'S SEX CRIMES

### 'Horrified': #MeToo survivor on rape conviction

Agencies  
Los Angeles

Hollywood stars, including multiple actresses who have accused Harvey Weinstein of assault, reacted with shock and outrage Thursday after the former movie producer's New York sex crimes conviction was overturned.

Rosanna Arquette, Ashley Judd and Mira Sorvino were among those to speak out as Weinstein's 2020 conviction



Ashley Judd is the first to speak publicly against Harvey Weinstein.



for rape and sexual assault was reversed by the city's highest court on Thursday.

Weinstein -- who is

also serving a separate 16-year rape sentence handed down in California -- has been ordered to face a new trial in New York.

Here are some key reactions to the overturning of one of the defining cases of the #MeToo movement:

"Woke up to this news. I feel more than ever how important it is to keep breaking silence about sexual predators, and to keep supporting victims as they speak out."

KATHERINE KENDALL, Actress & Weinstein accuser

"Harvey was rightfully convicted. It's unfortunate that the court has overturned his conviction. I am beyond disappointed, Horrified."

ROSANNA AROUETTE, Actress & Weinstein accuser

Let this be a reminder how rigged the American judicial system is against women and survivors of sexual violence, and what it takes to 'prove' your truth in this world.

AMBER TAMBLYN, Actress and Weinstein accuser

## CRUCIAL READ

### Tesla autopilot probed after 20 crashes

New York: The top US auto-safety regulator is again investigating Tesla Inc.'s Autopilot. The agency is concerned as to whether the company's remedy was sufficient, in part due to 20 crashes that have occurred involving vehicles.

### Indian-origin man in US shot and killed by police

New York: A 42-year-old Indian-origin man in the US was shot and killed by police in San Antonio after he struck two officers with his vehicle as they were trying to arrest him in connection with an aggravated assault case against a woman.

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**  
SRI KARAN NARENDRA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, JOBNER (JAIPUR) RAJ.

**6th CONVOCATION-2024**

The 6th Convocation of SKN Agriculture University, Jobner for students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture/MBA (ABM), PG and Ph.D. programmes will be held on 15.05.2024 (Wednesday). The eligible pass out students of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture/MBA (ABM) for session 2022-23, PG and Ph.D. programmes from January 2023 to December 2023 to whom degree will be conferred during this convocation. The list of students is available on university website [www.sknau.ac.in](http://www.sknau.ac.in). All students are requested to confirm their name, roll number, enrolment number, registration number and OGPA and if found any objection can communicate to Controller of Examinations office on email [coe@sknau.ac.in](mailto:coe@sknau.ac.in) latest on 30.04.2024 with suitable proof. The students as per the displayed list are required to submit their 'consent for convocation' in the prescribed form available on the website latest by 10.05.2024 (Friday). The Degree Distribution Ceremony of all students of all constituent colleges of SKNAU, Jobner will be held on 15.05.2024 at Jobner campus and affiliated colleges students at their respective college campus after convocation ceremony onwards.

Contact - Email-[coe@sknau.ac.in](mailto:coe@sknau.ac.in) Phone-01425-254981  
Raj.Samwad/24/55 Registrar



# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

If you want to make every single occasion special, then learn to enjoy your own company and be blissful, even when you are alone.

**Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA**, CMD & Editor-in-Chief


08

**LS POLL PHASE-2 VOTING**
**More votes polled in Kota and Barmer compared to 2019 Lok Sabha elections**

## 7% MORE VOTING IN 2ND PHASE THAN FIRST

61.60 percent voting took place on 25 seats

BJP is likely to benefit from increased voting percentage in the second phase

**Manoj Mathur**  
Jaipur

With completion of voting on 13 Lok Sabha seats in the second phase, the fate of candidates on all 25 seats of Rajasthan has been sealed in EVMs. In whose favor voters have decided, it will now be revealed on June 4. It is a matter of satisfaction that the hard work of political parties and the Election Commission, which became active after low voting in the first phase, bore fruit. In the second phase, about seven percent more votes were cast than in the first phase. There was 58.28 percent voting on 12 seats in the first phase, while the voting figure on 13 seats in the second phase has now reached 64.56 percent. After the updation, when the final figures come by Saturday, this voting percentage may be higher. At present, there was 3.86% less voting on these thirteen seats compared to the last LS polls. This time, a total of 61.60% voting took place on 25 seats, which is about 5% less than last time.

### Analysis

The special thing in second phase was that this time percentage of voting on two seats - Kota and Barmer - crossed the figure of 2019 whereas in Banswara it remained very close to the last time. Voting on remaining ten seats was less than last time. In the last LS polls, there was 70.22% voting in Kota, 73.30% in Barmer and 72.90% in Banswara. After late night updation, the voting figures were 70.82% in Kota, 73.68% in Barmer and 72.24% in Banswara. Kota seat was considered a high profile seat due to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla contesting the elections as a BJP candidate.



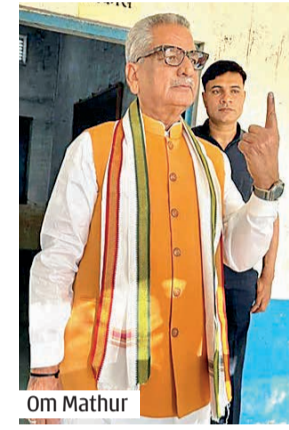
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2



3



4

1. A family arrived in tractor, posing with inked finger after casting vote in Barmer on Friday. 2. First time voters with certificate in Jhalawar. 3. Cold drinks were also offered to voters standing in queue during the voting on Friday at some places. 4. A woman adorned in Rajasthani attire, posing at selfie booth after casting her vote in Mt Abu on Friday.

