



FIRST INDIA

RNI NUMBER: RAJENG/2019/77764 | VOL 5 | ISSUE NO. 235 | PAGES 12 | ₹3.00

Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



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MALDIVES OPPN TELLS MUIZZU TO APOLOGIZE TO PM MODI, INDIA
Maldives Oppn leader Qasim Ibrahim called on Maldivian President Mohd Muizzu to apologize to PM Narendra Modi and the people of India.

PREZ, V-P, PM MODI AND OTHER LEADERS PAY TRIBUTES ON GANDHI'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY
President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid floral tributes to Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary at Rajghat. **P7**



2-STATE SOLUTION TO END ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR: EAM
India favours a two-state solution to end the decades-long Israel-Palestine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.



FORECAST

Max **25°C**
Min 12°C
Humidity 51%
Cold morning, otherwise sunny & very warm day.

SENSEX

BSE 71139.90
NIFTY 21522.10
801.67 215.50

IN BRIEF



Artists perform during the presentation of the Republic Day parade 2024 tableaux and contingent award, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. **PTI**

IMF revises India's growth at 7.6%
New Delhi: The IMF forecasts 6.5% growth for India in 2024, compared to 4.6% growth for China and 2.1% growth for the US. In January, the IMF revised its growth forecast for India for FY24 to 7.6% from the previous 6.5% estimated in Oct 2023.



Oppn cries foul as BJP wins Chd mayor poll
Chandigarh: BJP swept Chandigarh mayoral polls on Tuesday, retaining the three top posts in a setback to AAP and Congress. BJP's Manoj Sonkar defeated AAP's Kuldeep Kumar for the mayor's post, polling 16 votes against the 12 won by his rival. **P7**

3 CRPF personnel killed, 15 hurt in Naxal attack
Raipur: Three CRPF personnel, including two commandos of its elite jungle warfare unit CoBRA, were killed and 15 others injured in an encounter with Naxalites along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

ED PREPARES TO QUESTION JHARKHAND CM TODAY

WIFE KALPANA CAN STEP INTO HIS SHOES IF SOREN GETS ARRESTED

'UNTRACEABLE' HEMANT SOREN SURFACES IN RANCHI

First India Bureau
New Delhi/Ranchi

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, declared "missing" by the BJP after Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials failed to locate him for over 24 hours, surfaced in Ranchi on Tuesday.

The Enforcement Directorate will question Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday in Ranchi in a money laundering case probe linked to an alleged land scam and has seized Rs 36 lakh, a BMW SUV and some "incriminating" documents after it searched his house in the national capital, official sources said.

A day after an ED team visited the JMM executive president's Delhi home and agency officials said he was "untraceable", Soren reached his official residence in the Jharkhand capital on Tuesday and chaired a meeting of his alliance MLAs, ending the over 24-hour-long suspense over his whereabouts.



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren during a meeting with state cabinet ministers and MLAs at the CMR, in Ranchi, on Tuesday. **PTI**

CASE HISTORY

Hemant Soren is being questioned as part of a probe into an alleged "huge racket of illegal change of ownership of land by the mafia" in Jharkhand, according to the ED. The central probe agency has so far arrested 14 people in the case, including 2011-batch IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan who served as the director of the state's Social Welfare Department and deputy commissioner of Ranchi.

ED GRILLS TEJASHWI IN 'LAND FOR JOB' SCAM

Patna: A day after RJD chief Lalu Yadav was grilled by the ED in 'land for job' scam in railways, the investigating agency started interrogating his son and former Bihar Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday in the same case. Yadav reached Patna-based ED office at around 11:30 AM, where a large number of his party workers waiting for him, started raising slogans condemning the harassment of their leader.



Former Bihar deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav arrives at the ED office for questioning in the alleged land-for-jobs scam, in Patna, on Tuesday. **PTI**

Modi govt laid foundation of strong rural development: HM

ANI
New Delhi

As PM Narendra Modi-led Central govt is to complete its 10 years in May, Union Home Minister and Minister of Co-operation **Amit Shah** on Tuesday said it laid the foundation of a "strong rural development".

Shah's statement came after he launched the computerization project of Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (ARDBs) and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCSs)



of all States and Union Territories here.

The Union Minister said that the Modi govt of the BJP will complete its 10 years in May.

₹225 CRORE ARDBS PROJECTS LAUNCHED

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched computerisation programmes for agriculture and rural development banks and Registrar of Cooperative Societies at an estimated cost of Rs 225 crore and said the digitisation efforts will help improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in their working.

Former Barmer MP Manvendra, son injured in accident, wife Chitra dies

Ashvini Yadav
Alwar

Former Barmer MP and Congress leader Manvendra Singh's wife **Chitra Singh** was killed, while Manvendra and his son Hamir were injured when their car met with an accident in Alwar on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Manvendra Singh, who is the son of former Union Minister Jaswant Singh, and his family were on their way to Jaipur from Delhi when their car lost control and



collided with a wall, leaving the four injured. They were rushed to a nearby hospital, where Chitra Singh was declared dead. Additional SP Tejpal Singh said the incident occurred near Naugava on the Express-

way, and the exact cause of the accident is not yet clear.

Dr Devvrat Sharma of Solanki Hospital, where the injured were rushed, said that Chitra, 55, died during treatment while Manvendra, 59, his son Hamir, 25, and driver Narendra were injured. Manvendra received injuries in his lungs and fractures in his ribs. His condition is stable.

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, while expressing grief, posted on X (formerly Twitter). **P8**



Former Pak PM Imran Khan, ex-FM Qureshi get 10-year jail

PTI
Islamabad

Jailed former Pakistani PM Imran Khan was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a special court on Tuesday for leaking state secrets, in a major blow to his bid to return to power in the February 8 general elections.

The decision to sentence Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was announced by special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain during the hearing of the case held at the special court in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi established under the stringent Official Secrets Act.

Imran is already serving 3-year jail after being convicted of corruption. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has faced numerous troubles starting with the denial of its election symbol, the cricket bat, to the rejection of nomination of Khan, Qureshi, 67, and a number of other party leaders.

CM'S RESPONSE TO DEBATE ON GUV'S ADDRESS

Our resolution is to make Raj a developed state by 2047: CM

Aishwary Pradhan & Yogesh Sharma
Jaipur

CHIEF MINISTER SAYS PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO BRING THE BROKEN ECONOMY BACK ON TRACK; WILL MAKE THE SANKALP PATRA (MANIFESTO) A REALITY

Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Tuesday targeted the previous Congress government over various issues, including appeasement, law and order, rising women and paper leaks in various government recruitment exams.

He said that the present BJP government will fulfill all its promises done through its Sankalp Patra and establish the rule of law in the peace-loving state.

Replying to debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address in the assembly, Sharma



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma speaks in Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday.

said that if decisions are taken based on appeasement then the Constitution and laws become dwarfed.

"If decisions are taken based on appeasement then the Constitution and laws become dwarfed. The state will be run by

Constitution and law, not by appeasement," he said. Sharma said that the present government will leave no stone unturned to establish the rule of law in the peace-loving state.

"Building Rajasthan a crime free state is the top priority of the state government," Sharma said referring to the communal incidents that happened in Karauli, Jhalawar, Udaipur and Jodhpur in the previous Congress government rule. He also targeted the Congress over the Kanhaiya Lal murder case of Udaipur.

The Chief Minister hit out at the previous Con-

gress government, saying that whenever atrocities against women increase.

"The Congress government dismissed its minister who raised the issue of atrocities against women," said Sharma referring to former Congress MLA Rajendra Singh Gudha.

He said that the women of the state had to be embarrassed by the cases of atrocities against women. During the previous government, Rajasthan remained number one in the case of atrocities against women. Every day the respect of the women was at stake. **MORE ON P8**

Uproar in Rajasthan Assembly

Opposition leaders accuse State government of hasty MoU; heated arguments take place in House

Special debate held on ERCP MoU

Aishwary Pradhan, Yogesh Sharma & Naresh Sharma
Jaipur

There was a special discussion on ERCP in the Assembly on Tuesday. During the discussion, heated arguments took place between the party and the opposition. The opposition loudly alleged that Rajasthan's rights have been cut in new agreement, the MoU was not placed in the House, so how can there be discussion without MoU? Minister Kirodi Lal Meena replied on ERCP, that the government has not made any cuts but has done better, Rajasthan will get 33.78 MCM of water under the scheme.

Congress MLA Murari Lal Meena, said that the government has not told how much MCM water Rajasthan will get, you are only talking about filling 26 dams with water. MLA Rohit Bohra said, the government has committed a big betrayal in the name of ERCP, and the betraying minister comes from Ajmer district. Irrigation water will not be available through this MoU of ERCP.

RLD MLA Subhash Garg said that even a copy of the ERCP MoU was not kept in the House. How can there be a discussion without a copy of the MoU?



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addressing the House during the proceeding on Tuesday as Speaker sits on chair and other MLAs listen keenly.

