



# FIRST INDIA

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**TELANGANA GOVERNOR RESIGNS, MAY CONTEST LOK SABHA POLLS**  
Tamilisai Soundararajan resigned as Telangana Governor and Puducherry LG on Monday. Leader of TN BJP unit is expected to contest LS polls.



**DISCLOSE ALL DETAILS ON BONDS TO ECI BY MARCH 21: SC TELLS SBI**  
The SC Constitution bench headed by CJI DY Chandrachud on Monday directed SBI to disclose all details on electoral bonds to ECI by March 21.



**SANJAY SINGH, BRIJ BHUSHAN'S CLOSE AIDE, GETS WFI CONTROL**  
Sanjay Singh, close aide of BJP MP Brij Bhushan assumed the full charge of the WFI on Monday. This comes after the IOA dissolved ad-hoc panel.



**NDA SEALS BIHAR DEAL: BJP 17 SEATS, JDU 16 AND CHIRAG 5**  
The BJP will contest 17 out of 40 seats in Bihar while Nitish-led JD(U) got 16 seats in the deal announced by the NDA for Lok Sabha polls. **P7**



## IN BRIEF



Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu called on Prez Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday.

**Indian student dies in US, probe rules out foul play**  
**Boston:** In yet another tragic incident, an Indian student Abhijeeth Paruchuru, died in Boston and initial investigation has ruled out any foul play," the Consulate General of India in New York said in a post on X on Monday.



**Over 10 die as building collapses in Kolkata**  
**Kolkata:** More than ten people were killed, several others were injured after a 5-storey under-construction building collapsed in Kolkata's Garden Reach on Monday. WB CM Mamata Banerjee assured locals of stern action against illegal construction.

**Gangster Rana killed in encounter with Pb police**  
**Chandigarh:** Gangster Sukhwinder Rana, accused in killing of Punjab Police constable, Amritpal Singh, was killed on Monday in an encounter with police. Singh was shot dead by Rana on Sunday when CIA raided his house.

**Azam Khan sentenced to seven-year jail term**  
**Lucknow:** Senior Samajwadi Party leader and former minister Azam Khan was on Monday sentenced to seven years imprisonment in connection with a case of trespass and vandalism of a house in UP's Rampur in 2016.

## PM MODI ATTACKS OPPN OVER RAHUL'S 'SHAKTI' REMARKS...

# I WILL RISK LIFE FOR MOTHERS AND SISTERS, STRESSES MODI



Amid tight police security and 'Modi-Modi' chants, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow in Coimbatore on Monday.

Moni Sharma  
Shivamogga/Jagtial

PM Narendra Modi on Monday launched a scathing attack at the Opposition over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Shakti' remark during a rally in Mumbai and said that he was willing to sacrifice his life for the mothers and sisters, who were the personified version of 'Shakti'. Addressing a public meeting at Jagtial, PM raised questions at the INDIA bloc and asked "How can they talk about 'Shakti Vinaash' in India?" He asked people of the state, whether they will support someone who wants to "challenge" Shakti? Addressing rally at Shivamogga, the PM noted announcement of "eradicating Shakti" was made at Shivaji Park where every child grows up with Mantra of 'Jai Bhavani, Jai Shivaji'. **P7**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated and greeted by BJP leaders during a public meeting, in Shivamogga on Monday.

On 13 May, you should remember that BJP must win! The more seats you give to the BJP, the more it will fuel me to work even harder for you. **NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER**

## President Putin is here to stay!

Winning 87% vote, Vladimir Putin cements hold on Russia with new six-year tenure

First India Bureau  
Moscow

### LOOKING TO BOOST TIES: MODI TO PUTIN



PM Narendra Modi on Monday congratulated Vladimir Putin on his re-election as Russia's President. Taking to X, PM Modi said he looked forward to working with the Russian leadership to further strengthen ties between Delhi & Moscow.



## Sangh bluntly tells BJP, now talk on devp instead of emotional issues

● Sarsanghchalak said to work in order to increase acceptance in the society

● JP Nadda gave information about both government and organization from stage

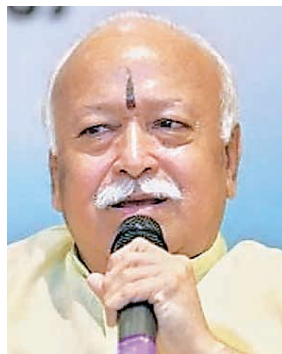
Pankaj Soni  
Nagpur

RSS has bluntly advised the BJP, which is aiming to get 400 seats and 50% votes in LS elections, to focus on development issues. Sangh's Sarsanghchalak Mohanrao Rao Bhagwat said in his address on last day of the RSS representative assembly that issues like Ram temple, Section 370 and CAA have been resolved. "Work is underway on equal citizenship law. These issues are not permanent and should not be discussed continuously. Therefore now there should be talk of good governance and de-



BJP National President JP Nadda

velopment. The focus should also remain on that in elections," he said. Bhagwat said that it is a matter of thought that even when the acceptance of our ideology is increasing, the percentage of people who vote for us is less than forty.



RSS Supremo Mohan Bhagwat

Pointing towards the minorities, he said that it should be kept in mind that no one is our enemy.

### GO TO COMMUNITY FORUMS INSTEAD OF ORGANISATIONS

Sarsanghchalak said that to take the society along,

there will have to be a change in the style of work. "We will have to give up our attachment to the organization's platform or banner. If you want to take everyone along then go to the social forums or inspire the society to raise issues related to society," he said.

### NADDA WAS PRESENT FOR TWO DAYS, TOLD THE ACTION PLAN

BJP National President JP Nadda was present in the meeting for 2 days. He told what action plan BJP is working for polls, especially whether any kind of structure has been created till booth level.

## CM Sharma meets top brass in Delhi, plans LS poll moves

First India Bureau  
New Delhi/Jaipur



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma reached New Delhi on Monday. He is scheduled to meet the senior party leaders in the run up for the Lok Sabha elections. CM Sharma and BJP State President CP Joshi reached the BJP headquarters to meet the party leaders.

CM stayed at the Jodhpur House. On Tuesday, CM will go to Jodhpur from New Delhi and take Lok Sabha Cluster meeting. From there he will leave to Udaipur. CM will leave from New Delhi at 8:30 am by a special flight and reach Jodhpur airport at 10 am. He will reach the Medical College at 10.15 am. CM

will hold Lok Sabha cluster meeting of workers in the Medical College and give instructions for LS elections.

Infact it looks like the BJP has got a new troubleshooter and a master strategist in Rajasthan in the form of CM Bhajan Lal Sharma. The way he managed to bring state BJP President CP Joshi

and Independent MLA Chandrabhan Singh Akya together forgetting their differences or bringing union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and BJP MLA Babu Singh Rathore in one frame of the picture is being seen as a sign of political acumen of CM Sharma who is known as a man of organizational skills.

## 'DELIVERING SAFELY' INITIATIVE, FOR DELIVERY PARTNERS

# Swiggy and 1st India+ events set new safety standards



(L-R) Pawan Arora, Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon, Komal Arora & Rohit Kapoor release 'Road Safety Charter' during 'Delivering Safely,' by Swiggy & First India+ at RIC on Monday. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

In a pioneering move, Swiggy has unveiled a groundbreaking nationwide safety initiative, "Delivering Safely," in partnership with 1st India+ events, a vertical of 1st India+ Entertainment. The launch event, held at RIC in Jaipur, showcased Swiggy's unwavering dedication to ensuring the safety of its delivery partners. Unfortunately, Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa

couldn't attend due to illness but conveyed his best wishes.

The event, graced by esteemed guests including Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News & First India+ Entertainment, Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy, and VP Komal Arora, underscored Swiggy's commitment to its workforce's safety. With over 3 lakh delivery partners operating across 600 cities and covering a staggering 3.6 billion kilometers annually. At the inaugural event, Pawan Arora deliv-

ered the keynote address, shedding light on critical issue of road safety and its implications for delivery services. One notable suggestion he proposed was prohibiting learners with provisional licences from driving on highways and imposing speed restrictions. He also stressed necessity of utilizing digital media to regularly disseminate text messages and pictorial messages via WhatsApp and Instagram, what aimed at raising awareness and sensitizing individuals to road safety concerns. **TURN TO P8**

## EC removes home secys of 6 states & WB top cop

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election scheduled to begin on April 19, the ECI has issued orders for the removal of the Home Secretary in six states, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, official sources said.

Additionally, secretaries of the General Administrative Departments (GADs) in Mizoram and HP have also been removed. While poll panel officials did not immediately mention any reason



behind the big move, sources said the changes had been made to "ensure level playing fields" and "to maintain the integrity of the poll process". Furthermore, the Election Commission has also taken the necessary action to remove the DGP of West Bengal.





FIRST INDIA

# Ballot Beat



INDIAN  
GENERAL ELECTIONS  
2024

02

## When Rath Yatras became the cornerstone in Indian politics!

- Advani's Rath Yatra made BJP the largest party
- Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra worked to invigorate Congress

Pankaj Soni  
Jaipur

The Central Government recently took out Rath Yatras led by IAS officers at different places across the country to publicise the achievements of the last nine years of the Modi government, after which the Opposition parties created a lot of noise.

The journey of Rath Yatras in the country's politics is very old, and the wheels of many yatras have changed the politics of the country and states. The concept of Rath Yatra in the country's politics was started by veteran South Indian leader and actor NT Rama Rao. After this, the travels of BJP leader LK Advani shook the opposition parties including Congress. The most talked about journey in the history of the country is considered to be Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March during the independence movement. On March 12, 1930, he marched on foot from his Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Gujarat in protest against the imposition of a tax on salt by the British government. After 26 days, on April 6, 1930, the march reached Dandi, where Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt law.