### POLITICAL PARTIES SPECULATE IMPACT OF INCREASED TURNOUT

There was tough competition on many seats in the second phase and veteran politicians were in the fray on many seats. This also had a major contribution in increasing the voting percentage. The interesting thing amidst all this is that political parties were saying that due to low turnout in the first phase, the voters of their rivals did not come out. Now, regarding the increased voting in the second phase, political parties are now accepting that this time comparatively more of their voters have reached the polling stations, due to which the voting percentage has increased. Now parties and candidates are busy assessing in whose favor the increased voting percentage has gone. If seen on the ground, after low voting in the first phase, BJP had shown maximum activity. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself took a meeting regarding this and also issued an appeal to the people to first vote and then have any refreshments. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma also had a long discussion with the workers from war room to booth level regarding increasing voting. If the voting percentage has increased due to these efforts, then BJP will definitely get direct benefit from this.

### Birla casts vote, shows confidence in voters of Kota-Bundi for support

**Bhanwar S Charan**  
Kota

BJP candidate Om Birla cast his vote on Friday at a polling booth located in a private school near his home. Before voting, he along with his wife Dr Amita Birla worshiped Lord Shri Ram & Balaji Maharaj. Birla said that people of Kota have always loved & blessed him

and this time also blessings of the Kota-Bundi family are with him.

Expressing his gratitude to voters, Birla said, "the enthusiasm and zeal with which voters participated in the celebration of democracy is praiseworthy. Voting by the common people in the national interest will make an invaluable contribution in developed India."

### Modi is hope, Modi is faith, says CP Joshi after casting his vote

**First India Bureau**  
Chittorgarh

BJP State Prez CP Joshi expressed his gratitude to the voters of the state and said that "Modi is hope, Modi is faith" that is why Modi is with you".



CP Joshi with family after casting vote in Chittorgarh on Friday.

"In a democracy, the govt is elected by the people and for the people and today the people of the state expressed confidence in

the guarantees of PM Modi and completed the task of giving a hat-trick for the third time," he said.

### 'NDA will win more than 400 seats'

**Rajeev Gaur**  
Jodhpur

Union Jal Shakti Min and BJP candidate Gajendra Singh cast his vote at 8:15 am on Friday in Shekhawat. Shekhawat and his family reached the polling booth located at New Govt Senior Secondary School, Ratanada.

He was also accompanied by his wife Nonad Kanwar, daughters Suha-



GS Shekhawat with family members after voting in Jodhpur on Friday.

sini Shekhawat and Surangama Shekhawat. "There is no doubt that NDA will win more than

400 seats in the country," he said as he described the development work done by the Modi government.

### Ashok Gehlot and family cast votes

**Shivprakash Purohit**  
Jodhpur

Former CM Ashok Gehlot along with his family members on Friday cast his vote at the polling booth at Vardhaman Jain Higher Primary School located in Mahamandir area of Jodhpur.



Ashok Gehlot posing with Vaibhav, Sunita Gehlot, Himanshi Gehlot, Kashvini and Sonia Gehlot after casting vote in Jodhpur on Friday.

After casting his vote, Ashok Gehlot targeted PM Modi for his statement on 'Mangalsutra'. Gehlot also

claimed that the situation of BJP is very bad and only lies are being spread by them. "Now these people

will never raise slogan of crossing 400. PM's interpretation has become a joke," he said.

### Deputy CM PC Bairwa rides bike appealing people to vote in Dudu

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Dy CM Dr Prem Chand Bairwa's style of working is still like that of a party worker. He set out on a bike when the road was narrow. The voting for phase-2 of LS Poll took place in Dudu. When bairwa was going for polling, and his car could not pass through a village due to



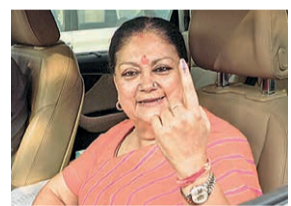
Dy CM Dr PC Bairwa with family after casting vote on Friday.

narrow road, he covered the way forward by riding bike. The simplicity filled enthusiasm in people.

### Raje casts vote along with grandson, gives blessings to son Dushyant Singh

**Arif Mansoori**  
Jhalawar

Former CM Vasundhara Raje along with her grandson Vinayak Pratap Singh reached the polling station in Jhalawar at 7.28 am in Abhijeet Muhurta to cast their vote. During this, BJP candidate Dushyant Singh was also present with her. Before voting, BJP candidate Dushyant Singh,



Vasundhara Raje posing with inked finger in Jhalawar.

along with his son Vinayak Pratap, went to the Balaji temple of Radi, where they offered prayers.

### PHONE TAPPING CASE

## Rajendra Rathore writes to CM seeking inquiry

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

The issue of phone tapping has again gained momentum amid the second phase of voting for the Lok Sabha elections in Rajasthan. After the claims of former CM Ashok Gehlot's OSD Lokesh Sharma regarding phone tapping, now senior BJP leader Rajendra Rathore has written a letter to CM Bhajan Lal Sharma in which he has asked to form a high level committee and conduct a high



Rajendra Rathore

level investigation against the then administrative and police officers along with the masters involved in this conspiracy. Rajendra Rathore wrote



Ashok Gehlot

a two-page letter to Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Friday mentioning that the phones of many leaders were tapped by the then CM Ashok Ge-

Sharing his letter on twitter, Rajendra Rathore mentioned that the phones of many leaders were tapped by the then CM Ashok Gehlot during the crisis faced by the Congress govt in Rajasthan in 2020

lot during the crisis faced by the Congress government in Rajasthan in 2020. Rathore has also shared his letter on social media platform X and said, "To-

day I have written a letter to the CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and demanded strict action by conducting a high level inquiry against the then high ranking administrative and police officers in the phone tapping incident that took place during the Congress government in the year 2020."

Rajendra Rathore has written in his letter that the recent revelations of Lokesh Sharma, who was OSD of Jengahlot, prove that in 2020, the then Chief Minister misused his powers and flouted the laws and rules.

## CM Sharma to shift to CMR in Civil Lines soon, pooja conducted

**Aishwary Pradhan**  
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma is going to shift to CMR 8 Civil Lines soon. On Friday, a puja was conducted as per rituals and prasad was distributed to sages, saints, mahants and pundits. On Friday, four months after formation of the govt, CM Bhajanlal Sharma along with his wife offered prayers at the auspicious time at the CMR, 8 Civil Lines.