CORRUPTION IN RURAL OLYMPIC GAMES WILL BE PROBED: RATHORE

Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said in the Assembly on Tuesday that if there is any corruption in the expenditure incurred on the purchase of T-shirts etc. in the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games held during the previous govt, then the state govt will investigate it. He was answering the supplementary questions during the Question Hour. Rathore said that it is a matter of



Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore replying to a supplementary question in Assembly on Tuesday.

concern that during the previous govt, an amount of Rs 126 crore was spent on its purchase

and four times more than the budget of the Sports Department was spent in organizing these games.

COL RATHORE RAPS OFFICIALS FOR REACHING LATE

Industries Minister, Rajyavardhan Rathore, reprimanded officials in state assembly on Tuesday. The minister had issued instructions to his dept's staff to be present, but despite directives to arrive at 9 am, most employees and officials failed to attend. Expressing displeasure at the delay, Rathore scolded everyone present.



ASSEMBLY SESSION



PEOPLE IN POWER TODAY ARE WORKING TO TOPPLE GOVT: JULY

During assembly proceedings, after the Governor's address, the Leader of the Opposition Tikaram July said that Gandhi's last words were 'Hey Ram', while the one who assassinated Gandhi is praised on the other side.

He further said that Shri Ram likes honest people, however today is the time of hypocrites. He took a jibe stating, that the people in power today are working to topple the government of another place. On ERCP he said that the government should tell us

about the old agreement and the present MOU, as to how much water will there be in it. As per him, the Prime Minister had praised the model of Rajasthan during the time of Corona, whereas in UP there were dead bodies thrown into the Ganges.

Stage set for Jaipur Lit Fest



Preps for the 17th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) are in final stage. The JLF will take place from Feb 1-5, at Hotel Clarks Amer in Jaipur from 9 AM-6 PM. The JLF is a literary event that brings together writers, readers, influencers, and thinkers.

SANTOSH SHARMA

Goods being transported without proper docs caught

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

The Department of Goods and Services Tax, Central Govt (CGST) has once again become active in the state to check the goods being sold without adequate documents and to control the attempts of GST evasion. In connection with the ongoing e-way bill verification and document verification campaign at the state level, the anti-emigration teams of Jaipur Commissionerate have also become fully active. During CGST Anti-Evasion Jaipur action in the last few days, 3 trucks carrying various goods worth lakhs were seized. During investigation, 3



Seized truck, transporting goods without papers, in Jaipur.

e-way bills were found, in two the value of the goods was shown as Rs 54,000 and Rs 50,000 respectively, and in the third e-way bill, the return of goods worth Rs 1.48 lakh was shown. The truck was seized and on physical verification, the goods were found to be worth around Rs 15 lakh.

ARD inspection continues on 2nd day in Jaipur

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The surprise inspection of the Administrative Reforms Department continued for the second day. The inspection will now be done in all the govt departments of Bassi.

The team is currently present in the hospital. During the inspection, which took place 12.89% gazetted and 28.85% non-gazetted personnel were not present. Whereas, inspection in the government offices from 9.40 am to 10 am saw the absence of 8 out of 63 gazetted officers.

Several kids hurt as school buses collide in 2 accidents



The school children being treated at Surajgarh CHC in Jhunjhunu on Tuesday after their school bus collided with a private bus.

First India Bureau
Jhunjhunu/Surajgarh

A collision between a private bus and a school bus resulted in the injuries of dozens of children. The accident took place near Rajveerpura village on Jakhod road. The police reached the spot and the injured were admitted to CHC with the help of ambulance. In another acci-

dent, a school bus and a dumper collided due to fog in the Neemrana (Alwar).

The accident happened at Haryana-Rajasthan border Ateli Mandi (Haryana). More than two dozen children travelling in the bus were injured, while a teacher and four children suffered serious injuries. The injured were admitted to the civil hospital of Ateli (Haryana).

NEW GOVT NEW PLANS!

Education Min Dilawar mulls change in curriculum

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Recently, Education Minister Madan Dilawar made Surya Namaskar mandatory in all schools. Although it was opposed by the opposition party, it is very likely that Dilawar will soon start the 'Parents' Worship Day' celebration on February 14 which was discontinued during Congress rule. Some believe since Dilwar is a staunch Hindu, it seems that the curric-



Madan Dilawar

ulum may be changed again. It has been a trend since 1998 that whenever there has been

a change of power, Congress and BJP have changed curriculum as per their leanings.

Education minister Dilawar, during a conversation with the media on the preparation of changing the syllabus in schools, said that things like calling Akbar great will be removed from the syllabus. The Education Minister also said that from next year, instead of Valentine's Day, 'Parents' Worship Day' will also be celebrated in the state.

CHANGES MADE IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

- Cong rule (1998-2003): Changed syllabus being taught in the BJP govt. Slogans appeared on cover page along with photo of CM. History of Congress was included.

- BJP rule (2003-2008): Many chapters included in Cong rule were changed. The thinkers of Sangh got a place in syllabus. It mainly includes Deendayal Upadhyay and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

- Cong rule (2008-2013): NCERT syllabus implemented in 2011-12. In 2009, the names of Deen-

dayal and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee were removed from textbooks. Sangha Shakti Kaliyuga was also completely removed from Sanskrit book of Class 11th.

- BJP Govt (2013-2018): Removed NCERT syllabus. New syllabus was implemented. Maharana Pratap Mahan was added in place of Akbar the Great.

- Cong Govt (2018-2023): Changes in some books in 2019-20. In a chapter of Class 10th, Instead of Savarkar as a hero, he was said to have presented as mercy petitioner.

PREPS TO BAN HIJAB IN SCHOOLS & COLLEGES OF RAJ, HINTS DILAWAR

After a controversy over hijab following remarks by Haryana MLA Balmukund Acharya, school education minister Madan Dilawar has indicated to ban hijab in schools. He said that students will have to follow prescribed dress code. Dilawar also said that conversion will not be allowed in govt schools. "I am not against or in favor of hijab. The govt has decided on school uniforms and students will have to wear uniforms," he said.

	Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority 2nd & 3rd Floor, RSIC Wing, UdyogBhawan, TilakMarg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 Phone No.: 0141-2851900 Website: http://rera.rajasthan.gov.in Date :- 30.01.2024
Public Notice for Buyers of the project Four Way Homes, Jaipur (RERA Registration No. RAJ/P/2023/2578)	
It is hereby informed to all the concerned that the project Four Way Homes, situated at Plot No.A-9, A-10, A-11, A-12, A-13, Nyay Vatika, Bilwa, Tonk Road, Sangar, Jaipur (Rajasthan) is registered with the Authority bearing registration no. RAJ/P/2023/2578, registration of the project is valid upto 12.03.2027, and name of the promoter is Mojika Real Estate And Developers Pvt. Ltd. Now, the promoter Mojika Real Estate And Developers Pvt Ltd has applied for change in new promoter Midas Buildreal Private Limited on 15.12.2023 under RERA, via promoter profile modification application. Under section 15 of the RERA Act, 2016, the new promoter has to bear all the liabilities & responsibilities of the earlier promoter.	
Hence, for the purpose of completing the project by the new promoter, whosoever, booked or has been allotted flats in the project Four Way Homes if any is hereby directed to file an online complaint for refund, interest or compensation on the RERA web portal https://rera.rajasthan.gov.in on or before 28.02.2024.	
By Order (R.C. Sharma) Registrar, Rajasthan RERA Raj,Samwad/C/23/12464	

State tops Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra with 14/18 scheme success

3.40 crore people participate in camps. MPs take part in 432, while MLAs 1,663 camps

Ziauddin Khan
Jaipur

Rajasthan has secured first place in achieving the goals in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra which started from December 16 last year and concluded on January 26.

During this period, 11, 209 camps were organized in Rajasthan. The state got first place in

benefiting people in 14 out of 18 schemes in the camps, Panchayat Raj Minister Madan Dilawar said.

3.40 crore participants directly participated in the camps. MPs participated in 432 camps and MLAs participated in 1663 camps. PM Modi Also interacted with the beneficiaries in the camps. At the same time, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma also kept inspecting the camps continuously.

The number of beneficiaries was 8.25 lakh in insurance scheme, 4.75 lakh in Jeevan Jyoti



scheme, 2.66 crore in health checkup camps, 55.46 lakh in Ayushman Bharat Card KYC, 8369 in Ayushman saturation, 5.94 lakh in Pradhan

Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 11, 203 in Soil Health Card, 11 205 in Natural Farming scheme.

These camps saw regular monitoring by high-

Rajasthan clinches top honors in Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, excelling in 14 out of 18 schemes across 11,209 camps. The state leads in achieving diverse goals, supported by active involvement of MPs, MLAs, PM Modi, and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma

level officials and periodic reviews which contributed to the journey's triumph, resulting in maximum eligible individuals benefiting.

Review meeting: JDC suggests measures to expedite work

Abhishek Shrivastava
Jaipur

The weekly review meeting was held at Jaipur Development Authority's (JDA) Manthan Auditorium on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Jaipur Development Commissioner Manju Rajpal where she instructed officers to reduce the timeline of services being provided by JDA under the Public Service Guarantee Act. For this purpose, the process of going through various stages (levels) in online cases related to the general public will have to be reduced and simplified.

