

**TURKEY AND SYRIA
JOLTED IN A DAY**

**MORE THAN 2,300
PEOPLE KILLED**

**3 QUAKES INJURED
MORE THAN 7,000**

**THE MOST POWERFUL
QUAKE IN A CENTURY**

**THE QUAKES HIT THE
WAR-TORN REGIONS**

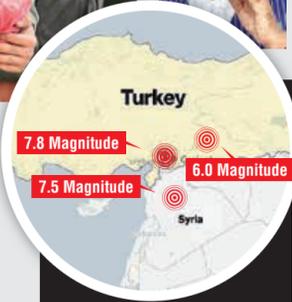
**MORE THAN FIFTY
AFTERSHOCKS FELT**

WORLD 'POWERS' RUSH TO HELP!



INDIA READY TO PROVIDE HELP TO EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN TURKEY, SAYS PM MODI

New Delhi: The PMO said on Monday that a meeting was held and it was decided that India would dispatch "search & rescue teams to Turkey. "2 teams of NDRF, comprising 100 personnel with specially trained dog squads and necessary equipment, are ready to be flown. Medical teams are also being readied. Relief material will also be dispatched," PMO said. PM **Narendra Modi** said, "India is ready to provide all possible help to the earthquake-affected people in Turkey. We are all looking at the destructive earthquake that hit Turkey."



MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- I have directed my team to continue to closely monitor the situation in coordination with Turkey and provide any and all needed assistance: US President Joe Biden.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin sent messages to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad conveying Russia's condolences and offering aid to the quake-hit Turkey, Syria.
- President Emmanuel Macron said France stood ready to provide emergency aid and all possible assistance to Turkey and Syria.
- Ready to provide the necessary assistance to overcome the consequences of the disaster in Turkey, says Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.
- Ready to help provide urgent relief to the survivors through our field teams wherever possible to Turkey & Syria, says UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.
- NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg voiced "full solidarity" with ally Turkey, saying "NATO allies are mobilising support now".
- Iran is ready to provide immediate relief aid to these two friendly nations: Prez Raisi.
- European Union has mobilised search and rescue teams for Turkey after the stricken country requested EU assistance.
- Germany — home to about three million people of Turkish origin — will "mobilise all the assistance we can activate": Min Nancy.



(From Top) Morning walk 'shocker' for a dog as the caretaker dies under debris. A man rescues a girl after earthquake in Jandar. Mother gets emotional looking for her family.

Moni Sharma

Istanbul: The most powerful earthquake to strike Turkey and Syria in nearly a century killed over 2,300 people on Monday, sparked frantic rescues and was felt as far away as Greenland.

The 7.8-magnitude early morning quake, followed by dozens of aftershocks and 2 more quakes, wiped out entire sections of major Turkish cities in a region filled with millions who have fled Syria's civil war and other conflicts.

Rescuers used heavy equipment and their bare hands to peel back rubble in search of survivors, who they could in some cases hear beg-

SEVERE WEATHER HAMPERS RESCUERS

The rescue was being hampered by a winter blizzard that covered major roads in ice and snow. Officials said the quake made three major airports in the area inoperable, further complicating deliveries of vital aid.



The biggest earthquake recorded in the history of the centre. Monday's first quake struck near the Turkish city of Gaziantep, which is home to around 2 million people.

—Raed Ahmed, Head Syria's National Earthquake Centre

ging for help under the debris. At least 810 people died in rebel and government-controlled parts of Syria, state media and medical sources said, while Turkish officials reported another 1,498 fatalities.

FIRST	7.8 Magnitude	4:17 am (IST)
	900 Killed	
SECOND	7.5 Magnitude	1:24 pm (IST)
	1300 Killed	
THIRD	6.0 Magnitude	3:54 pm (IST)
	100 Killed	

11 advs, 2 judicial officers made addl judges of 3 HCs



First India Bureau

New Delhi: A total of 11 advocates and two judicial officers were on Monday appointed as additional judges in the high courts of Allahabad, Karnataka and Madras. Those appointed include 6 for the Allahabad HC, 5 for the Madras HC and 2 for the Karnataka HC. 2 of the additional judges appointed to the Madras HC are judicial officers. The names of some of them were recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium last month.

SC GETS 5 NEW JUDGES; STRENGTH RISES TO 32

The five new judges appointed to the SC took the oath of office on Monday. CJI DY Chandrachud administered the oath to 5 judges in a ceremony held at SC's auditorium. The names are Justice Pankaj Mithal, Justice Sanjay Karol, Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Manoj Misra. The total strength of judges in the SC now reached 32. **P6**

SC HEARING ON ADV'S APPT AS JUDGE TODAY

In a significant development, the Supreme Court on Monday advanced to Tuesday, the hearing on a plea challenging the appointment of lawyer **Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri** as a judge of the Madras High Court, soon after the central government notified her judgeship.



lawyer **Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri** as a judge of the Madras High Court, soon after the central government notified her judgeship.

PM MODI'S BIGGEST DEFENCE PUSH!

INDIA'S 'ONE-STOP' CHOPPER SOLUTION

PM Modi opens India's largest helicopter-making plant in Karnataka

First India Bureau

Tumakuru: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) helicopter manufacturing unit — India's largest such factory — in Karnataka's Tumakuru. The greenfield helicopter factory of the defence PSU has been planned to become "a one-stop solution" for all helicopter requirements of the country. Speaking after laying the foundation stone of the factory, PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling of light utility helicopter at HAL's helicopter manufacturing factory, in Tumakuru on Monday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is also seen here.

NGHM TO GIVE DIRECTION TO INDIA IN 21ST CENTURY: PM

Karnataka: PM Narendra Modi on Monday said that National Green Hydrogen Mission would give a new direction to India in the 21st century. While addressing people at the India Energy Week 2023 event, PM Modi said, "We are working on mission mode to increase our Energy Mix Natural Gas Consumption by the year 2030." **P5**

hailed Karnataka as a "land of innovation" and pointed out how the state has pioneered various important defence projects over the years. "From drones to

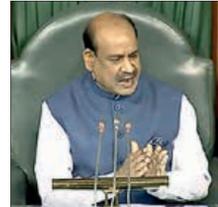
Tejas aircraft manufacturing is being done in the state. The state has become the first choice for investors. From modern assault rifles, aircraft carrier; to fight-

False allegations were made against our govt and many working hours of Parl were wasted over it. HAL's helicopter factory and its rising power will expose those who levelled these false allegations. Cong and other Oppn parties alleged a scam in India's Rafale jet deal with France.

—Narendra Modi, PM

Congress rakes up #AdaniMess

Both the Houses of Parliament adjourned following ruckus over Adani Group issue



LS Speaker Om Birla conducts Parl proceedings on Monday.



RS Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Parl House on Monday.

First India Bureau

New Delhi: Both Houses of Parliament adjourned for the day following opposition's protest over the Adani Group issue. This was the third consecutive day when the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha could not transact any substantive business due to disruption by the Opposition parties. In Lok Sabha, when the House reassembled after the first adjournment at 2 pm, members from Congress, DMK and others trooped into the well demanding JPC probe into the matter. In the Rajya Sabha, when the House reassembled at 2 PM after the first adjournment, Opposition members again tried to raise the Adani Group issue. **P6**

RaGa: CENTRE TRYING TO AVOID DISCUSSION IN PARL ON ADANI ROUT



Congress MP **Rahul Gandhi** spoke to the reporters on Monday and said, "PM Modi ji will do his best to avert a discussion on Adani in Parliament. There is a reason for it and you know that. There should be a discussion on Adani issue and the truth should come out."

NATIONWIDE PROTESTS OUTSIDE SBI, LIC OFFICES

Congress on Monday demanded the Centre to seize the passport of Gautam Adani to prevent him from escaping the country as the party held nationwide protests outside the LIC, SBI offices over explosive charges of stock manipulation by Hindenberg.

ADANI GROUP PROMOTERS PREPAY \$1.1 BILLION TO RELEASE PLEDGED SHARES



In continuation of promoters' commitment to reduce overall leverage backed by Adani Listed Company shares, we are pleased to inform that promoters have paid amounts to prepay \$1.114 mn ahead of its maturity of Sept 2024," the Adani Group said on Monday.

BAJRANG DAL ACTIVIST SHOT DEAD IN UDAIPUR



Udaipur (FIB): A Bajrang Dal activist was shot dead in Amba Mata area of Udaipur on Monday. Police informed the deceased has been identified as **Raju alias Rajendra Parmar**. "Raju was standing at a shop when he received a call from someone. As he reached near his car, armed miscreants fired gun shots at him. He suffered bullet injuries in his head and died on the spot. It is suspected that Raju has been killed owing to a property dispute," police said.

REVIEW MEETING OF POLICE DEPARTMENT FEAR-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE OUR MAIN PRIORITY: GEHLOT

Gehlot chairs review meeting with IGs and SPs, instructs to take strict action against organised criminals

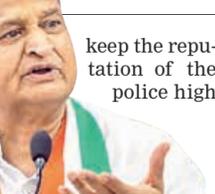
Naresh Sharma, Shivendra Parmar and Mukesh Sharma

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Monday that mandatory FIR, reception room and other innovations

have been made in the police department, which has resulted in reduction in 156 (3) CrPC cases, research time and cases of women atrocities. "In various incidents of Udaipur, Sikar, Jaipur, quick and effective action has been taken to nab the criminals. In order to

CM UPSET OVER AJMER INCIDENT

In a rare display of emotions, Chief Minister Gehlot was visibly angry over the Ajmer incident and expressed his displeasure in the law and order review meeting. Gehlot said, "SP's children are beating SHO, this is serious Incident. Such incident will not be tolerated in the state."



keep the reputation of the police high

GEHLOT HAILS DHOLPUR POLICE

CM Ashok Gehlot praised Dholpur police in the meeting. Gehlot said, "Pro active policing has been conducted in Dholpur. They wiped out Keshav Gurjar's gang in 6 days. Under the direction of IG Bharatpur Range Gaurav Srivastava, SP Dharmendra Singh did a very commendable job."

in the state, make every possible effort to control crime and increase the faith of the common man in the police," Gehlot said while addressing the meeting of In-

spectors General of Police and District Superintendents of Police through video conference at Chief Minister's residence on Monday. **Turn to P8**

ADANI-HINDENBURG ROW

Congress demands action against Adani Group

Yogesh Sharma

Jaipur: State Congress staged a sit-in protest in Jaipur against LIC and SBI investments in Adani Group. Protests were held outside the LIC and SBI offices in all the districts, including the capital Jaipur on behalf of the state Congress. They have demanded a fair investigation into the matter. Jaipur City Congress staged a dharna outside the LIC office at Ambedkar Circle in Jaipur. Hundreds of Congress workers and leaders participated in the dharna.

A protest was held for about two hours under the leadership of cabinet minister and outgoing president of Jaipur City Congress Pratap Singh Khachariyawas. Water Supply Minister Mahesh Joshi, MLA Amin Kag-



Pratap Singh Khachariyawas, Mahesh Joshi, Amin Kagzi, Rafiq Khan, Jyoti Khandelwal, Munesh Gurjar, Archana Sharma, Lalit Toonwal, Jaswant Gurjar, Ramsingh Kaswa, Pushpendra Bhardwaj, Sitaram Agarwal and many other leaders staged a dharna outside the LIC office at Ambedkar Circle in Jaipur.

zi, Rafiq Khan, former Mayor Jyoti Khandelwal, Jaipur Heritage Mayor Munesh Gurjar, Social Welfare Board Chairman Archana Sharma, Congress leaders Lalit Toonwal, Jaswant Gurjar, Ramsingh Kaswa, Pushpendra Bhardwaj, Sitaram

Agarwal and many other leaders were present. Khachariyawas and Joshi said that a foreign company exposed corruption and instead of taking action against the Adani group, the Central government was trying to save them and is run-

ning away from discussing the matter in Parliament. Khachariyawas said during the demonstration that trust was important and a party's government is formed only when its workers come together. Joshi condemned

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat for stoking controversy with his statement. He said, "There are many great men who sacrificed their lives and were pundits. They gave direction to society. I find Bhagwatji's statement ridiculous."