Notably, since becoming the CM, Bhajan Lal Sharma stayed in the guest house of Sahakar



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma seeking blessings from Mahant Kailash Sharma after the pooja at CMR, 8 Civil Lines in Jaipur on Friday. Bal Mukundacharya is also seen.

Marg Electricity Dept for the first four-five days, but in view of the increasing problem of traffic, the CM residence was temporarily shifted to OTS and stayed there along with his family.

**CM's mother discharged from SMS hospital** CM Bhajanlal Sharma's mother was discharged from SMS hospital on Friday after she recovered from her illness. She was admitted to SMS hospital after difficulty in breathing.



# City First

JAIPUR, SATURDAY | APRIL 27, 2024



## LIPA'S LOVE LIFE!

**D**ua Lipa, the chart-topping sensation known for her infectious tunes, has also made headlines for her romantic escapades. From whirlwind romances to high-profile splits, her love life has been a rollercoaster ride captivating fans worldwide. **P11**



The gorgeous participants of Miss Rajasthan 2024

## Miss Rajasthan 2024 Auditions Dazzle with Style and Grace!

Amidst the opulent setting of Hotel Prime Safari in Jaipur, the second audition of Miss Rajasthan 2024 unfolded on Friday, drawing aspiring young women from every corner of the state to showcase their beauty and talent. City First brings to you some stunning glimpses!

# Grandeur Personified

© SANTOSH SHARMA



### Mitali Dusad

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

**I**n a dazzling display of beauty and talent, the second audition of the Miss Rajasthan 2024 took center stage at Hotel Prime Safari in Jaipur today. Aspiring young women hailing from every corner of Rajasthan converged to participate in this prestigious event, injecting the air with palpable enthusiasm and anticipation.

Organised by the visionary duo Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra, the event marked the culmination of meticulous planning and dedication. Esteemed dignitaries including CMD Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Raj Bansal, Pawan Goyal of Prime Safari, Alok Sharma of Ruv digital were present as guests of honour, underscoring the event's significance on Rajasthan's cultural landscape.

With over 5000 registrations pouring in from across the state, the competition was fierce and exhilarating. Yet, only 70 contenders will proceed to the interview round, following a rigorous selection process comprising two auditions. These chosen few will undergo extensive grooming and transformation, preparing them for the ultimate showdown at the grand finale.

Dr Chandra extended his heartfelt congratulations to Organisers Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra, the visionary minds behind Miss Rajasthan 2024. In his words, "The grandeur and elegance showcased at Miss Rajasthan 2024 reflect the rich cultural tapestry of our beloved state.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience. Also seen are organisers Yogesh Mishra & Nimisha Mishra along with mentors & participants

My sincere appreciation to Yogesh and Nimisha and team for their tireless efforts in promoting talent and grace. This event not only celebrates beauty but also empowers young women to shine bright on the global stage."

Under the discerning eyes of the Grand Jury, comprised of illustrious figures such as Priyan Sain, Aanchal Bohra and Tarushi Rai, among others, the contestants showcased their charisma and grace with unwavering confidence. Not merely spectators, these eminent personalities lent their support and encouragement, uplifting the spir-

its of nervous candidates and guiding them through moments of doubt. Darpan Kumar, the charismatic host of the evening, ensured that the event unfolded seamlessly, captivating the audience with his wit and charm. As the anticipation builds, the journey towards crowning the next Miss Rajasthan 2024 promises to be nothing short of spectacular, culminating in a resplendent ceremony befitting the grandeur of Rajasthan's rich heritage and tradition.

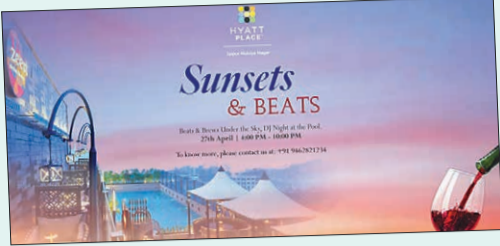


Paridhi Sharma

Clockwise: Bhawana Vaishnav, Mansi Rathore, Tarushee Rai & Priyan Sain



**WHAT'S NEXT?**



**Sundowner DJ Pool Party Free Entry:** Get ready to groove under the stars at the ultimate Sundowner DJ Night! With poolside vibes, flowing drinks, and panoramic views, this event promises an unforgettable evening of music and fun.

**When:** April 27, 4:00 PM

**Where:** Hyatt Place Jaipur Malviya Nagar, Jaipur



**MAIN SHAYAR TOH NAHI - India Tour Leg-2!!!!** Manhar Seth's comedy set "Main Shayar Toh Nah!" along with some crowd work. This event offers unparalleled laugh-out-loud opportunities and engaging conversations.

**When:** April 28, 7:00 PM Onwards

**Where:** Taxila Auditorium, Jaipur



**Startup Mixer @Jaipur:** The 345th Startup Mixer, where innovators and trailblazers come together to ignite connections, gain valuable insights, and discover hidden gems in the startup ecosystem. With a dynamic community of founders, investors, and enablers, this event offers unparalleled networking opportunities and engaging discussions.

**When:** April 27, 4:00 PM Onwards

**Where:** Jaipur

**BIRTHDAY FORECAST!**



**KATE PIERSON**  
**Taurus**  
**APRIL 27**

You will confidently accomplish every task, making it easier to fulfil them. Your leadership skills will increase. You may fulfil your dream of purchasing a land vehicle, etc. Maintain harmony among each other for your good. This will help you maintain a healthy financial balance and avoid any unexpected financial setbacks.

**Lucky Number:** 9

**Lucky Colour:** Yellow



**Jaipur Flight Plan**

**MUMBAI-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo & Vistara

**DELHI-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo & Vistara

**SURAT-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo & Vistara

**CHENNAI-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo & Vistara

**KOLKATA-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, SpiceJet & Vistara

**CHANDIGARH-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo

**GOA-** Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, SpiceJet

**JAMMU-** Air India, Alliance Air, IndiGo & Vistara

**LEH-** Air India, Air India Express, Alliance Air, IndiGo, SpiceJet & Vistara

**ITANAGAR-** IndiGo



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# Are you one of the millions about to have *Cataract surgery?*



**Jo Adetunji**

Editor, The Conversation UK

**C**ataract surgery is one of the most popular and commonly performed procedures in the world. The vast majority of patients have excellent outcomes with few complications.

