



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



## Lotus' trail of blooms from East-South!

### CEO CM is back in Andhra: Naidu takes oath for 4<sup>th</sup> time amid praise from lakhs

Pawan Kalyan takes oath as the deputy Chief Minister

Moni Sharma  
Vijayawada

Amidst applause from lakhs of spectators, TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu was sworn in as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and JSP chief Pawan Kalyan as his deputy on Wednesday in a grand event at Kesrapalli IT Park near Gannavaram Airport in Krishna district.

The grand event was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, central ministers, and other National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders. Former Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu, Ex-Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, and superstars Rajnikanth and Chiranjeevi were also present. This is the fourth time that Naidu assumed charge as Andhra chief minister and the second time after the bifurcation in 2014. **PS**



PM Narendra Modi embraces N Chandrababu Naidu after latter sworn-in as Andhra Pradesh CM, in Vijayawada on Wednesday.



PM Narendra Modi, Governor Abdul Nazeer & N Chandrababu Naidu greet the gathering during the swearing-in ceremony.



PM Narendra Modi with Andhra Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and actor Chiranjeevi Konidela during the oath ceremony.

### Mohan Charan Majhi takes oath as Odisha's 1st BJP CM

BJP leaders Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo and Pravati Parida sworn in as Deputy Chief Ministers of Odisha with Modi in attendance

Senior BJP tribal leader and four-time MLA Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday took oath as Chief Minister of Odisha at an event attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Notably, Manoj Majhi is BJP's first Chief Minister in the state. BJP leaders KV Singh Deo and Pravati Parida were also sworn in as deputy chief ministers of Odisha. Oaths were administered by Odisha Governor Raghubar Das. A beeline of top BJP leaders, including PM Modi, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, JP Nadda, Bhupender Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw were in the attendance. Naveen Patnaik also attended the event. **PS**



PM Narendra Modi with Governor Raghubar Das, newly sworn-in Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, Dy CMs Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo & Pravati Parida after oath in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks with former Odisha CM and BJD chief Naveen Patnaik after the swearing-in ceremony.

### KHANDU TO BE ARUNACHAL CM, OATH TODAY

Pema Khandu will become the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third term in a row, after he was unanimously elected as the BJP Legislature Party Leader at a meeting in Itanagar on June 12. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Tarun Chugh, Ravi Sankar Prasad attended the meeting as BJP's central observers on Wednesday.

### INDI-YAA! India storm into Super 8s



- Suryakumar Yadav's fifty guides India to a 7-wicket win over US
- Arshdeep records career-best 4/9 as India restrict USA to 110/8

### KUWAIT BUILDING FIRE

## 49, including 41 Indians, 11 from Kerala, die in fire

PM Modi announces ₹2 lakh ex-gratia for kin of deceased

First India Bureau  
Kuwait

A fire broke out in a building housing workers in the city of Mangaf in southern Kuwait early on Wednesday, killing at least 49, including 41 Indians, and injuring more than 50. The building reportedly had nearly 160 people living in it, who were workers of the same company. The fire started in a kitchen in the six-storey building, officials said, adding the building had nearly 160 people living in it, who are workers of the same company.



Smoke billows after a fire broke out in a building, in Mangaf, Kuwait on Wednesday.



PM Narendra Modi chairs a meeting in wake of fire mishap in Kuwait, Wednesday. Jaishankar, PK Mishra, Ajit Doval & Vinay Mohan Kwatra are also seen here.

### MoS KIRTI VARDHAN TO VISIT KUWAIT ON PM NARENDRA MODI'S DIRECTION

PM Narendra Modi in a post on X offered condolences to the families of those killed in massive Kuwait building fire. "As directed by Modi, MoS for External Affairs KV Singh is urgently travelling to Kuwait to oversee assistance to those injured in fire tragedy," MEA said on Wednesday.

**+965-65505246: INDIAN EMBASSY ISSUED HELPLINE NUMBER AND SAID THE EMBASSY WILL GIVE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE**

### First session of 18th Lok Sabha begins June 24

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 for oath or affirmation of the newly elected members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on

### PM Modi to introduce his council of ministers to Parliament after President Murmu's address on June 27

Wednesday. The first three days of the session will see the newly elected leaders taking oath or making affirmation of their membership of Lok Sabha and electing the Speaker of House. President Droupadi Murmu will address joint sitting of Houses on June 27.



### Buon Viaggio Mr PM!

- PM Modi to leave for Italy today ● Modi may hold talks with Italian counterpart Meloni ● PM to attend G7 tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday will depart for Italy to participate in the 50th G7 Summit which is to be held on June 14 where India has been invited as an Outreach Country. During his visit, Modi is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. This will be PM's first overseas trip after assuming office in his 3rd consecutive term, foreign secy Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Wednesday. Kwatra said this will be India's 11th participation in the G7 Summit and the 5th consecutive participation by PM Modi.

### BHARAT24'S UNBEATABLE STREAK!

## The JC Show on PM Modi gets record 6.80 crore plus views in just 14 days!

In a spectacular chain of events, the nation was swept by the storm of analytical and behind the scenes scoops of the political realm and current developments encapsulated by Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in highly anticipated "The JC Show" aired on Bharat24, leaving viewers spellbound with his charm and wit. Premiering on May 27 with the title "Mrig Marichika & X-Factor Modi,"

the show quickly gained momentum, captivating over four crore viewers across Bharat24's social media platforms. Adding to the fervour, on June 4, "The JC Show" unveiled its latest episode titled "Modi Ka Naya Avatar: Abki Baar Gathbandhan Sarkar," showcasing a blend of political reality, satire and in-depth analysis by Dr Chandra, that resonated deeply with the audience. Garnering more

than 2.80 crore views on Bharat24's social media channels, Modi-centric episode proved to be yet another sensational hit! The success story doesn't end there. Within a mere span of 14 days, "The JC Show" has amassed a staggering 6.80 crore viewership, solidifying its position as the reigning champion of viewership on Bharat24 as well as the premier political program in the nation. With its unique blend of

political commentary and topical scrutiny, The JC Show has etched itself into the hearts of millions, setting new benchmarks in the realm of digital viewership. As audiences eagerly await the next instalment of this politico-cultural phenomenon, it's clear that "The JC Show" continues to reign supreme, promising to reveal behind the scene developments, political

realities of the tallest leaders and viewer-centric coverage of the highest calibre.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra

4 जून की मृग मरीचिका! & X-FACTOR MODI THE JC SHOW

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109	531	667	208	373	430
308	109	308	69	318	

## MAJOR CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION

## Raj ACB conducts statewide raids against Apex Bank MD

Acting on tip-offs, ACB targeted senior officials, including Apex Bank's MD Bhomaram and Kota Range VDO Suresh, suspected of amassing substantial illicit wealth through corruption



Navin Sharma and  
Yunus Khan  
Jaipur

In a major crackdown on disproportionate assets, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has initiated search operations across several districts of the state on Wednesday. Acting on tip-offs, the ACB targeted senior officials, including Apex Bank's Managing Director Bhomaram and Suresh, a Village Development Officer from Kota Range, suspected of amassing



An official of the ACB team conducts search at the MD of Apex Bank, Bhomaram's residence in Jaipur on Wednesday.

substantial illicit wealth through corrupt practices. Following the development of the initial intelligence, multiple ACB

teams conducted searches in Jaipur, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, and Kota. The operations are being carried out at Bhomaram's

residence in Jaipur's Chitrakoot area, his ancestral home in Nagaur, and a petrol pump in Khinwsar.

During a search operation led by ASP Sandeep Saraswat and Inspector Raghuveer Sharan, ACB uncovered documents related to 7 plots of Bhoma Ram. documents for a petrol pump and an under-construction hotel in Khimsar, registered under Bhoma Ram's wife's name, were found. Gold and silver jewelry worth lakhs, & other movable, immovable assets were found. ACB has filed a case against Bhoma Ram.

Udaipur MP Mannalal Rawat receives threat on social media



Ravi Sharma  
Udaipur

Udaipur's newly elected MP Mannalal Rawat was threatened on social media. During a live show, a comment stated, "The public has done wrong by making him an MP. Like Kangana Ranaut, he too will have to be handled." The MP has informed the police about this.

Mannalal Rawat, who won with a significant number of votes in the recent elections, has been threatened, with the person indicating intentions to target him.

Rawat commented that the threat reveals the person's mindset. The police have started an investigation, taking the matter seriously. They have identified the accused as Khanuram Meena. In the past, Tribal Minister Babulal Kharari also faced threats. The police had arrested an individual linked to another political party's ideology.

## Jaipur police introduces 'Nazar Citizen' App for prevention of crime

Satyaranayan Sharma  
Jaipur

The Jaipur Police Commissionerate is implementing new strategies to combat rising crime, maintain law & order, & reduce road accidents in the city. They've launched the 'Nazar Citizen' mobile app for domestic servant and tenant verification, ensuring enhanced security. Additionally, an MoU has been signed for 'Map My India' app, named 'Maples', aimed at preventing road acci-



Biju George Joseph addresses after launching the 'Nazar Citizen App' at Jaipur Police Commissionerate auditorium on Wednesday.

idents. Police Commissioner Biju George Joseph inaugurated the 'Nazar Citizen' app at Police Commissionerate. The app enables citi-

zens to share details about domestic staff or tenants, aiding surveillance. 'Maples' app informs drivers about road conditions, reducing accidents.

## Raj RSS workers visit Ram Lalla in Ayodhya



Around 300 full-time office bearers (Pracharaks and Vistaraks) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Rajasthan unit visited and worshipped at the Shri Ram Lalla Temple in Ayodhya on Wednesday. After taking rest at RSS HQs, 'Saket Nilyam,' located in the Badi Devkali area of Ayodhya, all the Pracharaks went for a morning bath in the Sarayu River. Following this, in a series of temple visits, they worshipped at Hanuman Garhi, Kanak Bhawan, Dashrath Mahal, and other temples, including Shri Ram Lalla. Lunch was arranged at Karsevakpura.

PANKAJ SONI

Sirohi: Champat Rai & Dewasi flag off Ayodhya Yatra

Ashok Kumawat  
Jaipur

VHP's Central V-Pand General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra-Ayodhya, Champat Rai, visited Sirohi to attend a programme. State Minister Otaram Dewasi welcomed Champat Rai with a flower garland at the Dak Bungalow, with VHP and BJP members.

Later, Dewasi and Rai participated in an event organised at Maharaja Ground. They worshipped a grand Hanuman mace and flagged off an Ayodhya Yatra. The mace, weighing 1,600 kg, is 26 feet long and 12 feet wide.

A 'Shri Ram Dhanush' has been made, weighing 1,100 kg, measuring 19 feet in length and 31 feet in width. These will be transported to Ayodhya by truck.

## INT'L CRIMINAL HELD IN 'OP VANSHIDHAR'

Under Inspector General Vikas Kumar's guidance, the Cyclone Team executed 'Operation Vanshidhar,' a significant crackdown on criminals. Acting swiftly and relentlessly, the team pursued their targets across Barmer and Sanchole districts. Their efforts led to the capture of an international criminal, Shyam-sundar, with a bounty of 65,000 rupees on his head. After conducting a 48-hour operation, the Cyclone team successfully apprehended Shyamsundar, who had evaded capture for three years, changing disguises from Samvariya to Shyamsundar, and even adopting aliases like Sanvararam and Murlimanoar.

## Kota: Man held for betting during the T20 World Cup

First India Bureau  
Kota

In Kota, the team of Cyber Cell and Udyog Nagar Police took joint action and arrested Mohammad Rustam son Jalal Ahmed, a resident of Kansua Hall in Shivaji Nagar, who was accused of betting on cricket matches by making online applications. During the police raid, the accused was betting on the T20 World Cup Canada vs Pakistan match.

City SP Dr Amrita Duhan said that the accused has been found with a total account of over Rs



21.03 crore for betting on 57 cricket matches. Police have seized a laptop, 6 mobiles, pen drive, horse racing software, a set top box, Jio fiber Wi-Fi, calculator, two remotes, 4 chargers, three registers & an LED TV from the spot.

SP Duhan said that information was given by an informer about it.

## LOOKOUT NOTICE AGAINST FATHER, SON

Jaipur: Police has intensified action against the cunning father and son duo, Rajendra Son & Gaurav Soni & issued a lookout notice against both in the case related to American woman who was cheated in the name of gems & jewellery. Gaurav Soni's wife is also under probe & Rajendra, Gaurav & Gaurav's wife have absconded with children. Police have been conducting raids in search of the accused. A shocking revelation has come forth in police probe that not only American national Cherish, but more than half a dozen people were cheated by the duo. Cops are receiving complaints of cheating on mail.

