

136th CONGRESS FOUNDATION DAY

A DAY OF INTROSPECTION!

ADITI NAGAR

Congress's 136 foundation day has now virtually turned out to be a day of introspection for all the ranks and files in the party, which is trying very hard to find its way forward in front of a very powerful and dominating Opposition led by Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. The way BJP has formed its governments independently or with allies, going strong in 17 states, now, after the fall of Kamal Nath Government in Madhya Pradesh, the main challenge before the 136-year old party is to protect the sitting Congress governments at Jaipur, Chandigarh, Raipur and Pondicherry. After the successful 'toppling experiment'—in two Congress ruled states of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh—by the Saffron party, now there is a serious threat at Ranchi, Mumbai and Jaipur. In this critical survival scenario, once again the sole and ultimate hope of Congress and Gandhis is Rahul Gandhi, who is likely to again take over the reins of the grand-old party by January end, sub-

ject to the completion of organisational election process. His main task would be to convert this 'dilly-dally' party into a strong and effective Opposition by reuniting the old and new guards. Now, after the demise of Sonia's long-time trouble shooter Ahmed Patel, Sonia-Rahul and Priyanka immediately require to find his suitable successor, may be Kamal Nath or someone else who could take along old and new guards together and also have expertise in forming alliances with other regional parties in the upcoming Assembly polls in 2021-22. At the same time, Gandhis need to hold a detailed introspection of dissident activities in certain states, including Rajasthan, where Ashok Gehlot's own deputy—Sachin Pilot—even after posing a serious threat to stalwart Congress leader and a third time Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's government with his rebellion, managed to come back in the main stream with an eleventh hour intervention and blessings of Priyanka Gandhi, which has raised many eyebrows in the Congress circles across the country.

So, it is a moment of a deep introspection!



IN-DEPTH

MANN KI BAAT OF PM AND CLANGING OF THALIS AT SINGHU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann ki Baat on the last Sunday of 2020 was greeted with the clanging of thalis and other metal utensils by farmers protesting the three new farm laws considered reformative by the Central government. The prime minister spoke of how his mantra of "Vocal for Local" has caught on and was helping in indigenisation of products and especially lauded Indian toymakers. He also exhorted manufacturers to focus on improving their product quality to be competitive in the global market.

The prime minister also paid tributes to Sikh gurus and said their sacrifices helped protect our culture. Modi has been making repeated efforts to douse the temper of Sikh farmers over a lakh of whom are protesting along Delhi's border. His visit to a Delhi gurdwara and appeal to Sikhs have not moved the protesters.

Even as Modi praised those who sent him letters offering suggestions, farmers at Singhu border, Faridkot in Punjab, and Rohtak in BJP-ruled Haryana clanged utensils, like the prime minister had asked the people to do to boost the morale of Covid warriors. Yogendra Yadav, the Swaraj India chief, announced last Sunday, "When the prime minister gives his Mann ki Baat address on radio, farmers will say 'we are tired of listening to your Mann ki Baat, when will you listen to our Mann ki Baat?'" He said farmers will bang utensils to block the "noise of his address" from reaching them.

This is the first time when Modi, as prime minister, is facing such strong resentment. Eventually, he will have his way on farm reforms but the loss of trust among farmers, who are on protest since November 26, will be huge. The government is still trying to convince farmers that the three new Acts--the Farmers Produce, Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020--were meant to protect their interests and not harm them. On Sunday, Union minister Rajnath Singh again assured farmers that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) will continue and no one can take away their land. Farmers, however, think otherwise and are insisting that guarantee on MSP be included in the Act. The government is dithering on that point.

There's a ray of hope, however. A joint front of 40 farmers' organizations, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, has accepted the government's offer of talks. In a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare the Morcha suggested December 29 as the date for the sixth round of talks. The issue can be resolved if farmers give up their demand for the repeal of the laws and the government agrees to suitable amendments. Else the agitation will roll over into 2021.

FARMERS PROTEST
MSP NOT JUST PANACEA, PROBLEMS ARE MANIFOLD

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SYMPATHETICALLY LOOK INTO THE GRIEVANCES OF FARMERS TO RESOLVE THEM IN THE LARGER INTEREST OF THE NATION



VIJAY SHANKAR PANDEY

THE WRITER IS THE FORMER SECRETARY, FERTILIZER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Soon the farmers' agitation is going to enter its second month. It is unprecedented - the scenes around major highways leading to the national capital, Delhi, with thousands of farmers spending their days and nights for nearly a month in hostile night temperatures plummeting to nearly two degrees Celsius. This kind of sustained public movement is unparalleled in our recent history which shows that our democracy is still kicking. But this agitation has to reach its logical conclusion sooner than later. No democratically elected government can afford to have thousands and thousands of its citizens protesting for months on its highways. Till now, about half a dozen meetings between the government and the farmer leaders have reached nowhere. With the kind of statements emanating from both sides, it seems both sides have reached a dead-end as far as resolving the impasse is concerned.

It is very well documented that farming has become a losing proposition over several decades - that's why millions are moving away from farming to other vocations. This point can be easily illustrated by this fact that in the 1960s, 10 gram of gold was priced somewhere at Rs 120, while one quintal of wheat used to cost nearly Rs.45. Now compare this with today's gold price which is nearly Rs.40,000 per ten grams whereas the MSP of one quintal of wheat is Rs. 1840/- . This issue can be further illustrated by the fact that a class one officer then drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 300/- could purchase little more than six quintals wheat then while today's class one government officer can purchase nearly thirty quintals of wheat with his one month's salary. Undoubtedly the number of farmers committing suicide has increased over the past several decades despite the tall claims made to the contrary by various governments



ruling the centre and states. Declining farm incomes, fragmentation of holdings due to increasing population, increasing cost of production, poor and corrupt implementation of Minimum Support Price scheme has only brought misery to the farming community which was otherwise also totally devoid of basic civic amenities like a good education system, health care facilities, drinking water taps, proper sanitation, etc. otherwise available to other sections of the population residing in urban areas. All these factors combined together have led the farming community to think collectively and demand fair treatment from those running the governments.

People in government and those in the know of things realize that unless farming stress is not addressed at the earliest, poverty alleviation in our country will always remain a distant dream. The setting up of the farmers' commission in 2004 was the culmination of this realisation. But as usual most of the recommendations are still gathering dust and nothing much has happened except for some minor steps here and there. The most important issue is ensuring that farmers get remunerative prices for their farm produce so that they not only survive but prosper also without getting indebted at regular intervals. This needs to be ensured at all costs.

The Modi government brought the three farm bills claiming that by opening up the

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK AT THE FARM DISTRESS ISSUE HOLISTICALLY AND TAKE CORRECTIVE STEPS. GOVERNMENT HAS TO IMPROVE ITS PROCUREMENT MACHINERY WHICH IS IN TATTERS AND CORRUPTION-RIDDEN

farm produce market to private players, they will achieve the goal of the remunerative prices to farmers. But the government, it seems, firstly missed the point that agriculture in our country is totally in private hands and Agri markets are run and controlled by private players only. Only a very minute fraction of farm produce, which includes only wheat and rice, are procured on minimum support price for the public distribution system for the National Food Security programme. As per the latest official figures of the Ministry of Agriculture, the procurement of wheat and rice is largely concentrated in the states like Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and to some extent in Uttar Pradesh. Largely for other crops, the MSP is only on paper with hardly any procurement made anywhere. The procurement of wheat and rice is also a small portion of the total produc-

tion for the year. So till now, all the government interventions have only touched a very small fraction of the farming community. Secondly, treating the Agri market like any other product market is a mistake often committed by experts dealing with this subject. Whereas in normal market operations demand and supply of any product determine the price of the product and the producers of that product are in a position to increase or decrease the supply in the market to have control over the supply situation and hence on the price of the product. But in agriculture all the produce arrives within a month or so while consumption takes place over the year, resulting in complete distortion of the demand-supply situation leading to price crashes, thus requiring governmental interventions in manifold ways.

The time has come for the government to look at the farm distress issue holistically and take corrective steps. Government has to improve its procurement machinery which is in tatters and corruption-ridden. The present farmer's agitation is the culmination of many years of neglect and apathy shown by successive governments. By showing rigidity in its attitude towards handling the present crisis, the government will be harming itself. This time the agitating farmers are absolutely in the right and their voices must be heard.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL



People in government and those in the know of things realize that unless farming stress is not addressed at the earliest, poverty alleviation in our country will always remain a distant dream. The setting up of the farmers' commission in 2004 was the culmination of this realisation. But as usual most of the recommendations are still gathering dust and nothing much has happened except for some minor steps here and there

How will the pandemic unfold in 2021?

Vaccines for Covid-19 are now being rolled out, but in some parts of the world, this good news has been tempered by the emergence of new, potentially more infectious strains of the virus. Exactly how the pandemic will evolve has become more uncertain.

Certainly, the next three or so months will be challenging, and a virus-free life is probably some way off. Some things may not return to how they were before.

Predicting exactly how things will play out is difficult, but there are some things we can forecast with a relative degree of confidence. With that in mind, here is what we can expect from the coming year.

WHAT IMPACT WILL THE NEW STRAIN HAVE?

There is currently only limited information about the new viral strain. Although yet to be confirmed, it appears to be more infectious, but not to lead to more severe disease or be able to evade vaccine-derived immunity.

However, the variant suggests the virus is able to produce significant mutations, and further mutations could change the course of the outbreak. Suppressing the pandemic quickly, therefore, has become an even more urgent task.

Stricter restrictions on behaviour are likely to last well into the new year, and we may need further restrictions to control the virus if it is indeed more infectious.



HOW LONG UNTIL WE SEE THE VACCINE'S EFFECTS?

Producing enough vaccine doses is a big task - production might hit a bottleneck. Even assuming we can make all we need, immunising people will take

many months. In the UK, GPs are rolling out vaccines, and an average English GP looks after nearly 9,000 people. Assuming GPs work eight hours each day, need 10 minutes to vaccinate someone, and each patient needs

two shots, it would take them more than a year to see all their patients. Others, of course, will help with the roll-out, but this shows the size of the task. Delays will be unavoidable. Additionally, the two doses of the Pfizer vaccine

need to be given 21 days apart, with full immunity arriving seven days after the second jab. Other vaccines - such as AstraZeneca's - require an even longer period between doses. It will take at least a month (if not more) to see the full effect in each vaccinated person.

In countries that relaxed social distancing rules for Christmas, we might see a post-Christmas spike in cases. In this case, vaccines are unlikely to change much initially - the disease will have too much momentum in early 2021. This will also probably be the case in the UK thanks to the new strain of the virus, even though restrictions were not lifted for many. Public awareness of the disease's momentum is needed, to avoid loss of confidence in vaccination.

SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION

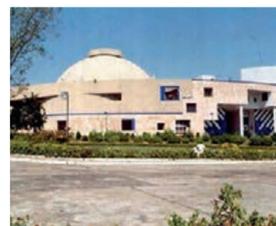


Jagat Prakash Nadda @JPNadda Thank You Arunachal Pradesh. Clean sweep by BJP in State's Gram Sabha & Zila Parishad elections is a testament of PM @narendramodi Ji's efforts for growth of Arunachal, vision of developed North East & effective implementation of policies till grassroots by the CM @PemaKhanduBJP

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank @DrRPNishank Good news on the wildlife front! The leopard population of India is rising. Central Indian states, led by Madhya Pradesh have done well in preserving habitats for leopards. Over the last few years, the Lion and Tiger population have also risen. #MannKiBaat



The wise work for the welfare of the world, without thought for themselves. -Bhagavad Gita



61 ASSEMBLY STAFF, 5 MLAs TEST POSITIVE ON EVE OF MP ASSEMBLY SESSION

Bhopal: On the eve of the three-day session of the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, 61 employees and officials of the Assembly secretariat and five MLAs have tested coronavirus positive. Pro-

tem Speaker of MP Assembly Rameshwar Sharma told this to reporters on Sunday. Sharma said that the MLAs and their personal staff had been asked to undergo coronavirus test before the ses-

sion began. The employees and officials, who have tested positive for the infection, will not be allowed entry into the House and the legislators can participate in the session virtually, he said.

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MODI'S MANN KI BAAT PM'S HEART URGES FELLOW INDIANS TO GO SWADESHI

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to substitute foreign-made products they use with items produced in India, and said they should make this resolution for the country in the new year.

In his last 'Mann Ki Baat' radio broadcast of the year, he said people have supported the 'vocal for local' campaign started by his government as part of its 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programme and asked manufacturers and industry leaders to ensure that world-class products are made in the country.

The outgoing year saw the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'



ON A GLOBAL SCALE, KASHMIR SAFFRON IS POPULAR AS A SPICE
Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation through his radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', in New Delhi on Sunday. —PHOTO BY ANI

echo in society, he said. "The call of 'vocal for local' is reverberating in each and every household. In such a scenario, it is time to ensure that our products meet global stand-

ards," he said, sharing feedback from people about the campaign. In this context, he also made mention of Kashmiri saffron and said that his government is working to

make it a "globally popular brand". The GI tag has given it a unique identity, he said. Noting that the issue of single-use plastic could not be discussed much due to

Turn to P6

PM to flagoff India's 1st driverless train

New Delhi: PM Modi will inaugurate India's first-ever driverless train operations on the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line on Monday. He will also launch the fully operational National Common Mobility Card services on the Airport Express Line via video conferencing at 11 am. After starting driverless services on 37-km Magenta Line, another major corridor of Delhi Metro, 57-km long Pink Line will also have driverless operations by mid 2021.

PM Modi brought flood of devp in NE: Shah

Imphal: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the North East in his heart and so brought a flood of development in the region ending era of insurgency, bandhs and road blockades, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

The BJP government under Modi has given a new identity to the region which is now experiencing a new thrust in development, Shah said at the inauguration and foundation laying programme of several projects at Hapta Kangeibung here.

Earlier, Manipur was known for insurgency, bandhs, and road blockades, but now most militant organisations have joined the mainstream and those left would also do so following efforts of the BJP government, he said. Turn to P6



Home Minister Amit Shah waves to his supporters during stone laying for several development projects and inauguration of other major projects in Imphal, Manipur on Sunday. —PHOTO BY ANI

SHAH OFFERS PRAYERS AT KAMAKHYA TEMPLE IN ASSAM

Guwahati: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday offered prayers at Shaktipeeth Kamakhya temple atop the Nilachal Hills here, on the last day of his three-day visit to the northeast, before leaving for Manipur, where he inaugurated projects. Shah undertook a 'parikrama' (circumambulation) around the shrine, the senior official added.

Punjab, Assam, Andhra, Gujarat to do vax dry run on Dec 28, 29

New Delhi: The Centre is starting the dry run for Covid 19 vaccine from today in four states Punjab, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat with a January target to roll out the vaccination drive in India.

The exercise will continue for two days, December 28 and 29, in two districts each. There will be no vaccine involved in the process, which will only check the feasibility of the plan which involves real-time monitoring through Co-WIN app.

Though India has not given a nod to any vaccine for emergency use, Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine, tested and manufactured in India by Serum Institute, is the front-runner. Once the UK drug regulator gives its approval to the vaccine, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is likely to hold a meeting where the details will be reviewed and the nod will be given after



evaluation.

For Covid-19 vaccination, as many as 2,360 participants were trained during a national-level training of state immunisation officers, cold chain officers, information, education and communication officials and development partners.

It will be a mock drill and everything except vaccine administering will be tested. Data will be fed to Co-WIN app, cold storage will be test-

ed, the transport of vaccines from cold storage to the sites, crowd management at sites will be checked.

For vaccination, as many sites as possible will be used. Hence, the dry runs too will be conducted in all different settings — district hospitals, community health centres or primary health care centre, urban site, private health facility and rural outreach.

The aim of this exer-

cise is to identify challenges and make required changes in the plan so that the final process becomes foolproof.

The programme managers will get a hands-on experience of how everything will take place at various levels. The mock drill will include concurrent monitoring and review at block and district levels, and preparation of feedback to be shared with the state and the Centre. —Agencies

Bid to mislead farmers will not succeed: Rajnath

Shimla: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said attempts to "mislead" farmers on recent agriculture laws will not succeed.

Addressing a state-level function to mark the third anniversary of the Jai Ram Thakur-led BJP government in Himachal Pradesh, he said the new laws will raise the income of farmers, but the Congress is misleading them.

Whenever a reform is effected, it takes a few years before it starts showing positive results, Singh said in his virtual address.

Be it the 1991 economic reforms brought in by then finance minister Manmohan Singh or the ones introduced by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, it took four-five years to see the positive results, he added.

Turn to P6



Farmers clap and beat cans at a protest against PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat programme, during their ongoing agitation over new farm laws, at Ghazipur border on Sunday. —PHOTO BY PTI

Nadda posts RaGa's old speech to take swipe at him

New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday shared an old video of Rahul Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha in which he seems to be advocating the need for farmers to get rid of middlemen and sell their produce directly to industry, as he accused the Congress leader of playing politics over the ongoing farmers' protest

"What is this magic happening Rahul ji. You are opposing now what you had advocated earlier: You have nothing to do with the country's or farmers' interests. You have to play politics only. But this is your bad luck that your hypocrisy will not work," Nadda tweeted in Hindi along with the video clip. Related reports P5

RCP Singh is new national prez of JDU

Patna: RCP Singh, a close confidant of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, was on Sunday chosen as the new president of Janata Dal (United).

Kumar had proposed the name of Singh for the top post, which was then approved by other members during the party's national executive meeting, a senior leader told PTI.

The chief minister, who was re-elected as JD(U) president in 2019 for three years, relinquished the post in favour of Singh, its leader in Rajya Sabha.

Singh, a bureaucrat-turned-politician, was so far party's general secretary. JDU is holding its national executive meeting to deliberate on issues related to country's political situation, after six out of the party's seven MLAs switched over to the BJP. Polls in neighbouring West Bengal also came up for discussion at the meeting, the senior leader said. —PTI

Vaccine management should be at par with Covid management: CM

● Gehlot appreciated efforts of DIPR for effective Corona awareness drive

● Case doubling time, which was 58 days in Nov, is now 214 days. These are all pleasant signs, Gehlot said

● Medical Specialist Dr Virendra Singh said that the disease was expected to increase as the winter progressed, but the persistent decrease in the number of cases also indicates that we might be close to herd immunity

Kartik Dev Singh

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that due to the excellent management of the state government, the corona situation in the state is now under control.

"The death rate is steadily decreasing, the recovery rate is increasing and the case doubling time, which was 58 days in November, is now 214 days. These are all pleasant signs, but until corona is completely gone, we will have to work with this



CM Ashok Gehlot during Corona review meeting at CMR where Niranjana Arya, Kuldeep Rana, Siddharth Mahajan, ML Lather, Abhay Kumar, Dr. Rajababu Panwar, Dr. Sudhir Bhandari, Dr. Virendra Singh and others were present.

promptness. Now there is a need to speed up preparation for vac-

cine," Gehlot said and instructed officials to impart intensive train-

ing to medical and other related personnel from state level till

block level. Gehlot was reviewing the status of Covid-19 Turn to P6

GEHLOT SURPRISES RAGHU!

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has now started moving out of the CMR as after his recent visit to New Delhi, on Sunday, Gehlot gave a surprise visit to minister Dr Raghu Sharma. During the covid review meeting on Sunday evening, Sharma did not attend the meeting citing health issues, however, Turn to P6

11-year-old found dead with nose, ears severed

Family alleges human sacrifice, police have detained two and questioning them

First India Bureau

Alwar: The body of an 11-year-old child was found in a field in Malakhra on Sunday. The child's ears and nose were completely severed and iron nails were found in his head raising suspicion of human sacrifice.



Police inspecting the site where the boy was found dead in a farm.

The victim, a resident of Naveli village, had gone missing on Saturday. The family of the deceased did not take the body until late Sunday evening as they kept demanding to catch the killers. The case could not even be filed till late in the evening.

The police at Malakheda police station said that Nirmal Bairwa son of Prahlad Bairwa was found dead in a nearby farm. A villager informed the family after seeing the

dead body. After this, the police reached the spot. It seems clear that the child has been murdered.

When the villagers found that the nose and the ears of the dead child were severed there were talks of his being a male sacrifice. However, no official

evidence of male sacrifice has been found so far. The family has suspected the role of a tantrik from Kotputli who has threatened the family members a few days ago.

SP Tejaswini Gautam said the victim's father has alleged human sacrifice but the matter is

under investigation. "Only the doctors will be able to tell the cause of death. It is difficult to die due to cut marks on the nose and ears. Two persons have been detained. In the past, the victim's father had complained of kidnapping. There is enmity between two families," she said.

RAJASTHAN CONG TO HOLD DIALOGUE WITH FARMERS

Jaipur: The Congress will hold dialogue with farmers in every Assembly constituency in Rajasthan from December 28 to 30 to make them aware about the Centre's three farm laws which the party said was against the interests of the peasantry.

Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasra said the Rajasthan government is with the agitating farmers and support their demand for repeal of the laws.

He said that the Congress will hold dialogue with farmers in every Assembly constituency of the state with an aim to make them aware of the laws and support the ongoing agitation.

Dotasra said that state ministers will address farmers and



Govind Singh Dotasra, Krishna Poonia at a protest in favour of farmers' agitation at New Delhi.

hold press conferences to aware them about the anti-farmer laws and to highlight various achievements of the state government.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and some other states have been protesting at various border points of Delhi against the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection)

Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act.

Enacted in September, the three farm laws have been projected by the Centre as major reforms in the agriculture sector that will remove the

middlemen and allow farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country.

However, the protesting farmers have expressed apprehension that the legislations would pave the way for eliminating the safety cushion of MSP and do away with the mandi system, leaving them at the mercy of big corporates. —PTI

'Continue campaign 'Halla Bol' against state government'



Satish Poonia and V Satish paid homage to party leaders before addressing the workers at Kishangarh on Sunday.

Shubham Jain

Ajmer: BJP national joint general secretary V Satish and state president Satish Poonia on Sunday held discussions with the party leaders in Kishangarh on various issues including farmers' agitation and asked them to create awareness about the benefits of the laws among people and farmers.

They also asked them to continue the campaign 'Halla Bol' against the state government.

Both the senior leaders held a divisional-level meeting and discussed political and organisational issues with the leaders of Ajmer division. They also lis-

tened to PM's Mann Ki Baat in Kishangarh. Discussions on strategy for upcoming elections were also held.