**HERE ARE THE NUMBERS:**

- By age 80, over half of all Americans have cataracts.
- Close to 4 million cataract surgeries are performed in the U.S. every year.
- Over 90% of patients have 20/20 vision with glasses after surgery, although those with other eye conditions may not do as well, including those with glaucoma, a progressive disease typically associated with elevated pressure within the eye; diabetic retinopathy, which ultimately can cause leakage in the retinal tissues; and macular degeneration, a disease that is typically related to age.
- The rate of post-surgery infection from endophthalmitis is less than 0.1%.

As ophthalmologists who have performed thousands of these procedures, we know that many patients have misconceptions about both cataracts and the surgery. For example, some think a cataract is a growth on the eye's surface.

We like to compare a cataract with the frosted glass of a



bathroom window, where light can be transmitted but details cannot. Or when turbulence from a storm causes normally clear water in the ocean to become murky. In much the same way, the eye's once-transparent lens becomes cloudy.

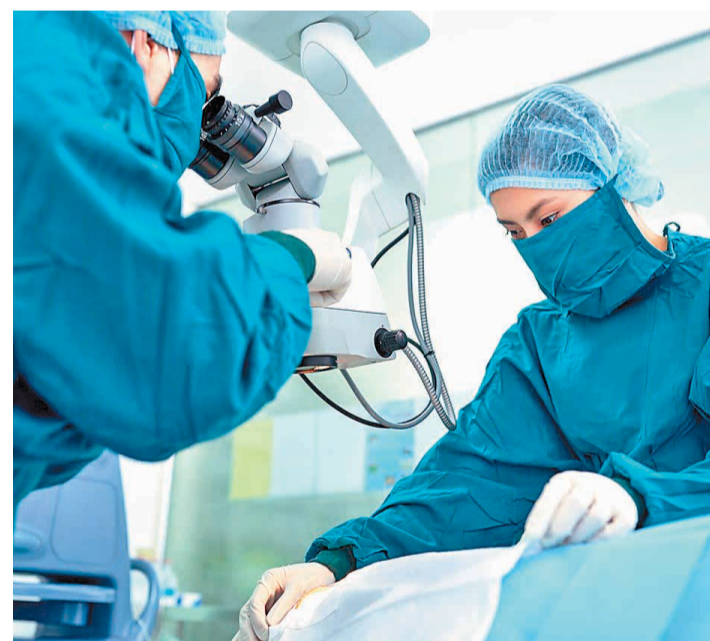
ing postoperative infections and postoperative swelling.

**COMPLICATIONS ARE RARE**

Serious complications, such as postoperative infection, bleeding in the eye or a postoperative retinal detachment are rare; they occur in approximately 1 in 1,000 cases. But even in many of these situations, appropriate management can salvage useful vision.

Capsular complications deserve additional discussion. According to some studies, they occur in up to 2% of cases. If a hole or tear of the posterior capsule is encountered during cataract surgery, the clear gel in the vitreous – the back chamber of the eye – may be displaced into the front chamber of the eye.

If that happens, the gel must be removed at the time of the cataract surgery. This will reduce the likelihood of additional postoperative complications, but those who have the procedure, known as a vitrectomy, have an increased risk for additional complications, includ-



**A CHOICE OF LENS**

The plastic lens used to replace the cataract or intraocular lens requires careful sizing for optimal results and a nuanced discussion between patient and surgeon.

Early intraocular lens technologies were monofocal, and most patients with these lenses chose distance correction and used reading glasses for near tasks. This is still the preferred approach for approximately 90% of patients having cataract surgery today.

Recent advances have led to intraocular lenses that offer multifocality – the opportunity to have near as well as distance vision, without glasses. Some multifocal lenses are even in the trifocal category, which includes distance, near, and intermediate vision, the latter of

**ABOUT THE SURGERY**

Cataract surgery removes the clouded lens of the eye and replaces it with a new, clear lens to restore your vision. Most patients report the procedure is painless.

It's typically an elective surgery that is performed on an outpatient basis. The patient is often awake, under local anaesthesia, with sedation similar to that used for dental procedures. We like to say patients receive the equivalent of three margaritas in their IV.

Numbing drops are then applied to the eye's surface, along with an anaesthetic inside the eye. Patients with claustrophobia, or movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, may not be suitable candidates for awake surgeries and require general anaesthesia.

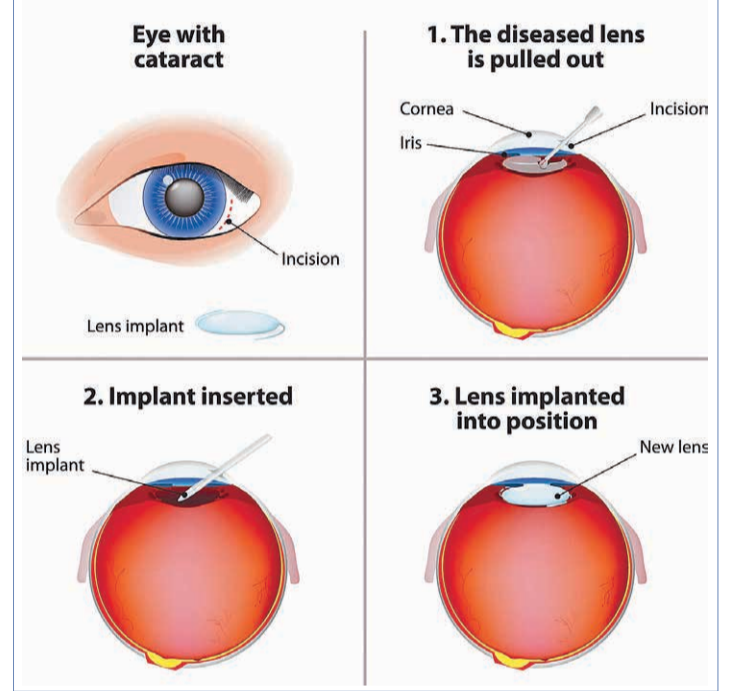
Before surgery, patients receive dilating drops to make the pupil as large as possible. The surgeon makes a tiny incision, usually with a small pointed scalpel, between the clear and white part of the eye to gain access to the lens capsule, a thin membrane similar in thickness to a plastic produce bag at the grocery store.