Rajpal said that there is a need to work away



Manju Rajpal during the review meeting in Jaipur on Tuesday.

from the organizational functioning prevalent in JDA for quality services. Visitors will be allowed in the zone offices and JDA premises during visitors' time (3 to 4 pm) only. Applicants for on-

line applications should follow the online procedure. Besides this, various arrangements will be made for entry of visitors in the registrar at the reception of JDA main building.

State's Silicosis certificate scam now under the radar of ACB

Vikas Sharma & Naveen Sharma
Jaipur

The fraud related to issuing silicosis certificates is on the ACB radar now. The ACB headquarters received a complaint regarding corruption worth crores of rupees. The matter was raised by First India.

The ACB headquarters wrote a letter to ACS Medical Shubhra Singh after getting the complaint and while listing all the accused in the case it sought permission to register a case under 17A against all of them.

If the ACB gets permission, a case will be registered against the accused for abuse of office and corruption and they could be arrested.



You read it in First India on JAN 30, 2024

Three personnel, including a doctor were immediately suspended in the case while 20 medical personnel, including nine doctors were sent on APO. Meanwhile, the officers have maintained silence regarding the loss incurred to the treasury. The matter came to light in Dausa just ahead of the assembly elections in the State. Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar has taken action.

Kota: Elderly killed with sharp weapon in Itawa



First India Bureau
Kota

An elderly man was hacked to death by unknown assailants in front of Bypass Idgah in Itawa, Kota. Upon reaching information, Police and the FSL team reached the spot to collect evidence. According to police, the deceased Nandkishore



Gurjar was brutally murdered with an axe.

The matter is being investigated by police. The body of the deceased man has been kept in the mortuary of Itawa Hospital.

NURSING OFFICER CAUGHT IN ACB NET WITH ₹10,000 BRIBE

Kota ACB following instructions from the headquarters arrested Mansoor Ali Ansari, Senior Nursing Officer, Maharao Bhim Singh (MBS) Hospital, Kota, red-handed while taking a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant on Tuesday. Additional Director General of Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hemant Priyadarshi said that a complaint was registered that in lieu of passing the bill for the machine repair work and supplies done by the complainant's firm in MBS Hospital, Ansari demanded a bribe amount of Rs 15,000. The complaint was verified and a trap was laid after which Ansari was arrested.

Bhanwar S Charan

NIA announces ₹5L reward on gangster Rohit Godara

First India Bureau
Jaipur

NIA has announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh on information leading to the arrest of gangster Rohit Swami Godara.

Godara had fled abroad by making a fake passport from Delhi. After that, his location has not been found by any investigating agency till date.

However, Interpol had received information

about his presence in the Gulf a few months ago.

Rajasthan Police has also announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh for the arrest of Rohit Godara.

Rohit Godara allegedly demanded extortion worth crores from several businessmen in Rajasthan. Godara is also accused of orchestrating the murder of gangster Raju Theth in Sikar last year, to which he claimed responsibility on a Facebook post.

Chargesheet against three in PFI case

First India Bureau
New Delhi/Jaipur

The National Investigation Agency has filed a fresh chargesheet against three more accused in the Rajasthan Popular Front of India conspiracy case for organising arms training camps and providing training to some co-accused in the handling and use of weapons to "gullible Muslims" to commit violent acts.



Vajid Ali, Mubarak Ali and Shamsher Khan are charged respectively, in the case relating to the banned outfit's conspiracy to radicalise Muslim youth and to provide them with

weapons training for fighting against people who don't support the PFI's version of Islam as well as against the government of India, the agency said on Tuesday.

The NIA said that Vajid, Mubarak and Shamsher had "conspired with other co-accused persons to provide training in the handling and use of weapons to gullible Muslims to commit violent and Ant-national acts."

TWO HELD FOR KIDNAPPING MINOR GIRL IN JAIPUR'S PRATAP NAGAR

Jaipur: Jaipur Police have arrested two accused in the case of kidnapping of a minor girl in Jaipur. The accused were produced before a court from where they were sent to jail. The minor was abducted in September last year. DCP East Gyan Chand Yadav said that on September 14 last year, a student preparing for NEET was kidnapped in Bolywood style in Pratap Nagar police station area. Afterwards, the accused allegedly took her to Bharatpur. On the day of the incident, the miscreants had asked the minor about her family. The minor girl told that his father had died while mother worked as a maid whereas her parents are government employees.

Satyanarayan Sharma

TENANTS CHEAT FLAT OWNER OF ₹1.25 CR IN NAME OF INVESTMENT

A case of fraud of Rs 1.25 crore in the name of investment in the stock market has come to light in Jaipur. The victim has accused three people of a family who are his tenants of cheating him. Yogesh Mishra said that his flatmate Himanshu Singh, his father Kushal and sister Prachi tricked him into investing in the share market and he transferred Rs. 1.25 crore into the account of the accused. Mishra said that as he did not have a demat account, the miscreants asked him to deposit money in their own account. Police said that Mishra, living in B-105, Shivgyan Casa Prime, registered a complaint that his tenants lured him into investing in the share market. A case has been registered.

RPF CONSTABLE HURTS HIS FINGER WITH BULLET WHILE CLEANING GUN

Dholpur: An RPF constable suffered serious bullet injury in his finger at Dholpur Railway Station. He was first admitted to the district hospital, where after first-aid he was referred to a bigger hospital. Prima facie, it appears that it was an accident and had occurred while the constable was cleaning his gun. Upon hearing the sound of gunfire, other CRPF soldiers in other quarters rushed to the scene and got the injured constable to the hospital.



3 GUJ SCRAP DEALERS HELD HOSTAGE RESCUED, 1 ARRESTED

Alwar: Three scrap traders from Gujarat who were held hostage in Alwar's Tijara were rescued in a joint operation by the Gujarat and Rajasthan police. The three were taken hostage and put in a scrap warehouse in the forests of Bichpuri village. They were called from Bhavnagar on the pretext of getting them scrap at cheaper rates. The miscreants then called up the businessmen's family and demanded a ransom of Rs 15 lakh. After this, the family informed the Gujarat Police. Police teams from Gujarat and Rajasthan freed all three businessmen within two hours and arrested one of the kidnappers while the rest fled. Search is on for the absconding persons.

CAG questions ambulance purchase by SMS college

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The audit department has raised questions on the procurement process of ambulances purchased at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College during Covid. Twenty-two advanced life support ambulances were purchased then. The administration purchased ambulances for 14 medical colleges of the state which are in question by the audit department.

The college administration placed an order in single bid for Rs 42.50

lakh per ambulance but the ambulance rate in NHM tender was Rs 37.12 lakh.

The audit has raised questions on the difference of Rs 5 lakh on one ambulance which amounts to a total of Rs 70 Lakhs in discrepancies. Besides, it questioned making 90% payment on the very next day of work order.

Although the college administration has sent a point-wise reply to the department, everyone is worried that the audit team may pursue the matter further in this regard.

'MINING MATTERS'

E-Auction of contracts worth ₹385 crore

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The state mines department has started the e-auction process of 41 RCC/ERCC contracts worth more than Rs 385 cr. The auction process of 19 contracts for allotment of contracts for royalty, excess royalty, permit and weighing fees, DMFT and RSMET collection on various minerals released from mining leases/quarry plots located in different districts has started from January 30.

These will be given



from date of contract execution after e-auction of 19 contracts till March 31, 2025. The e-auction will be held on January

30, 31, 2024 and February 21, 2024, on the Government of India's e-portal MSTC. Similarly, 22 contracts will be awarded

Contract is mainly allocated for minerals like marble, sandstone, limestone burning, granite, quartz feldspar and among others.

through e-auction for a period of 2 years from March 1 to March 31, 2026.

Any interested person can participate in the auction by registering with the electronic service provider company MSTC and depositing the bid security on a fixed date & time.

Homage to docs who lost lives during Covid

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Martyrs' Day was celebrated across the state on the call of the Indian Medical Association and tribute was paid to doctors who lost their lives during the Covid 19 pandemic. IMA Rajasthan President Dr Rajneesh Sharma gave information regarding this.

A poster was released in honour of the martyred doctors. RUHS VC Dr Sudhir Bhandari released the poster and was honoured for his ex-



cellent work during the pandemic.

Medical Practitioners' Society President Dr Sanjeev Gupta said that Dr Narottam Sharma, Professor Dr Lokendra Sharma, Dr Vishal Sharma were also honoured for their good work.



Robin Roy
The writer is Senior Journalist and former Managing Editor, First India

WHAT ABOUT NITI IN RAJNEETI?



What Indian politicians (generally) think of the electorate is a matter of huge concern. Some Indian politicians, it seems, can run between the wickets and change jerseys faster than the professional players in a esteemed league tournament. At least players need to continue in the same jersey(s) during the entire league tenure, but for politicians, there's no tenure, they can change jerseys even the day before the polls!

Isn't it time, the Election Commission or the judiciary step in to control such activities so that the mandate of voters can be honoured... which is the least we can expect in this dance of democracy?

It is time, voters take serious note of these politicians. From *khiladis* to *Khiladis number 1*. The *netas* are competing among themselves and this trend is ultimately becoming dangerous at least for the *aam* voters, who still have faith in the electoral process. Taking mandate for granted in this manner will soon spell doom.