VIMAL KOTHARI

## Green corridor made to shift critical ERT commando

Suryaveer Singh Tanwar  
Jaisalmer

A commando from the Emergency Response Team (ERT) of Jaisalmer police was critically injured after being shot in the head. The bullet passed through his skull, necessitating immediate medical attention. A green corridor was established to transport the injured commando from Jaisalmer to Mathuradas Mathur Hospital in Jodhpur, a journey that took about three hours.

Upon arrival at the hospital, medical personnel, who had already pre-



pared, conducted a CT scan on the commando before transferring him to the ICU's red zone. The commando is currently on a ventilator.

The incident occurred as a team of 10 ERT personnel were travelling from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer to ensure security for Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's two-day visit.

Chittorgarh: CP Joshi conducts public hearing

PK Agarwal  
Chittorgarh

BJP State President CP Joshi visited Chittorgarh for the first time after ending of MCC to listen to grievances of people from his constituency. Public hearing was held at MP Jan Sunwai Center in Collectorate. Talking to First India, Joshi stated that people have high expectations from BJP govt, which is committed to fulfilling these expectations. CM is working on action plan ahead of budget, and PM Modi has also initiated a 100-day plan, he said.

## Bhajan Lal government to review newly formed 17 dists &amp; 3 divisions

Dr Rituraj Sharma & Ziauddin Khan  
Jaipur

Bhajan Lal Sharma government has announced plans to conduct a comprehensive review of the administrative aspects of newly formed 17 districts and 3 divisions.

The review will encompass various aspects such as effective management, administrative requirements, and availability of financial resources.

To facilitate this process, the government has formed a Cabinet sub-



committee. Deputy Chief Minister Dr. Premchand Bairwa will lead the subcommittee as its coordinator.

Other members include Industry Minister Rajvardhan Singh Rathore, PHED Minister Kanhaiyalal, Revenue

Minister Hemant Meena, and Water Resources Minister Suresh Singh Rawat.

The Revenue Department will serve as the administrative department for the subcommittee, with the Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department serving as a member secretary.

The review aims to ensure the smooth functioning of the newly established districts and divisions, addressing any administrative challenges and optimizing the utilization of resources.

## 2006 batch IAS Sudhir Sharma appointed as member of RERA

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In a notable appointment, Sudhir Sharma, a 2006 batch IAS officer, has been named as a member of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). Sharma's unblemished reputation and calm, straightforward demeanor have earned him this prestigious role.

Sharma, known for his composed and approachable nature, brings a wealth of experience to RERA. Promoted to IAS

from another service, he served extensively as Finance Secretary (Budget) and held various positions in the Finance Department due to his background in accounting services.

Additionally, he served as Special Secretary in the Home Department and as Collector in Pali and Barmer districts.

With his retirement slated for November 2024, Sharma spoke to First India, stating, "I will follow the entire process before joining."

## POLICE FOUNDATION DAY

## Raj Police Band enchants all at Jawahar Circle

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In the series of various events organised for Rajasthan Police Day 2024, Jawahar Circle was adorned with music by the Rajasthan Police Band on Wednesday evening.

The band members captivated the audience with their performance, featuring patriotic songs such as 'Ye Desh Hai Veer Jawanon Ka,' 'Vande Mataram,' 'Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon,' 'Saare



DGP UR Sahoo along with IPS officers Sanjay Agarwal, Hemant Priyadarshi, Vineeta Thakur, VK Singh and others at the Patrika Gate on the occasion of Rajasthan Police Day on Wednesday. The teams of various battalions of police bands enthralled the audience.

Jahan Se Achha Hindustan Hamara,' and 'Sandese Aate Hain.'

Their melodious voices mesmerised domestic and foreign tourists,

guests, youth, children, and all other attendees. The Central Band, Hadi Rani Battalion, and Joint Band (Brass Band) of the Rajasthan Police deliv-

ered captivating performances, earning applause from the diverse audience.

Against the backdrop of the Jawahar Circle

Garden's natural beauty, enhanced by greenery and lights, the tunes received widespread acclaim from those, who were present at the event.

## NCB's Nasha Mukh Bharat Pakhwada from June 12-26

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) will observe Nasha Mukh Bharat Pakhwada from June 12 to 26, 2024, nationwide to combat drug abuse.

Under the supervision of Ghanasyam Soni, IRS, NCB Zonal Director, Rajasthan, the NCB Jodhpur Zonal Unit initiated the campaign with an e-pledge against drug abuse and a plantation drive.

Throughout the fortnight, NCB Jodhpur and Jaipur will conduct var-

ious drug awareness programs in Rajasthan.

Recent operations, like Operation Prayogshala and Operation Shankar, resulted in significant seizures, reinforcing NCB's commitment to combating narcotics smuggling.

A drug awareness session was held at AIIMS, Jodhpur on Wednesday, with approximately 500 participants taking the Anti-Drug Pledge. Niten Kumar Chaubey, Assistant Director of NCB, Jodhpur, emphasized the importance of standing against drug abuse.

Jaipur: Migration prevention posters spark outrage

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Residents of Shivaji Nagar, Bhatta Basti, protested at the local police station against posters aiming to halt migration.

Allegations suggest Hindu families are selling homes to other communities due to anti-social activities, including reckless biking causing accidents.

Fearful local residents are demanding police intervention, citing an inability to confront these elements.

## State-wide protests erupt against terror in Kashmir

The activists reiterated their demand to the government for protection of religious pilgrims and a strong response to terrorist activities

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In a powerful display of solidarity against terrorism, activists from the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal took to the streets in Sanganer, staging a symbolic burning of effigies to condemn the recent terrorist attacks in Jammu. Amid chants echoing anti-terrorism slogans, ACP Vinod Sharma received a memorandum addressed to the President, underscoring the urgent need for action against such heinous acts.

Similar scenes unfolded in other parts of Jaipur, as demonstrators gathered at prominent locations, including Badi Chaupar and Vidhyadhar Nagar. The protest culminated in the handing over of a memorandum to collector's office, calling for decisive measures to combat terrorism and protect the citizens.

In Shrimadhapur, the protests took on a fervent tone as activists from various social organizations, led by the likes of the VHP and Bajrang Dal, converged outside the collectorate, demanding justice and accountability.



Members of the Bajrang Dal, burn effigy at Jaipur's Badi Chaupar on Wednesday in protest against the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir. **NAIM KHAN**

## Bhajan Lal govt plans ₹18,500 cr urban development boost in State

Abhishek Shrivastav  
Jaipur

The Bhajan Lal government is preparing to give a big gift to the cities as about Rs18,000 crore will be spent on the development of cities. This huge amount will be spent on 4 big cities and 26 satellite towns.

The World Bank and Asian Development Bank have given a proposal to the state govt and out of this amount, a proposal has been given to give a loan of 70%.



These two banks have proposed to give about 13K cr rupees. The remaining about 5,500 cr

RS will be given by the state government. In the fifth phase of RUDDP, a total of 40 cities will be developed and these include 10 divisional headquarters namely Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Kota, Ajmer, Bikaner, Udaipur, Pali, Sikar, and Banswara. Apart from these, 4 cities with high population are included namely Churu, Sriganganagar, Jhunjhunu and Tonk.

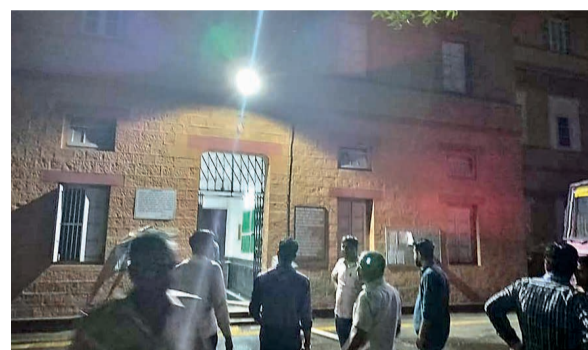
## JMCH seizes 109 kg plastic, fines ₹1.35 L

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Municipal Corporation Greater Jaipur conducted a five-day single use plastic seizure campaign from 6 June to 10 June 2024 under which action was taken by running a single use plastic seizure campaign in the wards by all the zones.

Deputy Commissioner Naveen Bhardwaj announced a special campaign from June 6 to June 10, 2024, targeting single-use plastic in Jaipur. This initiative led to the seizure of over 109 kg of plastic and the collection of Rs 1.35 lakh in fines. On Wednesday, Malviya Nagar Zone fined offenders Rs 5,000 and seized 5 kg of plastic.

## Alert staff douses fire at secretariat, no one hurt



Dr Rituraj Sharma  
Jaipur

A fire broke out late Wednesday evening in Group 3 of the General Administration Department at the Secretariat. Thanks to the alertness of security officers and staff, a major disaster was averted. Although two fire trucks were dispatched to control the blaze, security officers

and employees managed to extinguish the fire using fire extinguishers before their arrival.

Despite their efforts, the fire resulted in the damage of fans and other equipment in Group 3, along with the destruction of some files.

It is reported that the fire was caused by a short circuit in an old fan, which quickly spread throughout the section.

## Oxford Univ to host Pilot for special lecture

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Congress General Secretary Sachin Pilot is set to embark on a journey to England for a special engagement at Oxford University. Invited specifically for a program by the prestigious institution, Pilot is scheduled to deliver a special lecture on June 14 to students and teachers alike.

The program, organized by Professor Anandi Mani and Maya Tudor, will also feature discussions where Pilot will share his insights on various issues ranging from India's politics, business, to international affairs. The event is slated to start at 6:30 PM IST in England on June 14.



FORMERLY ICG



### SOME OF OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNAE



**Palki Sharma**  
Managing Editor, TV8



**Padmini Solanki**  
IAS



**Aruna Rajoria**  
IAS



**Yasha Mudgal**  
IAS



**Darshika Rathore**  
Endpoint, Middle East, UAE



**Shweta Sirohi**  
Careflight, Sydney, Australia



**Beenu Dewal**  
8th Rank, RAS 2018



**Manvi Soni**  
International Shooter



**Priyanka Raghuvanshi**  
RPS



**Fg. Lieutenant Swati Rathore**  
Indian Air Force



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## 'MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...' UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 88

# NaMo EFFECT RESOLVING AND RESONATING

The narrators share their experiences of interacting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting how he promptly addresses their problems and also takes immediate steps to resolve their issues. Additionally, Modi instantly connects with his audience whenever he speaks and lots more...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

## PM Modi's support for sports is unprecedented

My first interaction with PM Modi sir was during Patel run in Delhi. We shared the stage together. So, after the event he asked me many things and during the conversation I conveyed to him the different problems of athletes in the country. To this, the PM responded immediately and called his PA, urging me to explain the things to that person so that action could be taken up immediately. I was surprised that the PMO itself took cognizance of our issues and so promptly took steps to solve them. I also found for the first time that Modi ji was deeply interested in sports and knew about every athlete and his/her performance. I came to know that before every major championship, the PM himself calls up the athlete/athletes concerned to motivate them and wish them the best for the event, and big send-offs are organised regularly. Even after every championship we are celebrating each victory in a big way due to the personal initiative of the PM, which was never the way earlier. And more than that, because of the interest and involvement of the PM, there has been a lot of change in our system over these years of the Modi government. Lot of good infrastructure is coming up and competitive events are being organised even at the grassroots level in remote areas to bring out hidden talents to the mainstream. This is a major boost for the country's sports prospects. All athletes are happy because we have never seen such aggressive branding and promotion of sports in India before. This momentum that has been created by the PM will continue and go a

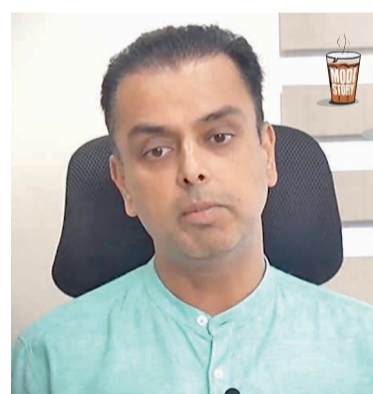
Anju Bobby George  
Athlete

long way in taking the country forward in this sphere. The support we are getting now from the system is unprecedented. The PM takes personal interest in all our affairs, even our family's well-being, and talks to us like a friend so that we feel confident and rest assured that we don't have any trouble in perusing our professions with utmost dedication and diligence, since the prime minister of the country is behind us with all his support.