**NTR's Chaitanya Ratham Yatra in 1982**  
In the year 1982, NT Rama Rao organised the Chaitanya Rath Yatra in Andhra Pradesh. This 75,000-kilometre journey set a Guinness World Record, circling the state's four corners. On March 29, 1982, NTR formed the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) over Telugu pride and started



LK Advani's Rath Yatra. FILE

India's first political Rath Yatra. A van was converted into a chariot for the journey. NTR stopped at 100 locations each day, garnering immense popularity with people eagerly awaiting his arrival, even performing aarti for him. Following the yatra, in the Assembly elections, TDP secured 199 out of 294 seats, making NTR the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

**1990: Advani's Ram Rath Yatra**  
In the year 1990, the BJP intensified the Ram Mandir construction movement and announced a Rath Yatra till Ayodhya while touring the entire country. Lal Krishna Advani became the charioteer of this journey and his Rath Yatra commenced from the famous pilgrimage site Somnath in Gujarat on September 25 and reached Bihar passing through hundreds of cities and villages. The then Bihar CM Lalu Prasad stopped the Rath Yatra in Samastipur and arrested Advani. This Yatra gave the BJP a new identity as a national party and increased its popularity among the public. It is said that from here the political journey of BJP took a turn and entered a new phase. A large number of



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, former CM Ashok Gehlot and Rajasthan PCC chief Govind Dotasra during the flag-handover ceremony as the 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' enters Rajasthan from Uttar Pradesh, in Dholpur district. FILE

kar sevaks reached Ayodhya in the Ram Mandir movement amid the Rath Yatra. In the 1991 Lok Sabha elections, BJP got 120 seats, which was 35 more than the previous elections.

**2004: YS Rajasekhara Reddy's march**  
Veteran Congress leader YS Rajasekhara Reddy started a 1,500 km walk from Chevella in Andhra Pradesh in 2004 covering 11 districts. The public considered Rajasekhara as the Messiah and people flocked to meet him. The 10-year-long TDP rule ended with Congress

winning 185 out of 294 seats in the assembly elections and YS Rajasekhara Reddy became the Chief Minister.

**2017 Jaganmohan Reddy's Praja Sankalp Yatra**  
This yatra, undertaken in Andhra Pradesh in the year 2017, took young Jaganmohan Reddy to the post of Chief Minister. After the death of YS Rajasekhara Reddy in a helicopter crash in 2009, Congress refused to make his son Jaganmohan Reddy the Chief Minister. After this Jaganmohan formed the YSR Congress Party. Like his father, he

took out a padyatra which became the driving force of his political career. On November 6, 2017, he started his padyatra from Cuddapah district which covered a distance of 3,648 km through 125 assembly constituencies of 13 districts and reached Srikakulam in 430 days. After the Rath Yatra, in the assembly elections held in 2019, the YSR Congress won 152 out of 175 seats and Jaganmohan became the CM.

**Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra**  
Congress party's Bharat Jodo Yatra, under the leadership of Rahul

Gandhi, covered a distance of 3,500 kilometres in 12 states. This was seen as the Congress party's attempt to reestablish itself and prepare ground for public support before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

**BJP took out Parivartan Yatra in the states**  
BJP had taken out a political yatra in the name of Parivartan Yatra in the assembly elections of five states in 2003. These yatras, led by Vasundhara Raje in Rajasthan and Uma Bharti in Madhya Pradesh, had uprooted the Congress governments.

### TOTAL RECALL

13TH LOK SABHA POLLS 1999

Vajpayee got 3rd time lucky, became PM for a full five-year term

- For the first time, a non-Congress govt completed its tenure
- Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin issue dominated the polls
- Congress was reduced to 114 seats, saw its worst performance

Manoj Mathur  
Jaipur

Even in the thirteenth Lok Sabha elections held in 1999, no political party got a clear majority, but the long period of political instability at the Center ended. BJP formed National Democratic Alliance (NDA) with more than 20 parties and entered polls with the face of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

NDA got 270 seats and also got the support of Telugu Desam Party which had 29 seats. Vajpayee became Prime Minister for the third time with absolute majority. Vajpayee, who first ran the government for 13 days and then for 13 months, this time ran this coalition government for full five years.

This marked the first non-Congress government to complete a full five-year term since independence, bringing stability after years of uncertainty. After Narasimha Rao govt, the country had gone through 3 LS polls.

Congress, led by Sonia Gandhi, faced its worst performance yet, winning only 114 seats compared to BJP's 182. Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin became a contentious issue,

### SONIA BECAME MP FROM AMETHI FOR THE FIRST TIME

After entering politics, Sonia Gandhi contested for first time from Amethi and won. In Rae Bareilly, Satish Sharma, Gandhi family aide, won. Vajpayee won Lucknow against Karan Singh. ND Tiwari won Nainital for Cong. Mulayam Singh Yadav won Sambhal and Kannauj. Maneka Gandhi won Pilibhit independently. Chandrashekhar won Ballia, Lalu Yadav lost to Sharad Yadav in Madhepura.

leading to rebellion within Congress and the formation of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) by leaders like Sharad Pawar, Tariq Anwar and PA Sangma.

Despite NCP's formation, it only secured 8 seats. BJP capitalized on the foreign origin issue and highlighted Vajpayee's leadership during the Kargil war, which ended shortly before the elections. Vajpayee's handling of the war strengthened India's stance on Kashmir and boosted BJP's campaign.

Additionally, BJP emphasized the economic achievements of the Vajpayee government, garnering sympathy from voters due to the collapse of the previous government within 13 months.

Ultimately, the NDA, led by Vajpayee along with the Telugu Desam Party, secured a majority in the Lok Sabha, reflecting public support for their governance and leadership.

### CONGRESS WON 68 SEATS LESS THAN BJP DESPITE GETTING 5 PER CENT MORE VOTES

In the recent LS election with 543 seats, over 59.99% of 61.95 crore voters participated. Despite Congress securing a 5% higher vote share than BJP, it won 68 seats fewer, receiving 28.30% of votes but only 114 seats. BJP garnered 23.75% of votes, securing 182 seats. The Left saw further decline with CPI losing its national party status, gaining only four seats. Other notable wins include Marxist Communist Party with 33 seats, while Janata Dal (S) secured just one seat. SP won 26, Janata Dal (U) 21, Shiv Sena 15, Bahujan Samaj Party 14 and Biju Janata Dal won 10 seats.

### UDAIPUR LOK SABHA SEAT

## A tale of shifting political fortunes over decades

Abhishek Tiwari  
Jaipur

All the 25 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan have their own political nature and political climate. Udaipur is one such seat where barring a few leaders like sitting MP Arjun Lal Meena or former MP Dhuleshwar Meena or Girjira Vyas, this seat has usually seen a new face as an MP. The first Lok Sabha elections in Udaipur were held in the year 1952. At

that time, Balwant Singh Mehta of the Congress was elected as MP. However, in the elections of 1957, the Congress changed its candidate and fielded Deenbandhu Parmar, who emerged victorious. Subsequently, in the 1962 and 1967 polls the Congress again changed its candidate and gave a ticket to Dhuleshwar Meena who became an MP.

In 1971 Jan Sangh the predecessor of the BJP opened its account and its candidate Laljibhai Meena was elected from this

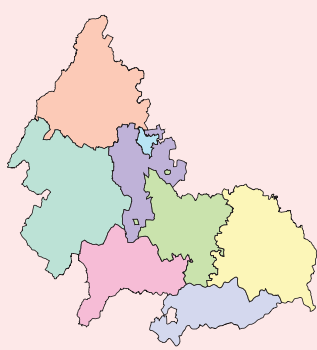
### MPS OF UDAIPUR THUS FAR

- 1952 BALWANT SINGH MEHTA: INC
- 1957 DEENBANDHU PARMAR: INC
- 1962 & 1967 DHULESHWAR MEENA: INC
- 1971 LALJIBHAI MEENA BHARATIYA: Jana Sangh
- 1977 BHANU KUMAR SHASTRI: Janata Party
- 1980 MOHAN LAL SUKHADIA: INC (I)
- 1984 INDUBALA SUKHADIA: INC
- 1989 GULAB CHAND KATARIA: BJP
- 1991, 1996 & 1999 GIRIJA VYAS: INC
- 1998 SHANTI LAL CHAPLOT: BJP
- 2004 KIRAN MAHESHWARI: BJP
- 2009 RAGHUVeer MEENA: INC
- 2014 & 2019 ARJUNLAL MEENA: BJP

seat. Then in 1977 under the massive Janta Party wave, Udaipur voted for

the party and its candidate Bhanu Kumar Shastri became MP.

### ASSEMBLY SEAT-WISE POSITION OF UDAIPUR LS



- (149) GOGUNDA: Pratap Lal Bheel (BJP)
- (150) JHADOL: Babulal Kharadi (BJP)
- (151) KHERWARA: Dayaram Parmar (INC)
- (152) UDAIPUR RURAL: Phool Singh Meena (BJP)
- (153) UDAIPUR: Tarachand Jain (BJP)
- (156) SALUMBER: Amrit Lal Meena (BJP)
- (157) DHARIAWAD: Thavar Chand (BAP)
- (159) ASPUR: Umesh Meena (BAP)

In the 1980 polls, Mohanlal Sukhadia, a popular Congress leader, was

elected. Serving as CM of Rajasthan for 17 years between 1954 and 1971,

Sukhadia initiated significant reforms. In 1984, his wife Indubala Sukhadia

won as a Congress MP, followed by BJP's Gulab Chand Kataria in 1989, illustrating a norm of changing candidates in Udaipur. Exceptions exist, such as Girija Vyas of Congress, who won in 1991 and 1996. In 1998, Shantilal Chaplot of BJP won, followed by Girija Vyas of Congress in 1999. Kiran Maheshwari secured victory for BJP in 2004, but Raghuvir Meena of Congress became MP in 2009. Since 2014, Arjun Lal Meena of BJP has held the seat.