CONG PROTEST OUTSIDE SBI OFFICE IN ALWAR

Ashvini Yadav

Alwar: The Congress leaders took to the streets on Monday to stage protests and demand an 'impartial probe' over financial fraud allegations against the Adani Group. In Alwar, the Congress leaders protested outside the SBI bank and raised slogans against the Narendra Modi gov't. Former Union Minister Jitendra Singh and Minister Tikaram Juli were present during the protest. "There is no BJP and Modi gov't in the country. This is a gov't of big industrialists and they decided the policies of this nation. This is a big scam. It is a scam just like Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya," said Singh.



Raghu Sharma, Rakesh Pareek, Dharmendra Rathore, Ramchandra Chowdhary & others at protest site in Ajmer.

CONG PROTESTS AGAINST MODI GOVT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

Shubham Jain

Ajmer: Protests were held by the urban and rural units of Congress in Ajmer against the short-sighted economic policies of the Narendra Modi Gov't. A protest rally was taken out from Gandhi Bhawan to the LIC office. Former Minister and Kekri MLA Raghu Sharma, Masuda MLA Rake-

sh Pareek, RTDC Chairman Dharmendra Singh Rathore also participated. After the rally, a huge dharna and demonstration was held outside the main office of State Bank of India in front of the Collectorate by the Congress rural. It was organized under the leadership of Ajmer Saras Dairy President Ramchandra Chowdhary.

Diya expresses gratitude to Vaishnaw for approval of Mavli Marwar gauge

First India Bureau

Jaipur: A team of public representatives and BJP workers from Rajsamand district under the leadership of Rajsamand MP Diya Kumari met Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the Rail Bhavan in Delhi. They expressed gratitude for the approval of 968.92 crores for Mavli Marwar gauge conversion from Nathdwara to De-



Diya Kumari met Ashwini Vaishnaw at the Rail Bhavan in Delhi.

ogarh in the first phase. Kumari said that the citizens and workers of the area are delighted with the approval of the Mavli Marwar

gauge conversion. The long wait of 8-9 decades is finally over and the public is grateful to the Modi government for this.

Poonia prepping for PM Modi's visit

Aishwary Pradhan

Jaipur: Preparations are in full swing for the proposed visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Dausa on February 12. The entire party including BJP state president Satish Poonia is engaged in making the PM's visit a success.

To mobilize maximum crowd, Poonia is giving targets to districts in meetings while other office bearers and workers are also being



Satish Poonia addressing District Working Committee meeting. Also seen are Mukesh Dadhich, Jitendra Meena, Shatrughan Gautam, Ramanand Gurjar and district officials.

given various responsibilities. PM Modi is coming to inaugurate the Dausa- Sohna section

in the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway passing through Dausa. During this, he will also ad-

dress a public meeting. It is Modi's third visit to the state in the last four months. In the election year, the visits of Modi can prove to be a boost for the party's state unit. Poonia is continuously doing tours in Eastern Rajasthan for PM's visit. In three days, Poonia has held meetings of district units in more than half a dozen districts and gave targets. He said that people are very excited about the Prime Minister's visit.

Owaisi to address public meeting in Tonk on February 19

First India Bureau

Washington: AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi will address a public meeting on February 19 in Tonk. To discover political ground in Rajasthan for his party, AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi scheduled to visit Tonk and address a public relations meeting. He will also offer namaz at Shahi Jama Masjid among the people. Party's State Convener Jameel Qureshi said that their party would contest the assembly elections on 30 to 40 seats on the issue of development. As per him, the party has more than 1 lakh active members in Rajasthan and they are working on the seats from where the party has to contest elections.

Jameel Qureshi said that wherever Congress loses, it blames the AIMIM party for the defeat, while it does not see its shortcomings. In Uttar Pradesh, our party contested 100 seats, but the Congress blamed the AIMIM party for the defeat, while the Congress won only two out of 400 seats. Congress has deviated from the issues of public interest.

Distribution of food grains under NSA extended: PSK

First India Bureau

Jaipur: Food and Civil Supplies Minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas on Monday said that the period for distribution of food grains allotted for January 2023 has been extended till February 10 and directions have been issued to concerned food inspectors regarding this. Similarly, under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, the period for distribution of food grains allotted for December 2022 has also been extended till February 10. "People who



were deprived of wheat in December and January can now get wheat from the fair price shops till February 10. Also, names of more than 11 lakh new beneficiaries have been added to the National Food Security Scheme and they will also get the benefit of food grains allocated under both these schemes," said Singh.

1500 laboratory technicians protest at Shaheed Samarak

First India Bureau

Jaipur: The laboratory technicians staged a protest at Shaheed Samarak on Monday over their long pending demands. Nearly 1500 protestors, under the aegis of the All Rajasthan Laboratory Employees Federation, gathered and raised their demands like an increase in grade pay, removal of discrepancies in allowances, change in designation, creation of higher posts, increase in posts, and other such. State President Ram Meena said that the govt



Under the aegis of All Rajasthan Pharmacists Employees Federation, a huge protest was organized at the Martyr Memorial in Jaipur, in which pharmacists from all over Rajasthan participated.

should implement the report of the Khemraj Committee in the upcoming budget and solve our grievances at the earliest. Later, a del-

egation of the protestors held talks with CMO Secretary Lalit Kumar and Special Secretary of CM Aarti Dogra in this regard.

General Body meeting of JMCG hangs in balance

Bharat Dixit

Jaipur: The General Body Meeting (GBM) of Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC Greater), scheduled to take place on February 9, is hovered with ambiguity as BJP MP Ram Charan Bohra and other BJP MLAs have refused to approve the GBM.

The civic body had made preparations for the meeting of the general body and even suggestions were sought from traders, public representatives, and the common public before tabling the budget of



JMC. Mayor Dr Somya and Commissioner Mahendra Soni also issued orders in this regard. "A new date for the GBM will be fixed and letters will again be sent to MP and local MLAs for their permission. BJP MP Ramcharan Bohra did not give permission citing the ongoing session of the Lok Sabha," said Dr Somya.

POWER WOES

POWER SECTOR: CONSUMERS TIE HOPES TO CM'S BUDGET

Vikas Sharma

The announcement of a new power company for the successful implementation of IT in the power sector in Rajasthan is also being proposed

Jaipur: People expect that Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will provide free and subsidized electricity in this budget. In the last budget, 50 units of electricity had been announced free of cost to the consumers who consume up to 100 units of electricity every month, and grants to those who use more electricity. It is expected that the CM will provide free and subsidi-

dized electricity in this budget as well. Besides, the announcement of a new power company for the successful implementation of IT in the power sector in Rajasthan is also proposed.

Gehlot had given free-subsidized electricity in the last budget. Consumers consuming 100 units were given 50 units of electricity free, those consuming 150 units got a subsidy of Rs 3 and those consuming 151 to 300



units got a subsidy of Rs 2 per unit. Besides, the slab-wise discount was given on consumption of more than 300

units. To implement IT sector innovation in power companies, eighth power companies may be

SMART METRES

Proposal for one new circle each in Jaipur City, Jaipur Rural, and Alwar Circle. Electricity consumers are likely to get smart metres. An announcement was made earlier for more than 48 lakh electricity consumers.

announced in the state. A new power company "ITCOM" may be announced in the upcoming

budget. A proposal has been sent by the Energy Department to form an IT company. Earlier, seven power companies were operating in different areas. Besides, RVPNL is working to strengthen the power transmission system. While RVUNL is handling power plant generation in Rajasthan, RRECL has the task of promoting renewable energy in the state.

Rajasthan's power distribution system is

expected to be strengthened. The energy department expects that the focus will be on system improvement to provide electricity to the farmers during the day. 400 KV, 220 KV, 132 KV, and 33 KV GSS may be announced in the budget and the existing ones are expected to be upgraded. New power department offices can be opened. The Discom administration has sent a proposal to open a new office to the Energy Department.

'PROTEST MARATHON' AGAINST STATE, CENTRE MLA Yadav runs to fight against unemployment

Govt only giving assurances, but not solving issues: MLA Yadav

Dinesh Tiwari

Jaipur: To protest against the rising unemployment and the injustice done to youths and farmer labourers, independent MLA from Alwar's Behror constituency Baljeet Yadav targeted the central and the state government as he began his protest run



Independent MLA Baljeet Yadav runs in black t-shirt to protest against unemployment with his supporters in Central Park on Monday.

at Central Park in Jaipur on Monday.

MLA took 22 rounds of Central Park and completed a total distance of 91 kilometers while running. In

March 2022 also, Yadav had protested against unemployment and corruption by running at Central Park from morning to evening. The MLA targeted the

central and state government for increasing unemployment among the youth and said that the governments are not serious about it.

"I will continue to raise my voice till the government meets our demand," he told reporters. The youths of Rajasthan are lagging behind and people from other states are getting jobs. There are many states where youth from outside are not allowed," he said. He added that the government is only giving assurances and taking any action.

Khatu Shyamji temple reopens for devotees



First India Bureau

Sikar: The Khatu Shyam Ji Temple in Sikar was reopened for devotees on Monday after a gap of 3 months. The temple committee said that the devotees will be able to visit the temple within ten minutes on normal days. The temple was scheduled to be opened at 4:15 pm on Monday, & was opened at 11 am. Prayers can be offered between 4:30 am to 10 pm every day.

Asiatic lion to be shifted to Jaipur from Jodhpur

First India Bureau

Jodhpur: An Asiatic lion will soon be shifted to Nahargarh Biological Park from Machia Biological Park of Jodhpur. Following the approval of the Central Zoo Authority, the forest department has made a detailed plan to shift an Asiatic lion to Jaipur.

Officials informed that the Asiatic Lion will be taken on a breed loan from Machia Biological Park, Jodhpur for the next 3 months.

A team headed by senior veterinary officer Dr Arvind Mathur will soon leave for Jodhpur to shift the lion to Jaipur. The Asiatic lion



—REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

will be paired with lioness Tara. Conservator of Machia Biological Park, Sandeep Kumar Chhalani, informed that approval has been granted by the Central Zoo Authority and the lion from Jodhpur will be sent to Jaipur Naha-

rgarh Biological Park on a breed loan. "The process will be completed soon and the lion will be shifted. After the specified period is over, the lion will be brought back to Machia Biological Park," said Sandeep Kumar Chhalani.

MAGIC SHOW @ RAJ BHAVAN



Renowned magician Samrat Shankar met the Governor Kailraj Mishra at Raj Bhavan on Monday. The magician reportedly gave detailed information about his four-decade-long Jadu Kala-Yatra by showing various art related to his magic.

'Govt to bear expense of patients at pvt hosps during emergency'

Vikas Sharma

Jaipur: State Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena has said that the government will bear the expenses of the patients turning to private hospitals in emergency situations.

In view of the doctors & private hospital owners opposing the Right to Health Bill, the government has decided to create a separate fund for emergency treatment. Meena, how-



Health Min Parsadi Lal Meena

ever, did not mention the amount that the separate fund would have. The Health Minister said that if a patient comes in an emergency situation, the government will bear

the expenses. "We will create a separate fund as more than 50% of patients go to private hospitals for treatment. The private hospital owners were protesting as to who would bear the cost of the treatment," he said.

The Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly will hold a meeting to hear the suggestions of the doctors protesting against this bill. The committee is likely to present its report on February 13.

5 DIE, 3 INJURED IN 2 SEPARATE ACCIDENTS

First India Bureau

Churu: Three people were killed and 3 were injured in Churu on Monday after an auto-rickshaw collided with a tractor. Police informed the deceased has been identified as Mehru Nisha (40), a resident of Churu, Sanjay (30), a resident of Bisau and Mohammad Kaif (22). "The victims were returning in an auto from Tai village after taking part in a family program," police said.

2 DIE IN TRUCK-CAR COLLISION

Nagaur: Two people, were killed in Nagaur on Monday after their car was hit by a speeding truck. Police informed the deceased has been identified as Ankita Sharma (35) and Imran Khan (38), both residents of Jodhpur. "Ankita, who was a stage anchor, was heading to Bikaner to participate in an event when her fortuner car in hit by a speeding truck," police said.

Woman, child die after being shot during celebratory firing

Jaipur (PTI): A woman and a child were killed and two others sustained injuries after being shot during celebratory firing at a pre-wedding function in Alwar district, police said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday night in Khedli, SHO Mahaveer Prasad said. The incident occurred when a 'lagan' programme was going on at Samuchi village. 2 people were detained for questioning, he said.