Poonia reached straight to Agresen Vihar in the marble city to hold the meeting. Ajmer MP Bhagirath Chaudhary and youth leader Vikas Chaudhary had planned to give a warm welcome to Poonia outside Heritage hotel and Harmada chauraha respectively but Poonia skipped the programmes and reached directly to the venue.

Apart from Ajmer MP, Tonk MP Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria and office bearers and leaders of six districts were present in the meeting.

JODHPUR'S FIRST MAYOR DR KHET LAKHANI DIES AT 100

Rajiv Gaur

Jodhpur: The first Mayor of Jodhpur, Dr Khet Lakhani, died at the age of 100 in Jodhpur. He was cremated on Sunday.

Lakhani, whose family came to India from Pakistan during the partition, was a close friend of veteran BJP leader LK Advani. He also had a good relationship with former vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. Shekhawat had put forward his name as Mayor of Jodhp-



Dr Khet Lakhani

pur after getting a majority in 1994 and no one opposed it.

Agri laws not to be withdrawn: Meghwal

Laxman Raghav

Bikaner: Union minister of state for parliamentary affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday made it clear that the three farm laws will not be withdrawn and the issue will be resolved through dialogues. Addressing a division level party meeting in Bikaner, Meghwal said that the centre's laws are in the full interest of the farmers. He said that the mandi system will not be abolished.

BJP preps for urban local body polls

Bhawani Singh

Bundi: BJP state general secretary (organisation) Chandrashekhar on Sunday reviewed the preparations of the party's Bundi unit for upcoming local bodies elections. In a meeting with Mandal in-charge and public representatives, Chandrashekhar held detailed discussions on issues pertaining to Mandal, Shakti Kendra and booths and asked the leaders and workers to work hard on the ground to win the upcoming



Chandrashekhar in Bundi on Sunday.

elections. Chittorgarh MP and Kota in-charge CP Joshi, district in-charge-organization Naresh Bansal, district president Chhitar Lal Rana, and other leaders were also present in the meeting held at a resort.

Get listed for voting in 91 ULBs in 12 districts

Dr Rituraj Sharma

Jaipur: Those who will complete 18 years of age on January 1 can get their names included in voters lists by January 4. The state election commissioner PS Mehra said that the eligible voters can add their names to the voters' lists for upcoming elections in 91 urban local bodies in 20 districts.

The application can be submitted online on the website of the election commission www.sec.rajasthan.gov.in

while BLOs will receive offline applications on 3 and 4 January.

The urban local bodies elections will be held in 20 districts of Ajmer, Banswara, Bikaner, Bhilwara, Bundi, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Hanu-mangarh, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Pali, Rajasamand, Sikar, Tonk, and Udaipur.

Mehra said that the objective of the commission is to include a maximum number of eligible voters.

Fire near metro station creates panic

First India Bureau

Jaipur: A sudden fire that broke out on Sunday afternoon near the metro station at Badi Chaupar created uproar and panic in the area. On receiving the information, the police from the nearby Manak Chowk police station reached the spot and called the fire brigade. A fire tender reached the spot and the fire was doused within a few minutes.

According to information, during the metro construction



Fire broke out near the metro station at Badi Chaupar on Sunday afternoon. —PHOTO BY SANTOSH SHARMA

work, an empty space was left at Badi Chaupar near the metro station. Fountains were proposed for beautification here. This place is about 30

feet deep. The sweepers were cleaning here on Sunday afternoon. They collected garbage on the wall there. As the employees

FIRE CAUSED STIR

Seeing the fire, there was a stir among the passersby and drivers passing through Chaupar. The videos of the incident also went viral on social media. The security personnel of the Metro also reached the spot

ANOTHER FEATHER ON THE CAP

JLN Marg to get dividers with heritage look

First India Bureau

Jaipur: The lifeline of Jaipur, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg is all set to receive another feather in its cap, courtesy Jaipur Development Authority (JDA). The authority has undertaken the work of installing dividers with artistic heritage designing at the road divider starting from the Jawahar Circle.

The administration has started the installation of these pre-cast



JDA to install dividers with artistic heritage designing at the road divider starting from the Jawahar Circle.

curbstones at Jawahar Circle. These dividers will be installed from Jawahar Circle to Ram Niwas Bagh. JDA will spend Rs 1.5 crore on this project, said an official.

The height of these dividers will be a quarter to two feet. After its installation, the pedestrians and vehicle drivers will not be able to crossover the road, which will result in a reduced number of accidents. JDA will complete this work in the next 6

months. The dividers are being installed keeping in mind the requirements of the next 20 years, said the official. Last month, Urban Development Minister Shanti Dhariwal gave a nod to nine projects worth Rs 1,000 crore of JDA aimed at easing traffic and beautification of the city. Dhariwal has also sanctioned Rs 100 crores for the OTS intersection on JLN Marg where an underpass and an elevated road will come up.

Upadhyay's agri policy would have benefitted farmers: Rohitash

Aishwary Pradhan

Jaipur: Taking a dig at Congress the BJP leader and former minister Dr Rohitash Sharma said that if Congress had adopted the agricultural policy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, the farmers would not have faced such a plight. According to him, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave first priority to industries, owing to which results are in front of us. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's



Dr Rohitash Sharma

policy was adopted by European countries and today, this is the biggest reason for the agricultural prosperity in European countries, he added. He stated that the

BJP is concerned over the ongoing farmer movement in the country. As per Dr Rohitash Sharma, it's the Congressmen organizing such agitations themselves and then blaming others for it. PM Modi had committed to work on the agricultural policy of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and now he's working in the same direction. He reinstated that PM Narendra Modi will solve the problems of the farmers soon.



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950 people administered Covaxin dose under the first trial in state

Covid recovered Rajendra Rathore volunteered but could not get vaccinated

First India Bureau

Jaipur: Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore on Sunday went to get a dose of Covaxin under the trial but he was denied as the leader had tested positive for corona earlier and recovered. The first trial in Jaipur under the third phase is going on in Maharaj Agrasen hospital.

Rathore said the team of renowned scientists, doctors and experts of the country is undertaking trial of the vaccine, for which they also need a large number of volunteers.

"So today, I also reached the Agrasen Hospital in Jaipur for a trial as a volunteer. I am

STATE COVID UPDATE 6 MORE DEATHS, 843 FRESH CASES

Jaipur: Rajasthan reported 843 fresh COVID-19 cases and six more fatalities due to the disease on Sunday, a Health Department bulletin said. The total number of people infected by COVID-19 now stands at 3,05,360, of which 11,157 people are undergoing treatment. The state's death toll has reached 2,670, while 2,91,533 people have been discharged so far. In Jaipur, the death toll from the coronavirus infection is 497 till now, followed by 285 in Jodhpur, 219 in Ajmer, 165 in Bikaner, 164 in Kota, 119 in Bharatpur, and 109 each in Udaipur and Pali. The fresh cases were recorded in Jaipur (130), Alwar (83), Kota (76) and Udaipur (67), besides cases reported in other districts of state. —PTI

told here that I have been infected with Covid-19 so the trial can be used on me. Principal investigator Dr Manish Jain said about 950 people have been adminis-

tered the dose under the trial. He said 1000 volunteers are to be covered under the first trial. **Laxmi Prasad Pant, National Editor of Dainik Bhaskar, also**

got vaccinated on Sunday. He said, "Some people have a negative image about journalists. It is believed that they always give negative news. So I felt that I should be a part of the good news. How happy I am after being a part of the vaccine trial, I cannot express in words. I feel very relieved."

A number of people including officials are showing interest in the trial. GST assistant commissioner Rajeev Sharma, and Dr. Trupti Biswa took part in the trial on Sunday. IAS Sudhir Sharma, Neeraj Bhardwaj from Rajasthan high court, RAS Ashok Pathak have also expressed interest in the trial.



Health worker takes a nasal swab sample of a child to test for Covid-19 in Jaipur. —PHOTO BY SUMAN SARKAR

Molestation accused thrashed, paraded naked with garland of shoes



Accused was stripped naked and forced to wear garland of shoes.

Salim Sahil

Jhalawar: A case of molestation of a Dalit woman in an isolated house has surfaced in the Bagher Nayagaon of Sarola police station area in Jhalawar. The youth committed the heinous act and fled from the spot. After the incident, the accused youth was caught by the family members.

The enraged relatives of the woman thrashed boy badly and was

stripped naked by the victims family members and was forced to wear a garland of shoes.

According to the case in charge Raghuvver Singh, the case of molestation from Bagher Nayagaon has been registered against the youth and a case under Section 3 has been imposed.

On the other hand, the victim youth has also filed the case of assault against nearly 6-7 people in the case.

Thieves decamp with over Rs 6.26 lakh by cutting open two ATMs

First India Bureau

Bharatpur: In two different incidents of loot, two ATMs of Tata Indiacash were reported to be robbed by the thieves at different locations in Bharatpur district.

The ATMs near the Kaila Devi jheel junction and in Vair town on the Bayana-Bharatpur State Highway were targeted by the robbers. The amount looted at the Bayana ATM was Rs 3.27 lakh, while the loot at Vair ATM amounted Rs



Police reached the spot on notice of the incident of ATM robbery in Bharatpur on Sunday.

2.99 lakh. After receiving the theft information the police team comprising of trainee IPS Sumit Mehra, deputy SP Baya-

na Khim Singh Rathore, trainee RPS Meena Meena, SHO Madanlal Meena, etc., reached the spot and collected informa-

tion about the incident. Police are attempting to extract footage of CCTV cameras installed nearby in the area.

COURTESY CALL!



Governor of Meghalaya, Satyapal Malik, called on Governor Kalraj Mishra at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Sunday. Mishra will go to Delhi today. This will be his first tour in last 10 months. While on visit to the capital, Mishra is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and may visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan too.

6 cows run over by train engine

First India Bureau

Jaisalmer: In a shocking incident at Lathi area near Dholiya village about six cows died after being hit at the railway crossing by the train engine.

The villagers have held the gateman responsible for his negligence. According to the information, the engine was heading towards Jaisalmer from Pokhran at gate number 99 of the railway track, during the same time cows were also

crossing the gate.

However, the cows got stuck in the metal net, which caused panic situation among the cows and the engine whammed into them killing all the cows on the spot.