**Lok Sabha polls**

Former Congress MLA, RLP leader, and 27 others join BJP in Jaipur on Monday

# Several leaders join BJP, pledge support to PM Modi



Ramlal Meghwal, Dr. Vikram Singh Gurjar, Gokul Parihar, Ramesh Meghwal and others joined BJP in presence of Arun Chaturvedi, Narayan Panchariya, Jogeshwar Garg, Damodar Agarwal and Sarvan Singh Bagdi at BJP Hqs in Jaipur on Monday.

**Yogesh Sharma**  
Jaipur

Impressed by the values and policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, taking a pledge to work shoulder to shoulder for Antyodaya under his leadership, former MLAs, MLA candidates, Zilla Parishad members, Panchayat Samiti members from various political parties gathered at the BJP state office today. Along with this, Sarpanch and more than three dozen workers joined BJP.

On this occasion, former Jalore MLA and Dalit leader Ramlal Meghwal, Dr. Vikram Singh Gurjar,

## PEOPLES' LIFE BECAME EASIER DURING 10 YEARS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE OF PM MODI: CHATURVEDI

➔ Addressing the membership induction program, Joining Committee Chairman Arun Chaturvedi said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we all have the same slogan of 'Abki Baar 400 Paar'. "The life of the common man has become easier during the 10 years of good governance of PM Modi. Hundreds of public welfare schemes are being run for the upliftment of the last person in the society. At the same time, the Bhajan Lal government of the state has done historic work to fulfill its manifesto in the state in just three months. The top leadership of Congress is drunk today. The former Congress President is travelling, he is not aware of what is happening within the party," he said.

former RLP candidate from Deoli-Uniara Gokul Parihar, District President of SC Cell, Jalore, former General Secretary of Jalore District Congress Committee Ramesh Meghwal and others were

present. Chief Whip Jogeshwar Garg, Joining Committee President Arun Chaturvedi and BJP State Vice President Narayan Panchariya made Bhavna Garg and fashion designer Archana

Surana and others take membership of the BJP.

On this occasion, BJP State General Secretary Damodar Agarwal, Shravan Singh Bagri and State Media Coordinator Pramod Vashishtha were present. Interestingly, every day some entry or the other party leader is joining the BJP.

Even on Monday, a dozen leaders joined with their workers but the mistake continues in the name of former MLA Mahendra Singh Gurjar. His name was taken but he did not come to BJP headquarters. Notably, Mahendra Gurjar has already refused to join BJP and is still in Congress.



District Collector Ankit Singh & SP Monika Sain during the flag march in Dungarpur on Monday to ensure peaceful polling.

## Seizures worth ₹17 cr since code of conduct

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Various enforcement agencies in State have seized drugs, liquor, precious metals, freebies and cash worth a record of more than Rs 17 crore after the implementation of Model Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha in State.

Similarly, from March 1 till now, agencies have collected Rs 115 crore. Drugs, liquor, gold, freebies and cash worth more than their value were seized. The information has been shared in reports by different agencies.

CEO Praveen Gupta said that from March 1 till now, cash worth Rs 2 cr 41 lakh, drugs worth about Rs 51.56 cr, liquor worth Rs 6 cr 71 lakh and precious metals like gold & silver have been seized.

## 266 COMPLAINTS IN 48 HOURS ON C-VIGIL APP

➔ In just 48 hours of the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct for Lok Sabha elections in the state, more than 266 complaints have been received from across the state 'C Vigil' app. Of them, Returning Officers found 111 complaints to be true and they were resolved within the stipulated time, CEO Praveen Gupta said.

## POLICE SET UP HELPLINE TO STOP FAKE NEWS

➔ As part of a Raj Police program, anyone who spread offensive, false comments before elections would face consequences. The police have provided the helpline number 8764 873 137 in this regard. In order to hold fair and peaceful elections, the ACM office of district collectorate in Gangapur has established a control room.

## DISTRICT COLLECTOR RAJPUROHIT TAKES LS POLL MEETING, INSTRUCTS TO CONDUCT FAIR ELECTIONS

➔ Regarding the preparations for the Lok Sabha elections-2024, District Election Officer Prakash Rajpurohit held a review meeting of the officers in-charge of the cell formed for the Lok Sabha elections in the Collectorate Auditorium on Monday. Reviewing the election preparations, the Collector directed the officials to ensure all necessary arrangements and arrangements to conduct fear-free and fair Lok Sabha elections. He said that time is short, therefore, ensure to follow the instructions of the Election Commission and the code of conduct in letter and spirit and complete all the work within the stipulated time.



## SIX BJP LEADERS RESIGN FROM PARTY IN CHURU

➔ 6 BJP leaders resigned from party which include BJP Municipal Board Vice Prez Sunil Aggarwal, BJP Dist Vice Prez Maniram Pachar, BJP SC Morcha Dist Vice Prez Kanhaiyalal Lugaria, former BJP Gen Secy Ramdev Kishanpuri, BJP Municipal Division Gen Secy Ajay Sharma resigned from party and sent resignation to BJP Dist Prez Basant Sharma.

## VAIBHAV GEHLOT WOOS JALORE-SIROHI VOTERS IN CHENNAI

➔ What is the Chennai connection of Jalore-Sirohi seat! Congress candidate Vaibhav Gehlot reached Chennai along with former MLA Sanyam Lodha to meet migrant Rajasthanis. Actually, a large number of voters of Jalore-Sirohi live in Chennai. In such a situation, Vaibhav Gehlot is campaigning in Chennai.

## ARUN CHATURVEDI BUSY IN BRINGING LEADERS!

➔ Former BJP state president Arun Chaturvedi is very busy these days in working 24x7 regarding joining program. Chaturvedi is continuously monitoring the program as there has been tremendous joining from Congress and other parties in the last one week. He brought many leaders to BJP through his own contacts. Arun Chaturvedi has relations beyond party politics.



## CONGRESS LEADERS WHO ARE NOW IN SAFFRON CADRE

➔ Once a Cong candidate, ex-min Lalchand Kataria who has been a Congress MP from Jaipur(R), is now in BJP camp! But he is not the only leader who has shifted 'loyalties'. Subhash Mahariya, who contested from Sikar on Cong ticket; Rampal Sharma who was Cong candidate in Bhilwara; Jyoti Mirdha from Nagaur, Jyoti Khandelwal from Jaipur; Pratap Poonia who has and Mahendrajit Malviya have all now joined BJP.

## LEADERS WHO LOST, DIDN'T GET TICKETS, GET 'FAVOR' IN BJP

➔ BJP has extended 'support' to 'losers'. Leaders who lost in assembly poll get another chance as LS ticket has been given to Jyoti Mirdha who lost from Nagaur. Similarly, Prem S Bajor, who lost from Neemkathana, was made Chairman of Sainik Welfare Board. Similarly, Jaswant Vishnoi did not get ticket from Jodhpur but Vishnoi has been given the responsibility of Chairman of Animal Welfare Board.

## Notification issued to appoint 804 AROs for LS polling

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

For the smooth conduct of vote counting work in the Lok Sabha Polls, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has issued a notification for

appointment of Assistant Returning Officers (Vote Counting) in all the Lok Sabha constituencies of Rajasthan.

CEO Praveen Gupta said that a notification has been issued by the Election Commission

for the appointment of ARO as per requirement to conduct voting process scheduled on 19th April and 26th April 2024 in a fair and transparent manner. He informed that a total of 804 AROs have

been appointed for 25 Lok Sabha constituencies. Maximum 80 AROs have been deployed in Jaipur Rural Lok Sabha constituency, followed by 66 AROs in Sikar for counting of votes.

List of Cong for 7 LS seats likely to come today

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

The Congress has started brainstorming regarding candidates for remaining 15 seats. The CEC meeting is proposed in New Delhi on Tuesday to announce candidates. In this meeting, candidates for remaining 7 seats of Jaipur City, Jaipur Rural, Sri Ganganagar-Hanumangarh, Sikar, Karauli-Dholpur, Dausa and Nagaur will be decided.

The probable candidates for Jaipur City are Jignesh Mewani, Pratap Singh, and Sunil Sharma.

## Courtesy Meet



State Farmers Commission Chairman CR Choudhary paid a courtesy visit to Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani in Jaipur on Monday.

Water shutdown due to Bisalpur line maintenance

**Naresh Sharma**  
Jaipur

A two-day water supply shutdown will be there in 539 villages and 5 towns connected to Bisalpur Dudu Drinking Water Project.

There will be no water supply in Malpura, Phulera, Sambhar, Kishanghar Renwal and Jobner) connected to Mor, Malpura, Pachervar, Dudu, Narena and Sambhar pump houses of Transmission Main-I from 11:30 pm on March 19 to 11:30 pm on March 21).

## Brij university students protest semi-naked, submit demands

**Ravi Katara**  
Bharatpur

The clamour for action against Brij University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ramesh Chandra, is growing in Bharatpur. A few days ago, college administrators met with Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma to speak about the Vice Chancellor; students at the university in Bharatpur are still demonstrating against him. Students staged a semi-nude protest today, demanding the Vice Chancellor's dismissal. Students went



Student talking to OSD to CM RK Tripathi in Bharatpur on Monday.

to the Chief Minister's Public Hearing Center and filed a memorandum to the OSD.