And for the above mentioned reasons, it's no surprise that the JD(U)'s flip, fifth time in over 10 years, has earned Nitish Kumar the title of 'Paltu Ram' in Bihar politics.

While Nitish was congratulated for returning to the NDA fold (can we call so many returns *Ghar Wapsi*???) INDIA bloc voiced their displeasure with the politician's activities and described him as a turncoat and 'girgit' (chameleon).

But an unfazed Nitish Kumar 'asserted' that there



As BJP goes full throttle to push its Hindutva agenda, especially after the consecration ceremony of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, there is speculation that it might play Hindutva plank & sensing that probability, Congress is leaving no stone unturned. Meanwhile, to make matters worse, especially after Mamata said that she would have no truck with Cong, a trust deficit has been created among the constituents of Oppn bloc

was now no question of leaving the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)-fold. "I was with them (NDA) earlier, too. We went on different paths, but now we are together and will remain so. I came back to where I was (NDA), and now there is no question of going anywhere else," he said. However, after his current political stunt and his stakes in the future would decide if there is any other place where he could be shifting...

After the swearing-in ceremony, Kumar told reporters: "I have come back where I was earlier. Now there is no question of going back."

The 72-year-old politician indicated that he wasn't happy with the way things were going in the alliance in the state as well as the newly formed Opposition grouping, INDIA.

There have been fissures and cracks between the JD(U) and the RJD for quite some time now which have also come to the fore with many speculating that Nitish would flip sides. Upendra Kushwaha, who heads the Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal, claimed that Kumar was

trying to quit the *Mahagathbandhan* as he was feeling "suffocated".

JD(U) National Spokesperson KC Tyagi also offered insights as to why Nitish Kumar quit the INDIA bloc and rejoined hands with the NDA.

"The attitude of the Congress from day one had not been very positive. They wanted to finish all of us non-Congress parties as part of a conspiracy," he alleged.

WILL NITISH'S EXIT HURT INDIA?

Even as leaders of the bloc constituents are putting up a brave front, it will be hard to ignore Nitish or his impact.

Nitish's shift will now add to the NDA's momentum and the INDIA bloc will have to come up with some major game changer to take on the NDA.

Secondly, his crossing over to the NDA, boosts the ruling alliance's numbers for the upcoming polls.

Analysts note that Nitish's exit from the INDIA bloc also puts the grouping in a conundrum over the matter of caste equations. After all, it was Nitish Kumar who was the architect

of the Bihar caste survey, a template that the Opposition has used for a pitch against the BJP.

YATRA IN 'TURMOILED' BIHAR

Bihar Congress President Akhilesh Prasad Singh while addressing a rally at the Shaheed Ashfaqullah Khan Stadium in Kishanganj, Rahul demanded a nationwide caste census, asserting that the country should know the population of OBCs, SCs and STs. He said that he was raising issues of social & economic justice during his *Yatra*, adding that Bihar had always taken a lead on the matter of social justice.

CONG PLAYING OBC CARD

In a bid to recoup losses following Nitish's exit from India, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi raised the issue of nationwide caste census to woo OBC & EBCs voters.

While addressing two rallies in Araria and Kishanganj during his *yatra*, the Gandhi scion devoted a good amount of time on his party's thrust on nationwide caste census as he asked the Narendra Modi government to conduct it so that the justice was meted out to OBCs, EBCs, Dalits and other marginalised section of the society.

Following Nitish's departure, the common perception in Bihar is that OBC politics would be relegated to the backyard due to the possibility of resurgence of hardline Hindutva politics in the state with BJP back in power!

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

IN-DEPTH

JHARKHAND CM PLAYS HIDE AND SEEK WITH ED

Playing hide and seek with the Enforcement Directorate won't be of any help to Hemant Soren, the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Law will eventually catch up with him.

His sudden "disappearance" from the national capital on Monday forced the ED to seek Delhi Police's help to look for him. Soren, who is facing an investigation in a money laundering case, is believed to have left his Delhi residence minutes before the ED team could reach there. Later, Soren and his personal security officers' phones were found switched off. To add a touch of drama to his disappearance Soren even cancelled his chartered flight to Ranchi. He, however, did send an email to ED asking to be questioned on January 31.

As a 'manhunt' was launched in Delhi the JMM leader surfaced in Ranchi on Tuesday where he chaired a meeting of ruling alliance legislators. The ED is said to have recovered Rs 36 lakh and some incriminating documents from Soren's Delhi residence.

ICJ INTERIM VERDICT COULD CHECK ISRAEL



In a ground breaking decision, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has labelled some of Israel's actions in Gaza as potentially falling within the provisions of the genocide convention. This verdict serves as a moral triumph for Palestine and South Africa, the nation that urged the ICJ to address the situation in Gaza.

However, it's crucial to note that this victory is symbolic, as Israel, adamant in its stance, refuses to accept the ICJ's ruling, rendering it non-binding. Ideally, Israel should take proactive measures to prevent potential genocidal acts in Palestine, not only for its own credibility but also to spare its allies, like the US, from the discomfort of being implicated in war crimes. The verdict must have already led to some red faces in the US, the closest ally of Israel, where Secretary of State Antony Blinken had described South Africa's as "merit less." The ICJ has found enough merit to proceed further in the case.

In its interim verdict the ICJ has gone further by instructing Israel to curb direct incitement to genocide, enforce punishment for such actions, and ensure the unhindered flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza civilians. Nevertheless, recent accusations against 12 UN relief workers, identified by Israel as aiding Hamas, have cast a shadow over humanitarian efforts.

As part of the ICJ's directives, Israel is required to submit a report within 30 days outlining its strategy to mitigate harm to Gaza civilians. This verdict sets the stage for ongoing international scrutiny and diplomatic pressure on Israel to address the complexities of the situation and uphold humanitarian principles.



As part of the ICJ's directives, Israel is required to submit a report within 30 days outlining its strategy to mitigate harm to Gaza civilians. This verdict sets the stage for ongoing international scrutiny

PK ON NK

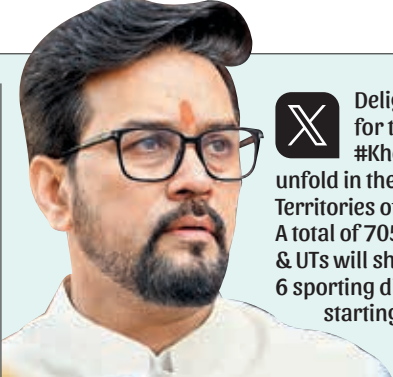
Political strategist Prashant Kishor on Sunday, calling Nitish Kumar a sly person who has been fooling the people of Bihar, said his alliance with the BJP will not last till the next Bihar assembly election which will be held in 2025. And no matter with whom he contests the next state election- with BJP or RJD if he again makes a flip after the Lok Sabha election, Nitish Kumar's party will not win more than 20 seats.

"If Nitish Kumar wins more than 20 seats in the next Assembly election, I will retire from my work. Please write it down," Prashant Kishor said. "People of Bihar will pay Nitish Kumar back with interest," Prashant Kishor added.



I wholeheartedly welcome the nomination of Shri @SarnamSandhuChd ji to the Rajya Sabha. This House has always been enriched by thinkers and those who have worked for social upliftment. Shri Sandhu has a long history of working towards making our society better and also igniting the flame of knowledge among people. I am sure he will be an asset for the Rajya Sabha and the Parliament too. My best wishes to him.

Piyush Goyal@PiyushGoyal



Delighted to unveil the vibrant logo for the upcoming 4th edition of #KheloIndia Winter Games, set to unfold in the picturesque landscapes of Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh! A total of 705 talented athletes from 24 States & UTs will showcase their prowess across 6 sporting disciplines in Leh and Culmarg starting from February 2nd, 2024.

Anurag Thakur@ianuragthakur

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

For the senses wander, and when one lets the mind follow them, it carries wisdom away like a windblown ship on the waters.