Mines dept to set new record of revenue earning this year

Nirmal Tiwari

Jaipur: The mining department is creating new records in collecting revenue this year. As per the official estimate, the department earned a revenue of Rs. 5572.96 crores till January 31, which was Rs. 836 crores more as compared to the same period of the previous financial year.

ACS (Mines) Dr Subodh Agarwal informed that the mining department earned a revenue of Rs 6395.75 crores in



The officials reviewing the revenue collection & other important activities of the Mines Department in the Secretariat on Monday.

the last financial year, whereas this year the department earned a revenue of more than seven thousand crores rupees. "Coordinated efforts are being made by the department to

increase revenue. There has been a remarkable success in increasing the revenue by regular monitoring and review of departmental working," said Dr Subodh Agarwal.

Sarpanch initiates 'Garbage Free Marriage Functions' Campaign

Jaipur (ANI): Known as Hockey Wali Sarpanch, Neeru Yadav the Sarpanch of Lambi Ahir, Tehsil Buhana, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan; has initiated a positive change towards reducing the food waste in the marriages.

In her recent initiative, she has started a unique campaign in her village called 'Garbage Free Marriage Functions'. She provides free steel utensils for cooking and serving for any marriage functions in her village for marriage and other social functions.

In addition, she has also created a team that collects food waste and converts it into manure for selling on piecemeal rates to



Neeru Yadav with her volunteer women team.

farmers. The purpose is to reduce the garbage of disposables, plastics, bottles for keeping the village clean and utilizing the natural resources at its best and recycling the food waste.

Neeru Yadav, Sarpanch of Lambi Ahir, Tehsil Buhana, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, said "Food Waste is the big-

gest trouble in our country. It badly affects the environment, social living and the economy. The gap between the food produced and consumed is due to food waste and poor management. I noticed this in our village, especially during marriage functions and other social gatherings. Our volunteer

women team came up with a solution of providing free steel utensils for cooking and serving in marriages and other social functions in free to use and store them in a central place of the village so anyone can book them for re-use."

UNEP's (United Nations Environment Programme) Food Waste Index Report 2021 reports food waste of 1 billion tonnes globally every year. As per this report, India ranks 2nd in the world with food waste of 50 kilos per person per year after China. If we consider overall garbage including food waste, the country is facing a massive waste management challenge.

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CHINESE SPY BALLOON OVER THE US...

AN AEROSPACE EXPERT EXPLAINS, HOW THE BALLOONS WORK AND WHAT THEY CAN SEE



The US military shot down what US officials called a Chinese surveillance balloon off the coast of South Carolina on February 4, 2023. Officials said that the US Navy planned to recover the debris, which is in shallow water.

The US and Canada tracked the balloon as it crossed the Aleutian Islands, passed over Western Canada and entered U.S. airspace over Idaho. Officials of the U.S. Department of Defense confirmed on February 2, 2023, that the military was tracking the balloon as it flew over the continental US at an altitude of about 60,000 feet, including over Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. The base houses the 341st Missile Wing, which operates nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The next day, Chinese officials acknowledged that the balloon was theirs but denied it was intended for spying or meant to enter US airspace. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the balloon's incursion led him to cancel his trip to Beijing. He had been scheduled to meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang on February 5 and 6.

The Pentagon has reported that a second suspected Chinese balloon was seen over Latin America. On February 4, officials told reporters that a third Chinese surveillance balloon was operating somewhere else in the world, and that the balloons are part of a Chinese military surveillance program.

Monitoring an adversary from a balloon dates back to 1794, when the French used a hot air balloon to track Austrian and Dutch troops in the Battle of Fleurus. We asked aerospace engineer Iain

Boyd of the University of Colorado Boulder to explain how spy balloons work and why anyone would use one in the 21st century.

WHAT'S SPY BALLOON?

A spy balloon is literally a gas-filled balloon that is flying quite high in the sky, more or less where we fly commercial airplanes. It has some sophisticated cameras and imaging technology on it, and it's pointing all of those instruments down at the ground. It's collecting information through photography and other imaging of whatever is going on down on the ground below it.

WHY SPY BALLOONS?

Satellites are the preferred method of spying from overhead. Spy satellites are above us today, typically at one of two different types of orbit.

The first is called low Earth orbit, and, as the name suggests, those satellites are relatively close to the ground. But they're still several hundred miles above us. For imaging and taking photographs, the closer you are to something, the more clearly you can see it, and this applies to spying as well. The satellites that are in low Earth orbit have the advantage that they're closer to the Earth so they're able to see things more clearly than satellites that are farther away.

A balloon in some ways gets the best of those. These balloons are much, much closer to the ground than any of the satellites, so they can see even more clearly. And then, of course, balloons are moving, but they're moving relatively slowly, so they also have a degree of persistence.

The US military shot down what US officials called a **Chinese surveillance balloon off the coast of South Carolina on February 4, 2023**. Officials said that the US Navy planned to recover the debris, which is in shallow water

However, spying is not usually done these days with balloons because they are a relatively easy target and are not completely controllable.

THEIR CAPABILITY

I don't know what's on this particular spy balloon, but it's likely to be different kinds of cameras collecting different types of information.

These days, imaging is conducted across different regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. Humans see in a certain range of this spectrum, the visible spectrum. And so if you have a camera and you take a photograph of your dog, that's a visible photograph. That's one of the things spy aircraft do. They take regular photographs, although they have very good zoom capabilities to be able to magnify what they're seeing quite a lot.

But you can also gather different kinds of information in other parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. Another fairly well-known one is infrared. If it's nighttime, a camera operating in the visible part of the spectrum is not going to show you anything. It's all going to be dark. But an infrared camera can pick up things from heat in the dark.

HOW IT NAVIGATES?

Most of these balloons literally go where the wind blows. There can be a little bit of navigation, but there are certainly not people aboard them. They are at the mercy of whatever the weather is. They sometimes have guiding apparatus on them that change a balloon's altitude to catch winds going in particular directions. According to reports, U.S. officials said the Chinese surveillance balloon had propellers to help steer it. If this is confirmed, it means that its operator would have much more control over the path of the balloon.

THEIR LIMITS

There is an internationally accepted boundary called the Kármán Line at 62 miles (100 kilometers) altitude. This balloon is well below that, so it is absolutely, definitely in U.S. airspace.

COUNTRIES USING IT

The Pentagon has had programs over the last few decades studying what can be done with balloons that couldn't be done in the past. Maybe they're bigger, maybe they can go higher in the atmosphere so they're more difficult to shoot down or disable. Maybe they could be more persistent.

The broad interest in this incident illustrates its unusual nature. Few people would expect any country to be actively using spy balloons these days.

The US flew many balloons over the Soviet Union in the 1940s and 1950s, and those were eventually replaced by the high-altitude spy airplanes, the U-2s, and they were subsequently replaced by satellites.

SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION

WHAT DOES BALLOON, WHICH CHINA HAD CONFIRMED MEAN?



China has complained for many years about the US spying on China through satellites, through ships. And China is also well known for engaging in somewhat provocative behavior, like in the South China Sea, sailing close to other nations' boundaries and saber-rattling. I think it falls into that category. The balloon doesn't pose any real threat to the US. I think sometimes China is just experimenting to see how far they can push things. This isn't really very advanced technology. It's not serving any real military purpose. I think it's much more likely some kind of political message.

IN-DEPTH

MAKING UKRAINIAN VICTORY POSSIBLE



Almost one year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the war is entering a new phase. Following the failed attack on Kyiv last spring and the Ukrainians' stunning counteroffensive that liberated Kharkiv in the north and Kerson in the south, Russian President Vladimir Putin has embarked on a punitive campaign targeting civilians and energy infrastructure with drones and missiles. Stymied on the battlefield, Putin is seeking to maximize the number of Ukrainians forced to spend the winter in the cold and the dark. The front line has not moved much in recent months. But the fighting remains fierce (with many casualties), and Russia seems to be preparing for a major spring offensive. The Russian economy is on a war footing, and the Kremlin propaganda machine has gone into overdrive, peddling a mix of apocalyptic threats and imperial delusions. Russia's last independent news outlet, Meduza, and its last human-rights organization, the Sakharov Center, are being forced to close.

SOURCE: PROJECT SYNDICATE

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.
—Buddha

TOP TWEETS

Dharmendra Pradhan
@dpradhanbjp



Balancing economic development & climate goals and striking a fine balance between affordability & accessibility, PM @narendramodi has made India's energy transition a people-driven agenda. Today, our green energy pathways and reforms have emerged as a global model.

Bhupender Yadav
@byadavbjp



Delighted to hear that Shri @rickykej has won his 3rd Grammy. Congratulations on your hat-trick! The way you have used music to spread the message of living in harmony with nature makes you a true ambassador of India. May you continue to rise and shine!

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BUSINESS?



THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, ECONOMIST AND FINANCIAL TIMES ALL NOW HAVE FEMALE EDITORS...

February 1 was a date to celebrate for women in business everywhere. It happened to be the day that water group Severn Trent became the first large UK quoted company to be led by an all-female team by appointing Helen Miles as chief financial officer. That's certainly worthy of celebration – but not what I had in mind.

Instead, I was thinking of Emma Tucker starting work as editor of the Wall Street Journal. It means that for the first time ever, women are in charge of what I believe to be the three most influential organs of financial commentary: the Economist, Financial Times (FT) and the Wall Street Journal (WSJ).

It (February 1) happened to be the day that water group Severn Trent became the **first large UK quoted company** to be led by an all-female team by appointing Helen Miles as chief financial officer. That's certainly worthy of celebration – but not what I had in mind. Instead, I was thinking of **Emma Tucker starting work as editor of the Wall Street Journal**

When I commented on this on Twitter, it was the first time that one of my posts has gone viral. People pointed out many more women in positions of editorial command – Alessandra Galloni is editor in chief of Reuters, Sally Buzbee is executive editor of the Washington Post, Deborah Turness is CEO of BBC News and Current Affairs, Julie Pace is executive editor

of Associated Press. I could carry on – Victoria Newton edits the Sun, Alison Phillips edits the Daily Mirror, and indeed Jo Adetunji edits The Conversation UK. Tucker herself arrives at the WSJ after being in charge of the UK's Sunday Times. Perhaps we should speak about female dominance rather than representation.

SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION



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National Green Hydrogen Mission to give new direction to India: PM

Says "We're working to increase our Energy Mix Natural Gas Consumption by 2030"

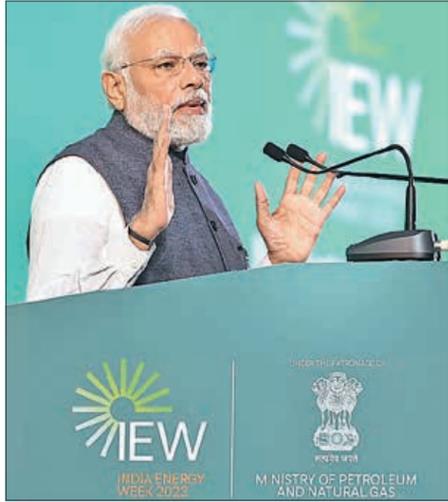
Bengaluru (ANI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that the National Green Hydrogen Mission would give a new direction to India in the 21st century.

While addressing people at the India Energy Week 2023 event, in Bengaluru, Karnataka, PM Narendra Modi said, "We are working on mission mode to increase our Energy Mix Natural Gas Consumption by the year 2030." He added, "Apart from this, another sector in which India is taking the lead in the world is that of green hydrogen."

"The National Green Hydrogen Mission will give a new direction to India in the 21st century," he stated.

He lauded Bangalore for "brimming" with the energy of technology, talent and innovation.

"Like me, you too must be feeling the youthful energy here," he stated while adding that this is the first sig-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the India Energy Week 2023, in Bengaluru on Monday. —PHOTO BY ANI

nificant energy event of India's G-20 Presidency calendar.

India has unparalleled opportunities in the field of energy sector development. India stands tall as regards the processes of development of energy resources and energy transition; this will truly build a great fu-

ture for the nation in the 21st century, he further stated.

He praised the country for thriving during the pandemic due to COVID-19 and said that whatever had been the 'external circumstances', the 'internal resilience' of India kept her standing firm even during the storms.

PRIME MINISTER FLAGS OFF GREEN MOBILITY RALLY IN BENGALURU

Bengaluru: PM Narendra Modi on Monday flagged off Green Mobility Rally, in Bengaluru. He inaugurated the India Energy Week 2023 here and addressed the people.