According to students' demands, there are financial irregularities at the institution, corrup-

tion, a constant deterioration in entrance examination and results, and rigging and scams in the appointment of tenders and contractual professors, all of which should be probed by SIT.

Deputy CM Bairwa unwell, postpones all of his meetings

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Deputy CM **Dr Premchand Bairwa's** health has been poor since the Monday morning. Due to his low blood pressure, he has postponed all of his plans for Monday.

Dr. Bairwa, the deputy Chief Minister, is not scheduled to meet with anyone. The Deputy CM was treated by SMS physicians who visited his residence.



## NEW FLIGHTS IN SUMMER SCHEDULE

# New destinations proposed from Jpr

**Ziauddin Khan**  
Jaipur

Airlines cos have evinced their interest to operate direct flights connecting Jaipur airport to five new domestic and three international destinations in the summer schedule effective from March 31, 2024. Indigo airline proposed new routes connecting Jaipur to Amritsar, Ayodhya and Vadodara while Air India Express and Alliance Air have proposed to operate on Guwahati and Chandigarh

## AIRLINES EXPRESS INTEREST ON NEW ROUTES

- Indigo has proposed to increase flight frequency to Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh and Lucknow
- Alliance Air has announced 5 additional departures to New Delhi
- Air India Express proposed seven additional departures to Bengaluru and 12 to Kolkata

- Spice jet decided to increase flight to Ahmedabad, Ayodhya and Delhi
- Air Asia proposed 3 additional departures to Bombay
- Thai Air Asia, Salam Air and Spice Jet has announced additional new departures to Bangkok, Muscat and Dubai

route respectively. Similarly, Air Asia Berhad, Air India Express & Etihad Airways have proposed to offer direct connectivity to

Kuala Lumpur, Suvarnabhumi Airport Bangkok & Abu-Dhabi respectively. "Airlines have expressed interest in operat-

ing flights on new domestic and international air routes. flight frequencies will also witness an exponential rise in the summer schedule. Passenger traffic is constantly increasing at Jaipur airport and now we are marching ahead with expected summer travel boom," the airport official said. The final Schedule will come out by end of this month, he said.

Meanwhile most of the airline companies have already decided to increase the flight frequencies from the coming summer schedule.

Min Dilawar asks youth to shun drugs, adopt small trades

**First India Bureau**  
Baran

Edu Minister Madan Dilawar shared a story of Ladi Bohani, a water chestnut, which brought back childhood memories. He said, we also attempted de-addiction in the village. Instead of looking for a job, everyone should concentrate on small businesses. He swore that the warehouse subsidy system is benefiting the village. I have worshiped this soil, and I will never be embarrassed of it; I will always be grateful to it, he said.

## Adani power's plea seeking late fee from JVVNL quashed in SC

APRL had sought ₹1,300 cr as late payment surcharge from JVVNL; Apex court imposed ₹50K as cost on APRL

**PTI**  
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea of Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd seeking over Rs 1,300 crore as late payment surcharge from the Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, a Rajasthan govt-owned power distribution firm. Imposing Rs 50,000



as cost on Adani Power Rajasthan Ltd (APRL), a bench comprising Justices Aniruddha Bose and PV Sanjay Kumar ruled that filing of a miscellaneous application was not proper legal recourse to late payment surcharge (LPS) by Adani firm.

"Relief of this nature (claiming LPS) cannot be asked in a miscellaneous

application which was described in the course of the hearing as an application for clarification," the bench said. The cost of Rs 50,000 imposed on APRL will be deposited with the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee, Justice Bose said while reading out operative portion of judgement. The detailed judgement is awaited. The top court, on Jan 24, had reserved its judgement. The JVVNL, represented by senior advocate Dushyant Dave, had vehemently opposed plea of APRL seeking over Rs 1,300 crore.



Governor Mishra Speaks

Talent should be given opportunity to move forward

# Guv honours 31 personalities with Rajasthan Gaurav Samman



The awardees with Governor Kalraj Mishra, Pandit Suresh Mishra, HC Ganesha, Dinesh Sharma, Gaurav Dhamani, Govind Pareek, senior officers and dignitaries during the event on Monday. Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Divyakriti Singh Rathore, Alok Khandelwal, Harshit Jain and others were among the awardees.

NAIM KHAN

Vinod Singh Chouhan & Chhavi Faujdar  
Jaipur

Governor Kalraj Mishra has said that Indian culture is associated with noble life values and that is why India has been a world leader providing guidance to the world. Governor Mishra addressed the ‘Rajasthan Gaurav’ felicitation ceremony organized by Sanskriti Yuva Sansthan organized at a private hotel on Monday.

Learning from this culture, he called upon everyone to work for the welfare of all. “Only that society moves towards development, where talents are respected,” he

Those who get respect, their responsibility towards the society increases even more. The meaning of culture is that it should carry on with continuous change. The ability to change and accept something new at all times is culture and culture is recognized across the world because of its generosity.

KALRAJ MISHRA, GOVERNOR OF RAJASTHAN

said. While giving ‘Rajasthan Gaurav’ honor to the talents who have done remarkable work in various fields of the society, he also expected them to work continuously for the all-round development of the country and society.

“It is important that an organization has been continuously honoring talents working in fields related to social service for 29 years,” he said.

IAS Ashish Modi, Yash Setia, Anila Kothari, IPS Rajeev Kumar Sharma, Harsh Chaudhary, Divyakriti Singh Rathore, Harsh P Chamaria, Rajesh Sharma, Yogesh Kumar Srivastava, Pratap Singh Chauhan, Dr. Rash Bihari Rungta, journalists Alok Khandelwal, Harshit Jain, Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Kashiram Chaudhary and others were honoured.



Governor Kalraj Mishra and Suresh Mishra honour Shweta Mishra Awasthi of First India News during the event in Jaipur.

## 4 of family killed, 3 hurt as car rams into truck



The badly mangled car after the accident on Monday.

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Four members of a family were killed and three injured when their car rammed into a stationary truck on the Delhi-Ajmer highway here on Monday, police said.

The accident took place this morning in the Chandwaji area when the victims were on their way to Shahphura from Nagaur district, they add-

ed. Pavan bunker, Sanjna Devi Bunker, Kapoori Devi and Monika Devi died in the accident, the police said, adding that injured are being treated at a hospital.

It is reported that during the return journey from Butati dham, the car lost control and collided with a trailer near Sevad Mata Temple. The collision was so severe that the front part of the car was badly damaged.

## 6-year-old boy mauled to death by stray dogs

First India Bureau  
Chittorgarh

Eight to ten dogs attacked a six-year-old child on his way to school. The toddler was bitten by dogs in 20 locations. The child died because his windpipe was severed. The woman who came to discard the garbage attacked the dogs with stones before picking up the bleeding innocent child and transporting her to her home.

After getting the information, his family members took him to the hospital, where physicians proclaimed him dead. The event occurred at 7 a.m. on Monday in Parsoli village, Chittorgarh district. Dogs hovered around dead animals on the banks of a dry river.

## Mines dept generates ₹3,484 cr in 11 months

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Mines department has received Rs 3,484 crore from 23 big institutions in 11 months. This includes Rs 2,356 crore from Hindustan Zinc, Rs 175 crore from Ultratech Cement, Rs 169 crore from RSMM, Rs 162 crore from Shree Cement, Rs 89 crore from Jindal Saw, Rs 80 crore from BLMCL, Rs 79 Crore from JK Cement and Rs 79 Crore from Wonder Cement.

Similarly, JK Lakshmi Cement gave a revenue of Rs 45 Crore, Ambuja Cement Rs 43 crore, Hindustan Copper Rs 42 crore and Neyveli Lignite gave Rs 31 crore. Rs 4,129 crore were received from these companies in the last financial year.



On the other hand, 30 cases of outstanding amounts worth more than Rs 131 crore are pending.

Four cases of maximum outstanding of Rs 52 crore are in Bhilwara circle, Rs 29 crore are outstanding in 10 cases in Bharatpur circle, Rs 15 crore in one case in Bikaner, Kota has six cases with outstanding amount of Rs 15 crore and Jaipur has five such cases with outstanding amount of Rs 11 crore.

## Masterminds of paper leak taken into 10-day remand



First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Special Operation Group of Rajasthan will interrogate all the mafia arrested in the paper leak till date. SOG teams went to Udaipur, Ajmer and Jaipur jails on Sunday and arrested the masterminds of the paper leak cases and brought them to Jaipur on production warrant. SOG has produced all the accused in the court and taken them on remand for 10 days.

SOG teams are raiding homes and locations of 13 out of 14 trainee Sub Inspectors arrested in SI Recruitment-2021 paper leak case. This action is being taken in Sanchore, Jalore and Jaipur.

The SOG produced all accused 14 trainee sub-inspectors in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Metropolitan – II Poonaram Godara. The court remanded them to one day remand.



The accused in police custody on Monday.

### SHIPRA PATH POLICE NABS 5 FOR SEXTORTION

Jaipur's Shiprapath police station took major action and arrested a gang involved in sextortion. Acting on a recent complaint, the police caught five miscreants, including gang leader Aman Sharma. Cases of sextortion by these people have been reported on numerous occasions. Shiprapath police station is interrogating all the accused.