This capsule is suspended by small fibres called zonules, which are arranged like springs that suspend a trampoline from a frame. The surgeon then creates a small opening in the capsule, called a capsulotomy, to gain access to the cataract. The cataract is then broken into smaller parts so they are removable through the small incision.

This is similar to a tiny jackhammer, breaking the large lens into smaller pieces for removal. That sounds scary, but it's painless. Ultrasound emulsifies the lens and vacuum power then aspirates it from the eye.

Laser-assisted cataract surgery has been found to have similar outcomes to traditional cataract surgery.

**CATARACT SURGERY**



which in recent years has become very important for computer and phone use.

Most patients with these advanced technology multifocal lenses are happy with them. However, a small percentage of patients with multifocal lenses can be so bothered by visual disturbances – notably night glare and halos around light sources in the dark – that they request the removal of the multifocal lens to exchange it for a standard intraocular lens. These exchanges are a reasonable option for such situations and offer relief for most affected patients.

Determining who's an ideal candidate for a multifocal intraocular lens is an area of active research. Most clinicians would recommend against such a lens for a patient with a detail-

oriented personality. Such patients tend to fixate on the shortcomings of these lenses despite their potential advantages.

As with many technologies, current generation advanced technology intraocular lenses are much better than their predecessors. Future offerings are likely to offer improved vision and fewer side effects than those available today.

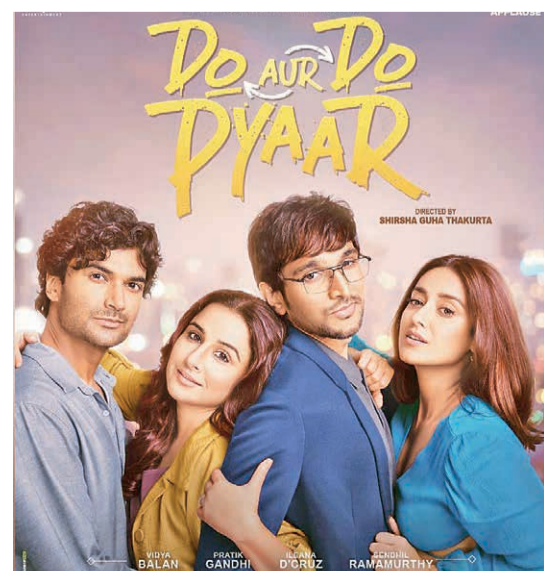
However, these newer lenses are often not reimbursed by insurance companies and often entail substantial out-of-pocket costs for patients. Deciding on what type of lens is best for you can be complicated. Fortunately, except in unusual circumstances, such as when a cataract develops after trauma to the eye, there is seldom a hurry for adult cataract surgery.

**City Dial**

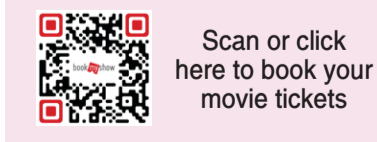
Police	Fire	Ambulance	Child Helpline	Help in Suffering
100	101	102/108	1098	2760012

Do you want to add your establishment here? Email your details to [cityfirst@firstindia.co.in](mailto:cityfirst@firstindia.co.in)

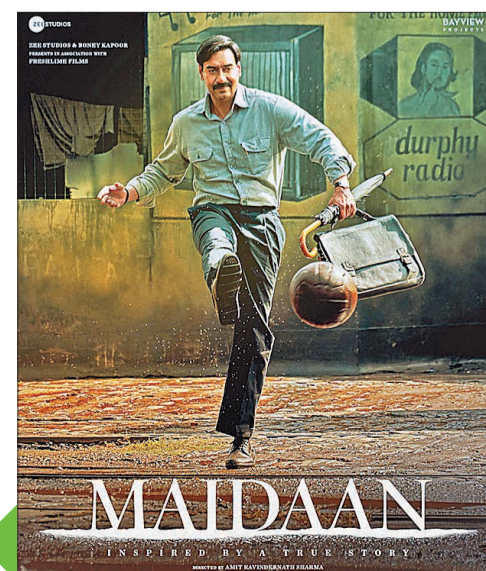
**WHAT'S JAIPUR WATCHING TODAY?**



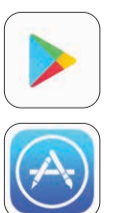
**Movie: Do Aur Do Pyaar**  
**Director:** Shirsha Guha Thakurta  
**Cast & crew:** Vidhya Balan, Prateek Gandhi & Ileana D'Cruz



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**Movie: Maidaan**  
**Director:** Amit Ravindernath Sharma  
**Cast & crew:** Ajay Devgn, Priyamani, Gajraj Rao, Rudranil Ghosh



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## Musical Marvel Unveiled

**P**rateek Gandhi, the maestro of melody, is about to whisk you away on a soul-stirring journey through his latest musical masterpiece, "Desert Soul." With Israt Tonni as his ethereal muse, this collaborative marvel by IFTAM & AUM STUDIO transports listeners to the heart of Rajasthan's arid expanse. In a tale as old as time, two souls, bound by destiny and reincarnation, meander through the desert, their paths intertwined by the echoes of past lives.

Prateek's ingenious fusion of traditional Rajasthani folk tunes with modern electronic beats creates an auditory oasis, resonating with the depths of human emo-



tion. As the haunting melodies linger in the air, the mesmerizing visuals weave a spellbinding narrative, painting the sands with the hues of love and longing.