PM Modi said, "We are working on mission mode to increase our Energy Mix Natural Gas Consumption by the year 2030." He added, "Apart from this, another sector in which India is taking the lead in the world is that of green hydrogen." "The National Green Hydrogen Mission will give a new direction to India in the 21st century," he stated. He lauded Bengaluru for "brimming" with the energy of technology, talent and innovation. "Like me, you too must be feeling the youthful energy here," he stated.



PM INAUGURATING WORKS DONE BY CONG GOVT IN K'TAKA: SIDDARAMAIAH

Kalaburagi: Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah on Monday claimed that PM Narendra Modi is inaugurating works done during Congress' ten-

ure in the state. "HAL Helicopter Manufacturing Unit in Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district was proposed during the tenure of the UPA govt. Now, PM Modi is inaugurating it," Siddaramaiah said. "PM Modi distributed property documents to the Lambani community. The necessary law in that regard was framed by our government," he claimed. "During my tenure as Chief Minister, I formed a committee and brought in amendments to the Land Reforms Act. We have cooked and Prime Minister Modi is serving it to people," Siddaramaiah said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Tripura CM Manik Saha being garlanded during a public rally for upcoming State polls, at Santirbazar, in Agartala on Monday. —PHOTO BY ANI

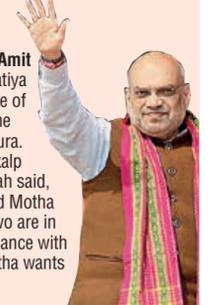
Left & Cong both discarded interests of people: Shah

Khowai (ANI): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday came down heavily on the CPI (Marxist) and Congress in poll-bound Tripura and said that both have discarded interests of the people and the state.

Shah said that both parties indulged in scams while any allegation of corruption cannot be levelled against the BJP-led government in Tripura. "Communists are criminals, and Congress is corrupt, both have played with the people, the State. Analyze the impacts of around 30 years of the rule of Communists, around 15 years of the rule of Congress and just 5 years of the rule

BJP ENDED CADRE RULE IN TRIPURA: HM

Agartala: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ended the rule of 'cadre' and brought the rule of the 'Constitution' in the state of Tripura. While addressing the 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra', here in Agartala, Amit Shah said, "The Congress, Communists and Motha are all together. While the first two are in coalition publicly, Motha is in alliance with them 'under the table'. Tipra Motha wants to bring back Communist rule."



of the BJP, and you will get all the answers," Shah said while addressing a public meeting here. He noted that the BJP has run a transparent govt in the state for welfare of the poor.

"Leftists used to do scams and Congress used to do scams, today

both have come together. At the same time, no one can level a single allegation of scam on the BJP. BJP has run a transparent government under the leadership of Modi ji, a government which has run the welfare of the poor," the Union Minister said.

Preneet Kaur slams Cong for show-cause notice to her



New Delhi (ANI): Lok Sabha MP from Patiala, Preneet Kaur, on Monday hit back at the Congress for the show-cause notice to her over alleged 'anti-party activities.' In her letter addressed to Congress Disciplinary Action Committee Member Secretary Tariq Anwar, the Patiala MP said, "At the onset, I am surprised to see that a person who left the Congress party in 1999 on the issue of Mrs Gandhi being a foreign national, and stayed out for 20 years till 2019, and had to face disciplinary action himself, is now questioning me on a so-called disciplinary matter."

MCD Mayor's poll stalled again; AAP to approach SC

New Delhi (PTI): The Municipal Corporation of Delhi House failed to elect a mayor even in the third attempt following a ruckus on Monday after the presiding officer said that the aldermen nominated by LG will vote in the polls, prompting an agitated AAP to announce it will move the Supreme Court.

Both the BJP and

The Aam Aadmi Party has alleged that the BJP was trying to steal its mandate

AAP have accused each other of preventing the mayoral polls, with the

bone of contention being the appointment of aldermen and their voting right. AAP, which has a majority with 134 out of 250 elected members, has alleged that the BJP was trying to steal its mandate by giving voting rights to the nominated members. The AAP said it wants mayoral polls to be "Supreme Court-monitored".



Ruckus erupts at the Civic Centre on the day of the MCD Mayor Elections, in New Delhi on Monday. —PHOTO BY ANI

IN THE COURTYARD

RELIEF FOR RAWAL IN ANTI-BENGLALI REMARK CASE

Kolkata: Bollywood actor Paresh Rawal heaved a sigh of relief on Monday after the Calcutta High Court dismissed the FIR filed against him for his anti-Bengali comments. With the FIR being dismissed, the city police will not be able to carry out any further investigation against him in the matter.

SC TO HEAR PLEA ON APPOINTMENT OF MADRAS HC JUDGE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on February 10, a plea against the appointment of Advocate Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri as an additional judge of the Madras High Court. Senior Advocate Raju Ramachandran mentioned the matter for urgent listing before the bench headed by the CJ.

SAME-SEX COUPLE MOVES SC AGAINST KERALA HC ORDER ON COUNSELLING

New Delhi: A same-sex couple has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Kerala High Court order directing one of them to attend counselling sessions with a psychiatrist. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the plea on Monday. A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud asked the petitioner's lawyer to keep the brief ready and said it will hear the matter at the end of the board.

CONVERSIONS: SC TO HEAR ALL PLEAS ON MAR 17

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said that it will hear on March 17 pleas dealing with two separate issues of alleged "fraudulent conversions" and challenge to various state laws on religious conversions due to inter-faith marriages respectively. The court was urged by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, who has filed a PIL.

COURT SENTENCES TRANSGENDER FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

Thiruvananthapuram: In a first of its kind in Kerala, a fast-track court in the state capital city on Monday sentenced a transgender for sexual assault on a 16-year-old boy. The court sentenced the transgender to six years imprisonment, besides imposing a fine of Rs 25,000. The police said the incident occurred in 2016.

Bengal session from Wednesday, budget to be tabled on February 15

Kolkata (PTI): The next session of the West Bengal Assembly will begin on Wednesday, and the budget is likely to be placed on February 15.

The ruling Trinamool Congress is planning to bring in a motion against the Centre for allegedly not releasing its dues for various projects of the state.

"The budget session will begin with Governor's address on February 8 and it is likely to continue for two weeks. The budget is likely to be placed on February 15," TMC chief whip



Nirmal Ghosh said.

Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya will place the budget on February 15 This will be CV Ananda Bose's first address to the state assembly after he took over as the state's governor.

The TMC, which has been up in arms against the Centre over allegations of not releasing funds to the state, is planning to bring in a motion during the budget session accusing the Centre of depriving it and pursuing a political vendetta.

"However, nothing has been decided on this. It will be discussed in the all-party meeting scheduled to be held on February 7. The business of the house will also be discussed at the Business Advisory committee meeting," sources said.

Nagaland: CM Neiphiu Rio files nomination

Kohima (ANI): Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio on Monday filed his nomination from the '11 Northern Angami-II' constituency for upcoming Assembly polls.

"Filed my nomination papers as a candidate for the 11 Northern Angami-II A/C for the upcoming Nagaland Assembly Elections 2023. I thank the people of my constituency for putting their trust in me thus far, and I humbly seek their blessings and support again," Rio tweeted. On January 26, Neiphiu Rio said that



Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio files his nomination papers.

the seat-sharing formula has already been worked out. His statement came amid BJP protests over seat-sharing arrangements with the NDPP and ticket issues in the state.

'PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA' EXPENDITURE

Over ₹28 crore spent on 5 editions: Govt

New Delhi (PTI): More than Rs 28 crore has been spent on the first five editions of PM Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' with students, parents and teachers, as per the Ministry of Education.

The sixth edition of the annual interaction was held on January 27 at Delhi's Talkatora Stadium. The numbers have been shared by the Union Minister of State for Education, Annapurna Devi, in her



PM Narendra Modi interacting with students during 6th edition of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2023', in New Delhi. —FILE PHOTO

written response to a question in Lok Sabha.

The amount spent on the first edition of PPC in 2018 was Rs 3.67

crore, followed by Rs 4.93 crore in 2019, Rs 5.69 crore in 2020, Rs 6 crore in 2021 and Rs 8.61 crore in 2022.

The numbers were shared by Union MoS Annapurna Devi in a written reply to a query in Lok Sabha

The details of expenditure on the event this year was not mentioned in the response. 'Pariksha Pe Char-

cha' is an annual event where Modi interacts with students appearing in board examinations.

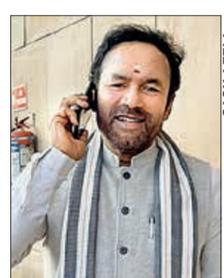
The first edition of the PM's interactive programme with school and college students was held at the stadium on February 16, 2018.

A record 38 lakh students had registered this year for participating in the event. The number of registrations was at least more than 15 lakh last year.

Union Minister Reddy hits back as T'gana CM attacks 'Make In India'

New Delhi (ANI): Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday hit back and accused Telangana Chief Minister (CM) K Chandrashekar Rao of consistently lying through his teeth, and drew an analogy of CM with that of a "habitual liar".

Speaking to the reporters outside the Parliament, Reddy said "Whether it is the family of KCR or himself, everyone is lying to the people of the state. He is running the BRS party



Union Minister G Kishan Reddy.

through a web of lies". The attack comes a day after the Telangana Chief Minister and the Bharat

Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrashekar Rao, who is keen on expanding the party's pan-India footprint attacked the BJP-led Centre, and said the Modi government's flagship project 'Make in India' has turned out to be 'Joke in India'.

"People in the state are not going to tolerate KCR anymore. That is why he is meeting national leaders of different states to project himself as a national leader," Reddy added.

ADANI-HINDENBURG ROW

CONG HOLDS NATIONWIDE PROTEST

Party is demanding a Joint Parliament Committee probe in the row; other Oppn parties join Congress

Telangana (ANI): The Congress on Monday launched a country-wide campaign over the Hindenburg-Adani row by staging protests across the country.

Members of Congress in Telangana staged a protest outside the State Bank of India office in Hyderabad over the Adani issue. The Congress also held a protest in Jammu over the Adani issue.

A protest was also held by NSUI (National Students Union of India), student wing of Congress in Delhi who were demanding a Joint Parliament Committee probe over the row.

Opposition is alleging that the investment of Adani group in public sector banks such as the SBI and LIC has had a big impact on the savings of the middle class.

Opposition parties are demanding a Joint Parliament Committee investigation or Supreme Court-monitored probe into the Adani-Hindenburg row.

Opposition parties met in Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's Chamber in Parliament to chalk out a strategy on the Adani row and other issues.

Congress' Jairam Ramesh also came down heavily on the Centre in the ongoing row, saying that the Central govt is running away from answering over the Adani issue.



Congress leaders and supporters stage a protest against the Central government over the Adani issue, in Bengaluru on Monday.

"READY TO SPEAK ON PREZ'S ADDRESS BUT FIRST..." KHARGE ON ADANI ISSUE



New Delhi: Congress chief and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday said the Opposition is ready to speak on President's address but the "first priority" is that Prime Minister Narendra Modi give a reply on the ongoing Hindenburg-Adani row. "We are ready to speak on President's address and we give it its due importance. But first priority is that PM Modi give a reply on the Adani issue," Kharge told ANI after Opposition parties staged a protest near the Gandhi statue.

OPPOSITION PROTESTS OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT, DEMANDS JPC PROBE

New Delhi: Opposition parties on Monday protested near Gandhi statue outside Parliament and demanded a Joint Parliament Committee investigation or Supreme Court-monitored probe into the Hindenburg-Adani row. Opposition parties have decided that they will ask for an adjournment motion in both houses to discuss the issue. "Opposition parties have decided to discuss no business other than the Adani issue in the parliament," sources said. Opposition parties met in Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's Chamber in Parliament to chalk out a strategy on Adani-Hindenburg row and other issues. Those who participated in the meeting were Congress, DMK, NCP, BRS, JD(U), SP, CPM, CPI, Kerala Cong (Jose Mani), JMM, RLD, RSP, AAP, IUML, RJD and Shiv Sena.



Opposition members protest near Gandhi statue in Parliament.