### CGST SEIZES 6 VEHICLES FOR LACK OF DOCUMENTS

The Anti-Evasion Unit of Jaipur Commissionerate of Central Goods and Services Tax Department checked dozens of vehicles in the last three days and caught six vehicles with inadequate documents or e-way bills. These vehicles were loaded with iron scrap and tiles. Due to lack of documents, the goods were confiscated along with the vehicle by the officials of Anti-Evasion Branch.

### MINOR GIRL ABDUCTED, RAPED AND KILLED

Salumbar: A case of rape and murder has come to light in Salumber district's Jawar Mines police station area. The minor girl had been invited to her friend's place, but a man named Rahul and his companion had kidnapped her. The girl was held captive in a house. The Minor had been raped before being murdered. Based on the victim's father's testimony, police opened a case and filed an FIR.

## Amin Pathan's bail rejected by court

Gul Mohammad  
Kota

A local court on Monday rejected the Bail application of Congress leader and former vice president of RCA Amin Pathan who was arrested in a

case of criminal force against public servants in Kota. A vacation court on Sunday had ordered to send Amin Pathan to jail under 14 day judicial custody. The bail application was moved by his counsel which was re-

jected by the court. Amin Pathan is accused of threatening forest department employees.

Meanwhile, market in Anantpura was closed today by Amin Khan's supporters in protest against the arrest.

## Engine, four coaches of train derail near Ajmer



Due to the accident, rail traffic has been affected on the line.

First India Bureau  
Ajmer

Four coaches, including engine of a passenger train on its way from Sabarmati to Agra Cantt, derailed near Ajmer on Monday morning. Train number 12548 derailed near Home Signal at Madar village near Ajmer.

Chief Public Relations Officer, North Western Railway, Captain Shashi Kiran said, “Today at

around 01: 04 am, train number 12548, Sabarmati-Agra Cantt derailed near Ajmer. No casualties were reported.”

Taking immediate action, the Railway officers and employees started the track of restoration work. Six train services were also affected. A help desk has been set up by the railways at Ajmer station and helpline number 0145-2429642 has been issued.

### DEVOTEES THROG Khatushyamji

## Lakkhi Mela enters its final stage

First India Bureau  
Sikar

Today marks the eighth day of the well-known Khatushyam Lakkhi festival across the country. Over 12 lakh devotees have visited Shyam Baba so far. As Ekdashi came, the crowds in Khatu grew. Devotees travel from all around the country.

Long lines were spotted stretching from Ringus to Baba's temple in Khatu. Today, Shyamadhani was decked



Scores of devotees have been showing up in Khatushyamji since the start of the Lakkhi Mela.

with exquisite pink flowers from Bengaluru. Because of the large crowds at the fair, the temple's doors are open 24 hours

a day. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Jawahar Singh Bedham, visited Khatushyamji to wish for the state prosper-

The Lakkhi Mela is a grand ten-day festival held annually in Sikar to honour Khatu Shyam, a revered Hindu deity. Khatu Shyam Ji is believed to be the grandson of Bhim and the son of Ghatotkach

perity. Pratap Singh Chauhan, President of the Shri Shyam Mandir Committee, welcomed the Minister.

## ACS Sreya Guha instructs to meet revenue targets

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

ACS Transport Shreya Guha presided over a meeting of all RTOs and stated that everyone must meet revenue targets on a mandatory basis. ACS instructed to meet 100% target, stating that the CS is very serious about income targets. In such situation, no RTO should be negligent and work hard. She said that there is no need to relax and instead focus on developing CF. She said, “You have flying squads, so focus on increasing CF.”

## Ravi Nayyar stresses on using ‘Gokashta’ this Holi

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Ravi Nayyar, the BJP candidate from Adarsh Nagar and president of Gauseva Samiti Rajapark, held a press conference today at Arya Samaj Rajapark to encourage people to use the ‘Gokashta’ at Holika Dahan in order to raise awareness of environmental protection.

According to Ravi Nayyar, pollution is becoming a major concern for all of humanity. Given the value of trees, by



Ravi Nayyar showing the Gokashta at Arya Samaj Mandir in Jaipur on Monday.

utilizing desi cow dung wood for Holika Dahan and other religious ceremonies, we can prevent annual cutting down of lakhs of trees. It has been

proven that trees release oxygen into the atmosphere, absorb harmful gasses from it, and continuously replenish it with essential air.





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# GREY ZONE WARFARE & RECALIBRATING LEADERSHIP



Col Anupam Jaitly (R)

The writer is defence expert, motivational speaker and corporate trainer



The geopolitical conflicts in current era reflect inclination by some countries to gradually but structurally divide the global or regional alliances and norms to a degree not even seen during the cold war period. This art of conflict prompting switch from declaration of direct war is known as grey-zone warfare in which states conduct activities that seldom pass the threshold of war.

As a keen observer of new and unique warfare technologies and strategies, I believe the Grey Zone exists somewhere between peace and war, where opponents successively orchestrate conflicts using all possible components of power to achieve socio – political and economic instability and thus minimizing the risks of engaging in a direct and a kinetic warfare. Therefore, the actions initiated in a Grey Zone campaign are deliberately ambiguous and deceptive but leave the target country to choose between reluctant acceptance or escalation.

The occupation of Ukraine by Russian, the expansion of Chinese control in the South China Sea and increased presence of various powers in Indo – Pacific regions are nothing but the examples of this hybrid, asymmetric and unconventional Grey Zone Warfare.

So, the question arises as to what are the characteristics of this warfare? Having carefully observed the conflict zone over past two decades, I would lay down four of them.

Firstly, it has a long-term



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confrontational nature by an aggressor state which consists of series of sustained applications over time of a hybrid nature to destabilise the target country as is seen on our Northern borders with China.

Secondly, the strategies chosen are often unthinkable until they are executed as these are highly innovative, deceptive and therefore, difficult to detect and monitor.

Thirdly, often identification and accountability of authorship is impossible as means of cyberspace disinformation is used to implement them.

Due to the difficulty in identification of the attacker and the small size of the obscurity created, the aggressor manipulates and avoids major reactions from the target country and progressively feeds into their strategic advantage. Fourthly, the aggressor will frequently change the narrative using propaganda for interfering in the political, social, or economic life of his adversary aimed at, attrition and coercion.

India has to guard against China who's expo-

entially increasing investment in developing African states, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and now Maldives appears to be checking the rise of India as a power to reckon with in Afro – Asian region.

So, do we need to recalibrate and sensitise our national and military leadership to this new era of warfare? The simple answer is a YES. As far as Military leadership goes, it needs to rethink on the resources required for long-overdue modernization for a prolonged war zone to meet the challenges of hybrid warfare in the grey zone arena.

For Considering new theories of victory and to deter and defeat coercion, land grab and asymmetric warfare, the Army needs greater use of denial strategies to make coercion and territorial revisionism prohibitively costly for the enemy rather than relying on ex post facto punishment. We need to not just mitigate such attacks but keep the adversary in a reactive mode. India needs to effectively counter Chi-

na's salami-slicing tactics as seen in Ladakh region as it had countered death by hundred cuts strategy in the past.

More than the military leadership, it is the national leadership that is desired to step up and become prepared at defeating adversaries by effective non kinetic tactics in this complex, uncertain, volatile, and vague environment. The overwhelming speed at which technological and social changes are occurring, it is more essential than ever before for national leadership and bureaucratic processes to become more efficient, so as to keep the defence machinery well lubricated to meet these challenges and achieve the superiority to dominate the arena of grey war zone. We can no longer enjoy the luxury to work in stovepipes or silos while feeding into inter – se superiority within central services cadres. It's the demand of the hour to work more collaboratively with the CDS heading the vertical.

To conclude, I shall emphasise that the solution to challenges from adversaries is no more a military domain but a political and national one based on the requirements for building a strong state capacity and legitimacy. In building this resilience, the country needs to envision a wider end state in which the application of non-violent techniques such as civil-military activities, social media operations and public affairs are more productive than the direct military action.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

## IN-DEPTH

### UNDER PRESSURE ISRAEL UNWILLING TO CHANGING COURSE

Israel is firm about raiding Rafah in Gaza to wipe out the Hamas terrorists. It has not closed the ceasefire option nor has it opposed the supply of humanitarian aid which the western countries, especially America, are most concerned about. Amid rising fear of starvation deaths the first ship carrying aid to Gaza reached the war torn city by sea, the first in nearly decades. About 200 tons of rice, flour, lentils, canned tuna, beef and chicken provided by a charity was delivered on Saturday. The US is planning to build a floating pier on the Gaza coast to ensure regular supply of humanitarian aid.

There seems to be no love lost between the US and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The divide between the two widened after US Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer, who is the highest ranking Jewish leader, called for fresh elections in Israel. Netanyahu called the comment “wholly inappropriate” but he is coming under increasing pressure from America.

### NEEDED A DEBATE ON “MINORITY”



Dattatreya Hosabale's statement on minorities and harmony in the Hindu society has been a part of Sangh's agenda. Recently re-elected as the Sarkaryawah (general secretary) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Hosabale said, “We (Sangh) consider everyone Hindu through their nationality. Those who do not subscribe to this are engaged in dialogue...” It is a milder version of what RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said in his address at Nagpur September 2023.

Bhagwat had then declared that India is “Hindu Rashtra” and all its citizens are Hindus. “Hindustan is a ‘Hindu Rashtra’ and this is a fact. Ideologically, all Bharatiyas are Hindus and all Hindus are Bharatiyas (Indians). The statement was based on the premise that all Indians are linked through a common culture, ancestry (Hindu) and land. It, however, stirred a big controversy as labelling all Indians as Hindus went against the country's diversity.