Taking on multiple roles as a Singer, Composer, Lyricist, Music Producer, and Video Director, Prateek

showcases his boundless talent and creative flair. With each note and frame, he beckons audiences into a realm where time stands still and hearts beat as one.

Fresh off its triumph at the Europe Music Video Awards and selection for the prestigious Paradise Film Festival, "Desert Soul" stands as a testament to the enduring power of love and fate. As Prateek Gandhi's magnum opus, it promises to enrapture souls and leave an indelible mark on the world of music and visual storytelling.

So, buckle up and prepare for an odyssey of emotion as Prateek Gandhi unveils "Desert Soul," a transcendent fusion of sound and sight that will linger in your heart long after the final chord fades away.



Prateek Gandhi

## Jayantilal Gada Strikes!

**T**he entertainment world is abuzz with excitement as Jayantilal Gada, a prominent figure in the Hindi Film Industry, has secured the satellite rights for the highly anticipated action entertainer, Pushpa 2. This Sukumar-directed film, starring the charismatic Allu Arjun, has been making waves even before its release, and Gada's acquisition adds another layer of intrigue to its pre-release buzz.

Sources close to the development reveal that Gada has clinched a lucrative deal encompassing satellite rights for multiple languages, including Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada. Known for his astute business acumen, Gada plans to capitalize on the immense demand for Pushpa 2 by re-selling



Movie Poster

the rights to satellite players eager to showcase the film on their platforms.

Despite the challenges posed by the current satellite market, the allure of Allu Arjun's star power and the anticipation surrounding Pushpa 2 has sparked fierce competition among broadcasters vying for the showcasing rights. The prices offered for

these rights have skyrocketed to record levels, signalling the unparalleled popularity of Allu Arjun and the franchise.

While speculations abound regarding the acquisition price, sources suggest that the satellite deal for Pushpa 2 may have surpassed the Rs 80 crore mark, making it one of the most significant deals in recent times. With negotiations underway and the countdown to the film's release officially commencing with the launch of its first song on May 1, 2024, fans and industry insiders alike are eagerly awaiting further updates on this blockbuster in the making. Stay tuned to City First for all the latest developments on Pushpa 2!



Dua Lipa

## Lipa's Love Life!

**D**ua Lipa, the chart-topping sensation known for her infectious tunes, has also made headlines for her romantic escapades. From whirlwind romances to high-profile splits, her love life has been a rollercoaster ride captivating fans worldwide.

Her journey began with British model Isaac Carew, their love blooming in 2015 but eventually fizzling out by early 2017. Next came Paul Klein, the lead singer of LANY,

whose passionate affair with Lipa ignited creative sparks but ultimately flamed out by January 2018.

In 2019, Lipa found herself entwined with Anwar Hadid, sparking public fascination as they flaunted their love on social media and red carpets. However, by December 2021, the duo decided to part ways, citing the need for personal growth.

Rumours swirled when Lipa was spotted with comedian Trevor Noah in New York City in 2022, but sources clarified they were just friends. The gossip mill kicked into high gear again with rapper Jack

Harlow, though neither confirmed nor denied their alleged romance.

Lipa's love life took a French twist with filmmaker Romain Gavras, their romance blossoming in early 2023 but fizzling out by the end of the year.

Now, she's been linked to actor Callum Turner since January 2024, igniting speculation with their public appearances and intimate moments captured by paparazzi.

As Lipa's romantic journey continues to unfold, fans eagerly await the next chapter in her captivating love story, rooting for her happiness both on and off the stage.

## KAJOL'S Workout Humor

**K**ajol, the beloved Bollywood actress known for her infectious charm and stellar performances, continues to captivate fans both on and off the screen. With her vibrant presence on social media, she keeps her followers engaged with a blend of humour and candid glimpses into her life.

In her latest Instagram post, shared on April 26, Kajol delighted fans with a hilarious peek into her workout routine. Donning stylish athleisure attire and sporting trendy sunglasses, she posed on a pilates machine, injecting her signature wit by asking followers to guess if the photo was taken before or after her session.

Fans couldn't resist chiming in with their reactions, praising Kajol for her ability to stay chill even during workouts and admiring her effortless charm. Some speculated that the photo was snapped post-workout, while others simply marvelled at her beauty, even amid exercise.

While Kajol keeps her fans entertained on social media, she's also gearing up for exciting projects on the big screen. With Shashanka Chaturvedi's "Do Patti," co-starring Kriti Sanon, in the pipeline, and the eagerly awaited "Sarzaameen," produced by Karan Johar and directed by Kayoze Irani, featuring a stellar cast including Ibrahim Ali Khan in his acting debut, there's plenty for fans to look forward to from this Bollywood icon.



Instagram Post

Kajol

## PUKAAR DIL SE DIL TAK

**G**et ready for a rollercoaster ride of emotions as Sony Entertainment Television brings you its latest offering, 'Pukaar Dil Se Dil Tak'. Set in the vibrant city of Jaipur, this show promises to captivate audiences with its tale of love, loss, and redemption.

Against the picturesque backdrop of Jaipur, where tradition dances with modernity, 'Pukaar Dil Se Dil Tak' delves into the lives of a mother and her two daughters, Saraswati, Vedika, and Koel. However, their seemingly idyllic world is shattered when they fall victim to a



Abhishek Nigam



Sukhada Khandkekar

nefarious scheme that tears their family apart.

But destiny has other plans in store as Saraswati, Vedika, and Koel find themselves crossing

paths once again, unaware of the interconnected threads of fate weaving their lives together. As they navigate through unexpected circumstances, they

must confront the dark forces that tore their family asunder.

Filled with twists, turns, and unexpected revelations, 'Pukaar Dil Se Dil Tak' promises to keep viewers on the edge of their seats. With its gripping storyline and stellar performances, the show is set to become a favourite among audiences craving drama, romance, and suspense.

So, buckle up and get ready to embark on a journey filled with love, betrayal, and the ultimate quest for redemption. Don't miss 'Pukaar Dil Se Dil Tak', coming soon to Sony Entertainment Television!