"WHEN DID ADANI BECOME A NATIONAL PERSON...?" MANOJ JHA DEMANDS JPC



New Delhi: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Manoj Jha on Monday attacked the Centre for "covering up" the Adani-Hindenburg issue and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe in the matter. Talking to ANI, Manoj Jha said, "People are worried but the government is trying to cover up the Adani issue. Gautam Adani is claiming that this is an attack on the nation, but when did he become a national person?" "We want a JPC probe into the matter as soon as possible," he said.

PLEA IN SC SEEKS PANEL TO PROBE INTO HINDENBURG REPORT

New Delhi (ANI): Another plea has been moved in apex court seeking to constitute a Committee under the monitoring of a retired SC judge to investigate the Hindenburg Research report. The petitioner said that he wants to depict the drastic condition and fate of people when there arises situations of share fall in the securities market due to various reasons at hand. Hence he sought to issue directions to the Centre to constitute a Committee under the monitoring of the retired SC judge in the interest of "Nation's dignity and prosperity" to enquire and investigate on the Hindenburg report published on January 24. Issue writ of mandamus/directions to the setup of a special committee for oversee of sanction policy for loans of more than Rs 500 crores which are given to Big Corporate, petitioner urged. "In the aftermath of an unprecedented attack on billionaire Gautam Adani's vast empire by Hindenburg, the market value of all 10 Adani stocks have halved with investors sitting with a colossal loss of Rs 10 lakh crore.



APEX COURT GETS 5 NEW JUDGES

CJI administers oath of office to new SC judges



A combination of pictures shows Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice DY Chandrachud administering the oath of office to Rajasthan High Court (HC) Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Patna HC Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur HC Chief Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Patna HC judge, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Allahabad HC judge, Justice Manoj Misra as the Supreme Court judge during the swearing-in ceremony, in New Delhi on Monday. —PHOTO BY ANI

New Delhi: The five judges appointed to the Supreme Court over the weekend, taking the number of judges to 32, took oath on Monday. Chief Justice DY Chandrachud administered the oath of office to the five judges.

New judges are Justices Pankaj Mithal, Sanjay Karol, PV Sanjay Kumar, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Manoj Misra. All the five names for the judgeship in the top court were recommended by the six-member Supreme Court Collegium on December 13 last year. The Law Minister cleared appointments on February 4.

The judges took oath in the backdrop of the collegium system becoming a major flash-

RIJJU HAD TERMED THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AS 'ALIEN'

New Delhi: Law Minister Kiren Rijju had recently described the Collegium system as being "alien" to the Indian Constitution, while Vice Prez & RS chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar questioned the Supreme Court striking down the NJAC Act and a related constitution amendment Act in 2015. Through the NJAC law, govt sought to replace Collegium system of appointing Supreme Court and High Court judges with a new method.

point between the Supreme Court and the centre, with the mechanism of judges appointing judges sparking an intense debate.

CRUCIAL READ

HOSPITAL STAFFER HELD FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING PATIENT



Thrissur: An electrician of a hospital has been arrested here for allegedly sexually abusing a woman, who was admitted to Thrissur Govt Medical College Hospital following a failed suicide bid, police said on Monday. Dayalal, an electrician employed at Kodungallur Taluk hospital, was arrested after the woman's complaint.

CONG MLA APPEARS BEFORE ED IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE



Ranchi: The ED started interrogating Congress MLA Irfan Ansari in MLA money laundering case on Monday. Congress MLAs Rajesh Kachchap and Naman Bixal Kongari have also been asked to appear at the ED's zonal office in Ranchi this week. The three MLAs were arrested by the West Bengal police on July 30, 2022 in Howrah and Rs 48 lakh cash was recovered from them.

TRAIN PASSENGERS CAN SOON ORDER FOOD THROUGH WHATSAPP



New Delhi: Train passengers would soon be able to order food through a WhatsApp number, with an interactive Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot handling their queries on e-catering and booking meals. The IRCTC is already delivering meals on certain routes through WhatsApp.

AI-powered robots save lives on beaches in Goa



Panaji (ANI): In a first-of-its-kind innovation, Drishti Marine, Goa's state-appointed life-guard organisation, has introduced artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of Aurus, a self-driving robot and Triton, an AI-powered monitoring system, to augment its life-saving capabilities along Goa's popular beaches and water bodies. The incorporation of AI-based support follows an increase in beach-related incidents due to the rising numbers of domestic and foreign tourists flocking to the coastline. The past two years have witnessed over 1,000 rescue incidents along the coastal belt, which have required assistance from Drishti Marine's lifesavers, as per an official statement.

Parl to consider amendments to RPI Act, Constitution, for simultaneous polls: ECI

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Monday submitted that it is for the Parliament to consider amendments to the Constitution and Representation of the People Act (RPI) for simultaneous elections to be conducted in the country.



The submissions came during the hearing of a PIL in the Delhi High Court seeking direction to ECI to ascertain the feasibility of conducting elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies simultaneously in order to save money and manpower.

Advocate Sidhant Kumar counsel for the ECI submitted that it is for the Parliament to look

into the matter and submitted that it is for the Parliament to consider amendments to the Constitution and the RPI for simultaneous elections to be conducted in the country. Advocate Kumar also objected to the petitioner's prayer seeking direc-

tion to ECI to ascertain the feasibility of conducting elections on Saturday, Sunday and holidays and said, a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has already held that the schedule of elections is the sole discretion of the ECI.

After taking note of the submissions, the Delhi High Court asked the EC to look into the representation made by a petitioner. The bench of Justice Satish Chander Sharma and Justice Subramoniam Prasad today said, "We know our limitation, the prayer sought in the petition completely falls under the Election Commission domain. We are not lawmakers." The petitioner Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader stated before the court that there are many advantages to holding the Lok Sabha, Assembly, Panchayat and Municipal elections together.

TWO HELD WITH 285 KG OF MARIJUANA IN GURUGRAM



Gurugram: Gurugram Police has arrested two drug peddlers and seized 285 kilograms of cannabis from them valued at more than Rs 40 lakh in the market. The police have also seized a truck which the accused used for the transportation of the contraband from Vishakapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). The arrested culprits were booked under the NDPS Act.

GURUGRAM COPS NAB 207 CRIMINALS IN SPECIAL DRIVE



Gurugram: The Haryana govt has launched a special campaign 'Aakraman-4', police said. As part of this campaign launched on Sunday, 207 special teams, including 828 Gurugram police personnel, under the campaign nabbed 207 criminals along with a criminal carrying a reward of Rs 15,000 and 15 wanted criminals during the 24-hour operation after raiding several places in the city.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Hillary vows \$50mn Global Climate Resilience Fund

Kuda (PTI): Hillary Clinton on Monday announced a Global Climate Resilience Fund of 50 million dollars for women to fight climate change in association with the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) founded by late activist Ela Bhatt. The fund will empower women and communities to fight climate change and help provide new livelihood resources and education, she said. She visited salt pan



Former United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton pays tribute to Self-Empowered Women's Association (SEWA) founder Ela Bhatt, in Ahmedabad on Sunday. —PHOTO BY ANI

workers in the Rann of Kutch near Kuda village in Gujarat and learnt the process of salt production and hardships faced by them. "Today, Clinton Global Initiative with American Indian foundation, SEWA and other organisations, I announce 50 million dollar Global Climate Resilience Fund for women," she said. "I have had the privilege of working with Ela-ben (Bhatt) and SEWA for nearly 30 years. But

to make an income working through heat will be the next big problem," said Clinton, who is on a two-day visit to Gujarat from Sunday. She had attended a programme in Ahmedabad on Sunday to mark 50 years of SEWA as a trade union and paid homage to its founder and renowned social activist Ela Bhatt, who passed away in November last year. During the event, she had said heat caused by

climate change poses an additional challenge to women workers in informal sectors and the Global Climate Resilience Fund will help tackle this challenge. On Monday, Clinton said she started talking to Reemaben Nanavati, SEWA's director, regarding the new struggle that heat is presenting, because every job that members of the women's trade union represent "will be affected by heat."

Commodity	Price	Change	% Chg
GOLD	57,155.00	574.00	1.00 (Per 10g)
SILVER	68,133.00	2113.00	3.10 (Per 1kg)

Currency	Price	Change	% Chg
USDINR	82.73	0.65	0.78
GBPINR	99.57	0.67	0.67

* Rates till the edition went to print.

business BRIEFS

DELL TO SLASH ABOUT 6,650 JOBS AS PC SALES DROP



New Delhi: Dell Technologies announced that it will let go of 6,650 employees, about 5% of its global workforce, becoming the latest major tech firm to serve mass layoffs. The company arrived at this decision due to a drop in demand for its personal computers (PCs). The company is experiencing market conditions that "continue to erode with an uncertain future," co-chief operating officer Jeff Clarke wrote in a memo to employees, as per a Bloomberg report. —FIB

GOLD PLUNGES ₹574, WHILE SILVER RATES PLUMMET BY ₹2,113



New Delhi: Gold prices plunged by ₹574 to ₹57,155 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak global trends, according to a statement by HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹57,729 per 10 grams. Silver plummeted by ₹2,113 to ₹68,133 per kg. In the overseas market, both gold and silver were trading lower at US Dollars 1,875 per ounce and US Dollars 22.48 per ounce, respectively. —PTI

'VI-MOTOROLA TIE-UP TO ENSURE SMOOTH 5G CONNECTIVITY'



New Delhi: Vodafone Idea has partnered with Motorola to ensure seamless 5G connectivity across its fifth-generation smartphone portfolio. The announcement comes within days of Vodafone Idea getting a shot in the arm, with Centre on Friday clearing conversion of the troubled telco's accumulated interest dues worth ₹16,000 crore into equity. "To further accelerate the development of the 5G ecosystem in the nation, Vi has partnered with Motorola to ensure seamless 5G connectivity across its extensive 5G smartphone portfolio," the two companies said. —PTI

IOC TO RECYCLE 100 MILLION PET BOTTLES ANNUALLY



Bengaluru: In a push to decarbonise the economy, IOC will recycle 100 million discarded mineral water, cold drink and other PET bottles annually to make eco-friendly uniforms for staff that man its petrol pumps and LPG distributor agencies. The firm also rolled out indoor cooking stoves that can be run on both solar power and auxiliary energy sources to offer households a cheaper and environment-friendly cooking solution. —PTI

PLI scheme created 3 lakh jobs: NITI CEO

New Delhi (PTI): India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, has attracted investment worth over ₹45,000 crore and has also created three lakh jobs, NITI Aayog CEO Parameswaran Iyer said.

The government has rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about ₹2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, pharma, textiles, food products, high efficiency solar PV modules, advanced chemistry cell and speciality steel.

"The PLI programme has already started showing results. About ₹800 crore have already been paid by way of incentives.

"We are expecting (incentives) to go close to ₹3,000 crore to ₹4,000 crore before March," Iyer said.

The scheme aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results.

"The scheme is working. Already about ₹45,000 crore-plus investment has come in, three lakh jobs have been created and pro-



MAJOR TALKING POINTS

- India's PLI scheme, which aims to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, has attracted investment worth over ₹45,000 crore and has also created three lakh jobs

- The government has rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about ₹2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors

- The scheme aims to make domestic mfg globally competitive and create global champions in manufacturing, and it is yielding solid results

duction worth ₹2 lakh crore is already there," he added.

The scheme offers a cash incentive for three to five years on the incremental sale of goods manufactured in India over determined base-year sales. Additionally, the identified beneficiaries are required to commit to a certain minimum investment in India.

Replying to a question on the Centre's National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) programme, he said asset monetisation plan is doing 'very well now' and it will be taken down to the states.

"All signals are that the asset monetisation programme, which is actually bringing in private capital, is continuing and now it will be taken down to the states," Iyer said.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major winners.

Reserve Bank's MPC meet starts with hope of lower rate hike

Mumbai (PTI): RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das-headed Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) started its three-day meeting on Monday amid expectations of a smaller 25 basis points rate increase or a pause on the rate hiking spree that started in May last year.

The decision will be announced by the Governor on Wednesday.

With retail inflation showing signs of moderation and remaining below the Reserve Bank of India's 6% upper tolerance level, and projected slowdown in GDP growth in the next fiscal starting April, experts are of the opinion that the central bank may only opt for a 25 basis points hike in the key interest rate.

Another opinion is that

HIGHER EXPECTATIONS

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the RBI may press the pause button on rate hike on Wednesday itself.

"We expect the RBI to pause in February policy," State Bank of India's Economic Research Department said in a report titled 'Prelude to MPC Meeting on Feb 6-8, 2023'.