Hosabale was not as strident as Bhagwat but the message was no different. He showed there was scope for rapprochement as the Sangh was “engaged in dialogue with those who do not subscribe to this line”. There's little chance of Muslims and Christians regarding themselves as Hindus either by any definition or through dialogue.

What acceptance of all Indians as Hindus would achieve is a “rethink over the concept of minorities as enshrined in the Constitution” as mentioned by Hosabale. “Generally, there is an understanding of Muslims and Christians being the minorities” and the RSS disagrees with it. Constitutional amendment may change the present concept of minority but its acceptance will not happen easily.



Hosabale was not as strident as Bhagwat but the message was no different. He showed there was scope for rapprochement as the Sangh was “engaged in dialogue with those who do not subscribe to this line”. There's little chance of Muslims and Christians regarding themselves as Hindus either by any definition or through dialogue



## POLITICAL PROWESS

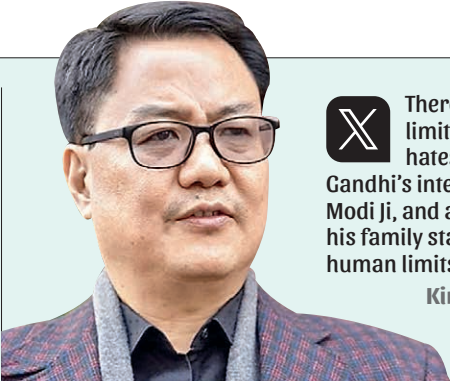
To conclude, I shall emphasise that the solution to challenges from adversaries is no more a military domain but a political and national one based on the requirements for building a strong state capacity and legitimacy.

In building this resilience, the country needs to envision a wider end state in which the application of non-violent techniques such as civil-military activities, social media operations and public affairs are more productive than the direct military action.



This is the Naya Kashmir, Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi ji talks about. This is the power of our one vote that has transformed Kashmir and put it on the path of progress. Such activities will help us promote the beauty of Jammu & Kashmir and also make India one of the most thriving places for motorsports.

Anurag Thakur (मोदी का परिवार) @ianuragthakur



There should be some limit to which a person hates the other. Shri Rahul Gandhi's intense hatred for PM Modi ji, and arrogant display of his family status has crossed all human limits.

Kiren Rijiju (मोदी का परिवार) @KirenRijiju

## SPIRITUAL SPEAK

It is better to live your own destiny imperfectly than to live an imitation of somebody else's life with perfection.

BHAGAVAD GITA



IN BRIEF

22-year-old medical student accuses prof of sexual harassment

**New Delhi:** A 22-year-old medical student alleged that her professor sexually harassed her during a viva examination, police said on Monday. According to the complainant, she is an MBBS student of the 2021 batch at a government hospital.

Tata Sons plans to offload 23.4 mn shares in TCS to raise \$1.1 bn

**New Delhi:** Tata Sons plans to sell shares in Tata Consultancy Services worth up to 93.62 billion rupees (\$1.13 billion) on Tuesday, a data showed. Tata Sons plans to offload 23.4 million shares in the top IT services provider, representing 0.65% of TCS' outstanding shareholding.

Murthy gifts shares worth ₹240 cr to grandson Ekagrah

**New Delhi:** Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy has gifted 15 lakh shares to grandson Ekagrah Rohan Murty valued at around Rs 240 crore, according to a regulatory filing. Murthy has gifted 15 lakh shares, or 0.04% of his equity holding, to Rohan Murty's son Ekagrah, making him the youngest billionaire shareholder of Infosys.

3 more persons held for attack on int'l students at Guj Univ

**Ahmedabad:** Police on Monday arrested 3 more persons in connection with the alleged attack some international students in the Gujarat University hostel premises for offering namaz near the hostel block, the crime branch said. The crime branch on Sunday nabbed 2 persons.

Will take Rohit's legacy forward, says Hardik Pandya

**New Delhi:** Hardik Pandya was appointed captain of the Mumbai Indians prior to the IPL 2024. Hardik had replaced Rohit Sharma. Pandya said that Rohit is the captain of Indian team, & whatever the team has accomplished, was because of his leadership; I will simply carry it forward.

ED raids 10 locations in Delhi-NCR in fake cancer drugs case

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at 10 locations and seized Rs 65 lakh in cash as part of a money laundering investigation linked to a Delhi Police case on the production and distribution of fake cancer medications, officials said on Monday.

In K'taka

Modi slams Grand Old Party for dividing the country

Congress is a party that will go to any extent: PM

First India Bureau  
Shivamogga

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, PM Modi said to the voters, "Congress is a party that will go to any extent to gain power. The British have left, but the Congress has not left the British mentality of divide and rule... Congress first divided the country based on caste, community, and divided people on the basis of religion, region and language, and to gain power. Congress also divided the country, but still, the party with its divisive mentality is not satisfied with this. Congress has again started playing the dangerous game of dividing the country."

"Your role is bigger in achieving 'Chaar June ko Chaar Sau Paar'", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said to voters while addressing a rally in Karnataka's Shivamogga.

"Recently, Congress MP from Karnataka has given a statement about dividing the country once again," PM said criticising the Congress party.

"No need to bring slaughterhouses, meat processing units under EIA"

PTI  
New Delhi

The Centre has told the National Green Tribunal that there is no requirement to include slaughterhouses and meat processing units within the scope of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as the existing guidelines and safeguards effectively regulate these entities from an environmental standpoint.

Last year, animal rights activist Gauri Maulekhi approached the green tribunal, asking for the inclusion of slaughterhouses & meat processing units under EIA, 2006 & raised concerns regarding excessive water consumption at slaughterhouses, improper solid waste disposal leading to water contamination, and the risk of zoonotic diseases from unhealthy carcasses.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters during an election rally ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Shivamogga on Monday.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

● Modi held a road-show, amid non-stop chants of 'Modi, Modi' by BJP workers and he paid floral tributes to the portraits of 58 people killed here in the 1998 serial bomb blast.

● Writer Shantanu Gupta has come up with a new comic, '101 Reasons, Why I Will Vote For Modi' that encourages voters to vote for PM Modi in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

CONGRESS HAS MADE TELANGANA THEIR ATM; LOOTED MONEY GOES TO DELHI: PM MODI

→ Jagtial (Telangana): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday took on the opposition over corruption and dynastic politics and said that they have been involved in the country's "biggest scams." Modi said that the biggest festival of democracy begins and on May 13, and the voters of Telangana will script history. "Support for the BJP is increasing in Telangana. As May 13 is coming closer, the wave of BJP in Telangana is sweeping the Congress and BRS," Modi said. The PM slammed the BRS and said that they had misused people's faith, formed government and then betrayed their trust. "It is BRS who has misused people's faith, formed government and then betrayed their trust. For 10 years, after its formation, Telangana was ruthlessly looted by BRS. And now, Congress has made Telangana its 'personal ATM' and all the looted money is going to Delhi. Both parties have been involved in the country's "biggest scams," PM Modi said.

Russia-NATO conflict

Putin warns of 'World War 3' after record victory

Agencies  
Moscow

**Russian President Vladimir Putin** warned the West on Monday that a direct conflict between his country and the US-led Nato military alliance would mean the planet was one step away from World War Three.

But he also said that hardly anyone wanted



such a scenario.

The Ukraine war has triggered the deepest crisis in Moscow's relations

WAR UPDATES

● Oil prices inch higher amid attacks on Russian energy facilities

● South Korean defence chief says North Korea has supplied 7,000 containers of munitions to Russia

with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Putin has often warned of the risks of

Pak conducts airstrikes inside Afghanistan; 8 people killed

PTI  
Islamabad/Kabul

Pakistan on Monday carried out airstrikes inside Afghanistan that killed eight civilians, including three children, Afghan Taliban said, amidst a war of words between the two neighbours for a spate of recent militant attacks in restive Pakistani cities.



At least 8 civilians, including three children, were killed.

A senior Afghan interim government official on Monday con-

NDA announces Bihar seat-sharing pact

Ruling BJP to contest 17, JD(U) 16, Chirag's LJP 5

PTI

New Delhi

The NDA on Monday finalised its seat-sharing formula in Bihar for Lok Sabha elections, announcing the BJP will contest 17 constituencies, the JD(U) 16 and Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas) five, while rebuffing the claims of the LJP faction led by Union minister Pashupati Kumar Paras.

Two other NDA allies -- Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Upendra Kushwaha-led Rashtriya Lok Morcha -- will contest one seat each, Vinod Tawde, the BJP's in-charge for elections in Bihar, told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

This will be the first time the BJP has got more seats than Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) in Bihar, underscoring the change in their equations after they joined hands a few months back.

"The BJP will contest 17 out of the total 40 seats and the JD(U) will contest 16. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will contest five seats," Tawde told the reporters.

NEW ADDITIONS IN "MODI KA PARIVAR"

● Former BSP MP Sangeeta Azad, party leader Azad Ari Mardan and Supreme Court lawyer Seema Samridhi (Kushwaha) join BJP on Monday

● Former CM Kamal Nath's close associate Syed Zafar also joins BJP

● Congress MLA Rajendra Singh Bhandari joins BJP, in New Delhi

● The Bahujan Samaj Party's (BSP) state in-charge Ram-sakha Verma also joined the BJP

● Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray is likely to join forces with the BJP-Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde-led) alliance in the state ahead of LS elections



LOK SABHA HIGHLIGHTS

● Seat-sharing for Bihar will be finalised in two to three days: Yadav

● Social media posts stir controversy for BJP and Left candidates in Thrisur LS seat

● Telangana Governor resigns, may contest Lok Sabha polls as BJP candidate

● "We will win all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi," says Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva

BJP UPDATES

● AAP govt 'failed' to deliver on its poll promises, says Union Minister Lekhi

● Radical extremist elements openly terrorise Hindus in K'taka: BJP

● Health, education and women safety among top priorities of BJP candidates for Delhi Lok Sabha seats

● BJP accuses Cong of violating Model Code of Conduct, files complaint with State Election Commission

BJP TO REACH OUT TO VOTERS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

→ New Delhi: The BJP's Delhi unit has planned to deploy around 10,000 social media experts, including party workers, to ensure the candidates on each of the seven parliamentary seats in the city have maximum voter outreach, party leaders on Monday said. The concept of "360 degree digital media campaign" is being adopted.