You read PART 87  
ON JUNE 6, 2024

## Modi ji rises above party politics when it comes to nation's welfare

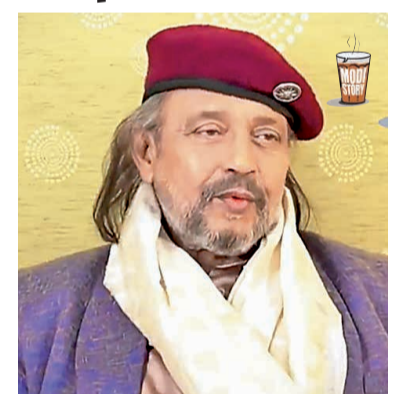
I remember, when Pramod Mahajan ji passed away and I was in Dadar for his funeral, I met Modi ji for the first time. There were several ministers of the Central government in attendance at the solemn occasion. Modi ji was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at that time. A small makeshift stage was rigged up at the venue where the ministers and CMs were to be seated. The front rows were reserved for the Union ministers, CMs and senior leaders of the BJP, while the seats for the MPs, including me, and other lesser VIPs were behind them. I was a young MP, all of 27 years, elected to the Parliament for the first time. Understandably, very few people knew me or recognised me. Modi ji was seated just in front of me...the distance between his chair and mine was minimal. As a courtesy, I stood up and greeted him with folded hands. I saw him sitting and then cleaning his eyeglasses. Soon after that, he turned around and said, 'Milind bhai, how are you?' I was shocked and surprised to realise that he knew who I was. Then he asked me whether the place we were in at that time fell under my constituency or my neighbouring constituency. So, I instantly felt he was very aware of things happening not just around him but in the field of geo-politics beyond his immediate realm of affairs too and it came to me that he was a man with his ears very much to the ground. I also realised in my subsequent meetings with him that he recognises you, remembers you and puts the right name to your face, which is very necessary in public life and the hall-

Milind Deora  
Shiv Sena MP

mark of great leadership. What is a matter of great joy for our family is that when Modi ji went to Houston to campaign for Donald Trump and he addressed the Indian diaspora at the NRG stadium there, at that time there was a tweet by him that said that he was missing his friend Murli Deora ji at this time who had took a lot of effort to strengthen ties between India and the US. Murli bhai must be very proud of this. He said, when Modi ji is respected worldwide, it is not just Modi's triumph but the triumph of India. Through the PM, the entire 140 crore people of India are getting that respect. My friend Murli Deora must be very proud of all the hard work he did to improve the relations between the two countries, Modi ji said. This was a moment of pride for us in the family as well as in the party and in our supporters. We realised that Modi ji has the ability to rise to the occasion and rise above party lines to give credit to people where they merit it, for his larger focus remains steadfast on what is good for the country and humanity.

## Narendra Modi is incredibly responsive

As soon as I joined the BJP, I got the opportunity to meet PM Modi ji on the stage. He gave a speech on the occasion. I was observing, and you all must be knowing that Modi ji establishes an instant bond with the audience when he speaks. The human connect is impeccable. He feels the pulse of the people and knows exactly what to say to them. He knows how to connect with the audience and involve them. This is the greatest attribute of a leader who can connect with his people. See, I am also an actor. And for a long time at that. We actors also tend to develop an understanding of the people we meet and talk to and know if they are genuine and original in their thought, approach and intentions or fake. Modi sir is so natural. He is naturally affable. While we were leaving the state, he called me and said, Mithun da, I want to speak with you. I was quite surprised. Taking out time from his busy schedule, he sat with me for over 10 minutes. And in those 10 minutes, he explained to me so many things, guiding me through the complex alleys of politics enumerating what I should do and what I shouldn't. Then he called his secretary and asked him to provide his personal number to me. Simultaneously, he also advised me to call him up directly without hesitation whenever I felt the need. I was overwhelmed by his gesture. He left after the event, but those 10 minutes were charismatic and remain etched in my mind forever. It is not just because he was the PM talking to me personally in a friendly manner but because of his responsiveness and his natural behaviour, which created an impact on me. The maximum time, if I remember correctly, he

Mithun Chakraborty  
Actor

ever took to respond to me is 23 minutes. Once I sent him a text message and he was in a different time zone, perhaps in Germany, and he took that much time to respond. Even if he is busy at a time, he would usually reply, saying 'tomorrow' or give another time. His normal turnaround time is not more than 10-15 minutes. Who am I in the party? I may be a known actor, but in the party, I am nothing, just a karyakarta. Why would the PM be concerned about me? But such is Modi sir's nature. When he has asked me to consult in case of any problem and committed to help me out, he would stand by it, no matter what. That's the kind of responsiveness that behoves a great leader. Not just me, he will never reply to anyone with vague statements like 'Let's see' or 'Let me check'. I keep away from such people because I know they never 'see'. Modi sir is one who will straightaway call that person in need and tell him, 'Meet me. We will sort it.' Such is the man, PM of our nation, a committed doer.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
SHASHIKANT SHARMA



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# Majhi promises developed Odisha; thanks PM

After taking oath in Odisha's first BJP govt, ministers in Majhi govt said that fulfilling promises under 'Modi ki guarantee' will get priority

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top BJP leaders JP Nadda, Nitin Gadkari and Yogi Adityanath, five-time Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Union minister Jual Oram were in attendance at Bhubaneswar's Janata Maidan as Odisha Governor Raghuraj Das administered oath to CM Mohan Majhi. Two deputy CMs, eight ministers and five ministers of state (independent charge) are set to take oath.

Majhi said, "I will play my role and fulfil my responsibility." Stating that he has taken the responsibility to work for the Odia people, Majhi said "I will work as per to PM Modi's vision to develop the Odisha. I will work to take the state forward and develop the state in the next 5 years and will ensure justice to the people."

Additionally, Prithviraj Harichandan, Dr



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated by newly sworn-in Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and State Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan at the swearing-in ceremony, in Vijayawada on Wednesday. Andhra Pradesh Governor S. Abdul Nazeer also seen. ANI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulates newly sworn-in Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi during the oath-taking ceremony, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday.

## MEETING PROMISES UNDER 'MODI KI GUARANTEE' PRIORITY

Bhubaneswar: After taking oath in Odisha's first BJP government on Wednesday, a number of ministers in the Mohan Charan Majhi government said that fulfilling promises under the 'Modi ki guarantee' will get priority. "We will start work from today to meet the promises made to the people of Odisha; the promises which were presented to the people of Odisha in the name of 'Modi Guarantee,'" said Harichandan, who is also the son of Chhattisgarh Governor BB Harichandan.

Mukesh Mahaling, Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and Dr Krushna Chandra Mohapatra also took oath as ministers in the Mohan Majhi-led government.

Other ministers who took oath included Suresh Pujari, Rabinarayan Naik, Nityananda Gond, Krushna Chandra Patra, Ganesh Ram Singh

Khuntia, Suryabanshi Suraj and Pradeep Balamanta.

Oaths were administered by top BJP leaders, including PM Modi, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, JP Nadda, Bhupender Yadav, Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram and Ashwini Vaishnav were in attendance for the mega event.

## DEFEAT, ARREST DIDN'T DETER NAIDU FROM BECOMING CM OF ANDHRA FOR 4TH TIME

Amaravati: Three years ago, storming out of the state assembly in anger, Chandrababu vowed to return only as chief minister. True to his word, he has now ascended to the position and is poised to enter the House. Naidu has thus emerged as one of the kingmakers, with TDP being the second largest party in the ruling NDA alliance behind the BJP in the 543-member Lok Sabha. Naidu first became the chief minister in 1995 and went on to have two terms as CM.



Union Ministers Amit Shah, JP Nadda, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Ashwini Vaishnav, Dharmendra Pradhan, BJD chief Naveen Patnaik, and UP CM Yogi Adityanath and others during the swearing-in ceremony of Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. ANI

## Govt to ensure ease of living for all: Sitharaman

Agencies  
New Delhi

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the government is fully committed to ensuring 'ease of living' for its citizens and will continue to take further steps in this regard, as she took charge of the ministry under Modi 3.0.

She was greeted at the office in North Block by Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan and other secretaries of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs and was briefed on the ongoing policy issues.

The Finance Minister said that the strong leadership and development-oriented governance in the last 10 years have driven transformative changes across various sectors and created a robust and resilient economy.

She also stated that the reforms undertaken since 2014 will continue, which will further provide macroeconomic stability and growth for India. She also highlighted India's commendable growth story in recent years amidst global chal-



Nirmala Sitharaman assumes charge as the Union Minister of Finance at Ministry of Finance, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

## 'INDIA TO GET WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE': GADKARI ASSUMES CHARGE AS TRANSPORT MIN

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said that India will be equipped with world-class, modern infrastructure at an accelerated pace. He said this while taking charge of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Gadkari will be at the helm of his ministry for a record third straight term. Along with him Ajay Tamta and Harsh Malhotra also assumed office. Tamta and Malhotra are the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. "Heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri @narendramodiji, for reassigning me this role in Modi 3.0," Gadkari said.

lenges and noted that there is an optimistic economic outlook for the coming years.

The Finance Minister urged the departments to advance the NDA gov-



Nitin Gadkari assumes charge as the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways at the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

ernment's development agenda with renewed vigour and ensure responsive policymaking to achieve the Prime Minister's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

## For me, people are my God: Rahul Gandhi

Agencies  
New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that the people of Wayanad and Rae Bareilly would both be happy about his decision on retaining any one of the Lok Sabha constituency seats that he won in the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing his supporters at Edavanna, near here, on Wednesday, Gandhi said his dilemma over deciding between Wayanad and Rae Bareilly could be easily resolved by the peo-



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi being greeted by a kid during a rally, in Malappuram, Kerala on Wednesday.

ple who are his God. "Unlike PM Modi, my God are the people of

India. My God are the people of Wayanad. For me it is very easy; I go

and talk to the people. What I will commit to you is that both Way-

## WILL PM DEPRIVE ODISHA OF ITS FAIR SHARE: CONG

New Delhi: Congress on Wednesday accused the Centre of steadily reducing Odisha's central funding in recent years and asked whether PM Modi will continue to deprive the state of its fair share. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh posed questions to the PM ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Mohan Charan Majhi as the CM.

## Akhilesh resigns from UP's Karhal Assembly seat

Agencies  
Lucknow

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav resigned as an MLA from the Uttar Pradesh's Karhal assembly seat on Wednesday after deciding to continue as the MP for the Kannauj LS constituency, which he won in the recent LS elections. Party's veteran leader Awadhesh Prasad also resigned from his MLA post after winning from Faizabad LS seat.

## Pay special attention to increase agricultural production: Shivraj

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan discussed in detail with senior officials of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Department regarding the 100-day agricultural action plan, as per sankalp by PM Modi.

Chouhan told the officials that they should focus their entire attention



Union Minister of Agriculture, Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan holds a meeting.

on farmer-oriented works so that work can be done speedily as per the sankalp of PM. Pay special atten-

tion to increase agricultural production, productivity and quality - Union Agriculture Minister.

## Himachal: Four Cong, two BJP MLAs take oath after bypolls

Agencies  
Shimla

Six newly elected legislators on Wednesday took oath as members of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. Former minister and BJP MLA from Dharamshala, Sudhir Sharma was the first to take oath followed by Congress MLA Anuradha Rana from Lahaul and Spiti.

The others who took oath are Congress MLA from Sujanpur, Captain Ranjit Singh, BJP MLA from Barsar, Inder Dutt Lakhnupal, Congress MLA from Gagret, Rakesh Kalia and from Kutlhar, Vivek Sharma.

Congratulating the new MLAs, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania expressed hope that they would raise issues related to the state and public welfare in the assembly.

The Congress had won four out of six assembly bypolls, while the BJP won two seats.

CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the Congress needed just one seat for a full majority in the House and the public has given a befitting reply to the party rebels who sold their soul and contested on BJP ticket.

## Assam: Stipend for girls pursuing higher studies

Agencies  
Assam

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday announced that his government would provide monthly stipends to all girl students from class 11 to post-graduation over the next five years, aiming to prevent child marriages.

Sarma said the scheme, 'Nijut Moina', was approved by the cabinet, which estimated that Rs 1,500 crore would be required in five years to give the incentives to around 10 lakh girls.