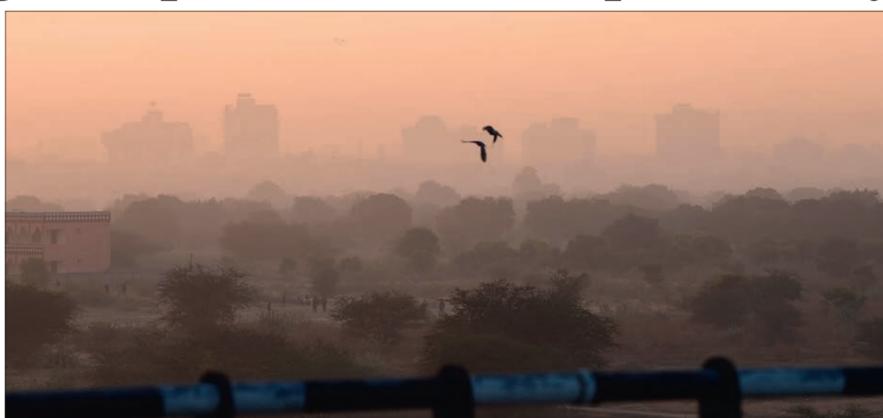
After knowing about the incident and death of the cows, villagers Anil Jajuda, Thanaram, Vikas, Devkishan, Ronit, Dhan Singh, Kamalkhan, Jalsam Singh, Sawai Singh, Bhajanram and others from nearby villages rushed to the spot. —PTI

Woman panchayat member found dead in Kota

Kota: A 32-year-old woman was found dead in a roadside eatery near Akhed village on Sunday morning, police said. Usha Mehar was an elected member of ward number 9 of Khatkad Gram Panchayat, Bundi Sadar police station Circle Inspector Satyanarayan Malav said. The woman had come to Bundi city on Saturday morning to meet her brother, she could not be contacted on her phone in the evening. —PTI

Rise in night temperatures at several places in Raj

Jaipur: Mount Abu was recorded the coldest place in Rajasthan at 2 degrees Celsius even as several places in the state saw an increase of two-three notches in night temperatures, MeT Department said on Sunday. In plains, Sriganganagar, Alwar and Sawai Madhopur recorded 6.2, 7.2 and 7.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday night, a MeT Department official said. During the same period, the minimum temperature was recorded at 7.6 degrees Celsius in Churu; 7.8 degrees Celsius in Bhilwara; 8.1 degrees Celsius in Pilani;



A mesmerising foggy sunrise on Sunday in Jaipur.

—PHOTO BY SANTOSH SHARMA

8.6 degrees Celsius in Jaipur; 9.1 degrees Celsius in Banasthali. The maximum temperature was recorded between 21 and 29 degrees Celsius at most places in past 24 hours. —PTI

18 YRS OF MASS MARRIAGES: 2,098 COUPLES WED BY NSS

Differently abled couples tie knot in Lake City!

Udaipur: Eleven differently abled and underprivileged couples have tied the knot at a mass wedding ceremony in Udaipur city, following COVID-19 protocols, according to the event's organisers.

The couples pledged to say no to dowry under a campaign promoted by Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS), an organisation that works for the wellbeing of differently-abled people and the underprivi-



The couples pledged to wear masks, follow Covid-19 guidelines, and urged people to do the same in Udaipur on Sunday.

leged. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, only relatives of the couples and NSS members at-

tended the ceremony. NSS' donors gifted home appliances to the married couples, a

statement said. "Disability is just a physical disorder, it's not an illness," said Kamlesh who married Pooja at the ceremony.

Kamlesh was affected with Polio at the age of three years and after an operation, he was able to walk with the help of crutches. He continued his studies and secured a job as a panchayat assistant.

"I have always been emotionally very strong and challenges

have made me stronger. I began my own business with a grocery store and later, secured a job as a panchayat assistant. I am glad that I have met a life partner who is so supportive," said Kamlesh.

NSS President Prashant said, "Our No Dowry Campaign' is a flagship campaign which has been organised for 18 years. We are very happy to have 2098 couples settled in their lives till date." —PTI

Hindu Jagran Manch leader shot at second time by unidentified miscreants

Sanjay

Pratapgarh: Unidentified miscreants allegedly shot at the district coordinator of Hindu Jagran Manch Ravi Joshi while he was on his way to Pratapgarh from Sankaria village on Sunday.

It is the second incident of firing on Joshi. He was injured in the firing incident at the same place four months back over a land related dispute, police said.

Joshi was moving towards Pratapgarh when the accused, who were hidden along the road side in Sankaria village, opened fire at his vehicle.

SP Chunaram Jat and other officials rushed to the spot. Members of Hindu organisations also reached police station after incident, demanded immediate arrest. Looking at the tension, police force has been deployed in the village.



Avinash Pande@avinashpandeinc

It is impossible to suppress the voices that speak truth, nothing can defeat those that fight for nothing but for national interest. #Dharohar

RAGA'S 2015 SPEECH ON AMETHI FOOD PARK CIRCULATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

New Delhi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi told the Lok Sabha in 2015 that the farmers should be allowed to sell their produce directly to the companies, contradicting his current stand on the new farm laws where he has been sternly slamming the Centre to revoke the "anti-farm laws".

Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha, 2015, when he was an MP from Uttar Pradesh's Amethi, is doing rounds on the social media while people have been trolling him for his "contradictory" statement.

The now Wayanad MP is slamming the Central government to withdraw the farm laws that have given the freedom to every farmer in the country to sell their produce anywhere.

"A few years ago when I was in Uttar Pradesh, a farmer came to me and asked to explain something...he said that the farmers sell potato for Rs 2 per kilogram but when their children buy a packet of chips, that costs Rs 10 consisting of one potato. The farmer asked me to explain what kind of magic is it?" said Gandhi during his speech in Lok Sabha.

"I asked the farmer as to what do they think is the reason behind it. To this he said, if the



Farmers beat utensils & cans at a protest against PM Modi's Man Ki Baat programme, during their ongoing stir over new farm laws.

farmers were able to sell their produce directly to the factories, which are far away from them, then the middlemen will not be benefitted and the farmers will get the entire amount," he added.

The Congress leader further asserted that this is the "thinking" behind the food park.

"This is a fight of the farmers and labourers from a few districts of Amethi and Uttar Pradesh," he added.

A mega food park had reportedly been proposed to be set up in the Amethi district.

Netizens of Twitter have widely shared Gandhi's speech deliv-



Rahul Gandhi is slamming the Centre to withdraw farm laws.

ered in 2015 Lok Sabha session, trolling him for his 'contradictory' statements over Centre's farm laws.

"Rahul Gandhi himself said in the Parli-

ament that farmers should get a chance to sell their produce di-

rectly to companies. Rahul Gandhi, the farm laws are giving this opportunity to the farmers. So why do you have an objection now?" people Tweeted.

The Congress MP is now sternly opposing Centre's new farm laws.

The three laws will increase the price of farmers produce and investment in the agriculture sector, the Centre has repeatedly asserted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also assured every farmer that the system of providing minimum support price (MSP) will continue as earlier.

The Wayanad MP had recently hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of MSP and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Act and also urged citizens to support the protests led by farmers.—ANI

Farmer leader Tikait receives death threat over phone

New Delhi: Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait who has been participating in the agitation against the farm laws alleged that he has received a death threat over the phone. "It was a phone call from Bihar. They were threatening to kill me with arms. I have forwarded the recording to the police captain. They will do what is needed to be done next," said Tikait. Tikait is at the forefront of protests against the farm laws. He has filed a complaint at Kaushambi Police Station.

JP Nadda posts Rahul's old speech to take swipe at him

New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda on Sunday shared an old video of Rahul Gandhi's speech in Lok Sabha in which he seems to be advocating the need for farmers to get rid of middlemen and sell their produce directly to industry, as he accused the Congress leader of playing politics over the ongoing farmers' protest. "What is this magic happening Rahul ji. You are opposing now what you had advocated earlier. You have



nothing to do with the country's or farmers' interests. You have to play politics only. But this is your bad luck that your hypocrisy will not work. People of the country and farmers have recognised your double standards," Nadda tweeted along with the video clip.

Listen to our 'Mann ki Baat' too, farmers tell PM Narendra Modi

New Delhi: While PM Narendra Modi was addressing the people of the country on Sunday through his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the protesting farmers opposed it by beating 'thalis' (plates) and clapping their hands. Haryana farmer leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni appealed to the Prime Minister to listen to the "Mann ki Baat" of farmers and voices of other people as well. Gurnam Singh is the Haryana state President of the

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) and is one of the prominent leaders leading the farmer agitation. Opposing the 'Mann Ki Baat' radio programme by beating a 'thali' at the Makdoli toll plaza in the Rohtak district of Haryana, Chaduni while addressing Modi said, "We are not convinced by your 'Mann ki Baat' address. You speak your mind but do not listen to other people's voices." The farmer agitation entered its 32nd day on Sunday. Since November 26,

the protesting farmers have been camping at the Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders with the adjoining national capital. The protesting farmers are marching on the streets in protest against the three farm laws implemented by the central government, saying that these laws are not in the interest of the farmers, while the Centre has said opposition parties are misleading the farmers. The next round of talks between the two sides is set for Dec 29.—ANI

CBI should reveal findings of probe in Sushant case: Min

Nagpur: Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Sunday urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to reveal findings of the investigation of the Sushant Singh Rajput death case at the earliest.



Anil Deshmukh

"It has been more than 5 months since the investigation began but CBI has not revealed if actor Sushant Singh Rajput was murdered or he died by suicide. I request CBI to reveal findings of the investigation at the earliest," Deshmukh said while addressing a press conference here.

Earlier this month, a plea has been filed in the Supreme Court

seeking directions to the CBI to submit a status report regarding the progress in the probe related to the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput. The PIL also sought directions to CBI to complete its probe in the matter within a period of two months & submit a final report in court concerned & submit a copy of final probe report before this court.—ANI

Saradha scam: Salaries were paid from CM relief fund, says CBI

New Delhi: In a development which may further increase the political heat in West Bengal where Assembly polls are slated early next year, the CBI in a contempt plea in the Saradha chit fund scam has informed the Supreme Court that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of West Bengal regularly paid for a period of 23 months, purportedly towards the salaries of employees of Tara TV which was under investigation for being part of Saradha Group of companies.

In an application, the CBI said that the CM Relief fund has regularly paid the amounts -- at the rate of Rs 27 lakh per month -- for a



CBI cited HC order over payment of employees' salary.

period of 23 months from May 2013 to April 2015.

"It is submitted that the said amounts were purportedly given towards salary payments of the employees of the said media company that was under investigation being part of group companies of Saradha Group of Com-

panies," said the application.

A total of Rs 6.21 crore was paid to the Tara TV Employees Welfare Association from the Chief Minister Relief Fund of West Bengal.

The CBI said in order to further look into the gravely suspicious payments to a private me-

dia entity, a letter dated October 16, 2018 was written to the chief secretary, West Bengal to provide information about the constitution and functioning of the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Despite repeated efforts, the state government has parted with incomplete and evasive replies, said the CBI.

The CBI cited the High Court order which ordered that the "salary of the employees should be paid from the available funds" and it nowhere states that employees of a private TV channel can be paid out of state funds collected in the name of Chief Minister's relief work.—ANI

GOVERNOR DHANKHAR URGES MAMATA

'Order probe into alleged attack on IFB Agro Industries Ltd'

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar wrote to CM Mamata Banerjee, urging to order an investigation into alleged attack on IFB Agro Industries Ltd's distillery in North 24 Parganas in June this year.



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Following disclosure of IFB Agro Industries Ltd on June 26, 2020, under Regulation 30(4) to SEBI Regulations, 2015, to NSE apart from being alarmingly an eye-opener, indicates the state of lawlessness in our State, the Governor wrote in letter. "Taking note of this highly disturbing development, that surely cannot au-

gur well for investment in the State. I was constrained to seek an exhaustive update from ACS Finance & ACS Home. Unfortunately, both these senior officials failed to discharge their obligations. Now on December 22, 2020, IFB has made legally compulsive disclosure as regards worrisome state of affairs to NSE," Dhankhar stated.—ANI

FROM PG 1

PM's heart... the COVID-19 pandemic this year, he asserted that ridding the country of single-use plastic is one of the resolves for the new year.—PTI

PM Modi... He attacked Congress for failing to solve the problems of Manipur when they were in power and asserted that since last three years under CM N. Biren Singh the state

is moving ahead on the path of growth.—ANI

Bid to... "Similarly, if we cannot wait for four-five years, we can at least wait for 2 years to witness positive results of the agriculture reforms being carried out by the Narendra Modi government," Singh said.—PTI

Vaccine management... through video confer-

ence at CMR on Sunday. He said that along with transportation of vaccine, special emphasis should be laid on training and motivating people for it. He also instructed to develop all facilities at centers for vaccination.