Israel launches another raid on Gaza's major hosp, 20 militants killed



Palestinians gather to receive aid outside an UNRWA warehouse as residents face crisis levels of hunger, in Gaza City on Monday.

Agencies  
Rafah (Gaza Strip)

Israeli forces launched another raid on the Gaza Strip's largest hospital early Monday, saying Hamas militants had regrouped there and had fired on them from inside the compound, where Palestinian officials say tens of thousands of people have been sheltering.

"Twenty terrorists have been eliminated at Al-Shifa hospital thus far in various engagements, and dozens of apprehended suspects

"GAZA SUFFERS, MASS DEATH IMMINENT"

→ Gaza: Food shortages in parts of the Gaza Strip have already far exceeded famine levels, and mass death is now imminent without an immediate ceasefire and surge of food into areas cut off by fighting, the global hunger monitor UN backed Integrated Food-Security Phase Classification/IPC, which formally declares famines said on Monday.

are currently in questioning," the army said in a statement.

IN ANTI-PIRACY OPS

US Defence Secy praises Indian Navy's role

PTI  
New Delhi

→ US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin on Monday conveyed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh his appreciation for the Indian Navy's important role in conducting anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean Region.

Singh and Austin held a telephonic talk and a readout on the conversation issued by the defence ministry mentioned the US defence secretary's compliment for the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh discussed with his American counterpart Lloyd Austin ways and means to implement the ambitious India-US defence cooperation roadmap on Monday.

Indian Navy.

It is understood that the two ministers also deliberated on India's planned acquisition of 31 MQ-9B

drones from the US under the foreign military sale (FMS) route.

The two ministers discussed ways and

ARMY RAISES ELITE UNIT TO WORK ON 6G, AI

→ New Delhi: The Indian Army has raised an elite unit that will undertake research and evaluation of futuristic communication technologies like 6G, artificial intelligence, machine learning and quantum computing for military use given the changing nature of the field.

means to implement the ambitious India-US defence cooperation roadmap that seeks to significantly elevate stra-

tegic ties between the two countries.

"The US Secretary of Defence appreciated the important role being played by the Indian Navy in conducting anti-piracy operations in the Indian Ocean Region," the ministry said.

The Indian Navy executed a dramatic mid-sea operation rescuing 17 hostages and capturing 35 armed pirates around 2,600 km from the Indian coast after seizing a Maltese-flagged vessel that was hijacked on December 14.

PTI  
Bhopal

BJP veteran Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday said two yatras led by Rahul Gandhi, in 2022 and 2024, had a detrimental effect on the Congress as several leaders of the party either quit or lost elections.

Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra culminated in Mumbai on March 16. A day later, the INDIA bloc launched its campaign for the Lok Sabha elections at a rally, attended by several Op-



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses the Bharat Jodo Nyay Manzil - INDIA Rally, at Shivaji Park in Mumbai on Sunday.

position leaders, in the Maharashtra capital.

The two Yatras carried out by Gandhi turned out

to be "Congress Todo, Congress Chhodo" (Break Congress, Leave Congress), said Chouhan.



# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

A truly evolved human being learns as much from his success as he does from his failures.  
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

## Swiggy CEO emphasises safety measures for Delivery Partners

Delivering Safely Charter has ₹2L accidental medical coverage & ₹10L death cover; ₹31cr insurance claims disbursed in 2023



From P1...

Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy's Food Marketplace, highlighted the importance of safety, unveiling a comprehensive road safety charter and introducing reflective helmets for delivery partners at a subsidized cost.

The Delivering Safely charter includes measures such as accidental medical coverage of Rs 2 lakh and Rs 10 lakh death cover, with over Rs 31 crore disbursed in insurance claims in the Financial Year 2023.

Swiggy also provides a free, on-demand ambulance service, boasting an average response time of 11 minutes, along with loss of pay

support to ensure continued income during recovery periods.

Komal Arora extended gratitude on behalf of Swiggy, emphasizing the collective effort required to ensure delivery partner safety.

The event also saw the presence of Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon, GM 1st India OTT Dr Swati Malik, Mrudul Bhasin and Neha Khullar from Muskaan NGO, President of Motor Driving association Girish, and officials from the Transport Department and traffic police, along with Kartikey and Sanjana from Swiggy team.

The event was moderated by Shweta Mishra Awasthi and Rahat Kapoor.



Pawan Arora, with (from L) Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Komal Arora, Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon, Rohit Kapoor, Mrudul Bhasin, Dr Swati Malik, Rachna Singh and others during the launch of nationwide charter, 'Delivering Safely,' initiated by Swiggy and First India+ at RIC in Jaipur on Monday.



Pawan Arora, Rohit Kapoor and Komal Arora flag off the nationwide charter for delivery partner safety, 'Delivering Safely,' initiated by Swiggy and First India+ at RIC in Jaipur on Monday. Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon, Shweta Mishra Awasthi and others were also present on the occasion.



Pawan Arora addresses the august gathering during the mega event at RIC in Jaipur.



Rohit Kapoor speaks during the mega event at RIC in Jaipur on Monday.



Pawan Arora felicitates Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon during the programme. SANTOSH SHARMA



Pawan Arora hands over a helmet to a Swiggy Delivery Partner during the 'Delivering Safely' programme at RIC. Padma Shri Dr Maya Tandon, Rohit Kapoor and Komal Arora were present.



Komal Arora addresses the guests during the programme.



Shweta Mishra Awasthi addresses during the event.

## CM's political masterstrokes forge unity ahead of elections



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being warmly greeted by the members of various social organisations, party workers, and officials at CMR in OTS, Jaipur on Monday. The Chief Minister interacted with them during the meeting.



## Diya: Govt aims to bolster economy via small scale industries' promotion

Krishan Murari

Jaipur

Laghu Udyog Bharti Jaipur Zone organised 'Udhyaami Sammelan' at Shri Maheshwari Samaj Public Utility Building located in Vidyadhar Nagar on Monday.

Chief guest of the event, Dy CM Diya Kumari said that the government will make every possible effort to take industries forward and the problems of the industries will be resolved



Diya Kumari inaugurates the Udhyaami Sammelan' Laghu Udyog Bharti at Shri Maheshwari Samaj Public Utility Building in Jaipur on Monday. Rajyavardhan Rathore and others were present.

soon in collaboration with Laghu Udyog Bharti. The vision is to strengthen India's economy by promoting small

scale industries, she said. Industry Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, the special guest of the function, said that

this government is of the people. "You come with any problem related to industries or with the idea of any new creation, you will always be welcomed by our government. India's development is possible only because of industries. Laghu Udyog Bharti has always worked closely with the govt and will co-operate in nation building in future too. If we move ahead, the government will provide all possible assistance," he said.

## We will neither permit Chiranjeevi to shut down nor let it falter: Gehlot

First India Bureau

Jaipur

On Monday, former CM Ashok Gehlot took to social media regarding the Chiranjeevi Scheme and said, "The question is of life! Therefore, we will neither allow Chiranjeevi to close down nor allow it to weaken."



Meanwhile, the former Chief Minister Gehlot

was on a tour of Mumbai on Monday to participate in the Congress meeting. After this, Ashok Gehlot reached Chennai too along with other leaders including Neeraj Dangi, Samarjeet Singh, Ratan Dewasi, Pukhraj Parashar and others to attend a programme of meetings with the migrant voters.

Mahesh Joshi replies to ED summon, seeks 15 days' time

Joshi likely to have political meetings in New Delhi today

Vimal Kothari

Jaipur

Former PHED Minister Mahesh Joshi on Monday skipped the ED summons in a money laundering probe linked to alleged irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission. Joshi said he has sought a time period of 15 days to appear before the ED with all the required documents.

The Congress leader was served a notice on Saturday directing him to appear at ED office in Jaipur on Monday. However, Joshi didn't appear before the ED citing insufficient time to gather documents. "The ED had asked me to appear with certain documents. It was not possible for me to collect all documents in a short period of time so I have sought time of 15 days."



## UNION JAL SHAKTI MIN IN JODHPUR

## Shekhawat seeks blessings from ex- MLA 'Jiji'

First India Bureau

Jodhpur

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Monday, met former MLA Suryakanta Vyas, fondly called 'Jiji' along with his family members and took her blessings.

Senior BJP leader Suryakanta Vyas has been unwell for a few days. Shekhawat touched her feet and took her blessings. He enquired about her health. Shekhawat was accompanied by his wife Naunand Kanwar



GS Shekhawat visits Suryakanta Vyas at her residence in Jodhpur late on Sunday night. He was accompanied by his wife, Naunand Kanwar and daughters, Suhasini and Surangma Shekhawat.

war and daughters.