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma speaking.

"A married girl will not get the benefit. The only exception will be those married girls who are enrolled in PG courses, they will also benefit," he said. "The scheme will increase the gross enrollment ratio of girls substantially," he asserted.

## TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY

## NSG to set up units in Ayodhya, Pathankot, Kerala

PTI  
New Delhi

National Security Guards (NSG) will soon create its units in Ayodhya, Pathankot and Kerala. Confirming the development, a senior officer said that the process was in the pipeline for some time. The unit in Ayodhya will get operational in the next couple of months and the other two by the end of this year.

"The units in Ayodhya, Pathankot and Kerala will be operational by

this year. It will help local police and other CAPF units in capacity building and lessen the response time for NSG in case of any adverse situation," the officer said. Notably, Ram Temple in Ayodhya which was inaugurated in January this year is among sensitive installations in India and is said to be on the radar of various terror outfits.

He added that several rounds of meetings were conducted over the locations before finalising the decision. The units at these locations will be



armed with specialized weapons and anti-drone measures. The decision to set up NSG hubs in Pathankot and Kerala

comes after keeping in view the strategic importance of the border district Pathankot and Kerala transforming into a

haven for fundamentalist forces and logistics hub for pan-Islamic terrorist groups.

After the new three hubs get operational, there will be a total of eight NSG hubs across the country. At present, there are five regional hubs of NSG in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and Gandhinagar. "All the three locations were identified based on threat perception and their geographical proximity to nearby sensitive locations," the officer added.

## 14 dead in rain-related incidents in Marathwada since June 1

PTI  
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

Rain-related incidents have claimed the lives of 14 persons in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra since June 1, with 11 of these deaths caused by lightning strikes, officials said on Wednesday.

The latest four deaths occurred in Parbhani and Hingoli districts in the last two days, a primary survey report prepared by the divisional commissioner office said.

“Rain-related incidents have claimed the lives of 14 persons since June 1 in seven (out of the total eight) districts of Marathwada. Of these, four fa-



Residents clear rain-water that entered their house after heavy downpour, in Solapur on Wednesday.

talities occurred in the past two days alone,” it said. Two of these latest four victims are a 14-year-

old boy and a 40-year-old woman, it added. Eleven of these deaths occurred due to lightning

strikes. Two of the victims died after being swept away by flood waters, while one person

died after a cowshed collapsed. Of the total eight districts in Marathwada, seven districts reported these fatalities, while Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar did not report any.

The highest number of four deaths occurred in Latur district, while Parbhani and Nanded reported three deaths each. Four other districts - Jalna, Hingoli, Beed and Dharaashiv - saw one fatality each, according to the survey report. Apart from human lives, 251 animals also lost their lives due to natural calamities in all eight districts of Marathwada since June 1. Of these, 99 animals died in the past two days, it added.

### FIZZLING MONSOON COULD PROLONG HEATWAVE IN NORTH

Mumbai: The monsoon rains have lost momentum after covering western regions ahead of schedule, and their arrival in northern and central states could be delayed, extending a heatwave in the grain-growing plains, two senior weather officials told Reuters. Summer rains, critical to spur economic growth in Asia's third-largest economy, usually begin in the south around June 1 before spreading nationwide by July 8.

### GANGA WATER LEVEL DROPS TO 24.5 METRE IN BHAGALPUR, FURTHER DECLINE EXPECTED



Patna: The water level of the Ganga River has considerably decreased in Bihar in the last few years amid a major heatwave. As per the survey of the Water Resources Department, there has been a constant decrease in the water level in the Ganga River since last four years. The survey shows that the average water level of the Ganga River in Bhagalpur was 27 meters last year which has now decreased to 24.50 meters in 2024, which is further decreasing. The survey shows that the water level of other rivers, passing through Bihar.

### IN BRIEF

#### Former Indian footballer and coach TK Chathunni dies

Kochi: Former Kerala footballer TK Chathunni, who made a name for himself as a renowned coach, died on Wednesday at the age of 75 in Kochi following a brief illness, the All India Football Federation said. He is survived by his wife & 2 daughters.

#### CID issues notice to Yediyurappa in sexual harassment case

Karnataka: The (CID) of Karnataka Police has issued a notice to former Chief Minister and senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa, asking him to appear for questioning in connection with a Pocco (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case.



#### Three dead after inhaling toxic gas

Puducherry: A woman, her daughter and her granddaughter died in Puducherry on Tuesday after inhaling poisonous gas that had filled a toilet of their house, police said. The gas was emanating from the underground drainage system.

#### Fire, explosion at chemical factory in Thane; no casualty

Thane: A fire broke out at a closed chemical factory in Dombivli area of Thane district on Wednesday morning, an official said. No casualty was reported so far, Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation's disaster management cell chief Dipak Nikam told.

**Red Fort attack case** This is 2nd mercy plea rejected by the Prez

## President Murmu rejects mercy plea of Pak terrorist

PTI  
New Delhi

The mercy petition of Pakistani terrorist Mohammed Arif alias Ashfaq convicted in the nearly 24-year-old Red Fort attack case has been rejected by President Droupadi Murmu, officials said on Wednesday.

This is the second mercy plea rejected by the President after assuming office on July 25, 2022.

The Supreme Court dismissed Arif's review petition on November 3, 2022, affirming the death penalty awarded to him in the case.

However, a death row



President Droupadi Murmu

convict can still knock on the doors of the top court seeking commutation of his sentence on the ground of prolonged delay under Article 32

of the Constitution, feel experts.

The mercy petition from Arif, received on May 15, was turned down on May 27, the of-

officials said, quoting the President's secretariat order of May 29.

The Supreme Court, while upholding the death sentence, noted that there were no mitigating circumstances in Arif's favour and emphasised that the attack on the Red Fort posed a direct threat to the country's unity, integrity, and sovereignty.

The attack, which took place on December 22, 2000, saw intruders opening fire at the 7 Rajputana Rifles unit stationed within the Red Fort premises, resulting in the deaths of three Army personnel.

## SC to hear plea on NEET-UG grace marks dispute

PTI  
New Delhi

The chief executive of EdTech firm 'Physics Wallah', Alakh Pandey, has moved the Supreme Court against alleged random award of grace marks by the National Testing Agency to over 1,500 candidates who took the controversy-ridden NEET-UG, 2024 for admission to MBBS, BDS and others courses.

The top court had said on Tuesday the sanctity of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG), 2024 has been affected and sought responses from the Centre and the National Testing Agency (NTA) on another plea seeking hold-



ing of the examination afresh on grounds of alleged question paper leak and other malpractices.

Pandey, in his plea filed through lawyer Rohit Jain, the managing partner of law firm 'Singhania & Co', has also sought a direction to the expert panel he has mooted "to come up with improvement in the process of conducting NEET examination and without hampering the interest of the other students".

Protest spurs heightened security at Fadnavis homes

PTI  
Nagpur

Security was enhanced at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' residences in Nagpur after a protest held in the vicinity on Wednesday by a local outfit over the installation of prepaid electricity meters for consumers, officials said.

The official residence of Fadnavis, who also holds charge of the state energy department, is located at Devgiri in Civil Lines and his private residence is at Trikoni Park in Dharampata area, which are located 3 to 4 km from the protest site.



## Murder over lewd messages Cops take actor Darshan's associates to crime spot

PTI  
Bengaluru

Four associates of leading Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, who have been arrested in connection with a murder case, were on Wednesday taken to Pattanagere here, where the crime was committed, for spot 'mahazar', police sources said.

Nikhil, Vinay, Karthik and Raghavendra were among the 12 associates who were arrested, along with Darshan, on Tues-



Actor Darshan Thoogudeepa arriving for medical checkup.

day for the recent murder of Renukaswamy, a fan of the actor. Actors Darshan and Pavithra were taken to Pattanagere for an on-site spot of the crime scene by investigators on Wednesday.

## Maratha quota: Jarange given IV fluids as his fast continues on 5th day

PTI  
Jalna

Activist Manoj Jarange, whose indefinite fast over Maratha reservation entered the fifth day on Wednesday, started taking intravenous fluids after a Maharashtra minister assured to resolve the issue.

Jarange, who launched his fresh round of protest on Saturday at his native Antarwali Sarati village in Maharashtra's Jalna district, however warned that if the government fails to resolve the issue immediately, he would



Activist Manoj Jarange

stop taking intravenous fluids again.

In view of the activist's deteriorating health condition, newly-elected Shiv Sena MP from Aurangabad (Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar) Sandip-

an Bhumre visited Antarwali Sarati and met Jarange on Tuesday.

Jarange has been demanding implementation of the draft notification that recognises Kunbis as "sage soyare" (blood relatives) of Maratha community members and also seeking a law to identify Kunbis as Marathas.

Kunbi, an agrarian group, falls under the (OBC) category, and Jarange has been demanding that Kunbi certificates be issued to all Marathas, thus making them eligible for quota benefits.

## 4-yr-old girl tests positive for bird flu in West Bengal

PTI  
Bengaluru

The WHO on Tuesday said a case of human infection with bird flu caused by the H9N2 virus was detected in a four-year-old child in West Bengal.

The patient was admitted to the pediatric (ICU) of a local hospital due to persistent severe respiratory issues, high fever and abdominal cramps in February, and was discharged three months later after diagnosis and treatment, the WHO said. The patient had expo-



FILE

sure to poultry at home and in his surroundings, and there was no known person reporting symptoms of respiratory illness among his family and other contacts, the agency said. This is the second human infection of H9N2 bird flu from India, with the first in 2019, the agency said.

### AHEAD OF 10TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

## Yoga is India's 'greatest gift' to world: Stener

ANI  
New Delhi

Expressing her agreement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Yoga uniting millions of people across the globe, Norwegian Ambassador to India, May-Elin Stener, has termed it as one of India's greatest gifts to the world.

She made the statement in response to PM Modi's post on X, where he mentioned the 10th International Day of Yoga set to be marked across the



May-Elin Stener performing yoga.

globe on June 21.

PM Modi noted that Yoga has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries and united people around the world.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "In ten days from now, the world will mark the 10th International Day of Yoga, celebrating a timeless practice

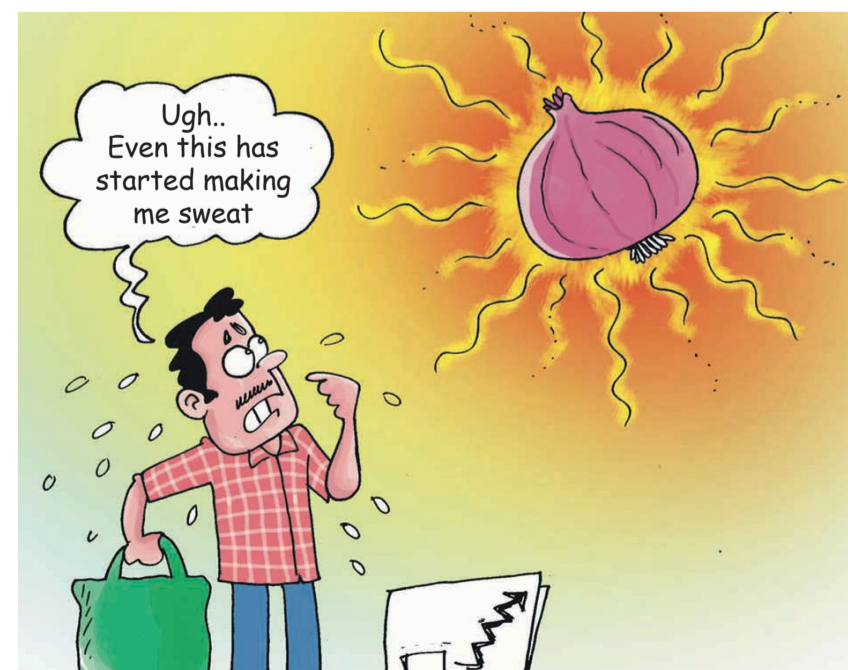
that celebrates oneness and harmony. Yoga has transcended cultural and geographical boundaries, uniting millions across the globe in the pursuit of

holistic well-being."

In response to his post, May-Elin Stener in a post on X, "Agree PM @narendramodi, #yoga is one of India's greatest gifts to the world! Here I am, aiming to master the headstand I started #yogalife when posted @ NorwayUN & gives chance to go level up! Are you with me? It's #internationalyogaday, so let's do #yoga challenge!"