Now, get 80-20 petrol-ethanol blend of fuel



Bengaluru (PTI): Petrol doped with 20% ethanol was rolled out on Monday at select petrol pumps in 11 states and union territories as part of a programme to increase use of biofuels to cut emissions as well as dependence on foreign exchange-draining imports.

At present, 10% ethanol is blended in petrol (10% ethanol, 90% petrol) and the government is looking to double this quantity by 2025. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the higher 20% ethanol blended petrol two months ahead of the planned rollout in April, at the India Energy Week (IEW) 2023 here.

"We have increased ethanol blending in petrol from 1.5% (in 2014) to 10% and are now progressing towards 20% blending," Modi said.

In the first phase, 15 cities will be covered and in the next two years it will be expanded throughout the country.

India saved as much as ₹53,894 crore in forex outgo from 10% blending besides benefiting the farmers.

Sensex falls 335 pts; Nifty below 17,800

Mumbai (PTI): Benchmark Sensex dropped 334 points on Monday due to intense selling pressure in metal and power stocks as FII outflows dampened investor sentiment.

Besides, a sharp decline in the rupee against the US dollar also put pressure on domestic equities, traders said. After losing nearly 500 points, the 30-share BSE index recovered some lost



ground to settle at 334.98 points or 0.55% lower at 60,506.90.

The broader NSE Nifty

dipped 89.45 points or 0.50% to end at 17,764.60 as 34 of its stocks dropped. Tata Steel was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, falling 2.08%, followed by Kotak Bank, Infosys, ICICI Bank, M&M, Ultra Cement and Tata Motors.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, PowerGrid and ITC were among the major winners.

RUPEE FALLS 65 PAISE TO CLOSE AT 82.73 AGAINST US \$

Mumbai (PTI): The rupee fell by 65 paise to close at 82.73 (provisional) against the US currency on Monday, weighed down by gains in the greenback in the overseas markets and a muted trend in domestic equities. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.35 against the greenback, and fell to an intra-day low of 82.76. It finally settled at 82.73.

OTHER STORIES

INDIA'S UNWAVERING APPETITE FOR RUSSIAN CRUDE LIFTS JAN INFLOWS TO RECORD HIGH

Bengaluru: India's appetite for Russian crude oil in January rose to unseen levels, continuing to remain above traditional middle eastern suppliers for the fourth month in a row, as refiners rushed to snap up plentiful cargoes available at a discount to other grades. From a market share of less than 1% in India's import basket before the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's share of India's imports rose to 1.27 million barrels/day in Jan, taking a 28% share, according to Vortexa. —PTI



CAG AT SCO-SAI MEET

NEED FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATION TO DEAL WITH CYBERCRIME

Lucknow (PTI): Observing that cybercrime has become a major economic threat, CAG GC Murmu on Monday underlined the need for supreme auditing institutions (SAI) to forge cooperation to deal with this menace.

Cybersecurity threats often do not respect national boundaries, so international cooperation is vital to protecting against them, Murmu said.

"Governments must work together with SAIs to share information and best practices, and to coordinate efforts to combat cyber threats," he added.

High-level delegations from eight SCO member countries are participating in the three-day multi-lateral event that is deliberating on issues related to cyber security and artificial intelligence, and the role of auditors of the SCO nations.

India currently holds the



ACCORDING TO CAG GC MURMU

- Cybersecurity threats often do not respect national boundaries, so international cooperation is vital to protecting against them

- Governments must work together with SAIs to share information and best practices, and to coordinate efforts to combat cyber threats

SCO presidency, which annually rotates among member countries. India's 2023 theme is 'Towards a Secure SCO', where it will work with the delegation of federal auditors from these eight countries.

INDIA'S COAL PRODUCTION TARGET FIXED AT 1,017 MT

New Delhi (PTI): The country's coal production target has been fixed at 1,017 million tonnes (MT) for the next fiscal, Parliament was informed on Monday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, coal minister Pralhad Joshi said the steps were being taken by the Centre to augment the coal output in the country by engaging mine developers and operators.

"The target of all India coal production has been fixed at 1,017 MT for the financial year 2023-24," the minister said. State-owned CIL has identified 15 projects having a total project rated capacity of 168.58 million tonnes per year for implementation through MDO mode.

CROSS 18 LAKH UNIT MARK

Automobile retail sales up 14% in January

New Delhi (PTI): Automobile retail sales in India rose 14% in January, as compared to the same month last year, on the back of robust registrations across passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and tractors, dealers' body Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations said on Monday.

Total sales across categories last month rose to 18,26,669 units, as compared to 16,08,505 units in January 2022.

Passenger vehicle registrations rose to 3,40,220 units last month, an in-



crease of 22% as compared to 2,79,050 units in the year-ago period.

Similarly, two-wheeler

retails rose to 12,65,069 units last month, as against 11,49,351 units in January 2022, an increase of 10%.

DATA IN NUMBERS

- Total sales across categories last month rose to 18,26,669 units, as compared to 16,08,505 units in January 2022

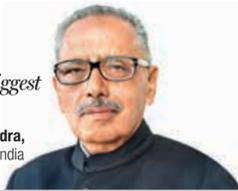
- Passenger vehicle registrations rose to 3,40,220 units last month, an increase of 22% as compared to 2,79,050 units in January 2023

Three-wheeler retail sales rose to 65,796 units, up 59% from 41,487 units in January last year.



The successful person understands that the biggest risk is not taking risks.

—Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, First India



CURBING CRIME IN RAJASTHAN

Adopt innovation to maintain law and order: CM Gehlot

Reduction in crimes will come through regular dialogue: MoS for Home RS Yadav

Naresh Sharma, Mukesh Sharma and Shivendra Parmar

Jaipur: CM Ashok Gehlot while addressing the meeting of IGs of Police & District SPs via VC at CMR said, "Special campaign against organised crimes should be continued aggressively in Raj. Strict action should be taken against those who follow and support gangsters and criminals on social media and provide shelter and financial assistance," Gehlot said and instructed to take special vigilance against active gangs operating through criminal elements in the jail.

"Strict action should also be implemented in case of laxity. Whereas, cops who excel in work, need to be rewarded," the CM said. "The role of District SPs is crucial in changing mass percep-



CM Ashok Gehlot chairs a review meeting of Inspectors General of Police & District Superintendents of Police via VC at CMR on Monday. Also seen here are RS Yadav, Usha Sharma, Anand Kumar, Umesh Mishra, RP Meharda, Ashok Rathore, S Sengathir & others.



Strict action should also be taken in case of laxity on the part of police officers. Awareness campaign should be conducted to change the societal mind-set, especially the youth, to make them police-friendly by making them fearless. Those cops who excel in work must be rewarded.

—Ashok Gehlot, CM

tion about the functioning of police. SP should discharge the role with

positivity in strengthening the law and order situation," he said.

Gehlot said that innovation should be adopted to maintain peace and law and order in the state and social media should also be used to stop the spread of misleading information. "The atmosphere of communalism, tension and violence has increased across the nation. So the future for the police will be more challenging. The person involved in such incidents may belong to any caste, strict action should be taken," he said, adding that SP should inspect police stations regularly.

DGP Umesh Mishra said, "People are getting justice via mandatory FIR initiative. Prompt action taken against paper leak mafia has also been appreciated by the public."

Dungarpur: Raje meets BJP office bearers, partymen

Puneet Chaturvedi

Sagwara (Dungarpur): Former CM & BJP's National Vice-President, Vasundhara Raje during the second day of her two-day tour to Dungarpur district on Monday, met BJP officials and workers of Dungarpur, Banswara & Pratapgarh districts of Sagwara assembly constituency to get the pulse of the political atmosphere in Wagad region. She held a meeting with masses along with BJP officials and workers at a farmhouse in Jogpur village. Many MLAs, former MLAs and contenders also met Raje.

Office bearers and workers while giving feedback of their respective constituencies & prospective candidates, also complained about BJP leaders. Some leaders expecting a ticket in upcoming assembly polls met Raje. Raje had a closed door meeting with workers & office bearers of various assemblies. Howev-



Vasundhara Raje with the workers & masses of Banswara, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh districts in Sagwara on Monday.

RAJE ENJOYS SCOOTY RIDE

Sagwara/Dungarpur: Former CM Vasundhara Raje took a ride of the scooty, which she had distributed under a scheme started during her regime. Arpita Patidar, Madhu Damami and Chanda Dodiya, the beneficiaries of the Scooty Distribution Scheme' in Chitri village of Dungarpur district, met Raje and thanked her for starting the scheme in Rajasthan with an aim to promote girl education. Arpita urged Raje to ride pillion on her Scooty, which she got under the scheme. Raje readily agreed to her request. After this, Raje left for Udaipur.



er, during her visit, no major office bearer of the organization of Dungarpur district was present. Ex- RS MP

Harshvardhan Singh was seen leading Raje. Ex- BJP Dist Prez Velji Patidar participated in political discussions.

PM BLESSES NEWLY-WEDS



PM Narendra Modi with the newly-wed couple Harish and Riddhi, the son & daughter-in-law of BJP National President, JP Nadda during their wedding reception at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Feb 5. Harish got married to Riddhi in Jaipur on January 25.

No one can stop the Gehlot govt from regaining power in Raj: Min Dhariwal

Bhanwar S Charan

Kota: Amid political activities gaining momentum in State ahead of assembly polls, UDH Minister Shanti Dhariwal claimed that no one can stop the Ashok Gehlot government from coming back to power in Rajasthan. He lauded the State Govt for its policies made for people and their excellent implementation. Responding to a question raised



Shanti Dhariwal and Amit Dhariwal being welcomed by the locals during the 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' Padyatra in Kota on Monday.

by First India on challenge for Congress after inclusion of Vasundhara Raje's face in BJP

posters, Dhariwal said that Congress doesn't care much about face of the opposition in Raj.



50 years ago, late LK Chaturvedi had given land for Aklank Vidhyalaya. No BJP leader contributed anything in Kota for societies & institutions. We have allotted land to 140 organisations free of cost at concessional rates with an aim to have public places, where social gatherings can increase through collective events.

—Shanti Dhariwal, UDH Minister

IT raid: SSB Group and Derewala Group surrender crores

Asif Khan

Jaipur: The Income Tax Department's action has been completed at various locations of two builders in Jaipur. Out of this, according to highly placed sources, Harish Jagtani has accepted Rs 15 crore and Jugal Derewala group has accepted Rs 65 crore as black money and surrendered the same to the IT Department. Action is still going on at locations of the remaining three builders.

Harish Jagtani, Chairman of SSB Group, who has been working in the real estate sector for the last many years, issued a press note saying that he is a true patriot and is doing business following the laws and regulations of India. The group claimed that



Harish Jagtani

rumours doing rounds of his arrest and IT Department finding undisclosed income from the group are absolutely baseless. It claimed that it is not working with any other builder group. It announced that the group has been working in Congo for many years where it is engaged in medical work along with several other fields. During the recent IT investigation, Jagtani has fully cooperated and claimed that he will fully cooperate with the government agencies in future also.

Nathdwara: Joshi launches 2 projects worth ₹114 cr

UDH Min Shanti Dhariwal & Health Min PL Meena took part virtually

Ashish Choudhary

Rajsamand: Assembly Speaker Dr CP Joshi laid the foundation stone of two projects worth Rs 114 crore for Nathdwara Nagar in Rajsamand district on Monday in a pro-

gramme organised at Gauravpath. Addressing the programme, Joshi demanded staff and telemedicine for new PHC, CHC and Nathdwara Hospital opened in the area from the Health Minister and a river front on the Ba-

nas river on the lines of Chambal River Front from Dhariwal. Informing Minister Mahesh Joshi about the better performance of Nathdwara Vidhansabha in Jan Jeevan Yojana, he demanded that his department should pro-

vide water to 100% people in the area by 2023.

Joshi laid the foundation stone of Rs 106.47 crore 24-hour water supply project for Nathdwara Nagar and construction of residential buildings for the Medical Department.



Dr CP Joshi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of District Hospital, Govt residential buildings and Nathdwara Urban Water Supply Project in Nathdwara on Monday.

Pen is indeed mightier than the sword, especially when it's wielded by a 'jilted' officer!