BHAGAVAD GITA



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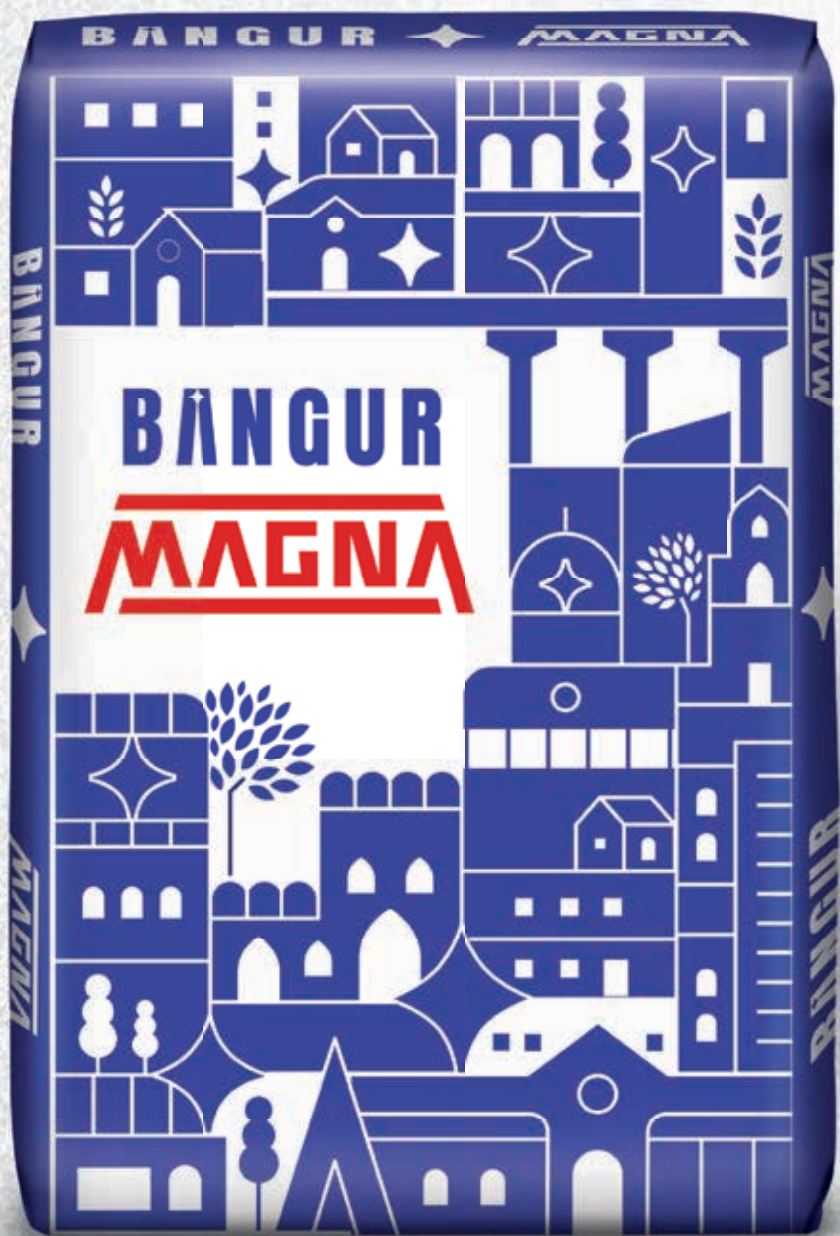
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PM to set vision for New India at Global Business Summit 2024



Agencies
New Delhi

The 8th Edition of The Times Group Global Business Summit (GBS), one of the largest conclaves of its kind in Asia, is scheduled to take place on February 9 and 10, 2024 at Taj Palace, New Delhi – India.

This year, Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi will set his vision for a New India at the summit and will be complimented by other key cabinet ministers that will underscore that goal for the country.

Deliberations will pivot on the theme of Disruption, Development, and Diversification, where global leaders from across

2000+ DELEGATES FROM DIVERSE INDUSTRIES, SECTORS, & BACKGROUNDS FROM 20 COUNTRIES

The 2024 edition is expected to be attended by 2000+ delegates from diverse industries, sectors, and backgrounds from over 20 countries. The event has been a distinguished platform that has welcomed eminent personalities from India and abroad, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Microsoft’s Bill Gates, Airbnb’s Brian Chesky, Huffington Post Media Group’s Arianna Huffington, Uber’s Dara Khosrowshahi, Netflix’s Reed Hastings, Apple’s Steve Wozniak, venture capitalist Guy Kawasaki, World Bank Group’s Anshula Kant, Adani Group’s Gautam Adani.

the world, such as; Bill Winters, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank; Jennifer M. Johnson, CEO, Franklin Resources Inc; Ravi Kumar S, CEO, Cognizant; Michael Schoellhorn, CEO - Defence and Space, Airbus; Andrés de León, CEO, Hyperloop TT; Michael Spence, Economist & Nobel Laureate, and David Hanson, CEO & Co-Founder, Hanson Robotics among others, will be seen collaborating to find solutions to the most critical problems humanity is facing today. The Times Group Global Business Summit, curated and executed by ET Edge, is a forum for global leaders to discuss current issues and map the future.

“Dynastic politics, not democracy under threat”: BJP slams Kharge

ANI
New Delhi

Launching a strong counterattack over Congress Chief **Mallikarjun Kharge’s** remarks, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi on Tuesday said that the dynastic politics under the garb of democracy now seems towards an eclipse and the true emergence of true democracy is there in the offing.

Kharge on Monday chief claimed that PM Modi will declare a dictatorship after this year’s general elections. “If Modi comes to power after the Lok Sabha polls, there will be dictatorship, no democracy and no elections,” he said.

BJP’s Trivedi said “Kharge ji, it is true that many things are being discussed in Indian politics. The power of the dy-



nasties ended in 1947, now the power of the democratic dynasties under the garb of democracy is being challenged and they are wondering what their future will be after the upcoming elections.”

Sudhanshu further mentioned the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and said that the Democracy ended during the Emergency period.

“NO POLITICAL PERSON IS READY TO SAIL IN ‘SINKING BOAT’ CONG”

Srinagar: The Congress is a non-performing asset, a liability and a sinking boat, a senior BJP leader alleged on Tuesday and said no political party will associate itself with it. “The Congress had made attempts to create the INDIA alliance, but the Congress party has become a NPA (non-performing asset) in the country and has become a liability,” former BJP MLC and party’s in-charge for Srinagar parliamentary constituency Surinder Ambardar said. “Congress is a sinking boat and no political personality is ready to sail in it,” the BJP leader told reporters after inaugurating the party’s election office in Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency. The BJP inaugurated its election offices in all five constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Neither arithmetic working nor their chemistry: Nadda

Agencies
New Delhi

The defeat of the ‘INDIA’ bloc candidate in the Chandigarh mayoral polls has shown that neither their arithmetic is working nor their chemistry, BJP chief JP Nadda said on Tuesday as he congratulated his party unit in the Union territory for the victory.

BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar defeated AAP’s Kuldeep Kumar, who was fielded as part of an alliance with the Congress, to win the post of mayor in the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

Sonkar polled 16 votes while Kumar secured 12. Eight votes were declared invalid. Councillors of INDIA bloc parties — the AAP and the Congress — protested as soon as the results were announced with AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal accusing the BJP of “cheating”.

Nadda wrote on ‘X’, “Congratulations to the Chandigarh BJP unit for winning the Mayor election.” Under PM Narendra Modi’s leadership, the Union territories have witnessed “record development.

“The ‘INDIA Alliance’ fought their first electoral battle and still lost to BJP shows that neither their arithmetic is working nor their chemistry,” he said.



Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav calls on BJP National President JP Nadda, at his residence, in New Delhi on Tuesday.

It is a black day for democracy. Everyone saw how they stole votes and forcibly made their candidate win. The issue is not who becomes mayor but the country should not lose and the democracy should not lose. The way cheating has been done in broad daylight in the Chandigarh mayoral polls is extremely worrying. If they can stoop so low in a mayoral election, they can go to any extent in the national elections. This is extremely worrying.s

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

SHAMELESS CAPTURE OF DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM: CONGRESS ON CHANDIGARH MAYORAL POLLS

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday hit out at the BJP alleging “shameless capture” of the democratic system in the country, after the ruling party candidate won the Chandigarh mayoral election defeating the INDIA bloc nominee. “Brazen, shameless capture of the democratic system. Declaring opposition votes invalid to win the Mayor Election in Chandigarh shows that it is second nature for the BJP to override the democratic mandate,” AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said in a post on X. “First they abruptly postponed the elections, and then devised a way to capture it. This is a warning for all those who are deluded into thinking that the Modi-led BJP will allow democracy to function if they win in 2024,” he said.



“Govt lost farmers’ trust, we will try to win it back”

Agencies
New Delhi

The Narendra Modi government at the Centre has “lost the trust of farmers” and the Congress will try to win it back if it is voted to power, party MP Rahul Gandhi asserted on Tuesday.

Gandhi gave the assurance in an interaction with farmers at Purnea district of Bihar, where his ‘Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra’ reached a day after the entourage made its

entry into the state.

Speaking with a ‘gamchha’ (towel) wrapped around his head, in a fashion that has been popular among the state’s farmers and labourers for generations, Gandhi said, “The (Modi) government has failed to allay the fears of farmers. In fact, it has lost their trust. I request you to give us a chance and we will try to win back your trust”.

He also added, please note that these are not hollow words.”



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with the farmers during the party’s ‘Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra’, in Purnea on Tuesday.

WE DON’T REQUIRE NITISH KUMAR: RaGa

New Delhi: The Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the Mahagathbandhan—a grand alliance of Congress, RJD and Left parties—will continue fighting for social justice in Bihar and for that purpose the alliance does not require CM Nitish Kumar. Reiterating his demand for a caste-based census, the Congress leader alleged that Dalits and backward classes don’t get due representation in all sectors of the country.

SP announces names of 16 candidates for Lok Sabha polls



Agencies
New Delhi

The Samajwadi Party on Tuesday announced its first list of 16 candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Sitting MP Dimple Yadav has been fielded from Mainpuri, while party MP Shafiqur Rahman Barq will contest from Sambhal, according to the list of candidates re-

leased by the party on its official ‘X’ handle.