On Tuesday, PM Modi called upon people to reiterate their commitment to making yoga an integral part of their lives.

### FI TOON



SHEKHAR

# Arshdeep, Surya fashion India with 7-wicket win; enter Super 8

PTI  
New York

Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh and World No.1 T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav delivered stellar performances to propel India to a seven-wicket victory over the USA in New York on Wednesday, securing their spot in the Super 8 stage of the T20 World Cup 2024. India produced a dominant bowling performance to restrict the USA to 110 for 8 before chasing down the target in 18.2 overs with Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube remaining not out on 34 and 18 respectively for a seven-wicket win.

With three wins in a row, India thus stormed into the Super Eight from Group A with a match in hand.

The Rohit Sharma-led team take on Canada at Lauderhill, Florida in their concluding Group A fixture on Saturday.

For the USA, it was their first loss in three games and they now face Ireland in their must-win Group A fixture on Friday.



Indian supporters cheer for their team during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between United States and India at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York, Wednesday.

**Arshdeep's initial breakthroughs set the tone for India as he struck on first ball, trapping Shayan Jahangir lbw for a duck**

Arshdeep Singh delivered a stellar performance, achieving career-best figures of 4/9 as India limited co-hosts USA to a modest 110 for 8 in a Group 'A' match of the T20 World

Cup on Wednesday.

Following impressive batting displays in their previous victories, the USA batters struggled against India's superior pace attack. The hosts never managed to break free from India's tight grip throughout the match. Despite a slow start, scoring only 42 in the first 10 overs, USA managed to add 68 more in the final 10.



India's Mohd Siraj, second right, celebrates with teammates after taking the catch to dismiss United States' Nitish Kumar during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match.

# Over 160 rockets fired at northern Israel: Army

Agencies  
Beirut

More than 160 rockets were fired from Lebanon toward northern Israel Wednesday morning in one of the largest barrages since the cross-border fighting between Hezbollah and the Israeli army erupted last October.

The rockets come hours after the killing of several Hezbollah operatives including a senior commander in an overnight Israeli airstrike in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli military said at least 70 rockets were launched at the Mount Meron area in northern Israel. Several were intercepted by air defenses while others fell in open areas and some caused material damage in other locations.

Earlier in the morning, another barrage of some 90 rockets were fired toward the northern Israeli cities of Safed, Rosh Pina and Tiberias as well as surrounding areas in the Galilee, the army said in a second announcement. No injuries have been reported.



Hezbollah fired the rockets it has launched at Israel in a single day since cross-border hostilities broke out eight months ago, as part of its retaliation on Wednesday for an Israeli strike which killed a senior Hezbollah field commander.

## UN PROBE FLAGS "CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY" IN GAZA, ISRAEL REJECTS FINDINGS: REPORT

Geneva: Both Israel and Hamas committed war crimes in the early stages of the Gaza war, a U.N. inquiry found on Wednesday, saying that Israel's actions also constituted crimes against humanity because of the immense civilian losses. The findings were from two parallel reports, one focusing on the Oct. 7 attacks and another on Israel's military response, published by the U.N. Commission of Inquiry, which has an unusually broad mandate to collect evidence and identify perpetrators of crimes.



## 'Musk was in sexual relation with intern'

Agencies  
New York

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has been accused of having sexual relationships with two of his employees, including an intern, and asking another employee to have his babies, a report has revealed.

The report said the tech billionaire created a culture in his companies - both SpaceX and Tesla - which made the women employees uncomfortable. This is the latest in a series of allegations against Musk, who has previously been accused

### X BEGINS HIDING LIKES FOR USERS

New York: Social media platform X has confirmed that it will automatically be hiding its users' likes, saying it's "important to allow people to like posts without getting attacked for doing so!" This means whatever users like on the platform will be hidden by default, and it is already currently available for X Premium users.

of regularly using drugs like LSD, cocaine, ecstasy, mushrooms and ketamine, at times at work with board members.

## Letter to Sports Council to hold Raj Volleyball Assn elections

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The ad hoc committee of the Volleyball Federation of India has written a letter to the Secretary of Rajasthan Sports Council Sohan Ram Choudhary regarding the conduct of Rajasthan Volleyball Association elections. They have pleaded that the process of VFI elections is on hold by the orders of the court.

In the letter which is signed by Rohit Rajpal, chairman of the ad hoc committee of VFI and Alaknanda Ashok, member of the ad hoc committee, they have claimed that the status of all volleyball stage associations is also challenged in the petition. The letter says that as the matter is subjudice, under such circumstances, conduction of any state election is not advisable, so hold the state volleyball elections till the court order.

## Russian barrage now leaves Kyiv residents without power & water

Agencies  
Kyiv

When the power goes down and the elevator stops working, Ukrainian couple Maryna and Valeriy Tkalic leave the pushchair on the ground floor and carry their two-month-old son up the 12 flights of stairs to their apartment instead.

And once authorities in Kyiv have notified residents of upcoming scheduled electricity outages, the Tkaliches rush to bathe little Marian and prepare food for the family before the lights go out and taps run dry.

Such disruptions are becoming increasingly common for the city's population of about three million people, after Russia began pummeling the country's energy system in late March, cutting out half of its generating capacity.

"The main challenge is the lack of water," said Valeriy Tkalic at his Kyiv home where water pumps



Ukrainian volunteer Valeriy Tkalic, 34-year-old, and his wife Maryna Tkalic, 33-year-old, drink tea in their apartment, during a blackout, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday.

can't reach the higher floors without electricity. "For cooking, we also had to adjust and purchase a small gas camping stove to heat stuff up," said the IT product manager. "With the baby, it seriously complicates our reality."

Many Ukrainians fear things will get worse as winter approaches, with Russian forces seizing the initiative on the battlefield.



Maryna Tkalic kisses her 2-month-old baby after changing his clothes, during a blackout, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine.

## 'Presented 25 cases in Gen Body meeting of RMC today'

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The General Body meeting of the Rajasthan Medical Council was held on Wednesday under the chairmanship of the Director of Public Health, Dr Ravi Prakash Mathur. The meeting saw participation from 22 nominated members representing all medical colleges in the state.

Dr. Ravi Prakash Sharma reported that 25 cases were presented before the Panel and Ethical Committee. Following the guidelines of the National Medical Commission, Delhi, the registration of 8 doctors was cancelled, and the registration of two doctors was suspended for 6 months. The doctors whose registrations were cancelled include Dr. Sanjay Dhankhar, Dr. Ganpat Singh, Dr. Mohd. Sajid, Dr. Mohd. Afzal, Dr. Krishna Soni, Dr. Bomma Hari Krishna, Dr. Jaydeep Singh, and Dr. Baljit Kaur.

## OVER SMUGGLING OF FOREIGN GOLD FROM BENGAL TO RAJASTHAN

# Court rejects anticipatory bail of Jaipur's resident

Vimal Kothari  
Jaipur

On Wednesday, the court rejected the anticipatory bail of Jaipur's Brahmapuri resident Ram Gopal Soni, accused of purchasing gold in cash on behalf of Jaipur regional unit of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence-DRI, which exposed the network of smuggling of foreign gold from West Bengal to Rajasthan through railways.

This petition was filed by Soni in the court of

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Economic Offences on the basis of his and his wife's poor health.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Economic Offences Mohammad Azam, while rejecting the bail petition, said that orders have already been given on May 23 to provide medical facilities to accused Ram Gopal Soni at his own expense on the basis of jail manual.

The court also considered Soni's crime to be

serious. According to the document presented in the court, Jaipur re-



gional unit of DRI exposed the smuggling of foreign gold from West Bengal and also achieved success in connecting the links of the people involved in it. DRI officials arrested the delivery persons of this consignment by arresting a railway passenger who had come from Kolkata and thereafter reached the purchasers of the consignment and arrested Ramgopal Soni, the operator of Kanha Jewellers who had purchased the gold in cash.

After collecting evidence of purchase of 5062.35 grams of foreign gold worth Rs. 2.55 crore in cash, DRI summoned Soni for interrogation and later arrested him on 17 May.

After the arrest, Soni was sent to jail and bail petitions were filed by Soni in the Economic Offences Court and Additional Sessions Court, which were rejected.

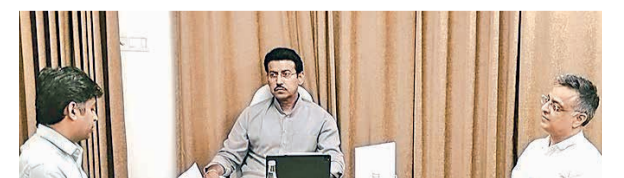
After this, an anticipatory bail petition was filed by Ramgopal Soni in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

Economic Offences.

The accused's lawyers mentioned to the court about Ramgopal Soni's illness as well as his wife's illness and said that he has been falsely implicated in this case as no foreign gold has been recovered from him etc.

On the other hand, opposing the bail petition, DRI's Special Public Prosecutor B.L. Takhar said that this is a serious crime from the point of view of the country's economic security and DRI is trying to connect more links in this case.

## Rathore reviews progress of RIICO initiatives



Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore in review meeting with (L-R) Shivprasad Nakate and Ajitabh Sharma in Jaipur on Wednesday.

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

On Wednesday, Rajasthan's Industry and Commerce Minister, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, conducted a review meeting with senior officials of the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO).

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce and RIICO Chairman Ajitabh Sharma, Managing Director Shivprasad Nakate, and other senior officials. Rathore reviewed the progress of RIICO initiatives and directed officials to accelerate the implementation of several projects.



# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The simplest things have the power to change the world - a smile, a kind word, an honest compliment, a small act of caring; they can change the world of a person!

Dr JAGDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

**Rajasthan Police Foundation Day** Funds of ₹4cr allocated to Rajasthan Police

## CRIME-FREE RAJASTHAN IS OUR GOVT'S PRIORITY, ASSURES CM

Shivendra Singh Parmar  
and Kailash Choudhary  
Jaipur

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said on Wednesday that maintaining peace and law and order in the state is the main priority of the state govt. With motto of 'trust in the common man and fear in the criminals', Raj Police is performing diligently, he said.

Sharma addressed the state level function organized at Raj Police Academy on the occasion of Rajasthan Police Foundation Day on Wednesday. He congratulated all policemen & officers on the Foundation Day. Also, he saluted the brave soldiers who were martyred while performing their duties.

On this occasion, the CM also announced allocation of Rs 1.5 crore for Rajasthan Police Welfare Fund, Rs 1 crore for Rajasthan Police Benevolent Fund and Rs 1.5 crore in Utsav Fund from Rs 1 crore. DGP UR Sahoo said that Raj Police will strengthen the credibility and dedication of the police in minds of people.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, CS Sudhansh Pant, and DGP Utkal Ranjan Sahoo with the police officers and personnel who won the Police Medals for outstanding services in Jaipur on Wednesday.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma paying floral tributes to martyrs at Police Martyr Memorial in Jaipur on Wednesday.



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma inspecting the special parade at the RPA ground in Jaipur on Wednesday. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

### CM: BIG DECISIONS ARE BEING TAKEN CONTINUOUSLY

→ CM BL Sharma said that state govt is continuously taking many big decisions for the safety of the common man, due to which the crime figures have come down. "SIT investigation in paper leak case, formation of Anti Gangster Task Force, reducing atrocities on women and Dalits, the results are coming out. Anti-Romeo Squad was formed to promote women's safety," he said

### GOVT COMMITTED TO MODERNISE POLICE FORCE: CM

→ The CM said that with time the methods of crimes are changing and in such a situation Rajasthan Police is also constantly modernizing itself. "The police force is being made proficient in techniques like modern weapons, forensic science and prevention of cyber crime so that they can face every challenge in the future," he said.

Bairwa takes review meeting of transport department

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Since MCC was in place for the Lok Sabha polls, Deputy CM Prem Chand Bairwa couldn't held a review meeting of Transport Dept & Roadways for the last 2 months.

In the review meeting, held on Wednesday, Dy CM Bairwa expressed displeasure over the incident that took place in Bharatpur a few days ago. To stop complaints of illegal recovery from vehicles in the department, the Deputy CM directed to make all flying squads hi-tech. He has directed to install cameras on flying squad vehicles for monitoring the flying squads of the Transport Department. For this, under the pilot project, instructions have been given to install 360 degree dashboard cameras on 2 flying squad vehicles and body cameras on flying officers.