Rajendra Chhabra

Jaipur: Even if a junior-level personnel or officer in the State Government makes up his or her mind to do something, then the powers vested in them, can make or break anything. One such example has now been observed in Jaisalmer. Every year, in the first week of February, the Desert Festival is organised. In the four-day festival, one programme is conducted on the Sam Sand Dunes,

which is the main attraction of the entire festival.

This year, the festival was organised from February 2 to February 5, however, the main programme, at Sam Sand dunes, could not be conducted and both domestic and foreign tourists were bereft of the fervour. The reason for this was the 'pen' of the DFO.

Last month, this officer brought a court stay on his transfer orders. Miffed at the entire issue, the officer



wrote a letter to the district administration saying, "Sam Sand Dunes fall in forest area and under my territorial jurisdiction, hence an activity with much fanfare can not be conducted here." When Collector Tina Dabi referred the matter to

senior Forest Department officials in Jaipur, she received permission for the festival, however, later some environmentalists approached the National Green Tribunal (NGT) citing DFO's letter.

The NGT issued a notice to the Collector and asked the Collector to appear on February 3. Then Collector Tina Dabi conducted a VC and presented her argument before the NGT saying, "The Desert Festival is being organised at Sam Sand dunes

for the past 47 years, wherein, a cultural evening is organised. No damage is caused to forest and environment through this. Thus, there is no reason for this objection. As such the venue of the cultural evening has been changed."

Since the matter was time-barred, it became infructuous for the NGT. What may happen in the future is not known, but at least this year, an officer surely brought a major international event to a halt.

Randhawa to tour Raj dists from today

First India Bureau

Jaipur: State Congress in-charge Sukhjinder Randhawa will be on a tour of Rajasthan from today. He is scheduled to go from Jaipur to Kota today, where he will attend a meeting of 'Haath Se Haath Jodo' drive in Kota division. From Kota, Randhawa will go to Sawai Madhopur and will spend the night at the Circuit House. Thereafter, he will travel to Bharatpur from Sawai Madhopur on February 8 and chair a meeting of Bharatpur division's 'Haath Se



Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa

'Haath Jodo' campaign at 12 noon. After holding the meeting, he will leave Bharatpur at 3 pm and reach Jaipur at 6 pm and spend the night at Jaipur Circuit House. Notably, during this tour, PCC Chief Govind Singh Dotasra will accompany Randhawa.

K'taka polls: Mohan Prakash to head screening panel

First India Bureau

New Delhi: AICC has constituted a Screening Committee for Karnataka polls, where, Raj Congress leader Mohan Prakash has been made the chairman of the committee while RS MP from Rajasthan Neeraj Dangi has been made a member. The Screening Committee will give its opinion regarding Congress candidates and thus, a major responsibility has been given to Mohan Prakash.



City First

Magic of hats

Hats have been with us for ages as a fashionable item as well as being functional. City First brings to you fashionable range of Hats which will make you look amazing and unique in the crowd.



UTTKARSHA SHEKHAR
uttkarsha.shekhar@firstindia.co.in

With fashion trends constantly changing and evolving, there's always something new to try. Through every classic or a new trend, headwear maintains its popularity for bringing a look together and completing your style. Our fashionable hats for women for sale online include every style imaginable. From timeless floppy summer hats to casual, urban chic caps, we have beautiful women's hats for every occasion. We've got women's headwear for every season, every trip, and every new-and-upcoming fashion trend. When shopping our collection, you do not need to worry about whether it will fit or not—we know how important finding the right fit is, so we offer styles in every size. Whether for practicality or for style, find what you desire in our fashionable hats for women collection.

SNAPBACK

This '90s style baseball cap burst into fashion after the New York snapback became increasingly popular with Yankees fans.

FEDORA CAP

Caps with folded brims are highly trendy. A silk ribbon of a similar or contrasting colour is also fastened to the base of the crown. These typically provide the wearer a formal appearance.

BUCKET HAT

These feature a wide downward sloping brim that provides sun protection for the eyes and face. These also contain two metal eyelets above the ears on opposing sides to keep the user cool.

BERET HAT

These hats are unisex and may be used in both casual and formal settings. These feature a flat crown and are soft and circular, made largely of woven or hand-knitted wool.

THE VICENZO

These beautifully elegant women's black fedora, is the ultimate accessory. Each Vicenzo fedora comes with a complimentary Lock & Co.





ROSE



Loveliest of lovely things!

Valentine's Day begins with Rose Day and as we prepare to celebrate the day, City First brings to you meanings of rose colours!



UTTAKARSHA SHEKHAR
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Commonly known as the Queen of Flowers or King of Flowers, the smooth red flower signifies its beautiful duality, that it possesses both kingliness (magnificence, status, and power) and queenliness (beauty, grace, and cultural refinement). The flower is unrivalled in terms of beauty, colour, and scent. This is why it is regarded as a widely popular flower. Not only gardens but hearts of flower lovers are not considered complete without elegant roses. Great variety in plant growth, flower colour, flower form, smell, the gradual opening of flowers, and high-keeping quality make roses so popular that it is produced commercially

to supply the demand for cut blooms. Valentine's Week is the time of year when the globe becomes crimson in the colours of love. People who are in love and have discovered their special someone spend the day with them and pledge to remain with them forever. Valentine's Day shows us the value of love and how it can overcome all obstacles. The day also honours the love we have for our families, friends, and, most importantly, ourselves. It promotes all types of love and teaches us that in a world rife with hostility, all we need is a little bit of love. Valentine's day commences with Rose Day and as we gear up to celebrate rose Day, here's a look at the distinct meaning of the hues of roses.

Every rose represents something different. When making your Valentine's Day purchases, keep the meaning of each hue in mind. Fortunately, we'll give you the following useful guidance so you may quickly select the roses that have the greatest meaning for your friends, family, and loved ones.

RED ROSES: LOVE AND ADMIRATION

We all know that Red represents love and affection. Red Rose is the most popular and traditional Valentine's Day gift is red flowers. They are the ideal present for a long-term partner since they transmit a message of deep loving sentiments.

YELLOW ROSES: FRIENDSHIP

Yellow is the colour of friendship and affection, this colour signifies celebration and joy. The bright colour of the rose says that You're a fantastic buddy. If you're in a love relationship, you might want to avoid yellow since some people believe it represents jealousy and dishonesty.

LAVENDER ROSE: UNIQUE LOVE

Just like its fragrance, Lavender is the dream of rare. When something is considered exquisite and rare, it signifies that

you think the world of the person who is receiving it. Lavender roses will make your loved one feels special, exuding magic, grandeur, and magnificence. If your money is limited this year, consider this inexpensive Valentine's Day presents that appear costly.

gifts of pink, red, and orange roses.

ORANGE ROSE: FASCINATION

Red roses symbolise deep love and yellow flowers symbolise friendship. Palomares proposes thinking of orange as a bridge between the two because it is a combination of the two. Indicating passion, energy, and interest, these colourful flowers convey to your Valentine that you want your friends to progress.

BLUE ROSES: MYSTERY

Blue roses, unlike most other rose hues, do not exist in nature. As a result, blue flowers have come to symbolise mystery, the impossible, or the unreachable. A bouquet of blue roses is a terrific way to let someone know they are one of a kind. Choosing one of these one-of-a-kind presents will also suffice.

RAINBOW ROSES: UNIQUENESS, HOPE AND PRIDE

Rainbow roses, with a little bit of every hue in their petals, remind us that they're our closest friend and lover, valued and respected, and most importantly, unique in that they also signify hope, pride and equality. Rainbows arise after storms, signalling hope and better things to come. All of the hues come together to be recognised equally, expressing the message of inclusion and welcome to all.

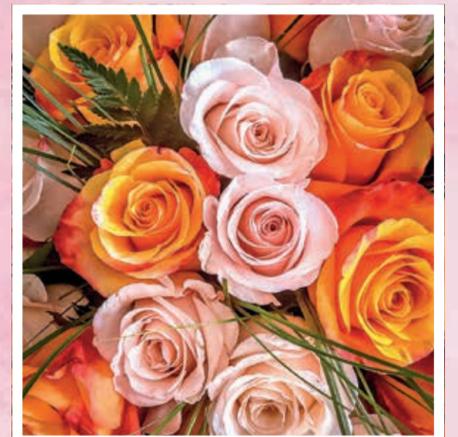


WHITE ROSE: INNOCENCE AND NEW LOVE

White has always signified purity and innocence in terms of rose colour meaning. It is also known as the bridal flower since weddings represent fresh beginnings. Even if you aren't ready for marriage, this rose might be ideal for your love. A bouquet of fresh, white roses is the perfect present for a blossoming romance.

PURPLE ROSE: PASSION AND DESIRE

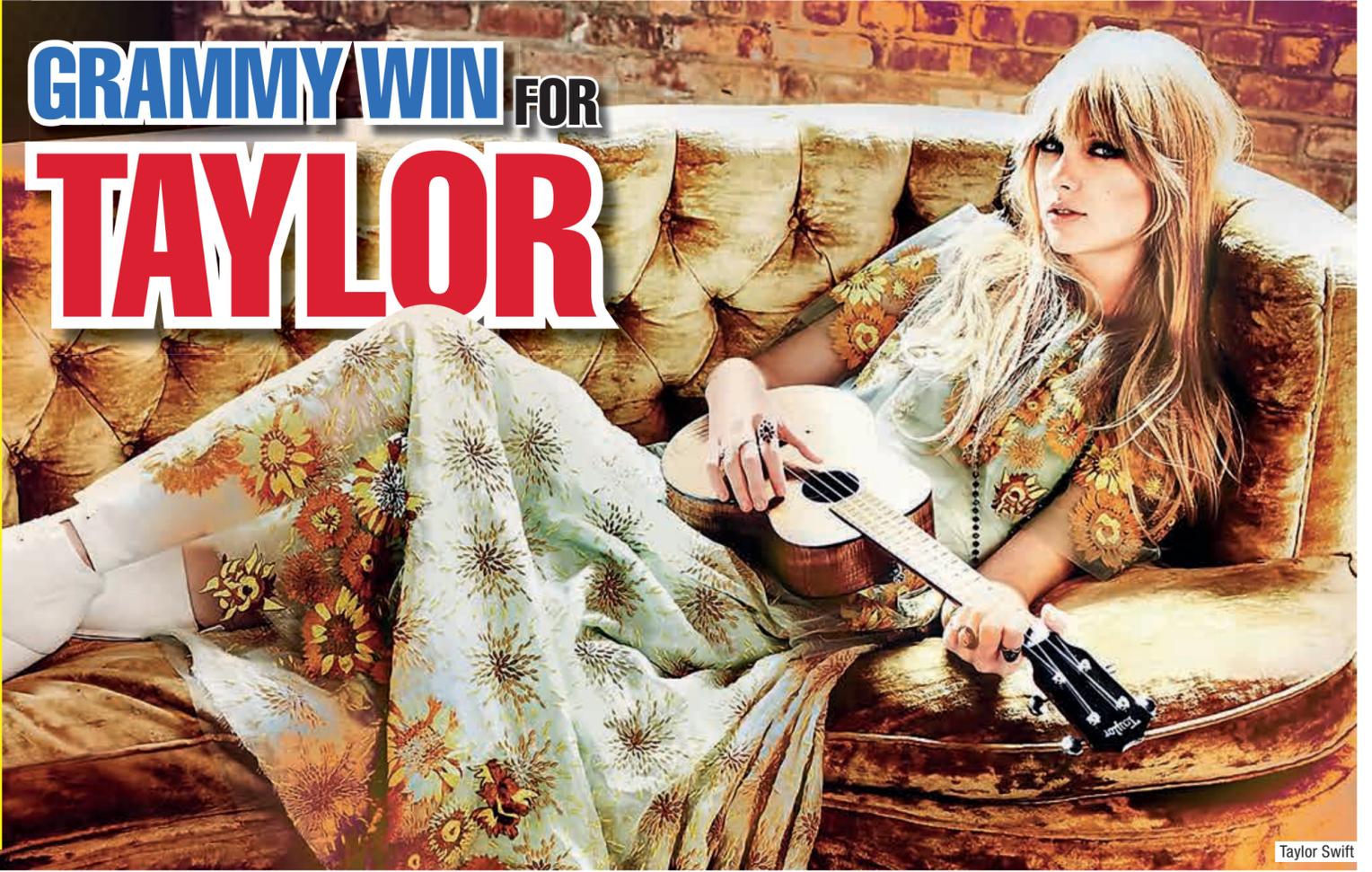
Deep purple blooms exemplify the lovestruck sensation we get when we've head over heels in love sentiment. Purple roses are more suited to a transient infatuation than a long and loving love. Purple flowers might be a step towards deeper emotions of love, opening the way for future



GRAMMY WIN FOR TAYLOR

The 65th annual Grammy Awards took place on Monday, February 6 at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. One of the most awaited and revered music awards events, the Grammys recognized many artists in as many as 91 categories on Monday. Among them, Taylor was honoured with the best music video award for her song All Too Well: The Short Film. The 33-year-old singer took to Twitter to express her excitement and gratitude for the same.