Ravidas Mehrotra, sitting MLA from Lucknow Central, has been named as the party candidate for the upcoming Lok Sabha seat.

Similarly, the sitting SP MLA from Katehari in Ambedkarnagar district, Lalji Verma, has been named as party candidate from Ambedkarnagar parliamentary constituency.

‘Brain dead’ INDIA bloc ‘is bound to meet its natural death soon’: BJP

PTI
New Delhi

The BJP on Tuesday derided the INDIA bloc as “brain dead”, saying it was an “unnatural alliance” and is “bound to meet its natural death soon”.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said it is in the nature of the Congress to pick fights with other parties, comments which came in the wake of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) ruling out any alliance with the main opposition party and the Janata Dal (United) dumping the bloc for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

“We always main-



tained that this alliance was only for photo-shoot. It was an unnatural alliance. It is now brain dead and is bound to meet its natural death soon,” he told reporters.

The Congress, the biggest party in the INDIA bloc, has been at the receiving end of jibes from some different regional parties in the alliance.

DIDI REDUCED CONG, LEFT TO ZERO IN WB; WILL INFLICT SAME ON BJP IN LS POLLS: TMC

New Delhi: The Trinamool Congress said Tuesday the Congress being the biggest party in the INDIA bloc has more responsibility and should have left the seat-sharing issues related to West Bengal to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, reiterating the regional party will fight on all the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state. “If Mamata Banerjee can reduce the Congress and the Left to zero (in assembly polls), it can also reduce the BJP to zero (in Lok Sabha elections),” TMC leader Sudip Bandhopadhyay told reporters, following an all-party meeting ahead of the Budget session.

FOLLOWING PARLIAMENTARY PANELS’ RECOMMENDATION

14 suspended opposition MPs to return to Parliament

PTI
New Delhi

Fourteen opposition MPs, who were suspended during the last session and their case referred to privilege committees, will return to attend Parliament’s Budget session, with Union Minister Pralhad Joshi saying that the Chairs in the two Houses have agreed to government’s request to this effect.

Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha committees had recommended that their suspension be with-



REPRESENTATIONAL

drawn after they expressed regret for their conduct during the Winter session when their relentless protests prompted the Chairs to take action. While a total of 146 opposition MPs, 100 in Lok Sabha and the rest in Rajya Sabha, were suspended for bringing placards into the cham-

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha had together suspended 132 MPs for the remainder of the Winter session, which ended on December 21 and had referred the case of these 14 MPs to the respective privilege committee.

bers and frequently disrupting parliamentary proceedings, the transgressions by these 14 were considered more serious.

Joshi told reporters on Tuesday, “Everybody’s suspension will be withdrawn. We have requested the Speaker and the Chairperson on behalf of the government, and they have agreed.” He, however, asserted that leaders of different parties who attended an all-party meeting ahead of the session were told that they should follow the decision that MPs should not bring any placards or similar materials inside chambers during the session or else the Chairs will be forced to take action.

BJP misusing probe agencies to target opponents: Sule

PTI
Mumbai

NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) working president **Supriya Sule** on Tuesday alleged the BJP was misusing probe agencies against its opponents and breaking parties and families to retain power.

Speaking to reporters, Sule said the BJP has “weaponised” Central probe agencies and misusing the Income Tax, CBI and ED against its opponents, while the country is facing serious issues such as quotas, inflation and joblessness.

“They are misusing



agencies, breaking parties and families only to remain in power,” the Baramati MP said.

When asked about upcoming Rajya Sabha elections and six seats falling vacant in Maharashtra, the NCP leader said avoiding a contest in elections to the Upper House of Parliament is a political tradition in the state.

PM, Prez pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on death anniversary

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar attended a prayer meeting at Gandhi Smriti to observe the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on Tuesday.

Earlier, President Droupadi Murmu & PM Modi paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat here. Vice President Dhankhar & Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid floral tributes to Gandhi at his memorial. A two-minute silence was also observed for the Father of the Nation.

In a post on X, PM Modi said “I pay homage to Pujya Babu on his Pu-

India observes Martyrs' Day every year on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to honour his contribution towards the freedom of the country. On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in Birla's house, months after India's independence.

nya Tithi. I also pay homage to all those who have been martyred for our nation. Their sacrifices inspire us to serve the people and fulfil their vision for our nation.”



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day, observed to mark the death anniversary of the father of the nation, at Rajghat, in New Delhi on Tuesday. **PTI**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a prayer meet organised on the 76th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at the Gandhi Smriti, in New Delhi on Tuesday. **ANI**

X Salute to Gandhi ji on his death anniversary who awakened spirit of Swadeshi in hearts of countrymen by following the path of truth and non-violence. Gandhi ji's messages of peace & harmony are relevant even today.
Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

X I pay my tribute to the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the priest of truth and non-violence, who paved the way for India's independence through Swadeshi and self-reliance, on his death anniversary.
JP Nadda, BJP National President

X I pay homage to Pujya Babu on his Punyatithi. The nation will always remain grateful for his contributions. Also, on this day, we pay our tributes to all those who laid down their lives in service to the nation.
Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister

IN BRIEF

US: Indian student who went missing confirmed dead
New Delhi: Neel Acharya, an Indian student studying at Purdue University in Indiana state of the US, has been confirmed dead, officials said on Tuesday. Acharya, a double major in computer science and data science was reported missing on social media on Sunday.

President nominates Satnam Singh to RS
New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu has nominated educationist and the founder of Chandigarh University Satnam Singh Sandhu as a member of the RS. Vice president Jagdeep Dhankar also welcomed Sandhu to Upper House.

I don't think we should be scared of China: EAM

ANI
Mumbai

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that global politics is a competitive game and India should not be 'scared' of China, and instead of 'complaining' should focus on doing better than Beijing. He said that China being a 'major economy' will deploy its resources & as part of competitive politics, try and shape things in its way.

The EAM was speaking at an event at IIM Mumbai, regarding his book 'Why Bharat Matters' on Tuesday.

"China is also a neighbouring country and in many ways will, as part of competitive politics, influence these. I don't think we should be scared of China. I think we should say, okay, global politics is a competitive game. You do your best, and I will do my best," Jaishankar said.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar speaks during an interaction, at IIM Mumbai on Tuesday. **PTI**

India's greater capability, own interest warrant helping in difficult situations

India backs two-state solution to resolve Israel-Palestine conflict

China will influence our neighbourhood, India shouldn't be scared of competition

S JAISHANKAR, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

CHINA THREAT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA-US RELATIONSHIP TO MAKE STRONG AGREEMENTS, FTA: CONGRESSMAN ISSA

New Delhi: The "threat" posed by China offers an opportunity for the US and India to make strong agreements, including a genuine Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to ensure that the two countries will look at each other as first partners, according to Darrell Issa, an influential American lawmaker. Issa, a Republican Congressman from California, said. Agreeing that the India-US relationship today does seem to be based in no small part on the China threat, he said, Having said that, I view this China threat as an opportunity to do with that we did not do. The items produced in China could be produced in India, at substantially similar costs (and) would more than allow for India to substantially replace its dirty fuel with clean fuel, Issa said.

Australia sees 40% rise in sexual assault cases since 2013
Canberra: Australia has recorded 40% rise in sexual assault cases since 2013, a report said. The federal government's principal review body, the Productivity Commission, said that 123.7 out of every 100,000 Australians reported being sexually assaulted to police in 2022.

King Charles' charity to help 4 million Indian kids
London: The British Asian Trust, a charity founded by King Charles III, is leading an educational initiative also known as LiftE that will impact the lives of up to four million children in India across five years.

BJP wins Chandigarh mayoral elections

First India Bureau
Chandigarh

The BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls on Tuesday, retaining the three top posts in a setback to AAP and Congress which had contested the elections as allies.

BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar defeated AAP's Kuldeep Kumar for may-

or's post, polling 16 votes against 12 won by his rival. Eight votes were declared invalid.

BJP's Kuljit Sandhu and Rajinder Sharma were declared elected to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor, respectively. Opposition alleged there was tampering with the ballot papers.



FIRST-EVER 'SNOW LEOPARD POPULATION ASSESSMENT

India home to 718 snow leopards; 241 caught on camera

Agencies
New Delhi

There are 718 snow leopards in India, as per a report on the Status of Snow Leopards in India released by Union Minister of Environment and Forest Bhupender Yadav on Tuesday.

The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) Programme is the first-ever

scientific exercise that reports a snow leopard population of 718 in India, an official added.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that 241 unique snow leopards were photographed. Based on data analysis, the estimated population in different states is: Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21),



and Jammu and Kashmir (9), the official said.

The Ministry said that the SPAI systematically covered over 70 per cent of the potential snow leopard

range in the country, involving forest and wildlife staff, researchers, volunteers, and contributions from knowledge partners.

Covering approximately 120,000 km of snow leopard habitat across the trans-Himalayan region, including the UTs of Ladakh and J and K, and states such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh, the SPAI exercise was conducted

from 2019 to 2023 using a meticulous two-step framework.