Bairwa gave instructions to make a new policy for the Automated Testing Center on the lines of other states. He also gave instructions to form a road safety cell at the district level.

## MEET AND GREET



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra paid a courtesy visit to Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha, Om Birla in Delhi on Wednesday.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulated Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on being appointed as Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, in Delhi on Wednesday.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greeted Arjun Ram Meghwal on being appointed Union MoS for Law & Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, in Delhi on Wednesday.

## Guv Mishra directs WZCC to increase its programmes



Governor Kalraj Mishra at Statue of Unity in Kevadia of Gujarat on Wednesday.

Vinod Singh Chouhan  
Jaipur

Governor Kalraj Mishra has directed the Western Zone Cultural Centre to increase number of programs for promoting art and artists in member states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, and the Union Territories of Daman, Diu, and Dadra Nagar Haveli. Following his instructions, centre will

now organize over 200 programs instead of the previously planned 156. This decision was made during Center's Steering Committee meeting.

Governor Mishra emphasized the need to provide more opportunities for rural artists and to work towards preserving local arts and heritage. He praised the Ministry of Culture's decision to increase fees for artist.

Arjun Meghwal says UCC part of BJP manifesto

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Union MoS for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal gave an important statement regarding the Uniform Civil Code on Wednesday and said that 'BJP will not back down from the promise made in its manifesto'. "UCC is part of our manifesto, we are committed to implement it. Ensuring easy access to justice for every section of society and every person is a priority. Making extensive use of technology to ensure easy access to justice is also a priority. Tech innovations will be used to make justice accessible," he said.

Meghwal also reiterated his govt's commitment to realizing vision of 'Developed India'.

## Centre might investigate the effect of 'invisible hand' in Lok Sabha elections

- Companies like Microsoft had made the disclosure during the Lok Sabha elections
- In the last four months, aggressive campaigns were run against Modi and BJP



Exclusive

Pankaj Soni  
Jaipur



During the Lok Sabha elections, Microsoft had issued a warning about China's possible plan to interfere in the upcoming elections in America, South Korea and India. The threat intelligence team of this American tech company had estimated that China-backed cyber groups would target India's elections. After this statement by Microsoft,

many IT companies of India also estimated that the election war on social media is fierce and aggressive. Sources are revealing that now the central government can take steps to investigate foreign interference through social media because similar inputs were being continuously given by BJP's social media wing.

### OPEN AI CLAIMED THAT INDIA'S LOK SABHA ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

→ Open AI has claimed that an Israeli company tried to influence the LS polls in India. Open AI, the company that created ChatGPT, also claimed that there was an attempt to disseminate content against the BJP and in support of opposition. Open AI has claimed that an Israeli company tried to influence the LS polls in India. An attempt was made to influence elections in this way through artificial intelligence. According to media reports, Israeli company STOIC created fictitious users and their social media bios with the help of AI. Different types of posts were made from the social media handles of these fictitious persons regarding the Gaza war and the general elections in India. After this, many fake accounts were also created. Comments were made on social media posts through these fake accounts so that the dialogue i.e. engagement seemed real. According to the report of Open AI, this company tried to disseminate content against the BJP and in support of the opposition.

This time during the Lok Sabha elections, our social team had to face sharp and fake content. This was never seen before. Police complaints were also filed against many. But it could not be known from where these accounts were being operated.

HIRENDRA KAUSHIK, STATE CONVENOR BJP SOCIAL MEDIA

### 'SEVERAL SOCIAL SITES OF ISRAEL BANNED'

→ According to Open AI's report, some activities based on the Lok Sabha elections in India were started in May. Open AI says that several such social media accounts being operated from Israel were banned. All these FB, Insta, X & YouTube accounts carried out various activities to influence the Lok Sabha elections in India.

### ZERO ZENO AIMED TO INFLUENCE LS POLLS

→ According to Open AI, the developers behind ChatGPT, one of these campaigns, which was named Zero Zeno by STOIC, was aimed at influencing the 2024 Indian elections. However, these campaigns failed to reach a significant audience or increase engagement.

## CHAOS WITHIN SC-ST FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### Service rules go awry as officer serves 12-yr deputation!

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

On May 6, Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant conducted a surprise inspection of Sahkar Bhawan, during which he also visited the office of the SC-ST Finance & Development Corporation. Pant was so dissatisfied with the performance of the Corporation's Joint Director (Plan), Sheesh Ram Chawla, that he directed the Planning Department to relieve him from his position. However, despite these instructions, Chawla, who

had come on deputation, remains in his role. In contrast, Senior Accounts Officer Bharti Harjwani, who had been addressing irregularities within the Corporation, was relieved on June 10. This situation has raised significant concerns and questions about the Corporation's administration.

The Finance Department had appointed a Senior Accounts Officer to the Corporation for the first time. The General Manager (GM) position in the Corporation is intended for an RAS officer. Despite this, the Department of Personnel

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTS ARE RAISING SEVERAL CRITICAL QUESTIONS

- Why hasn't Sheesh Ram Chawla been relieved despite the Chief Secretary's clear instructions?
- Why has Chawla been serving on deputation for the past twelve years, contrary to the standard three-year rule?
- Why hasn't the DoP appointed an RAS officer to the GM position?
- How has an official from the Planning Department managed to maintain control over the GM post for twelve years?
- Is there no Godfather of the Corporation in the government?

(DoP) has not assigned an RAS officer to this role for the past twelve years. Instead, Sheesh Ram Chawla, who has been with the Corporation on

deputation from the Planning Department since 2012, has been handling the additional charge of GM. Initially deputed for three years, Chawla has

received four extensions and continues to serve in the Corporation, effectively controlling all financial activities.

On April 26, 2024, the Corporation's Managing Director, Mamta Rao (RAS officer from the 2009 batch), issued an order granting all financial powers to Chawla. Consequently, Chawla now has complete control over the Corporation's financial activities. Mamta Rao, who was promoted from Tehsildar to RAS, was appointed Managing Director of the Corporation in February 2024.

The SC-ST Finance & Development Corporation disburses loans worth crores of rupees, with funds regularly released by the Central government. Until recently, a junior officer at the Accounts Officer level represented the Finance Department in the Corporation. When Senior Accounts Officer Bharti Harjwani was appointed, she began curbing irregularities, leading to conflicts with Chawla. Subsequently, Harjwani was hastily relieved from her duties on June 10 and is now on APO (Awaiting Posting Orders).

## CS calls for enhanced security measures on Indo-Pak border



CS Sudhansh Pant, UR Sahoo, Sanjay Agrawal, and Aparna Arora during the meeting in Jaipur on Wednesday.

Dr Rituraj Sharma  
Jaipur

In a bid to enhance security along Indo-Pak international border region, Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant has emphasized the need for collaborative efforts among all agencies to combat infiltration and smuggling of narcotics.

During a meeting held on Wednesday at the Sec-

retariat, Pant highlighted the imperative for deploying anti-drone systems, AI-based tools for data analysis, and installation of CCTV cameras at vital locations to curb smuggling activities through drone operations in bordering districts. Pant also underscored the significance of monitoring the sale of crucial lands in border areas.



# City First

JAIPUR, THURSDAY | JUNE 13, 2024



## RIHANNA GLITTERS!

Rihanna turned heads at a fashion event in LA as she showcased exquisite neck-pieces crafted by Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Manish Malhotra for her brand Fenty Hair.

P11

# Aanchal Ascends

AANCHAL BOHRA'S JOURNEY IS A TESTAMENT TO HER RESILIENCE, VISION, AND UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. CITY FIRST HIGHLIGHTS HER CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEDICATION TO HER VALUES, WHICH INSPIRE OTHERS AND CREATE A POSITIVE IMPACT, EMBODYING THE ESSENCE OF A MODERN-DAY ROLE MODEL.

**A**nchal Bohra's journey from a small-town girl to a prominent figure in the fashion and luxury consultancy world is nothing short of inspiring. Born in Jodhpur and raised in Jaipur, Aanchal's childhood was a blend of cultural richness and ambition. Her early dreams included becoming a CEO of a tech giant like Google or Microsoft. However, destiny had different plans.

At just 18, Aanchal clinched the Miss Rajasthan title in 2018, under the guidance of Miss Rajasthan Founders & Directors Yogesh Mishra & Nimisha Mishra, a victory that marked the beginning of her illustrious journey in the fashion and modelling industry. The following year, she secured the Miss Indian Diva 2019 and Miss Tourism of the Globe India 2019 titles, representing India on international platforms and winning five international titles in China at just 19. These achievements were a testament to her grace, poise, and dedication.

Aanchal's academic prowess is equally commendable. A gold medalist in BBA and a State Merit Holder in MBA (HR and Marketing), she combines intellectual rigour with her modelling career. Her stint at Decathlon in Hyderabad provided her with valuable corporate experience, further honing her skills.

In 2022, at the age of 22, Aanchal founded ANRA, "The Aura Of Vibe And Wisdom", a luxury management and consultancy firm, marking a significant milestone in her career. The launch of ANRA at the



**Tripti Mahawar**

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

iconic Burj Khalifa in Dubai symbolized her vision of blending luxury with personalized service and strategic brand management.

Aanchal's family has been her steadfast support system, encouraging her at every step. Her parents' unwavering belief in her abilities has been a constant source of motivation. Known for her strong communication skills, Aanchal has set benchmarks in both modelling and entrepreneurship through her authenticity and integrity.

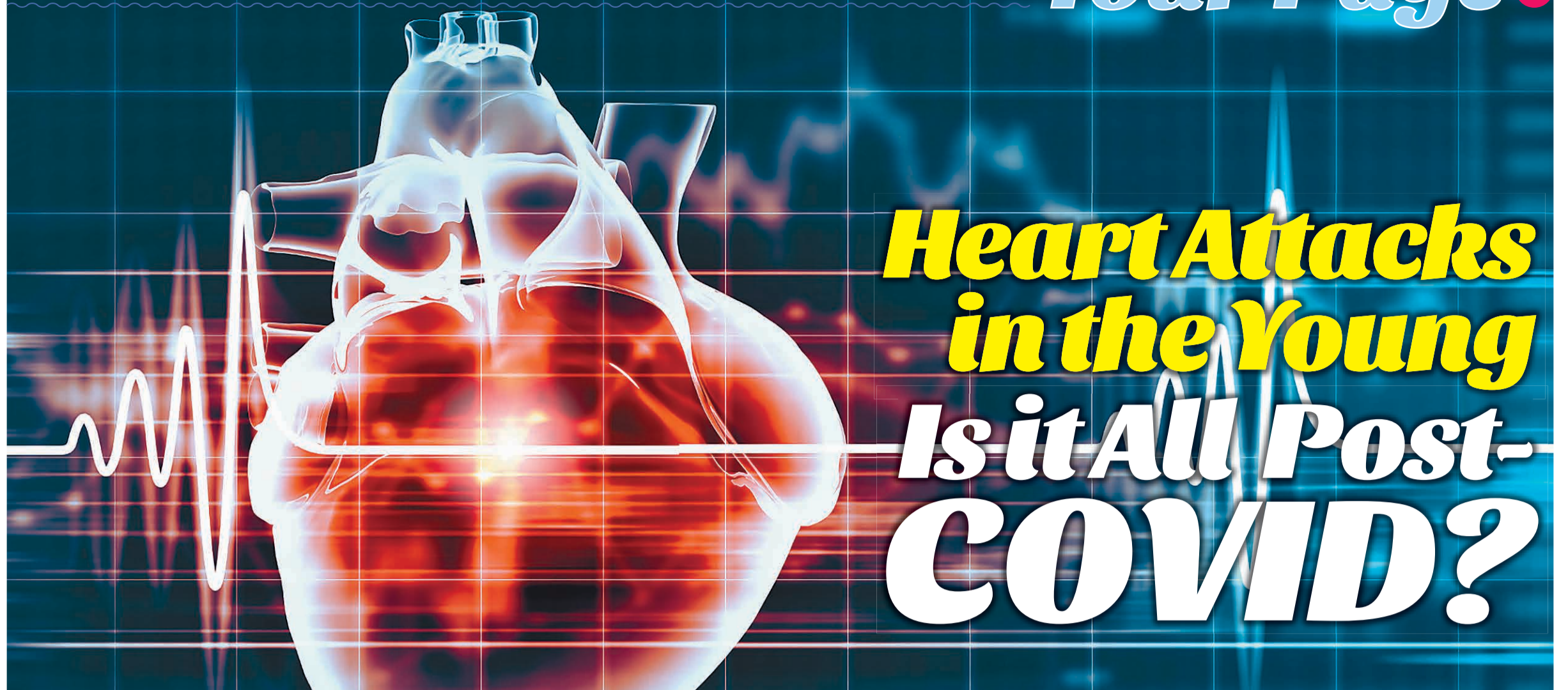
Health and wellness are integral to Aanchal's lifestyle. She advocates for a balanced approach, emphasizing wholesome nutrition, physical activity, positive relationships, and mental well-being. Her mantra is about finding joy in everyday activities, practising mindfulness, and prioritizing self-care.