"An effective communication plan should be made for public awareness about vaccination. Also, people should be made aware about the

vaccine and its protocol by doing extensive publicity. Vaccination has been started in many countries and as soon as vaccination starts in India, we will have to go ahead in its management with the same spirit as we managed Corona crisis," the Chief Minister said. Gehlot said that separate teams should be prepared for vaccination. "Especially such medical workers who are directly con-

nected with the work of vaccination, they should be informed about every aspect of it, so that there is no scope of lapse at any level," Gehlot said. He also gave instructions to thoroughly analyze the experience of vaccine in various countries and said that their impact in the circumstances of the state should also be assessed from now. Gehlot appreciated the efforts of Information

and Public Relations Department for effective awareness campaign regarding Corona. Siddharth Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Medicine and Health, said that despite the cent per cent RT-PCR test, the continuous fall in positivity rate is a good sign.

Vice Chancellor RUHS, Dr. Rajababu Panwar gave information about the nature of the virus by refer-

ring to the experiences of SARS One, H1N1 and Mars virus. Principal of SMS Medical College, Dr. Sudhir Bhandari informed that 15 role model vaccination centers are being developed in SMS and its affiliated hospitals. Medical Specialist Dr. Virendra Singh said that the disease was expected to increase as the winter progressed, but the persistent decrease in

the number of cases also indicated that we might be close to the herd immunity.

Gehlot surprises.... as soon as the meeting ended, Gehlot went to Raghu Sharma's home, which is near CMR and took stock of his health. It was after a long time that Gehlot has gone to meet someone. This is what makes Raghu an indispensable factor in Rajasthan politics.

FARMERS' PROTEST

FARMERS HEADING TOWARDS DELHI: SECURITY ON BORDER AREA TIGHTENED

Rajasthan has deployed nearly 400 policemen at Shahjahanpur

Ashvini Yadav

Alwar: The security on Rajasthan-Haryana borders have tightened by the police and other security forces of the two states in view of farmers agitation against three agriculture laws going on Delhi borders.

The farmers stir has been intensified with large numbers of them heading towards Delhi. They included large supporters of Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal who left NDA yesterday to extend support to farmers.

While Rajasthan has deployed nearly 400 policemen at Shahjahanpur, Haryana's deployment is even large to prevent the entry of farmers in the state.

Apart from Haryana police, CRPF is also deployed in the neighbouring state and the borders are sealed. The highway is also completely blocked. Bhiwadi SP Rammurti Joshi visited the dharna site and reviewed the security arrangements. The farmers are staying at the border for the last 26 days and raising their demand of withdrawal of the laws. In Jhunjhunu, farmers continued their sit-in against the farm laws in front of the collectorate.



Farmers marching towards Delhi near Rajasthan-Haryana border on Sunday.

CID TO PROBE CASE AGAINST BJP LEADERS

Alwar: The CID-CB will investigate the case filed against BJP leaders for holding a rally and Kisan Chaupal without permission at Khairthal in Alwar. The case was filed on Friday under the Disaster Management Act and IPC sections against BJP national general secretary and RS MP Bhupender Yadav and other leaders for attending a Kisan Chaupal.

Farmers urged to resolve issue through dialogues

First India Bureau

Jaipur: A day after RLP MP Hanuman Beniwal quit NDA over the issue of farmers agitation, Rajya Sabha MP Kirori Meena defended Prime Minister Narendra Modi and called upon the farmers to resolve the issue through dialogues.



Kirori Meena

"I am the son of a farmer but distressed at

seeing the farmers agitation. Nothing will be achieved by a confron-

tation in democracy," Meena said while advocating for a solution through dialogue.

"I am distressed to see the farmers' movement. I have a humble appeal to them with folded hands to leave stubbornness and communicate with the government to find a solution. Nothing is achieved through conflict in a democracy," he said.

Khinvsar RLP MLA Beniwal hurt in road accident

First India Bureau

Shahjahanpur: Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) MLA Narayan Beniwal was injured when his car collided with a pick-up jeep in Shahjahanpur on Jaipur-Delhi national highway on Sunday afternoon.

During the accident, Beniwal received injuries on his face and knee and was admitted to a private hospital in Behror. The pick-up jeep driver fled the scene after the mishap and the vehicle was seized.

Beniwal, Khinvsar MLA and brother of Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal, was on his way to attend farmers' agitation in his SUV.

CAR COLLISION

RLP MLA Narayan Beniwal was on his way to attend farmers' agitation in his SUV. Both the vehicles were badly damaged in the incident.

His vehicle was in the wrong direction and collided head on with the jeep. Both the vehicles were badly damaged in the incident.

He was rushed to the hospitals by the RLP workers.

Sources said that no case was registered in connection this connection.

However, police officials avoided giving any statement on the matter.



The RLP MLA's SUV which dashed against a pick-up van.

Arun elected new chief of Pensioners' Association



First India Bureau

Jaipur: Former chief secretary Arun Kumar was unanimously elected as the president of All India Service Pensioners Association.

Former IAS officer SS Bisaa was made secretary while former IAS officer DC Samant, former IPS officer Omendra Bharadwaj and former IFS U M Sahai were elected unopposed as vice presidents.

PC Derashree was elected as treasurer of the Pensioners Association.

The new executive of the Pensioners Association was formed for the two years in the annual general body meeting organised on Sunday.

The annual general body meeting was organised under he chairmanship of former IAS officer ML Goyal.

Retired IAS officer Meenakshi Hooja, former IPS officer OP Galhotra and former IFS officer Rahul K R were unanimously made permanent members in the executive body.

BJP wants development of West Bengal: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

Aishwary Pradhan

Jaipur: Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Sunday participated in a 'door-door campaign' organised in Kolkata's Beliaghata constituency.

During the campaign, Shekhawat has spread the message of the party among the people. Union Minister said that popularity of BJP has increased manifold in the country.

Shekhawat said there was a huge support to the party in West Bengal, which is a sign of party's popularity



among the people.

The Union Minister said that BJP wants the development of West Bengal, while other parties have betrayed the trust of the people. He

further said after the change of power in the state, West Bengal would play an important role in the development of the country. He further added, the

BJP will fulfill what it has said, and it will make the state Sonar Bangla. He said that the party will fulfill all the promises made to the people of West Bengal.

Unlike previous year, Pak explored Raj, Gujarat borders for infiltration in 2020

New Delhi: Pakistan in the year 2020 tried multiple routes for infiltration apart from sending terrorists through borders in Jammu and Kashmir or Punjab only.

According to the Border Security Force (BSF), attempts were made by Pakistan from Gujarat and Rajasthan borders as well to infiltrate terrorists into the Indian side.

Data compiled by the BSF also says that the number of infiltration has increased.

Last year, there were no incidents of infiltration



from Gujarat and Rajasthan borders recorded by the BSF till the first week of November.

Interestingly, the Kashmir Frontier of BSF has recorded just one infiltration in comparison with a previous year where 4 infiltra-

tions took place till the first week of November.

This year, the Rajasthan and Gujarat frontier of the BSF has recorded infiltration incidents in August and September. Officials claimed that Pakistan is exploring other ways to

send terrorists but the BSF round the clock keep a strict vigil and regularly updating positions as per the intelligence input. "We have seen incidents of infiltration attempt s from Gujarat and Rajasthan borders as well this year. Last year, no such incidents were recorded in the same period of time," a senior BSF official said.

BSF officials said that 11 infiltration incidents have recorded this year till the first week of November from Jammu, Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat border. —ANI



BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER, FLOCK TOGETHER?

Can any political party's elected representatives 'ditch' the party's 'strategic programme' out of feud with their fellow public representatives? It may appear that such a thing may never come to pass, however, this is exactly what has happened in the past few days within the Congress party in Rajasthan, and more specifically the Shekhawati belt! Few days back, minister Bhanwar Singh Bhati and deputy chief whip

Reporter's Diary

Mahendra Choudhary conducted a tour of Sikar district to hold meetings on the completion of two years of state government, however out of the eight legislators from the district, only two - Khandela MLA Mahadev Singh and Fatehpur MLA Hakam Ali - attended the programme while Rajendra Pareek, Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Parasram Mordia, Suresh

Modi and Virendra Singh were nowhere to be seen. Notably, Govind Singh Dotsra, who also hails from Sikar district, could not attend since he was on tour in another district. Now, the word is that there is an internal strife between MLAs due to which they did not attend not just this program, rather others as well held over the past two years. —Naresh Sharma

WINDS OF CHANGE FOR DEEPENDRA?

It seems that senior Congress leader Deependra Singh Shekhawat is awaiting a change in his 'fortunes'. The legislator from Sri Madhopur was not provided a ministerial berth and in anguish he walked into the Pilot camp. During the 'Pilot rebellion', Shekhawat came up as the chief advisor to Pilot and as a result, now Pilot has forwarded his name for a ministerial berth from his camp. Interestingly, there are already two Rajput ministers and therefore it is believed that a new



formula, specially for Deependra Singh, could be worked out wherein he is accorded a position at par with a minister.

—Naresh Sharma



Yoga is beyond religion and class- it is a health mantra which can and is practised by the poorest and the richest.

—Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO & Editor, First India



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JAIPUR | MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE	WORLD	INDIA	RAJASTHAN
	17,68,844 DEATHS	1,47,907 DEATHS	2,670 DEATHS
	8,09,26,235 CONFIRMED CASES	1,02,07,065 CONFIRMED CASES	3,05,360 CONFIRMED CASES
MAHARASHTRA 49,255 DEATHS 19,19,550 CASES	UTTAR PRADESH 8,306 DEATHS 5,81,980 CASES	KARNATAKA 12,062 DEATHS 9,16,256 CASES	DELHI 10,453 DEATHS 6,22,851 CASES
			GUJARAT 4,282 DEATHS 2,41,845 CASES

'All his remarks gather Oppn's unabated criticism, such is RaGa's power'

Gehlot's tweet is being seen, within the Congress circle, as a befitting reply to those who questioned the leadership of the Gandhi scion

Naresh Sharma

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, through his statements, has, time and again targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and various other BJP leaders as well while also giving a reality check for leaders of other parties. On Sunday, Ashok Gehlot

took to micro blogging site Twitter and made a statement giving impetus to the stature of Rahul Gandhi. Gehlot tweeted that 'Rahul Gandhi's power can be understood from the fact that whenever Rahulji raises any issue, then all ministers of the Modi government leave all their work and start criticising

Rahul Gandhi.' Gehlot's tweet is being seen, within the Congress circle, as a befitting reply to those who questioned the leadership of the Gandhi scion. In fact, on Saturday, an editorial in Shiv Sena's mouthpiece 'Saamana' made a comment on Rahul Gandhi's leadership. It said that Rahul Gandhi



is doing enough but there is something lacking in his leadership and the Congress needs a full-time president. It also advocated giving the UPA command in the hands of Sharad Pawar. After this, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has given a big statement today and has called Rahul Gandhi a very

strong leader. Significantly, the coalition government of Shiv Sena, Congress and NCP is working in Maharashtra. Meanwhile, in yet another tweet Gehlot said that the dry run of Corona vaccine is going to start in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Assam. "I wish all suc-

cess to the process. I hope that it is effective and it can be used successfully in other states as well. Rajasthan is eagerly waiting for the vaccine. We hope that the corona virus vaccine will be provided free of cost to all the citizens of the country by the Central Government," he tweeted.