The Ministry said that the first step involved evaluating snow leopard spatial distribution, incorporating habitat covariates into the analysis, aligning with the guidelines of the national population assessment of snow leopards in India by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2019.

IFWJ meeting concludes 5-member panel formed to examine election process

First India Bureau
New Delhi

The decision to conduct elections in the Indian Federation of Working Journalists was taken in a meeting of the state presidents and general secretaries in Delhi.

Various points included in the agenda were discussed in the meeting. Rajasthan president Ashok Bhatnagar raised the issue of not conducting elections by election officer (CRO). He said

that nomination papers were rejected in December due to some errors but no exercise to start the election process afresh was initiated.

CRO Shankar Dutt Sharma said that president Avdhesh Bhargava had telephonically communicated to him that his work had ended and therefore he could not issue fresh circular regarding elections. A proposal was passed in the meeting to nominate Sharma as the CRO for elections.



State presidents, general secretaries and others during a meeting of Indian Federation of Working Journalists held in Delhi. Rajasthan president Ashok Bhatnagar was also present.

FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

There is nothing as bitter as regret, at least do not regret loving words unsaid for want of ego or anger, it's not worth it.

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

CM's reply on Guv's speech

I am not a 'Ghoshna Veer' but a CM devoted to work, he says

CM's first speech in Assembly leaves all spellbound, speaks on ERCP also

**Aishwary Pradhan and
Yogesh Sharma**

Jaipur

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma replied to the motion of thanks to Governor's address in an impressive manner.

His style of speech showed edge against the Opposition Congress. Sharma also showed the future roadmap of the BJP government.

While speaking in the Assembly, the Chief Minister left the Opposition speechless on the issue of Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project.

It didn't seem like he is a first time MLA or rather a first time CM and his style won praises of not only the party but also the Opposition.

Through his speech, Sharma made it clear that he is not a 'Ghoshna Veer' but a CM dedicated to work. He expressed his vision to make Rajasthan corruption and crime-free. Sharma also resolved to make Rajasthan a developed state.

Talking about paper leaks that happened during the Congress regime, Sharma said that RPSC had its credibility when



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma responds to Governor Kalraj Mishra's address in the Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday. His speech was full of confidence and did not seem like that of a first time MLA and CM.

he was a student, but today questions are being raised on the institution. "The previous govt failed to bring forward people behind paper leaks. RPSC members were arrested and youth were forced to commit suicide. Now, cheating the youth will never be tolerated," he said. He informed the House that the incidents of paper leaks are being probed by a SIT of Raj police and if necessary the cases will be investigated by the CBI.

CM remembers Bapu...



CM TO LIFT BAN ON TRANSFERS FOR 5 DAYS

Ban on transfers will be lifted for 5 days in Raj. Necessary transfers can take place in state govt. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has assured this after talking to MLAs. Although transfers will not take place on a large scale.

CM ORDERS TO RUN DRIVE AGAINST DRUGS

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has directed to run a campaign against drugs in Ganganagar and surrounding areas. This task will be given to special force. Strict action will be taken against drug peddlers in near future.

'We the Jan seva doots of PM will help lotus bloom on 400 LS seats'

**Rajeev Gaur and
Shubham Jain**

Jodhpur/Ajmer

Union Jal Shakti Minister GS Shekhawat wrote the slogan 'Phir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar' and painted a lotus flower on the wall near his residence in Ajit colony. Shekhawat said that in order to put India in the league of developed nations, we, the "Jan seva doots" of PM Narendra Modi, have resolved to make lotus blomm on more than 400 LS seats this time.

"For this purpose, the work of writing messages on the wall has been started," he said.

The Union Minister said that every worker of



GS Shekhawat engages in conversation on myriad issues with the locals during the 'Chai Pe Charcha' at a tea-stall situated near the Vidhyashala School in Jodhpur on Tuesday.

the BJP is excited by the strong leadership of PM Modi and his increasing popularity at the international level.

Addressing a press conference in Ajmer,

Shekhawat said that the Integrated Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) will prove to be a boon for 13 districts of Eastern Rajasthan including Ajmer & Jaipur.

Politicians condole Chitra Singh's demise

First India Bureau

Jaipur

In a tragic incident, Congress leader and former MP Manvendra Singh's wife, Chitra Singh, died in a car accident on the Delhi-Mumbai expressway on Tuesday, while Singh, his son Hamir, and the car driver sustained injuries.

After the mishap, politicians cutting across party lines started offering condolences on Chi-



tra's demise and also wishing Manvendra a speedy recovery. LS Speaker Om Birla called up to inquire about Manvendra's well-being. BJP state in-charge Arun Singh, State BJP chief CP Joshi also inquired about his well-being. GS Shek-

haw, Om Mathur, Vasudev Devnani, Diya Kumari, Rajyavardhan Rathore, Satish Poonia, Dr Kirodi Meena, among others, took to X to offer condolences. Ex- CMs Ashok Gehlot and Vasundhara Rajee tweeted condolences on X, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul, & Priyanka Gandhi, GS Datasra, Sachin Pilot, also expressed condolences. Cong leader Bhawar Jitendra spoke to Manvendra over phone.

Repeat history of BJP's victory in upcoming LS polls: Raje to workers

First India Bureau

Jhalawar

Former CM Vasundhara Raje has called upon the party workers to repeat the history of BJP's victory in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Inaugurating the Lok Sabha election office at Radharaman Manglik Bhawan in Jhalawar, she said that this seat has been an invincible stronghold of BJP for the last 40 years. "This pride shouldn't be lost under any circumstances," she said. Jhalawar- Baran MP Dushyant Singh said that he will continue to work as a common worker in upcoming LS polls. Dist Prez Sanjay Jain assured to participate in the elections with full strength.



Vasundhara Raje condoles the death of late Devlal Chandna, father of Ashok Chandna during her visit to Bundi Shyopuriya Baori on Tuesday.



Vasundhara Raje inaugurates the Lok Sabha election office in Jhalawar on Tuesday. Dushyant Singh and others were present.

Cong, BJP start process of candidate selection for upcoming LS polls

Nareesh Sharma

Jaipur

Ahead of Rajya Sabha elections, speculations about the potential candidates have started in Rajasthan. Congress will get one seat for which the names of AICC treasurer Ajay Maken, former Assembly Speaker Dr CP Joshi and former Union Minister Bhanwar Jitendra Singh are doing the rounds.

Similarly, BJP will get two seats and Chhattisgarh in charge Om Mathur could be one of the two candidates. He had played a crucial role in bringing the BJP govt in Chhattisgarh.

Congress has also started exercise for candidate selection for the



Poll panel members will submit reports on LS constituencies to PCC Chief

upcoming LS elections. GS Datasra, Sukhjinder Randhawa & Tikaram Jyoti will tour 8 LS constituencies in a week from today to get ground level feedback from workers. They will visit Srigangagar, Bikaner, Barmer, Nagaur, Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Jaipur Rural. They will interact with workers and will address meetings.

Birthday celebrations...



Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari celebrated her birthday with fervour among party workers and the public in Jaipur on Tuesday. Thousands of workers from across the state welcomed her at various places and extended their best wishes to the Dy CM on the momentous occasion. Expressing gratitude, Diya Kumari said, "You all, the party workers, and the people of the state, are my family. Your love and blessings on my birthday overwhelm me. It's your trust and affection that always inspires me."



TAKING CONTROL

CS conducts surprise check of Collectorate & other offices

Dr Rituraj Sharma

Jaipur

Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant reached the Jaipur Collectorate office on Tuesday morning for a surprise inspection. He inspected the chambers of each officer, during which, some officers were found to be missing. Before coming to the Collectorate office, Pant also went to the Divisional Commissioner's building. He reached the Divisional Commissioner's office at around 9.20 am, and



Sudhansh Pant

FILE

stayed there for about 15 minutes, after this, he reached the Collectorate office at 9.35 am. During the inspection, the Chief Secretary visited the

During the inspection, the Chief Secretary visited the chambers of each SDM and ADM, where most officers were found to be seated. He also saw a pile of files in the chamber of Jaipur City SDM and even read some of the files

chambers of each SDM and ADM, where most of officers were found to be seated. He also saw a pile of files in the chamber of Jaipur City SDM and even

CS CHAIRS REVIEW MEET OF REFINERY DEPT

CS Sudhansh Pant took a meeting of the task force regarding the Refinery Dept. He reviewed how much work has been done & that lies pending, fixed a timeline and gave instructions to complete the incomplete work. Instructions were given to other related departments including energy to complete the necessary work. Instructions for preparing a detailed report on how much oil will be produced, information about the situation regarding petrochemical hub and local employment, meeting possible at the CM level regarding the progress of the refinery. Secretary Anandhi and other officers attended the meeting.

read some of the files.

A few days ago, the Chief Secretary had conducted a similar surprise inspection of Jaipur Development Authority.

During that time, when JDA Secy, Zone Dy Commissioner and Additional Commissioner were not found in their chambers, they were made APO.