Taylor won the Grammy award for best music video during the pre-telecast Grammy Premiere Ceremony. She took to her Twitter space to express her feelings about the honour. Sharing the exciting news, she wrote on the microblogging site, "I can't put into words what this means to me, the @RecordingAcad and my peers to acknowledge me as a director, and in doing so, acknowledge my work to try and reclaim my music... I'm blown away. Thank you to all the fans who willed this to happen."



Taylor Swift



Deepika Padukone

Deepika goes chic

Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone are all set to work together for the first time. They have united for Siddharth Anand's upcoming film, Fighter. The aerial action thriller also stars Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover, and Akshay Oberoi in key roles. Earlier, Hrithik and Deepika shot the first schedule of their film in Assam. On Monday, Deepika was seen making a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport as she left to start shooting for the second schedule of Fighter. Deepika was seen sporting a black high-neck t-shirt along with denim jeans and boots. She styled her look with a cool overcoat, a clean bun, and oversized sunnies. The actress, flashed her million-dollar smile as she entered the airport.



Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra



Nora Fatehi

NORA'S 31st BIRTHDAY

The actress-dancer Nora Fatehi has turned a year older and celebrated her 31st birthday on Monday. Wishes for Nora started pouring in right from midnight of Feb 6, and her fans have flooded social media with lovely birthday wishes for the Saki Saki girl. Nora Fatehi recently revealed how she plans on celebrating her 31st birthday. When asked about her birthday plans, "I'm very fortunate to have a core group of best friends from different parts of the world and this year my plan is to bring everyone together for the first time in Dubai and celebrate with me," revealed the actress. Meanwhile, Nora Fatehi shared a few videos and pictures from her birthday celebration at midnight. The actress took to her Instagram stories and shared a video that shows her friends giving her a surprise.



Her story...

KIM PETRAS makes history



Kim Petras & Sam Smith

Kim Petras made history at the 65th Grammy Awards by becoming the first transgender woman to take home the award. During Sunday's ceremony at the 2023 Grammys, Kim Petras appeared emotional as she took the win for the best pop group/duo performance alongside Sam Smith. As she received a standing ovation from the crowd, Petras in her acceptance speech thanked all the transgender artists who paved the way for her to win the award with a special mention of the avant-garde pop musician and producer Sophie who died in 2021. After her acceptance speech, Kim shared a warm embrace with Sam Smith along with giving a heartfelt nod to her mother: Petras stressed that her mother's belief from a young age enabled her to win this prestigious award.

Wedding Fever @Suryagarh Palace

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's wedding events have begun with much aplomb in Jaisalmer's Suryagarh hotel. The Shershaah co-stars, who have not officially spoken about their relationship in public, welcomed Shahid Kapoor and wife Mira Rajput, Karan Johar, Manish Malhotra, The Ambani family and Juhi Chawla to their wedding. Isha Ambani, who happens to be a childhood friend of bride-to-be Kiara Advani, was pictured at the Jaisalmer airport on Sunday night. She was accompanied by her husband Anand Piralal. Isha Ambani was dressed in her festive best as she made her way out of the Jaisalmer airport. Earlier on Sunday, Shahid Kapoor, Mira Rajput, and Karan Johar landed at the Jaisalmer airport.



Suryagarh Palace



Isha Ambani and Anand Piralal papped at Jodhpur airport



Juhi Chawla's post..

JUHI CHAWLA JETS OFF TO JAISALMER

Juhi Chawla took to her Twitter account to share a glimpse of herself from the flight. While the picture doesn't reveal her face clearly, the actress is seen sitting with her cap on. Sharing the picture, Juhi wrote #SidKiara. For the unversed, Juhi Chawla is Kiara's father's childhood friend.

TIGHT SECURITY IN PLACE AROUND SURYAGARH PALACE

Tight security is in place around the wedding venue – Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer. An eye is being kept on the vehicles passing by and onlookers are being told to keep away from the spot.

Ek 'Anupam' Din...!

Jagdeesh Chandra greeted and welcomed Cine-stars Anupam Kher and Nargis Fakhri to the Bharat24 NOIDA office on Monday. The stars whose latest movie 'Shiv Shastri Balboa' will be released on February 10, featured in The JC Show, telecast live on Monday afternoon. The director of the movie Ajayan Venugopalan was also present. During his visit, Jagdeesh Chandra also awarded Poornima Mishra Pooja Yadav and Karun Kumar, for 8 lakh views on Social Media platforms during the special show on the day of the Union Budget. —PHOTOS BY NAUSHAD



Jagdeesh Chandra welcomes Nargis Fakhri, also seen are Shashikant Sharma and Ritu Sharma.



Jagdeesh Chandra welcomes Anupam Kher, seen here with (L-R) Kshama Tripathi, Syed Umar, Ajayan Venugopalan, Shashikant Sharma, Ritu Sharma & Nargis Fakhri.



Jagdeesh Chandra awards Poornima Mishra.

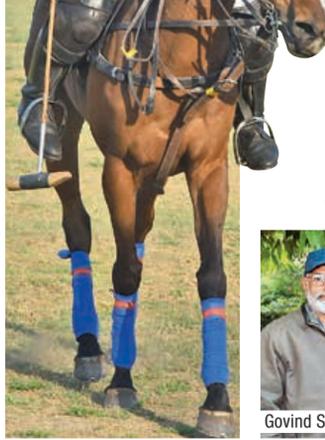


Jagdeesh Chandra awards Karun Kumar, also seen are Shikha Thakur and Poornima Mishra.

EXCITING POLO FINALS



The winning team Vimal Arion with the trophy



The final match of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Gold Vase tournament was played today at the Rajasthan Polo Club Ground. Team Vimal Arion defeated Team V Polo by a

score of 10-5.5 to lift the tournament trophy. Chris Mackenzie and Shamsheer Ali scored 5-5 goals for the winning team. And for V Polo, while Siddhant Sharma scored 3 goals, Salim Azmi and Gonzalo Yanzon scored 1 goal each. Post the

match, there was a sumptuous high tea in which the polo lovers of the Pink City mingled with one another. Spotted were Maharaj Narendra Singh, Shanti Choudhary, Kirti Rathore, Nirmala Durlabhji and Angelique Singh, among others.



Govind Singh, Mahendra Singh, Narendra Singh & KK Singh



Tripti Pandey along with spectators enjoying the polo match



The 9th RIFF concludes!

CITY FIRST

On the last day of the 9th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival, an initiative by RIFF Film Club saw a cinematically meaningful talk show along with a screening of regional and documentary films at INOX Crystal Palm on Sunday. Later in the evening, The RIFF Award night took place at the Open Theater of the Jawahar Kala Kendra where more than 50 awards were given in different categories amidst a colourful program. Singer Someshwar Mahadevan filled the pro-



Raj Bansal felicitated by (L-R) Somendra Harsh, KL Jain, Justice Gopal Krishan Vyas and N Chandra.

gram with rainbow colours by garlanding songs in his soulful voice with a panoramic performance of Rajasthan folk dancers. During the glitzy night, the Pride of Rajasthan Award was conferred upon prominent film distributor Raj Bansal for his impeccable work in the field of entertainment in Rajasthan, the actor Parikshit Sahni was awarded with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Contribution in Indian Cinema whereas Mayapuri was conferred with Golden Jubilee Award for completing 50 years in the media industry.

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Work for environment

CITY FIRST

A two-day international environmental conference organised by Bishnoi Samaj in Dubai under the auspices of Akhil Bhartiya Bishnoi Mahasabha Mokam, Jambhani Sahitya Akademi Bikaner, Guru Jambheshwar Environment Conservation Research Institute of Jainarayan Vyas University Jodhpur and Gumbuk NGO Dubai to publicize the environmental message globally concluded on Sunday.

Patron of All India Bishnoi Mahasabha Bishnoi Ratna Chaudhary Kuldeep Bishnoi told that with an easy, simple and simple life, we have to celebrate maximum enjoyment of life with minimum facilities. President of AIBM Devendra Budiya told that if life is to be saved on earth then the



During the conference



Bishnoi pattern of lifestyle is most appropriate and the world should adopt it. During the occasion, film star Vivek Oberoi said that films should be made on this unique lifestyle of the Bishnoi community so that the world gets a chance to know about it. The closing ceremony was attended by the distinguished guest Sheikh

Majid Rashid Al Mualla and his team members. Special guests Gurmeet Rana Sodhi, Farooq Abdullah, Renuka Bishnoi ex-MLA, Gitanjali UK, Sanjay Singh, Amita Singh, Salil MLA, Devendra IPS, Mahant Shivdas, Mahant Bhagwan Das, Acharya Satchidanand, Raju Maharaj, Acharya Krishnanand were present.

DURING THE DAY!



Famous artist Subrata Gangopadhyay brought alive the beautifully dancing Krishnapriyas on canvas with bright colours in his creation in the grand Pan India Exhibition 2023 organised at the Green Sea Art Gallery in the city, where renowned artists from across the country presented their artworks. Laxman Vyas, president of Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi and show curator Monika Sharda inaugurated this art exhibition which started on Saturday by lighting the lamp. About 60 artworks were displayed in this collective art exhibition of 18 renowned artists of the country in the show.



The five-day Decor India show in the city has over 200 stalls with indoor to outdoor decorative items available under one roof. During the occasion, CRPF officials also saw the exhibition of Decor India and praised the products displayed there. Gokul Maheshwari and Akhil Maheshwari of Shakun Group welcomed CRPF Commandant Shekhawat, Assistant Commandant Ram Chandra and IGP Vikram Sehgal and informed them about the various stalls in the exhibition. Gokul Maheshwari said that TV actress Kanchi Singh also attended on Sunday.



Kheho India Youth Games 2022 are being organised in Madhya Pradesh from January 30 to February 11. On Monday, Rajasthan-based Anjali Shekhawat won the silver medal in the 10m pistol shooting event.



BATTLE OF FAIRWAYS organised a Mixed Double golf tournament at Rambhag Golf Club, Jaipur recently. The tournament was followed by high tea and Prize distribution. The winners were Eti Chaudhary, Dr Subhash Uppal while runners up were Vimi Bhatia & Bhupesh Bhatia. BOF committee is founded by Justice JK Ranka, Anuj Kamawat, Gp Capt RS Raghav, Darshan Singh, Randhir Jadeja, Pradeep Chaturvedi, Sudhir Garg, Dr Anjali Jain & Vimi Bhatia.



Nirmala Rawat was honored with the Samaj Ratna title in a program organised by the All India Khandelwal Vaish Mahasabha by Gen Assembly member Saroj Gupta. Rawat told her plan to always do her duty for the society.



The farewell party of class XII students was organised by students of Class XI at Seedling Public School with a great enthusiasm on Monday. During the ceremony, Dr Sandeep Bakshi, the CEO, and Director of Seedling Group of schools wished the students all the very best for the forthcoming Board exams and also wished them all a successful life ahead.



The budding young singer of Jaipur city, Kommal Sharma is all set to rock yet again with the romantic song 'Phir Mujhe Dil Se Pukar-2'. This romantic video song will be launched on various platforms including YouTube on Tuesday at the beginning of Valentine's week, with which Rockstar fame singer and actor Mohit Gaur is also going to make a comeback in the world of music with a bang.

FUN FIESTA 2023!



Minority School Education Member Schools including NA School, Royal Oxford School, Vishwa Bharti School, MTM School, Oxford School and The Wonderland School together organised a grand Sports Fun Fiesta at Dussehra Ground on Sunday. During the occasion, MLA Amin Kagzi graced the occasion as the chief guest while Anil Sharma, School Shiksha Parivar President was present as the special guest. Wasim, Patron of MSSP and Director of MTM School said that the program was organised to make people aware of issues going on in society.