AJAY MAKEN'S 3 DAY TOUR

Maken stresses on togetherness and oneness in Congress party

On the final day of his tour, Maken addresses Youth Congress camp

Yogesh Sharma

Jaipur: The three day 'whirlwind' tour of Rajasthan, planned for AICC General Secretary and state incharge Ajay Maken ended on Sunday. On the last day of the tour, he attended the training program of the Youth Congress. Maken said that Congress power and organization would give preference to the workers of Youth Congress. Prior to the event; at Khasa Kothi, he met the Congress representatives and workers. Talking to the media, Ajay Maken said that after the division-wise feedback program, he will visit the districts. On the issue related to Pilot Camp, Maken said that there is no faction in Congress, and the party is united. Maken said that BJP and RSS are playing politics on the issue of construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya, Congress wants a grand Ram temple, not politics.

Maken admitted that during the three-day



Congress representatives call on Ajay Maken at Khasa Kothi on Sunday.

PILOT'S MEN MEET MAKEN

Jaipur: With the begul for organisational appointments being blown & the work for political appointments & cabinet expansion being carried out, three MLAs of the Sachin Pilot Camp met state in-charge Ajay Maken on Sunday at Khasa Kothi to test their luck for possible inclusion in state executive, political appointments

and cabinet reshuffle. At 11 am, MLAs Suresh Modi, Murari Lal Meena and Rakesh Pareek, considered to be from the Pilot camp called on the state incharge. During the meeting, the three MLAs also demanded an equal share in power and organization from Maken, on which Maken gave them a clear reply, "Take everyone along."

tour, "many important things came to light, we communicated to people from place to place, received good feedback from Kota division, there will be a feedback program for the rest of the divisions in the month of January, after which we will head for districts

to get more accurate information about ground reality," he said.

The state incharge completely dismissed any factionalism in the state Congress. Maken said that on the occasion of Congress Foundation Day, the ministers will remain in the

districts and will present their arguments against the Central agricultural laws.

On Owaisi's party's alliance with BJP and Owaisi's entry in Rajasthan, Maken said, "Such parties do politics to divide votes to further the BJP." On the question related to Hanuman Beniwal's party RLP splitting from the NDA, he said that it was already said by the BJP state president that they do not mind.

During his three day long visit, not only did Maken meet political leaders but also representatives of social organizations and general public. Maken made an all out effort that the message of Congress power and organization reached the public with a positive attitude.

Bharatpur Stn Cdr felicitates Subedar Baba

First India Bureau

Jaipur: Jaipur: On the occasion of Swarnim Vijay Varsh, Brigadier Vaydeesh Mahajan, Station Commander Bharatpur accompanied the Victory Flame to the residence of Subedar Brijendra Singh (retired), a Vir Chakra awardee of 1971 war and popularly known as Subedar Baba, at village Kumer in Bharatpur as a token of acknowledgement for his heroic contributions during the 1971 war. Baba belongs to 4 JAT Regiment of Indian Army.

Cong Foundation Day: RaGa leaves for abroad for short visit

New Delhi: The 136th foundation day of the Indian National Congress will be observed through various campaigns on December 28. However, Rahul Gandhi is out of India and will be away for a few days, Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala confirmed on Sunday after reports of Rahul Gandhi's leaving India a day ahead of the party's foundation day started doing the rounds on social media.

The All India Congress Committee has earlier asked the state units to come up with innova-

tive campaign ideas to connect with the youth. Tiranga Yatra and Selfie with Tiranga are two campaigns that the party has launched apparently to engage with people on nationalism plank.

The focus of this foundation day will also be on the ongoing farmers' protest which the party has been supporting from the beginning. Rahul Gandhi has also sharpened his attack on the government and PM Modi regarding the farmers' protest.

"INC has been at the forefront in the efforts to

forge a secular, democratic and united India, an India which is a world leader in all fields and has always put India first despite all odds and obstacles. The INC fought for and won India's independence, forged the constitutional idea of India, built up the nation from one of the poorest (when India gained independence) in the world to a global superpower," AICC said in its press release. The anniversary comes at a time when the Grand Old Party is battling crises both inside and outside. —PTI

CORONA TIMES!



Assembly Speaker and a political intellectual Dr. CP Joshi and Jagdeesh Chandra maintained the social distance as per Covid protocol during a courtesy visit by the latter, on Sunday morning at the former's residence.

Race is on for new shape of state bureaucracy in New Year!

Rajendra Chhabra

The upcoming week is extremely important for the state bureaucracy since this will be the last week of the year and the promotions for the new year will be announced on the last day. Along with this, a major transfer list is also proposed wherein, the promotee IAS will be given posting and appointments are to be done on more than half a dozen vacant positions.

The posts that are vacant, whose additional

charge has been given to various officials are, Secretary Industries, Secretary GAD, Secretary Cooperative, Secretary Animal Husbandry and Secretary Ayurveda. Moreover, the post of Secretary Science and Technology will also lay vacant after its current Secretary - KC Verma - will retire on 31st December. Apart from these, the posts of MD Skill and Livelihood Corporation and Baran Collector are also vacant. The Secretary, Medical and Health department - Siddharth



Ashok Gehlot



Niranjan Arya



Kuldeep Ranka

Mahajan - can also be called to the Centre on deputation since his name has been finalised for the position of OSD of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

The 14 RAS, who were promoted to IAS in Octo-

ber 2020, are also to be given appointment. Although some of these will continue to remain on their present posts, however, some officials are probables for becoming District Collectors. According to sources,

nearly a dozen Collectors may also be shifted, which include Rajasmand Collector Arvind Poswal and Hanumangarh Collector Zakir Hussain, both of whom have played a two year long stint in respective

offices. Moreover, the 'understanding' of Barmer Collector Vishram Meena and Dholpur Collector RK Jaiswal is still 'untuned' with local Congress leaders. On the basis of complaints made to CM, it is believed that they might be removed.

IAS like Kailash verma, Sanwarmal Verma, Omprakash Kasera, Vishwa Mohan Sharma, Hari Mohan Meena and several other are trying hard to get a field posting and get out of office work for which they have approached vari-

ous ministers.

Postings of 44 IAS, who have been accorded regular promotion, will also be shuffled. Of these, 12 IAS from 2005 batch who will be promoted to Super Time Scale, will also be given some responsibility. Moreover, a change is also believed to occur in the posting of 17 IAS of 2008 batch promoted to selection scale.

According to knowledgeable sources, the 'home-work' on transfer list is almost complete however, some difficulty is being faced in finalis-

ing the names for the secretary level posts that are lying vacant. The main issue surrounding these is the less number of officials at this level.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chief Secretary Niranjan Arya and Principal Secretary to CM Kuldeep Ranka have held detailed discussion on each and every name. Arya will head to New Delhi for IAS interviews on 30th and 31st December, but the list could be finalised before that, although it may be released on 31st December.

JAIPUR, MONDAY
DECEMBER 28, 2020

First India

City First



The finalists of Miss Rajasthan 2020 during the shoot. —PHOTOS BY SANTOSH SHARMA



Priya yadav



Priya Malpani



Khushi Ajwani



Prachi Sharma

Miss Rajasthan 2020!

City First brings you a few glimpses of the stunning traditional attire photoshoot held during the ongoing Finale month events of Miss Rajasthan 2020!



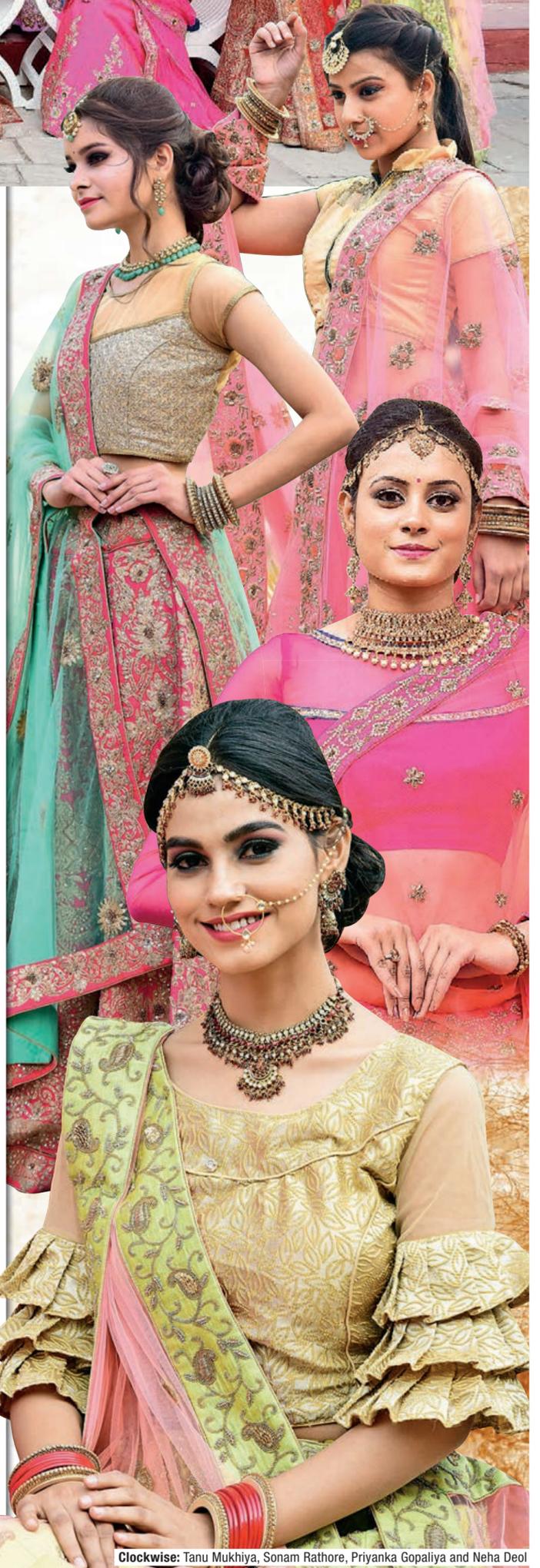
Jagdeesh Chandra with Mansi Bainada, Mansi Bachhani, Yogesh and Nimisha Mishra during a courtesy visit at his residence on Sunday evening



KARISHMA GWALANI
karishma.gwalani@firstindia.co.in

The finalists of Rajasthan's oldest and the prestigious Miss Rajasthan 2020 Beauty Pageant illustrated the beauty of traditional attire while promoting tourism and Rajasthani culture during their photoshoot at Once Upon a Time at Bagh in Jaipur on Sunday. In the episode of the ongoing Finale Month events of Miss Rajasthan 2020, all 28 finalists participated in the photoshoot.