Anushka merchant



Sayli Salunke

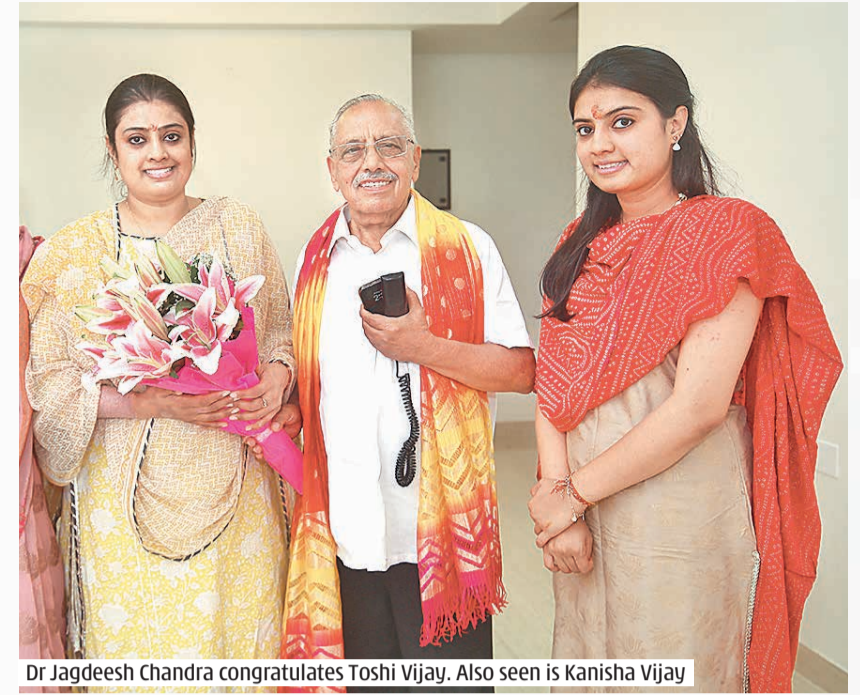
**GREETINGS AND CELEBRATION !**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra along with (L-R) Prerna Bhati, Anshul, Mahendra, Vishal Mathur, Ram Sharma, Nathulal, Ankita, Mukesh Bagra, Kamal, Suresh Sharma, Sarish, Nathuram, Jai & Santosh

The beautiful sangeet ceremony of Mukesh Sharma, son of Syani Devi and Nathuram Chela, with Ankita, daughter of Gayatri Devi & Nathulal Sharma, was held at Balaji Paradise in Jaipur on Thursday. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra reached the occasion and congratulated the couple. First India family members along with various dignitaries were also present to bless the couple and wish them a lifetime of togetherness.

**MUKESH KIRADDO**



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulates Toshi Vijay. Also seen is Kanisha Vijay

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Toshi Vijay, Founder of Spotlight PR, as the latter reached at her residence on Friday. Dr Chandra extended congratulations and blessed Toshi on the start of her new endeavour. During the occasion her mother Sangeeta Vijay and sister Kanishka Vijay were also present.

**SUNIL SHARMA**

# HARMONIOUS TRIUMPH UNVEILED

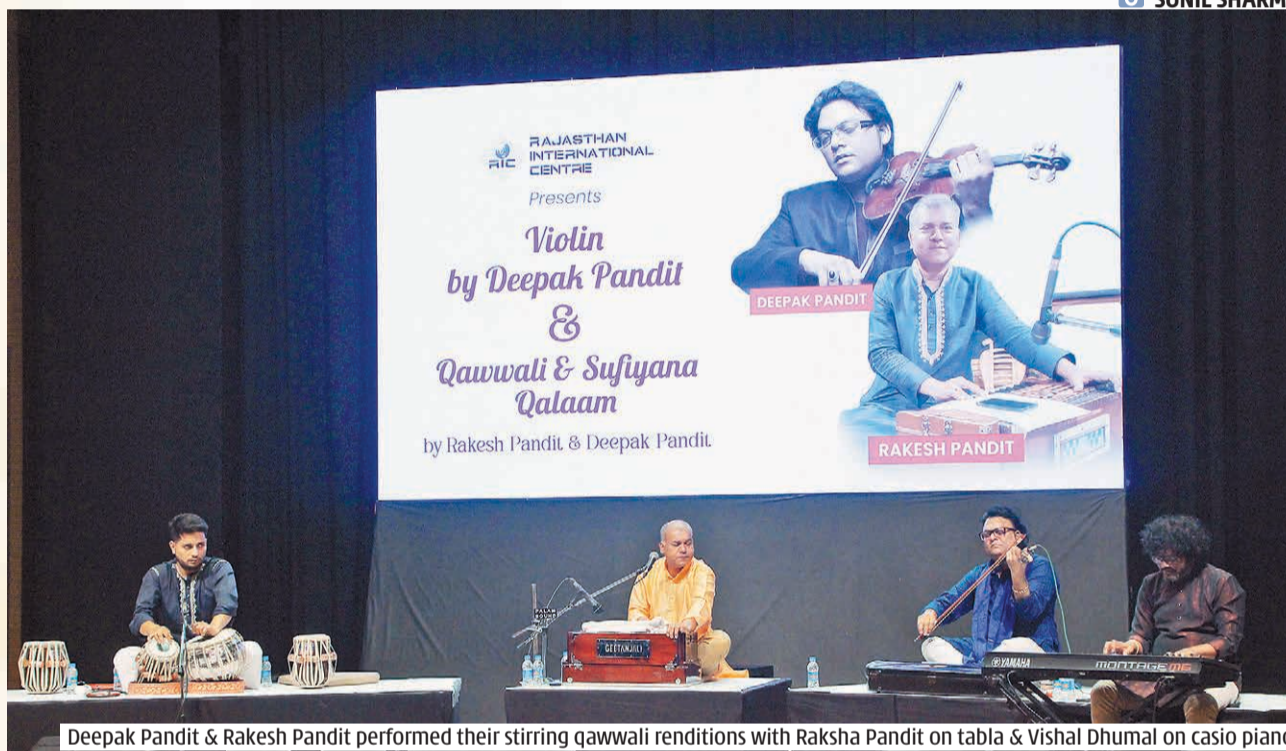
Rachna Singh

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**T**he enriching celebration of music at the Rajasthan International Center, RIC "Sangeet Ke Teen Rang Mahotsav" culminated on Friday with the 'Teesra Rang' dedicated to violinist Deepak Pandit and the qawwali renditions by Rakesh Pandit.