CS instructs to rein in errant officers

First India Bureau

Jaipur

With surprise inspections being conducted in various govt departments, CS Sudhansh Pant has started a new initiative to rein in errant bureaucrats. Following his directions to strengthen the administrative staff, the DoP has issued fresh instructions for discipline and punctuality for senior

officers and others. After a surprise inspection in JDA and Collectorate, instructions were issued on Tuesday to maintain discipline in govt offices. Under this, the Controlling Officer in the section will have to ensure that they and the staff reach office at 9.30 am & remain there till 6 pm. Employees shouldn't leave the office apart from lunch hours between 1:30 pm

to 2 pm. Except for health reasons or emergencies, an employee shouldn't take leave without authority's nod. Employees will dispose of their files & work on time. They must inform about pending mails & files. They must promptly dispose of cases by regular monitoring of 'Sampark Portal.' Not following orders, would invite disciplinary action.



THE GRAND OPENING!

City First presents exclusive highlights from The Liv Hotel's grand opening by the Uberoi Family in C-Scheme. Pawan Arora, CEO & Managing Editor of First India, congratulated the Uberois. **P11**



Beacon of Glamour

Sushmita Puri transcends the realms of fashion and lifestyle, emerging as an emblem of empowerment and aspiration. Her journey serves as a poignant reminder that with passion, perseverance and unwavering determination, the stars cease to be mere distant dreams but become tangible realities awaiting our embrace!



Tripti Mahawar

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At the tender age of 18, Sushmita Puri has already etched her name in the annals of fashion and glamour as the illustrious Miss India glam Rajasthan winner. A luminary in her own right, Sushmita's journey embodies resilience, talent, and an unwavering passion for the arts.

From her earliest memories, Sushmita's affinity for dance and modeling was unmistakable. At the mere age of 3, she embarked on her artistic voyage, captivating audiences with her innate grace and flair. Fuelled by an insatiable passion for the spotlight, she embraced the world of modeling with zeal, determined to carve her niche amidst the glitz and glam. However, Sushmita's aspirations extended beyond the runway. With a penchant for the dramatic arts, she yearned to ex-

plore the realms of acting, a dream she ardently pursued with the unwavering support of her parents. Guided by her unwavering determination, she seized every opportunity that came her way, inching closer to her aspirations with each stride.

The pivotal moment in Sushmita's journey arrived when she graced the stage of the prestigious Ilfh company, marking her foray into the realm of professional modeling. With sheer grit and tenacity, she navigated the competitive landscape, leaving an indelible impression on judges and audiences alike. Her

crowning moment as Miss India glam Rajasthan winner served as a testament to her unyielding resolve and exceptional talent. Yet, amidst her triumphs, Sushmita remains grounded, ever cognizant of the transformative power of her journey. Through her experiences, she aspires to inspire countless young girls harboring dreams akin to hers, illuminating the path towards their aspirations with her radiant presence.

MUKESH KIRADOO

Jaipur's Real Estate Resurrection

The pandemic phase in 2020 tough as it was, brought in a lot of learning. Most people had a close brush with the uncertainty of life. It changed a lot of perceptions, to begin with, the mindset wherein people started thinking of possessing their own house, investing in an upgraded lifestyle, and fulfilling their aspirations.



Rachna Singh

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Jaipur's cityscape is changing. The transformation of a tier-II city into a booming metro in terms of real estate development costs typically signifies significant growth and urbanization. The long-awaited boom - which has created millions of jobs - comes after about six years of debt and pandemic-induced downturn before the construction sector began improving last year, hitting its stride this year.

Several factors contribute to this metamorphosis and the city's future as a promising real estate investment destination looks bright with a focus on state-of-the-art housing, integrated townships, sustainable living, affordable housing, and improved connectivity. Add to that the market boom, is also fuelled by the city's status as a prime cultural and historical destination, coupled with its strategic location on the Golden Triangle. RERA in Rajasthan was the icing on the cake that played a very crucial role in building trust among the buyers!

The pandemic phase in 2020 tough as it was, brought in a lot of learning. Most people had a close brush with the uncertainty of life. It changed a lot of perceptions, to begin with, the mindset wherein people started thinking of possessing their own house, investing in an upgraded lifestyle, and fulfilling their aspirations.

Quick on the trot, the second wave of covid only reinforced their need to throw caution to the wind and lead a life that they dreamt of - home being the top-most priority. That led to the mushrooming of apartment culture that came with security and the luxury of lifestyle facilities, closer home.

Prominent residential localities in Jaipur, like Jagatpura, Malviya Nagar, Vaishali Nagar, and Mansarovar, witnessed substantial growth in terms of residential developments. These areas offered modern amenities and proximity to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and commercial centres, making them appealing to both end-users and investors.

"Key factors driving the residential market were the city's robust infrastructure, improved

connectivity, and a thriving economy. Jaipur witnessed significant infrastructural development, including the expansion of roads, and creation of commercial hubs, which added value to residential properties in various areas," said Mukund Goyal patron, of CREDAI Rajasthan.

But, despite multifarious projects mushrooming in the city, even today the supply falls far short of demand and there still is an immense shortage of homes both in the rental as well as the buyer's segment. According to real estate stakeholders, there is 25 per cent more demand for homes post-COVID. After the pandemic investors disappeared from the market and the buyers are only end users, something that would sustain growth in the sector.

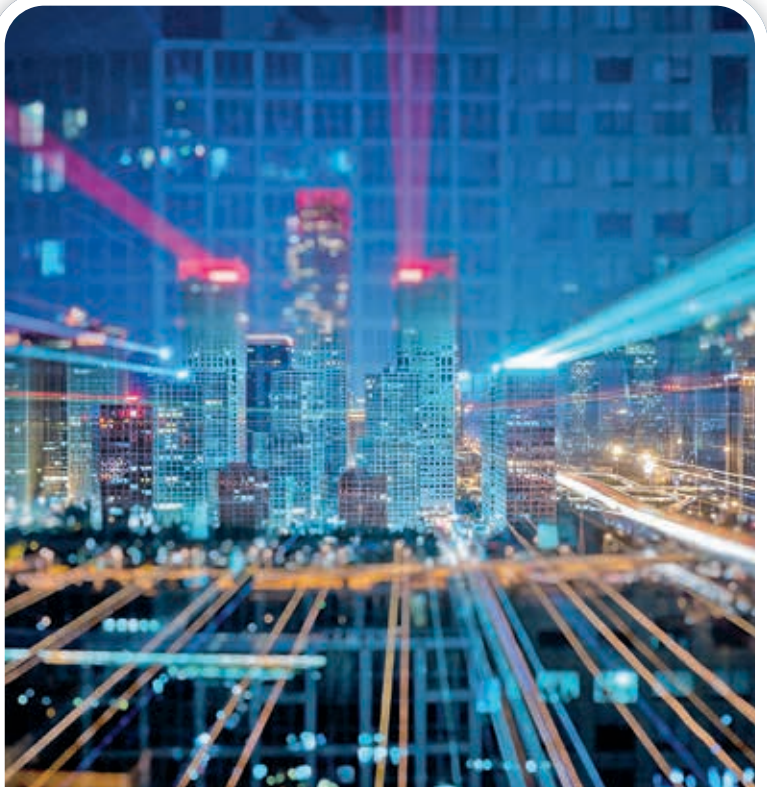
"Ajmer Road saw a 10% boom, Vaishali and Vaishali Extension, Jagatpura and Agra Road witnessed a 25 % boom in the sale of apartments. And the sale of land witnessed about 40% escalation on the Agra Road," said Gyanendra Singh Shekhawat a leading city architect.

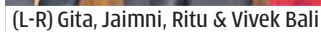
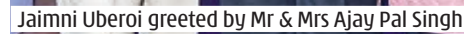
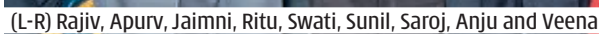
Jagatpura in the last two years witnessed a large expanse of open fields being consumed by the construction industry for various projects. As a result, the cost of prime land has touched around 2.00 lakh per sq. yard. Apartments on Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur that one year ago were selling for Rs 6-8000 per sq ft. do not have any inventory today even at Rs 12-14000 per sq. ft. And for the ground floor apartment in prime location, the same could go up to Rs 25,000 per sq. ft.

Similarly, rental properties too have kept pace with the demand. Sources confirm that there is a waiting period for fully furnished apartments on J.L.N Marg even at the exorbitant cost of 2.25 lakh rent per month.

"And that is because nearly 50% of city builders after demonetization and Covid were stuck in financial debt to take up any state-of-the-art project. We barely have 10-15% high-end projects in the city so demand could not keep up with supply. But in due course that would change," feels Shekhawat. While real estate developers are gung-ho about the prospects, there is a word of caution here. The transformation of a tier-II city into a booming metro can bring about economic prosperity and improved living standards, but on the flip side, it may also pose challenges such as infrastructure strain, traffic congestion, and social disparities. Developers, policymakers, and urban planners need to work collaboratively to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth of upcoming developments.

PICTURES FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE





Pawan Arora with (L-R) Mrs Seth & Lt General Dhiraj Seth, Jaimni Uberoi and Ashmita Seth

(L-R) Neetu Goyal, Geetanjali Kasliwal, Sunita Shekhawat, Ram Singh, Apurva Kumar and Ashok Goyal