The director of Miss Rajasthan 2020 Yogesh and Nimisha Mishra shared that Miss Rajasthan has always attempted to display the beauty of Rajasthan and yet again in this episode, the finalists have aimed to showcase the Rajasthan's heritage with a photoshoot in traditional attire. Fashion photographers Vasu Jain and Sahil captured the glamour of participants and beauty of Vidyadhar's garden during the shoot. The makeover of the participants was done by Deepali Chugh of Sizzlin Scissors with special photoshoot outfits designed by celebrity fashion designer Sanjay Sharma. During the shoot, Miss Rajasthan's top finalists of previous editions Aruna Beniwal, Mittali Kaur, Amisha Raj, Mansi Bainada and Mansi Bachani gave special tips to the participants for perfect photo look. The Grand Finale of Miss Rajasthan 2020 is going to be held on 10 January.



Clockwise: Tanu Mukhiya, Sonam Rathore, Priyanka Gopaliya and Neha Deol



THE BIRTH OF TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN

REMEMBERING CP PANDIT

On the 100th birth anniversary of Chandra Prakash Pandit, an icon in the world of Tourism in Rajasthan, the one who pioneered tourism to Rajasthan by starting Tourist Guide Service, in 1951, City First pays a tribute



MITALI DUSAD
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Chandra Prakash Pandit was born on 28th December 1920 and studied at Maharaja School and then graduated from Maharaja's College. He started the Tourist Guide Service, in 1951, it was the first destination management agency, then called excursion agency, in India that provided guide and transport services to tourists. In association with the Government of Rajasthan, CP Pandit promoted tourism by starting air-conditioned bus services from Delhi to Jaipur in collaboration with Rajasthan Roadways. Cruise tourists who used to come to Delhi and Agra from Mumbai by charter trains, were thus able to visit Jaipur also.

Similarly, he worked closely with Indian Airlines to start flights to Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur and persuaded the Govt of Rajasthan to subsidise the flights until these became profitable. As the Indian Airlines had no local offices, TGS also took on the task of ground support for the airline including handling at the airport and the managing a city office. Faced with acute shortage of good quality hotel rooms, he worked with the royal families of Jaipur and Udaipur to turn Rambagh Palace and Lake Palace into hotels and ensured the tourists were well taken care of running travel desks at several hotels. He also persuaded the Govt. of Rajasthan to open circuit houses for use of tourists even taking on the management of some circuit houses to make the stay of the tourists comfortable. There was also a shortage of taxis and in addition to investing in his own cars, he persuaded private vehicle owners to

let him use their cars when required. To get around the shortage of guides, he would invite college students to act as guides and teaching them about the history and monuments of Rajasthan.

He introduced such tourism staples as the elephant ride at Amer which are until today a big hit with tourists. He was as well the first to get film makers to start shooting films in Rajasthan. He even expanded TGS offices in Gujarat & Maharashtra. In order to promote tourism to India he also published a high-quality magazine, Indian Journeys. He was also the moving force behind the formation of the Department of Tourism of the Govt of Rajasthan as he foresaw the need for destination marketing on a scale that only the Government could do. He was responsible for putting Rajasthan on the international tourism map.

He was also the one who got Dev Anand to Rajasthan for the shooting of Guide.

After Shri Pandit's untimely demise in January 1969, the onus of running the business came on his wife, Sumitra Pandit. Despite dire warnings and predictions of failure and advice not to run the business and sell it, she stood firm and continued where her husband had left.

Sumitra Pandit was instrumental in working with the Jodhpur royal family to launch the Maharaja Saloons in Jodhpur which later gave birth to the idea of Palace on Wheels, which again she helped to start as a director of RTDC. She also launched operations for Indian Air-

Today, Sumitra Pandit, running Pandit Gas Service, remembers those days and during these COVID times has appealed to the Govt of Rajasthan to take up immediate and positive measures to revive tourism, the lifeblood of Rajasthan.



Albert Hall Museum, Jaipur

lines in Gwalior when the airlines wished to start flights to Gwalior. The first tented camp in Pushkar is again to her credit when she had the camp set up in the garden of the RTDC Tourist Bungalow. Much credit also goes to her for persuading tour operators to start including Jaisalmer in tourist itineraries.

Sumitra Pandit was awarded Lifetime Achievement award by Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators in the year 2006.

In addition to tourism, Sumitra Pandit was the first Indane Gas dealer appointed in Rajasthan.

It is a matter of pride that TGS, founded by CP Pandit was selected by the US Embassy to handle the visit of President Bill Clinton in March 2000 to Jaipur and Ranthambore, which involved arrangements for 600 persons of the Presidential entourage and over 300 vehicles.

With inputs from the children of CP and Sumitra Pandit- Rashmi Kuchhal, Amita Narayan and Nikhil Pandit



Chandra Prakash Pandit and Sumitra Pandit, owner Pandit Gas Service



Royal welcome to guests with garlands as they arrive



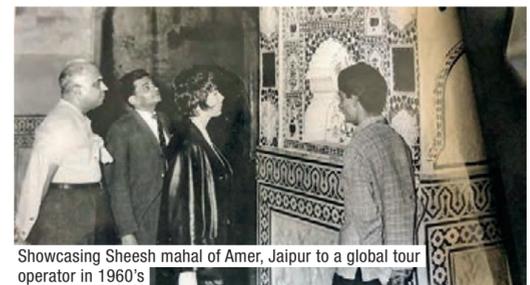
Amongst the first few foreign visitors to Rajasthan



Promoting the golden triangle- Agra, Jaipur-Delhi



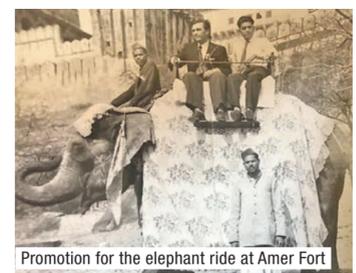
Chandra Prakash Pandit



Showcasing Sheesh mahal of Amer, Jaipur to a global tour operator in 1960's



CP and Sumitra Pandit with Rashmi, Amrita and Nikhil



Promotion for the elephant ride at Amer Fort

FACE OF THE DAY

VATSLA RAMANI, Model

YOUR DAY
Horoscope by Saurabh Sachdeva



To Receive the Most Exclusive News from the Power Corridors of Rajasthan & Delhi.



ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 20
Chances look bright for those seeking a raise or increment. Health remains satisfactory through your own efforts. A complicated case can come your way at work. Home front will remain peaceful. A change of scene will be most rejuvenating and refreshing, plan on a short vacation.

LEO
JULY 24 - AUGUST 23
Health remains satisfactory with own efforts. Repayment of a loan should become your top priority now. Your professional side does not look too bright today. Tranquility on the home front will bestow a relaxed atmosphere. An outing with the family will find you rejuvenated.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23 - DEC 22
Good profits are foreseen for middlemen and retailers. You may have to be at your professional best to make a career move. Arrival of guests at home will make the day most fulfilling. You will need to remain extra careful on the road, especially if behind the wheel. Things look promising on the property.

TAURUS
APR 21 - MAY 20
Money is not a problem and you will be able to buy all the comforts you need. Some of you may decide to join a health club or fitness regimen. Opinion of others will matter in a workplace, so don't seal yourself off. Family may not initially support your ideas, but you will get around them.

VIRGO
AUG 24 - SEP 23
You will manage to convince someone to take on your workload on the professional front. You may need to increase your earning to repay a loan without default. You may not see eye-to-eye with a family member. Those undertaking a long journey need to be prepared.

CAPRICORN
DEC 23 - JAN 20
A decision on the professional front may prove favourable to you. A relaxing environment on the home front is indicated and will help you unwind. Don't go overboard financially as stars don't look favourable. You may be tempted to join a gym or exercise classes.

GEMINI
MAY 21 - JUNE 21
Someone known is likely to give you correct guidance in a financial matter. Professional matters will be dealt efficiently. Give time for a workout routine to produce positive results. Keep your options open on the travel front. Deal in property only with established dealers.

LIBRA
SEPT 24 - OCTOBER 22
Loaned money will be returned sooner than expected. Your hard work and dedication to task will be hard to ignore. You are likely to smoke the peace pipe with a rival in a family dispute. Those looking for a suitable accommodation are likely to get lucky.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21 - FEB 19
This is not the best time to spend money on something expensive. Those undergoing treatment are likely to find steady improvement. Gains are indicated for those playing the stocks. A youngster can throw a tantrum, but you will be able to pacify him or her.

CANCER
JUNE 22 - JULY 23
Financial front appears to be stable as money arrives from the most unexpected source. Neglect on the health front can be costly, so give priority to it. A chance to show off your skills is likely to establish you firmly at work. Give your family member some space.

SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOVEMBER 22
Some of you will be able to save enough to buy what you had always wanted. Effort put into a job is likely to get recognised and earn you praise. Peace prevails on the domestic front and will help you relax and enjoy the day. A tiring business meeting might occur.

PISCES
FEB 20 - MARCH 20
Those freelancing are likely to earn well today. Shift workers will find the timings to their liking. Excitement on the domestic front prevails as a family member returns home after a long period. Those travelling should not throw caution to the winds.

GOOD NEWWZ TURNED 1



Poster of the Film

Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Diljit Dosanjh and Kiara Advani starrer 2019 comedy film Good Newwz clocks one year on Sunday. The film was directed by Raj Mehta and revolved around two married couples who are unsuccessful in conceiving and seek medical treatment. On its first anniversary, Akshay and Kareena took to their Instagram handles and shared throwback video and photo, respectively. Akshay shared the making of Sauda Khara Khara and compared the step in the clip with the year 2020. —Agency

SEX AND THE CITY WITHOUT KIM



Star cast of Sex and the City

A Sex and the City reboot on HBO Max is coming, and Kim Cattrall had a surprising reaction on not being a part of the spinoff. This, of course, includes Sarah Jessica Parker (Carrie Bradshaw), Cynthia Nixon (Miranda Hobbes) and Kristin Davis (Charlotte York.) The only main cast member not set to return is Cattrall, who played Samantha from seasons 1 to season 6 of the HBO series. Sex and the City fans shouldn't be surprised that Samantha won't be in the reboot. The actress told Women's Prize for Fiction on Tuesday that she feels "lucky" to have played Samantha but has no interest in every playing her again. —Agency

TWINNING IN BLACK



Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner

Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner took to Instagram Stories to share a Christmas selfie with the love of his life as the pair cuddled up close and posed in front of their beautifully decorated and lit up Christmas tree. In the selfie, you can see the married couple twinning in black turtlenecks while they're also seen adorning matching pink paper crowns, which could be for baby Willa. The gummy smiles on both Joe and Sophie is proof of just how special this particular festive season has been thanks to the new adorable addition to their family. —Agency



Kourtney Kardashian

Christmas EVE

The Kardashian-Jenners are not hosting their annual Christmas Eve party this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, but they are still staying festive while at home with their families. Kourtney Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, Kylie Jenner, and Kendall Jenner have all given fans an inside look at their Christmas Eves. "Just the family coming over tonight, wishing you all a merry and safe Christmas Eve," Kourtney said in her Instagram post, in which she posed next to a small snowman statue. Khloe shared photos of her and daughter True visiting a festive location where they made gingerbread houses. She posted, "Merry Christmas Eve!!!! Moments with my True!! The sweetest!! Gingerbread house creations and plenty of candy eating!" —Agency



Khloe's post

BIRTHDAY BOY REVEALED



Salman Khan

Salman Khan celebrated his 55th birthday on Sunday. The renowned Bollywood star stepped out on Panvel farmhouse to cut a cake with the media present at the venue. The actor discussed several topics, including his upcoming release Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai. The actor revealed that he is eyeing Eid 2021 for Radhe's release. "If things are in the clear by Eid, that's when the film will be released," Salman said. However, the actor said that the release will depend on the circumstances at the time. The Big Boss 14 host said the audiences' safety comes first. "That's not important, what's important is to ensure that people are safe. And God forbid, if anything happens to them at the theatre, then that wouldn't be acceptable for anyone," he added. —Agency

VACAY TIME!