Renowned for his profound contributions to Indian classical and fusion music, Deepak Pandit's mesmerizing violin performance left the audience enchanted. From the tender age of six, Deepak embarked on a musical odyssey under the tutelage of his father, immersing himself in the intricacies of Hindustani classical music and violin mastery. Over the years, Deepak's artistic journey has been adorned with the creation of numerous music albums, each a testament to his boundless creativity and passion for his craft. His transcendent compositions have graced the background scores of iconic films such as "Ye Hausla," "You Baamsee and Me," "The Great Indian Butterfly," and "I Am Kalam," elevating cinematic experiences with his melodic prowess.

Following Deepak's sublime performance, the stage was set afire by the



Deepak Pandit & Rakesh Pandit performed their stirring qawwali renditions with Raksha Pandit on tabla & Vishal Dhupal on casio piano



Deepak Pandit



Rakesh Pandit

dynamic duo of Deepak and Rakesh Pandit, who enraptured the audience with their stirring qawwali renditions. With Sufi compositions that resonated with the soul and the time-

less qawwalis of their revered father, Shankar Shambhu, the Pandit brothers transported listeners to a realm of divine musical ecstasy.

Rakesh Pandit, a lumi-

nary in the realm of Bollywood music, showcased his vocal prowess with finesse, having lent his voice to over 100 Bollywood songs. From the silver screen to the stage, Rakesh

has left an indelible mark on the world of music, with notable film appearances in "Maqbool," "Guzarish," "Omkaara," and "Pyaar Ke Side Effects." His cinematic debut in 1989 with the powerful qawwali "Dil Se Dil Tak" marked a watershed moment in Bollywood, solidifying his status as a musical icon alongside stalwarts like Kadar Khan, Mamta Kulkarni, and Dinesh.

In a spectacle of musical brilliance, the "Sangeet Ke Teen Rang Mahotsav" showcased the timeless allure of Indian music, leaving an indelible imprint on the hearts of all who witnessed its grand finale.

**SUNIL SHARMA**



JNU Campus

## Proud Moment!

City First  
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**J**aipur National University (JNU), a leading institution known for its dedication to academic excellence and innovation, has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing the prestigious NAAC A+ accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on Friday. This accreditation positions JNU as the sole private university in Rajasthan to attain the coveted A+ grade specifically as a Health Sciences University.

The accreditation process, known for its rigorous evaluation criteria, scrutinized various aspects of academic life at JNU, including curriculum design, teaching methodologies, research contributions, infrastructure development, governance, and student support services. The university's exceptional performance across these parameters underscores its commitment to maintaining high standards of educational excellence and institutional effectiveness.

Key factors that contributed to JNU's success in securing the A+ accreditation include its robust infrastructure and learning resources, adherence to institutional values and best practices, strong student support



Dr Sandeep Bakshi

and progression mechanisms, and effective governance, leadership, and management practices. The university's teaching-learning and evaluation processes were also lauded during the evaluation.

Dr Sandeep Bakshi, the Chancellor of Jaipur National University, expressed immense joy and pride in this significant achievement, emphasizing its reflection of the university's dedication to providing students with a transformative learning experience. He highlighted the collective effort of the JNU community and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to empowering students for success in diverse professional and societal contexts. JNU's innovative approach to education, interdisciplinary research, and emphasis on holistic development have further contributed to its recognition and validation through the NAAC A+ accreditation.

**i VOTE!**



(L-R) Mriganika Singh, Yatendra Pal Singh, Dr Ruchi Singh and Hridyanshi Singh



Shishupal Singh Nimbada

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has reported a voter turnout of 63.65 per cent for the 13 constituencies in Rajasthan during the second phase of the Lok Sabha elections 2024, held on Friday, April 26. Among those who exercised their franchise were Dr Ruchi Singh from Udaipur and her family, as well as Shishupal Singh Nimbada, General Secretary of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee Assembly Constituency - Sumerpur. They shared images of their voting experience with City First, offering a glimpse into the civic participation during this crucial electoral event.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING!**



Governor Kalraj Mishra received the graphic novel 'Traffic Tales' at the Raj Bhavan on Friday. The novel, published by 'Smile: Foundation for Road Safety,' aimed to raise awareness about road safety. It compiled precautions for driving, accident prevention, and road safety measures in narrative form. Governor Shri Mishra praised the effort, acknowledging its significance in promoting safer road practices.



CA Prakash Sharma

Under the banner of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) organised the "Indian Advantage Roadmap Ahead" program in Sydney on April 30, 2024. The event aimed to foster economic ties between India and Australia, highlighting cross-border trade opportunities. CA Prakash Sharma, an ICAI Central Council Member, spearheaded discussions on India's burgeoning economy and showcased the potential for collaboration, including insights into India's Startup ecosystem and the Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT City).



Pink City Jewel House Private Limited, a prominent jewellery manufacturer based in Jaipur, India, received the prestigious LEED Gold certification for green building from the US Green Building Council (USGBC) on Friday. The certification, presented by George Abraham of GBCI India to Manuj Goyal, acknowledges the company's dedication to environmental sustainability. Achieving LEED Gold involved measures like water conservation, energy-efficient lighting, and transportation incentives. Kajal Goyal, VP Rajiv Gupta, and GM BS Chauhan led the efforts, supported by M/s D Calorie Energy Consultants. Chairman Manuj Goyal expressed commitment to further environmental improvements. Varun Gaur, a green rating consultant, praised the collaborative efforts and highlighted their potential impact on inspiring other industries.