Looking ahead, Aanchal envisions ANRA becoming a leading brand in the industry. She aims to mentor young talents, leveraging her expertise to make a meaningful impact in the fashion and modelling world.



MUKESH KIRADOO





# Heart Attacks in the Young

## Is it All Post-COVID?

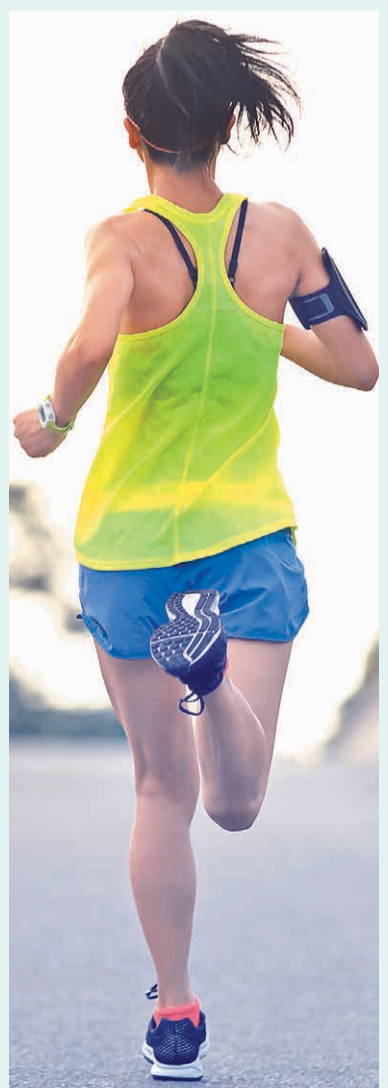
Heart attacks in young individuals have raised concerns, with some attributing the phenomenon to post-Covid complications. Premature heart attacks are not a new disease and have been with us for decades. Let us not blame Covid-19 for all the ills...



**Dr Rajeev Gupta**

MD PhD FACC FESC FRCP Chair,  
Preventive Cardiology & Internal  
Medicine Eternal Heart Care  
Centre & Research Institute,  
Mount Sinai NY Affiliate

**H**ear attacks among the young are in the news. There are daily reports in print and social media of sudden deaths, mostly cardiac, in young men and women. Speculation is rife that all these are manifestations of Covid-19 or the Covid-19 vaccine. Scientific studies show otherwise. Multiple epidemiological, clinical as well as pathophysiological studies show that causes of heart attacks among the young are multifactorial and all are not due to the recent epidemic. Heart attacks among the young in India are not a new phenomenon. Our group at Jaipur, as many others in India the UK, the USA, Canada, and other countries have been studying the reasons for premature heart attacks among young South Asians for decades. There are many knowns, known unknowns, and unknown unknowns of premature coronary heart disease in Indians, and the South Asian diaspora, that are beyond COVID-19. Some are briefly discussed here.



### EPIDEMIOLOGY

The propensity to acute coronary events (heart attacks) among the young in India has been known for the past 70-80 years. Since the mid-1950s, astute clinicians working in major cities of our country reported such cases in high numbers. The Global Burden of Disease study has been systematically collecting data from more than 200 countries on deaths and occurrence of heart attacks since 1990 and has reported a steady increase in the number of heart attack deaths in India. According to this study in 2000, there were 191,000 deaths from heart attacks in individuals less than 55 years, this number increased one and a half times to 286,000 in 2019, much before the Covid pandemic. A recently published report from this study in the Lancet (2024) showed that the number of individuals dying from premature heart attacks has remained stable at 250-300,000/year during and following the pandemic years.

### STANDARD CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS

The INTERHEART study conducted in the early years of the 21st century in 52 countries across the globe reported that the average age of heart attacks among Indians were 10 years lower than similar patients in Europe, North and South America, Southeast Asia, and China. This study also reported that the occurrence of premature heart attacks in India was due to well-known risk factors-smoking, hypertension, raised cholesterol, diabetes, abdominal obesity, unhealthy diet, sedentariness, and psychosocial stress. Smaller studies from India have also confirmed the importance of these risk factors in premature heart attacks. A large population-based prospective study with more than 30,000 participants from various regions of India (PURE study) has confirmed that important risk factors for premature heart attacks among our populations are raised non-HDL cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, pollution, diabetes, and unhealthy lifestyles. This study also reported that the quantum of risk from these factors is not different in our population compared to China, Southeast Asia, South America, Europe, and North America. Control of these risk factors shall involve tackling socioeconomic, commercial, political, and health-system determinants of health with major changes in policy using a health-in-all-policy approach, better health, and medical education among all subsets of medical professionals and improving health literacy.



### UNAWAWARENESS OF RISKS AND POOR CONTROL

An important finding among Indians is low awareness of risk factors that lead to heart attacks. For example, in population-based studies, awareness of hypertension and diabetes is less than half, and of raised cholesterol is less than 10%. Moreover, due to a lack of proper health literacy and adverse social media influences, the awareness of the harms of unhealthy foods, sedentary habits, tobacco, and environmental and household pollution is low among our population compared to more developed countries. The control status of the biological risk factors is dismal and less than 20% of patients with hypertension or diabetes are under good control. Hypertension or diabetes cannot be cured. Controlling the risk factors for heart attacks is a lifelong process and should start in adolescence and early adulthood with the adoption of a healthy lifestyle and periodic evaluation of risk which can significantly reduce premature heart attacks.

### ABNORMAL LIPIDS

Scientific studies have shown that raised levels of blood cholesterol, especially the bad LDL cholesterol are the single most important risk factor for artery blockages. European Society of Atherosclerosis has concluded that LDL cholesterol is the principal causal agent for such blockages. Studies on premature heart disease from different parts of our country have reported the importance of raised LDL cholesterol in premature coronary disease. Multiple scientific societies including the Indian government agencies have proposed targets for the control of cholesterol following risk stratification in a person. Implementation is lacking because of a poor understanding of its importance and major adverse social media influences.

### UNACUSTOMED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EXERTION

Sudden deaths in gyms are a catastrophic event and multiple instances of such events have been widely reported. Sudden cardiac death as the first presentation of acute coronary events has been known for decades and is the presenting symptom in about 20% of heart disease patients. Many of these unfortunate victims have unidentified standard risk factors (raised blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose levels, etc.) which are often uncontrolled. Unaccustomed physical exertion can precipitate an acute coronary event and proper medical consultation before embarking on strenuous exercise is important. Unusual mental or emotional stress is also a trigger for sudden cardiac deaths. Prevention of sudden severe exertion is crucial. The Bhagwad Gita recommends a balanced (yukta) lifestyle: diet (aahaar), exercise (vihara), stress (cheshta), effort (karma), and sleep (swapnavbodha), to prevent ill health.

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Ambient or environmental pollution has emerged as the most important risk factor for global deaths and disability in the recent iteration of the Global Burden of Diseases Study (Lancet 2024). Both outdoor and indoor pollution are important and multiple mechanisms have been identified in causing heart attacks. Indoor pollution from unhealthy home design is widely



prevalent in our society. Our studies from India and other developing countries have reported the harms of household pollution in women. Poor ventilation at homes, workplaces and gyms has aggravated the situation. Waste management is important but is in a primitive stage in most of our urban and rural regions. Public health strategies to tackle pollution are in place in almost all countries across the globe, however strict implementation of these policies is a work in progress. The incidence of premature heart attacks is very low in countries that have been successful in controlling all forms of environmental pollution.

### FOOD POLLUTION, SUPPLEMENTS, AND ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

A specific issue that is widely prevalent in developing countries, including India, relates to food pollution. Food pollution is widespread. These pollutants contain several substances that directly damage blood vessels, produce inflammation, and are called endocrine disruptors. These pollutants lead to biochemical changes that not only lead to damage of arteries but also cause diabetes, other endocrine diseases and cancers. Some food supplements also contain these toxic substances and widespread use of such products among the youth could be a contributing factor for premature heart attacks. Strict implementation of healthy food policies is needed.

### COVID-19 AND THE VACCINE

Finally, what has been the role of Covid-19 in the premature heart attack scenario? An Indian Council of Medical Research study has reported that while severe COVID-19 in the past (that required hospitalization) is a risk factor for premature heart attacks, those with mild past infection are not at increased risk. Large population-based studies with millions of people in USA, UK, South Korea as well as India (Delhi) have re-

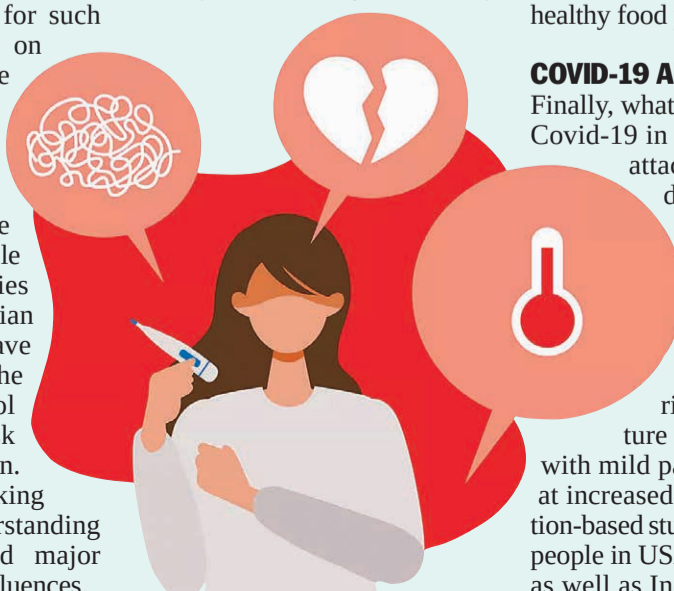
ported that the Covid-19 vaccine protects from acute coronary events and the non-vaccinated have more than 2 times the incidence of heart attacks and deaths as compared to those who received the Covid-19 vaccine.

### MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

In our democracy, every individual has a viewpoint. A popular saying goes that in India there are 33 crore devi-devata. All these are health advisors too and have an opinion on everything related to health and healthcare. More powerful and media-savvy individuals among them are proficient in spreading half-truths, alternate-truths, and canards. Uncontrolled risk factors and poor health are a consequence of all these. One of the reasons for low control of risk factors and premature heart attacks is this misinformation. Strict regulation of social media, as has been done in many developed countries, and propagation of real facts by government agencies is required to rectify the situation.

### CONCLUSIONS

Premature heart attacks are not a new disease and have been with us for decades. Better-developed countries in Europe, North America and Australasia suffered from premature heart attack problems in the 1940s and 50s have been successful in delaying the onset of heart attacks from the age of 40 to the late 60s and later in their populations using preventive approaches with promotion of a healthy environment with ambient and indoor pollution control, urban planning, etc., better general and health literacy, healthy lifestyles (pollutant-free healthy diet, promotion of physical activity- walking, cycling, and strict control of tobacco, smoking and alcohol) and control of important risk factors including raised blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. We need to translate lessons learnt from scientific studies conducted in India and other parts of the globe, develop our policies, and strictly implement them in the public and healthcare domains. Let us not blame Covid-19 for all the ills.





Rihanna

# RIHANNA GLITTERS in Malhotra's Diamonds

**R**enowned singer-songwriter Rihanna turned heads at a fashion event in Los Angeles as she showcased exquisite neck-pieces crafted by celebrated Indian designers Sabyasachi Mukherjee and Manish Malhotra for her brand Fenty Hair.

While Rihanna's fashion choice spotlighted Indian talent on a global platform, a controversy arose when Manish

Malhotra seemingly cropped out Sabyasachi's design in an image shared on social media, leading to criticism from netizens.

Despite the controversy, Rihanna captivated attention with her bold ensemble, donning an oversized zipper jacket, skirt, and camisole in a striking shade of ruby. She accessorized her look with a stunning three-drop rubellite necklace from Sabyasachi and a choker necklace by Manish Malhotra.