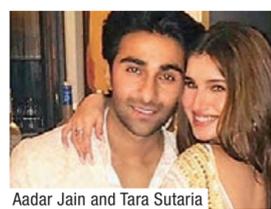
Arjun and Malaika with Amrita

It is the festive season going on these days and everyone has been in the celebratory mood. Even our celebs have different plans to ring in the New Year in their way. Amid this, lovebirds Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora have flown to Goa to enjoy the festive season. The couple had re-shared a picture, originally posted by their friend on Instagram, wherein Arjun and Malaika are having a good time together with friends. Malaika looked stunning in her trending white coloured net dress and was sitting next to Arjun who looked dapper in a white t-shirt and black shorts as they basked in the Goan sun together. It was a selfie shot clicked by their friend while Malaika's sister Amrita, appeared to be a photo bomber in the picture. The pic was captioned as '#GoaDiaries'. —Agency

LOVE BIRDS



Tara's post



Aadar Jain and Tara Sutaria

It seems like this year's Christmas will always be special and memorable for lovebirds Aadar Jain and Tara Sutaria as they ring in the festival together. Notably, the Marjaavaan star made a stunning debut with her boyfriend at the Kapoor family's annual Christmas lunch. The couple arrived in style and was colour coordinated in white. Aadar and Tara snuggled up for a movie date night and spent the night watching the Hollywood classic Home Alone. They have also shared a glimpse of it on their respective social media handles. —Agency

BEBO SPOTTED



Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kareena Kapoor Khan took the brightness a notch higher on Sunday. The actress, who is expecting her second baby with Saif Ali Khan, was seen out and about in Bandra and the paparazzi made sure she was photographed! The actress stepped out wearing a full-length buttoned-up gown for her day out in the sun. The gorgeous superstar let her tresses down while a white mask covered her face.

After stepping out of her car, Bebo removed the mask for a quick photo session with the papz. The sun did bother her initially but the Laal Singh Chaddha star found her way around it and turned the car park area into her own ramp. She posed for the camera, flaunting her growing baby bump before she made her way into the building. Kareena's glow was hard to miss! —Agency

Tara Sutaria

Priyanka STRANDED IN LONDON



Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is currently shooting her upcoming movie Text For You in London. The actress is reportedly stranded in the UK owing to the new lockdown. The romantic drama has reported come to a halt and the team is making quick arrangements to return to the US amid the new variant of COVID widespread and travel restrictions coming in place. A source informed the publication that special permissions are being sought for the cast and crew to travel back to the US. However, the procedure might take longer than usual since the new lockdown rules are stricter than before. —Agency



MD Pallavi

JAI HO JAIRANGAM

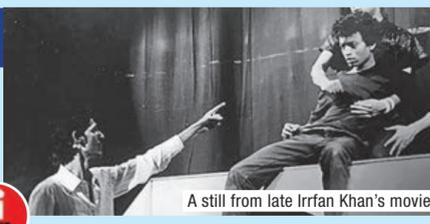
CITY FIRST

Grand Closing Ceremony of the virtually held 23 days Jai Rangam Festival, co-partnered by 3 M Dot Band and Ministry of Culture, Government of India took place on Sunday. Convener Aishwarya



Grover told that 12 super amazing programs were conducted throughout the day. MD-Pallavi from Karnataka

performed the morning Raga. Actor Makrand Deshpande's Master class, Art is Heart took place in the evening. A workshop on how to Build a Theatre Performance by Atul Kumar was conducted. On the parallel, Sarabjit Das took a workshop on Think Im-



A still from late Irrfan Khan's movie

ages and Think Issues. A film dedicated to late actor Irrfan Khan was also screened. With the melodious

compositions by Kabir Cafe Band, this 23 days Festival was concluded at 9 p.m.

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in



Team of Kabir Cafe Band



Taruna Birla

THE TASTE CHANGER

CITY FIRST

Taruna Birla is a visionary chef, homemaker, mother and an entrepreneur. She noticed one thing about her vicinity, there were no cooking classes in Bhilwara that were teaching people how to cook delicious food in a fun and exciting way. To fulfil this need she started her cooking institute—a state of the art infrastructure and well equipped culinary studio based in Bhilwara. She said, “My cooking is from my heart and from my mind. Taruna

Birla Cooking Institute is your ultimate destination for all things that are tasty. We will train our students to bring out the Master Chef in them by slowly mastering the craft of winning hearts, filling stomachs and electrifying tongues.”

“We are passionate about bringing amazing experiences to people's taste buds in order to master the skill of cooking. The institute will allow people to develop and pursue their love for cooking and baking in a fun, efficient and productive way”, she added. cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

DECEMBER: A MONTH OF 'POH'



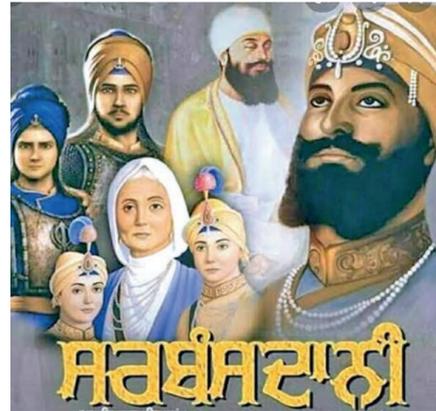
PINKY SINGH
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December ushers in Christmas for most, for Sikhs the month has more meaning than just holiday preparations. For them, December is the month of 'Poh', meaning a month of sacrifices. The last month of the year begins by remembering the father of Guru Gobind Singh, Guru Tegh Bahadur. He made the supreme sacrifice of giving up his life so that the Hindus could freely practice their religion under the Mughal regime of Aurangzeb. From 21 December to 27 December, Sikhs also observe the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's four



sons: Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Jujhar Singh, Baba Fateh Singh and Baba Zorawar Singh. This Sikh saga of valour, courage and sacrifice dates back to 1704 when the Hill Rajas and Mughal forces had laid a prolonged siege to Anandgarh Fort in Anandpur Sahib for about 8 months. They offered Guru Sahib a

safe passage to leave Anandpur Sahib on an oath. On request of Panj Piaras, (The Five Beloved Ones), the Guru decided to leave the fort. Guru Sahib along with four Sahibzadas (princes), Mata Gujri (Guru's Mother), Guru's Mahil (wives), 5 Panj Piaras and a few hundred Sikhs left



Anandpur Sahib on the chilly night of 20 December 1704 towards Ropar. The youngest two sons of Guru were at a tender age when they spent the last few nights of their life punished and imprisoned in the extreme cold with their grandmother Mata Gujjar Kaur. They were

then bricked-up alive under the orders of Wazir Khan, for refusing to renounce their faith and converting to Islam. They refused to bow down until the very end. This remarkable display of courage and valour showcased during 1704 is an inspiration for the past, present and future generations to come.

HAPPY B'DAY!



IAS Veenu Gupta, IFS Sangram Singh Katiyar and IPS Sanjay Agarwal celebrated their birthdays on Sunday, 27 December. We wish them all the best!

STAY HEALTHY!

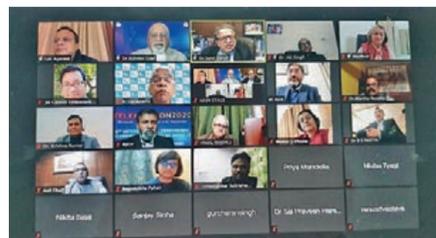


Former Minister and MLA Kali Charan Saraf flagged off a cycle rally on Sunday morning from Birla Auditorium under the aegis of Rotary Club Emerald. The rally was carried out to spread a message of safety against Coronavirus. Saraf praised the effort of Rotary Club Emerald President Dhruvdas Agarwal and office bearers and reminded everyone to wear masks and keep safe!

Virtual International Conference

CITY FIRST

The Telemedicine Society of India had their 16th Annual International Conference (TELE-MEDICON 2020) scheduled last week, albeit virtually. The three days virtual meet saw record participation that included 1126 registrations with another 202 Speakers, Chairpersons and Moderators. 15 symposiums and workshops were covering all the aspects of telehealth. The Conference was graced with the stellar presence of Justice S Ravindra Bhat from Supreme Court, Anup Wadhawan, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Luv Agarwal, IAS, Ministry of Health and Fam-



ily Welfare; Dr Vinod K Paul, Member, NITI AAYOG; Dr Dharmendra Singh Gangwar, IAS; Vandana Gurnani, Mission Director of the Na-

tional Health Mission at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Dr Thomas Wiegand (Germany).

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BUZZ DIGITAL INITIATIVE

The State Government in association with the Department of Art and Culture and Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) has started a crowdsourcing initiative 'A Call for Artist Database'. The registration for the same has been extended to 31 December 2020. The form has to be submitted online. This initiative was launched by the Minister of Art and Culture, Government of Rajasthan, Dr B.D. Kalla on JKK's Facebook page on 10 October. This digital initiative aims to collect a database of artists from the state. Rajasthan is the first state in the country to take such an initiative. —CITY FIRST



EVENTS!



Raj: The department of Physics, Manipal University Jaipur organised an International Conference on Multifunctional Nanomaterials. The conference was inaugurated by Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. There were 70 oral presentations by the research students from across the globe on their research work.



Raj: Jaipur experienced a food heaven aura during the three days 'Wellness Food Festival' which concluded on Sunday with more than 250 guests and visitors. Successful in breaking myths related to satvic food taste and Ayurveda, the festival was held at Eco Dera Chandsen Wellness Retreat Resort, Malpura.



Raj: The famous santoor maestro Ustad Anwar Hussain Neelu started the Raga Kalavati and fascinated the audience by the warmth of his notes in the Net-theat on Sunday. Guru's training was evident in the art of Anwar Hussain Neelu, a disciple of world-famous santoor player Pandit Shivkumar Sharma. —PHOTO BY NAIM KHAN



Raj: A blood donation camp was organised for cancer victims and children with Thalassemia at a park in Pratap Nagar by the Noble Cancer Care Foundation on Sunday in the capital Jaipur. 50 units of blood were collected in the camp and were deposited in the blood bank of Santokba Durlabhji Memorial Hospital. Blood donors were awarded certificates and Memento.



Raj: Alia Sharma, a resident of Pink City, has been in a modelling career for 2 years, modelling is her passion and she loves this job. Alia has done her photo shoots in many areas of India and the fashion world, she is very well known as Alia Ko Natural. Alia has brightened the name of Pink City, working in many fields.



Raj: Two young girls of Jaipur, Hritisha Rewadia, 21, Opera Queen of India and Shaiphali Saxena, 26, female sound engineer were welcomed by MESK Skill India in their Creative Warriors platform for teaching Opera Culture and Music Business in a workshop which was witnessed by more than 50,000 students from all over the world recently.



—PHOTO BY HANIF SINDHI

Guj: Two adorable dogs were spotted enjoying some good time with their caretakers from a car window at a traffic signal over Ashram road in Ahmedabad on Sunday.