Sabyasachi's creation featured tourmaline crystals adorned with brilliant-cut diamonds, while Manish's design boasted intricate craftsmanship in 18K gold with custom-cut rubies encrusted in diamonds.

Her choice to showcase Indian designs on the global stage underscores the immense talent and craftsmanship prevalent in India's fashion industry, reaffirming its position as a hub for creativity and innovation.

# BEDI ON 'Badi' screen?

**I**ndia's trailblazing IPS officer, Kiran Bedi, is set to bring her extraordinary life story to the silver screen with an upcoming biopic titled "BEDI: The Name You Know. The Story You Don't."



Kiran Bedi

Directed by Kushaal Chawla, the biographical drama is slated to hit theatres in 2025, promising to chronicle Bedi's inspiring journey to success.

In a media interview, Dr Kiran Bedi expressed her excitement about the project, stating, "I think the time had come. It's liberation for me."

Despite initial reservations due to her ongoing commitments, Bedi was impressed by the meticu-

lous preparation of director Kushaal and producer Gaurav Chawla.

While the lead role casting is yet to be finalized, Dr Kiran Bedi suggested leaving the decision to the directors and producers, hinting at the possibility of a survey to aid the selection process. With 2025 marking 50 years of International Women's Year, the film aims for a global release.

# CÉLINE DION'S COMEBACK

**I**n a revelation, Céline Dion, the revered Queen of Power Ballads, affirms

her indomitable spirit in the face of stiff-person syndrome. Despite grappling with the rare autoimmune neurological disorder, Dion remains resolute, pledging to return to the stage even if it means

overcoming hurdles.

In a preview of her forthcoming Today interview on June 11, 2024, Dion's unwavering determination shines through as she refuses to let her diagnosis derail her career. With her characteristic grace and strength, Dion declares, "I'm going to go back on stage, even if I have to crawl. Even if I have to talk with my hands, I will. I will."

Stiff-person syndrome, known for causing muscle stiffness and painful spasms, has presented Dion with formidable challenges. However, her resolve remains unshaken, inspired by a deep-seated love for music and an unwavering commitment to her craft.

Despite enduring personal tragedies, including the loss of her husband and longtime manager, Rene Angélil, Dion's resilience shines through. She continues to confront her condition with courage, seeking solace in her passion for singing and an unwavering determination to persevere.



Celine Marie Claudette Dion

# DOSANJH MAKES TONIGHT SHOW DEBUT!



Diljit Dosanjh

**P**unjabi sensation Diljit Dosanjh continues to conquer new milestones in his illustrious career as he gears up to make his debut appearance on Jimmy Fallon's The Tonight Show. The globally adored singer-actor, known for his hits like Jatt & Juliet 3, has been making waves internationally, collaborating with renowned artists such as Sia and sharing stages with icons like Ed Sheeran.

His announcement on Instagram sparked a frenzy among fans, with co-star Kareena Kapoor Khan expressing her excitement. Scheduled for this week, Diljit's appearance on The Tonight Show marks a significant



Jimmy Fallon

moment for Punjabi culture in mainstream Hollywood. Fans eagerly await to see him grace the iconic show, speculating on whether he'll converse in English or if Fallon will attempt Punjabi. Amidst the buzz, Diljit continues to shine on the professional front, recently seen in Crew alongside Tabu and Kareena Kapoor, with projects like Jatt & Juliet 3.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF DIAMONDS



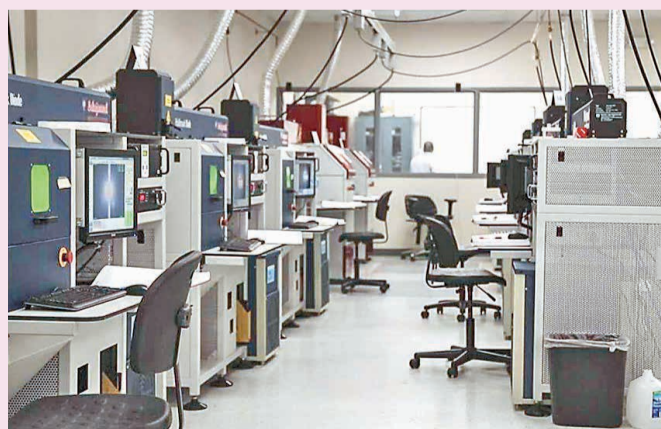
Rakesh Yadav

City First  
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**T**he diamond industry is undergoing a significant shift towards sustainability, driven by environmental awareness and technological advancement. Central to this change is the rise of lab-grown diamonds, which offer a responsible alternative to traditional mining.

As demand for ethically sourced diamonds grows, industry leaders are adopting innovative solutions. Rakesh Yadav, a prominent jeweller and sustainability advocate, highlights lab-grown diamonds' potential to revolutionize the industry. These diamonds match natural diamonds in quality and ethical provenance, created using advanced technology without the environmental and social impacts of mining.

Consumer demand and societal trends towards environmental stewardship are



pushing the industry to prioritize sustainability. His promotion of lab-grown diamonds and AI integration demonstrates the industry's commitment to progress, setting a new standard for future jewellers.

Rakesh Yadav also champions AI as a tool to revolutionize the diamond industry, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and sustainability. He advises aspiring jewellers to embrace change and innovation while staying true to their values, as

those who adapt will thrive in this evolving landscape.

Achieving sustainability in the diamond industry requires collaboration. Leaders like Rakesh Yadav are partnering with research institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits to drive innovation and address sustainability challenges. By sharing best practices and supporting responsible sourcing, stakeholders can create a more sustainable future for the diamond industry and the planet.



HPHT Diamond Cubo-octahedron1

CVD Dimond Cube

Mined Dimond Octahedron

HPHT Dimond Rough

CVD Dimonds Rough

**MEET & GREET!**

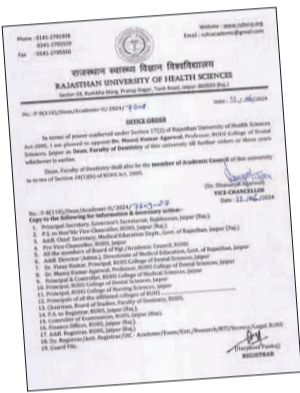


Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulates Arjun Ram Meghwal on being appointed as Union MoS for Law & Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, in Delhi on Wednesday. Also present are Lok Sabha MP PP Chaudhary and Bharat24's Political Editor, Aditi Nagar.

**APPOINTMENT!**



Agarwal, will be for three years or until further orders. Dr Agarwal's appointment marks a significant addition to RUHS's leadership team, where he will also serve as a member of the Academic Council, contributing to the university's academic and administrative endeavours.



Dr Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Professor at RUHS College of Dental Sciences, Jaipur, was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry by Rajasthan University of Health Sciences on Tuesday. His tenure, announced by Vice-Chancellor Dr Dhananjai

# ARTISTIC HOMAGE

© MUKESH KIRADOO



Nidhi Sharma's stunning painting



Asmita's artistry unveiled

**City First**  
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**I**n honour of the sixth death anniversary of artist and mentor Late Surendra Pal Joshi, a tribute meeting was organised at the Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi auditorium on Wednesday. Hosted by the Kala Charcha Trust, Bhoruka Charitable Trust, and Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi, the event saw artists and alumni from the School of Arts paying their respects. Sangeeta Surendra Pal Joshi and several other dignitaries lit the lamp to commence the program. Artists paid floral tributes and created artworks focusing on social awareness themes like environmental con-

sciousness and gratitude towards blood donors. Over 40 artists, including renowned names like Hariom Patidar and Kishore Meena, participated in the one-day art camp, producing remarkable pieces. The artworks will be showcased in an exhibition titled "Uttarayan," inaugurated today at 5 pm in the Modern Art Gallery of Rajasthan Lalit Kala Akademi, open to the public until 15 June 2024. The closing ceremony on Saturday which will feature the felicitation of a talented young artist with the Late Surendra Pal Joshi Smriti Yuva Srujan Samman. Additionally, three Srujan Samman awards of Rs 5100 each will be presented to the best artworks, along with participation certificates for all camp participants.



Painted a canvas of imagination



Capturing beauty on canvas

## Empowering Students



Ranu Parashar, Dr Ritu Jain, Abhishek Gupta, Charu Sharma & others

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cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**A** lakh Foundation and Welfare Society spearheaded a crucial Mental wHealth

Campaign, part of Project Antarmann, at KD Campus Jaipur, prioritizing student well-being on Wednesday. Deputy Commissioner Charu Sharma shed light on Pranic Healing's benefits

for emotional balance, engaging students in personalized discussions. Secretary Ranu Parashar highlighted Project Antarmann's mission to promote mental health awareness and accessible support avenues. Dr Ritu Jain discussed depression assessment tools like the PHQ-9 Questionnaire, stressing nutritional importance. Project Officer Abhishek Gupta unveiled a mental health toolkit, offering helplines and self-affirmation techniques. KD Campus Jaipur Director Lalit Sharma, commended the initiative's success, endorsing future impactful endeavours.

## RAJASTHAN POLICE DAY!



Blood donation and tree plantation programs marked Rajasthan Police Day in Bhiwadi on Wednesday. ASP Jyeshtha Maitrei and other police officers participated in the event held in the industrial city. The initiative aimed to commemorate the day while contributing to the community's well-being. Participants showcased their commitment to both environmental sustainability and public health, reflecting the Rajasthan Police's dedication to serving society beyond law enforcement duties.

## Hymn Brilliance

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cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

**R**enowned singer and judge KP Saxena's latest bhajan, "Naav Meri Lakdi Ki Hai Bhagwan," based on the Ram-Kewat episode from Ramcharit Manas, was released on YouTube recently. Recorded at Lata Mangeshkar Studio in Mumbai, the bhajan features Saxena's soulful vocals, with music composed by Vikrant Mathur. Released on the KP Saxena Music Channel, the bhajan is gaining popularity nationally and internationally. This marks another milestone in Saxena's prolific career, with over 50 albums previously released by Mumbai's T Series featuring his vocals, including collaborations with Anuradha Paudwal. Saxena, known for his spiritual inclination, has been honoured with memberships from Mumbai's IPRS and ISRA.



KP Saxena



**DONATION!**



As Jaipur grapples with scorching temperatures, Advocate Aditya Sharma, son of former judge late Mahesh Chandra Sharma, donated a water cooler to the Rajasthan High Court Bar Association in his father's memory. Inaugurated by Justice Anil Kumar Upman on Tuesday, the gesture aims to provide relief during the heatwave. Rajasthan High Court Bar Association President Prahlad Sharma, General Secretary Sushil Pujari, and other advocates attended the event to commemorate the late judge's legacy.

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POSTER LAUNCH!



Santosh Gupta, Satyanarayana Saini, Rohit Sharma, Manju Agarwal, Om Prakash Saini & Anshu Saini

Sadhbhavna Parivar and Bhaduka Film Production present Rajasthan Ke Kalakar Season 5. Show director Rohit Sharma, Sadhbhavna Parivar Foundation President Manoj Pandey, and Sanchalika Shiv Kanta Pandey unveiled the poster at Moti Dongri Ganesh Temple on Wednesday. Santosh Gupta, Satyanarayana Saini, Rohit Sharma, Manju Agarwal, Om Prakash Saini & Anshu Saini were also present for the event.



SEMINAR!

Dr Kusum advocates all-round development to combat unemployment at the Mukta Manch seminar in Jaipur on Wednesday. President Dr Kusum emphasizes employment's broad significance beyond jobs, linking it to life management. Highlighting societal challenges like materialism and urban migration, he calls for village self-sufficiency to boost employment. IAS officer Arun Ojha stated that we are returning to Gandhi's village-based economy. Speakers address skill development challenges and the need for a comprehensive approach to eradicate unemployment. The seminar underscores the urgency of addressing unemployment through holistic societal and governmental strategies.

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## Floral Devotion

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**A** grand Bhajan Sandhya was organised with a stunning Phool Bangla tableau at the Nahar Ganesh Temple on Wednesday. During this, Yuvacharya Manav Sharma shared that in the presence of temple priest Jai Sharma, Lord Ganesha was adorned with beautiful flowers like Mogra, Lily, Rose, & Yellow Hazara. Following the evening Aarti at 5 pm, renowned artists, including Gopal Singh Rathore and Padma Shri Gulabo, performed. The event was conducted by Rajesh Acharya and RD Agarwal.