On the other hand, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma will embark on a tour to Jodhpur to-

day to hold a meeting of the Lok Sabha cluster. After the meeting, he will leave for Udaipur and will later also go to New

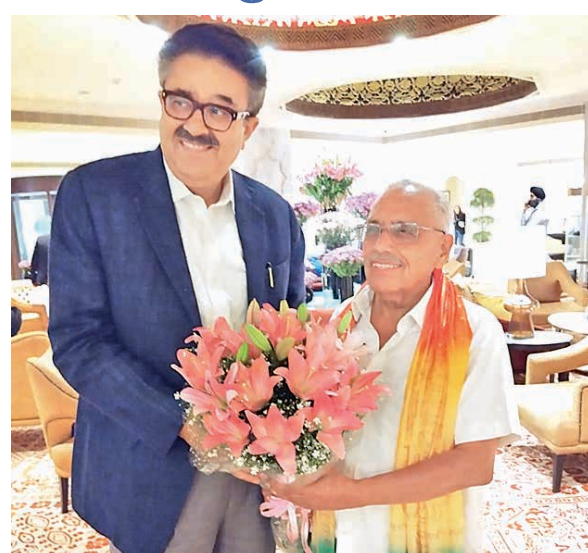


GS Shekhawat addresses during the 'Phag Mahotsav' organised by the BJP OBC Morcha in Jodhpur on Monday. Narendra Kachhwaha Gajendra Mevada & others were present.

Delhi.

In Jodhpur, CM Sharma will take meetings of the party workers regarding the Lok Sabha elec-

tions. Apart from Jodhpur Lok Sabha seat, workers from Barmer, Jalore and Pali will also attend the meeting.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulates Navneet Sehgal IAS (Retd.) on taking over as Chairman, Prasar Bharti during a courtesy meeting at New Delhi on Monday evening. Sehgal, an illustrious bureaucrat left a huge and positive impact during his tenure in Uttar Pradesh, from which he retired in 2023.





# First

JAIPUR, TUESDAY | MARCH 19, 2024



## HOODA'S TRANSFORMATION

Hooda shared his intense preparation for the role, even locking himself in a cell to experience a fraction of what Savarkar endured during his imprisonment.

P11



**Mitali Dusad**

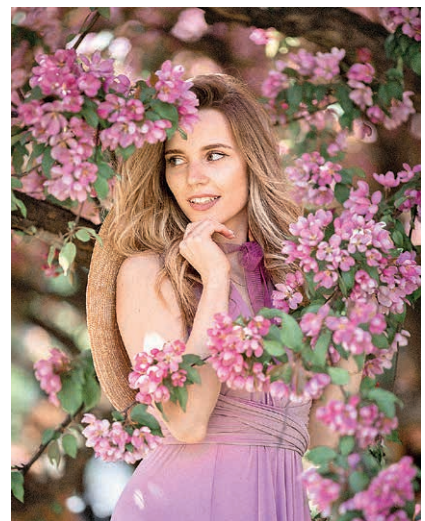
mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

**A**s the harsh grip of winter begins to loosen its hold, nature's masterpiece unfolds before our eyes, painting the world with an exquisite array of colours. Spring, with its vibrant blooms and lush foliage, rejuvenates the earth, infusing it with a kaleidoscope of hues that captivate the senses and uplift the spirit.

The transition from the dreary monotony of winter to the resplendent beauty of spring is marked by an explosion of colour. The landscape, once barren and desolate, is transformed into a living canvas adorned with the soft pastels of cherry blossoms, the fiery reds of tulips, and the sunny yellows of daffodils. Each petal, each leaf, seems to dance in harmony, celebrating the arrival of a new season.

One of the most enchanting aspects of spring is the delicate blush of cherry blossoms. These ephemeral flowers, with their pale pink petals, symbolize renewal and fleeting beauty. As they bloom en masse, they create a breathtaking spectacle, casting a dreamlike aura over parks and gardens. The sight of cherry blossoms in full bloom is not just a visual delight but a reminder of life's transient nature, urging us to cherish each moment.

Tulips, with their bold and vivacious colours, are another hallmark of spring-time splendour. From fiery reds to



vibrant purples, tulips paint the landscape with their radiant hues, injecting energy and vitality into the surroundings. These resilient flowers, known for their striking beauty and graceful posture, inspire awe and admiration, serving as a testament to nature's creativity and resilience.

Amidst the sea of blossoms, daffodils stand tall, their golden trumpets heralding the arrival of spring. Symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings, these cheerful flowers add a touch of warmth and optimism to the landscape. Their sunny yellow petals, contrasted against the verdant greenery, evoke feelings of joy and hope, dispelling the lingering gloom of winter.

Beyond individual blooms, like poppies, daisies, rhododendrons, and pansies- spring orchestrates a symphony of colours that unfold gradually, like a painter's brushstrokes on a canvas. The soft greens of emerging leaves, the azure skies dotted with fluffy clouds, and the myriad shades of wildflowers carpeting the meadows—all contribute to the visual feast that is springtime.

In embracing the beauty of spring's colours, we not only bear witness to nature's magnificence but also find solace and inspiration in its ever-changing tapestry. As we immerse ourselves in this riot of colours, let us pause to appreciate the fleeting moments of beauty and renewal that spring bestows upon us, reminding us of the wondrous cycle of life and the enduring power of nature's palette.



# HUES OF Spring

City First celebrates the spring season highlighting one of the most beautiful gifts of nature- flowers. The whimsical flower brings much beauty and joy into our lives and we all can learn from it.





Rachna Singh

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Last weekend in a commendable display of community spirit, a massive ‘Shramdan’, was organised at the Jal Mahal. Over 3000 people, sanitized and rid the Jal Mahal and its surroundings of the littered garbage. The entire operation, the third on a trot, was carried out in the presence of MLA Balmukund Acharya and Abhishek Surana IAS, CEO Jaipur Heritage. However, despite their valiant efforts, the cleansed walkway and surroundings quickly succumbed to litter once again, a mere week later.

The Jal Mahal promenade, an iconic tourist spot renowned for its picturesque views and historical significance, has been grappling with the persistent issue of garbage accumulation. Against that backdrop ‘Swachh Bharat ka Irada’ jingle blaring every morning seems to ring hollow. Despite the catchy jingle and the well-intentioned campaign behind it, the persistence of garbage plaguing iconic tourist destinations like the Jal Mahal raises questions about the effectiveness of such initiatives.

“Swachh Bharat ka Irada,” or “The Resolve for a Clean India,” was launched with great fanfare in 2014, aiming to galvanize public participation in the nationwide drive for cleanliness and sanitation. The campaign aims to achieve the vision of a ‘Clean India’ by 2nd October 2019 as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. From television commercials to radio broadcasts, the campaign permeates daily life, reminding people of their duty to keep their surroundings clean. But we have a long way to go yet.

Talking of Jal Mahal, the state government’s Rajasthan Lake Development Authority, which declared Jal Mahal and Man Sagar Lake as protected areas under its ambit in 2015, has not been heard of since. Hence, stringent sanitation enforcement is required from the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, Forest Department, Tourism Department and the Nagar Nigam, regulatory agencies responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the lake spread over 372 acres.

“There are about 18 sanitation workers deployed in the area. Just before PM Narendra Modi’s visit to Amber, dustbins were replaced every 100 meters on the entire stretch. Not one is left now. Then on the Balaji Road, along the lake, six bins were placed. Only two remain today. The rest were probably picked and the plastic disposed by the rag-pickers,” said a Nigam source on conditions of anonymity.

Catering to tourism, business on the lake promenade is totally unregulated. About 200-250 vendors sell their wares every day. But despite Jal Mahal being a major tourist attraction, none of the vendors

have any licenses or quality control certificates issued either by the Tourism Department or the Nagar Nigam Heritage. Add to that most of them do not maintain any garbage disposal system or even a dust bin, despite being fined.

If you take a walk on Balaji Road, you would see plastic, largely bread wrappers, flying on the road, stuck in the bushes, and floating in the lake. A prominent banner suspended from a tree, informing the public of a fine of Rs 1100 for disposing of litter in the lake, has been turned a blind eye to. “Every day 30-40 people come here for ‘Asthi Visarjan’ and throw bags full of ashes, flowers, and other remains from the last rights along with the gunny bags into the lake. Around the festivities, it gets worse with pictures and idols of Ganesha in the lake along with other litter,” he said.

Scores also come here to wash off the malefic effects of their planets to feed the fish. And along with feeding the fish and ducks with bread and flour balls leave the plastic wrappers behind. Poor fish.

Now with all that happening how can revellers be left behind? This side of the lake away from the main road is a quiet undisturbed locale for lake-side parties. Broken beer bottles can be found along the road right into the lake. Add to that there are empty packets of chips, namkeen etc. “People also throw cigarettes into the bins. We have replaced many bins that were burnt,” says a source. A piece of very clear evidence that there is no police patrolling in the area after sundown.

A difficult task indeed for the authorities to instil a sense of hygiene in the people. While initiatives like ‘Shramdan’ demonstrate the potential for positive change through collective action, they underscore the need for sustained efforts and systemic solutions to combat littering and promote responsible waste management.



MLA Balmukund Acharya, IAS Abhishek Surana and other community members during the cleanliness drive

“Everyone must be his own scavenger”

—Mahatma Gandhi



BEYOND CLEANUP!

Local authorities and environmentalists express concern over the recurring cycle of cleanliness efforts followed by a return to squalor. But how much can the authorities do? How do you educate the educated? Tremendous effort is required to bring about a transformation in the behavior of the people. Addressing these underlying issues requires a multi-pronged approach, encompassing civic engagement, policy reforms, and educational campaigns. Old habits are hard to die. So, there is a dire need to inculcate sanitation practices in children by including a chapter in the school curriculum from the first standard itself. How much will Modi do?





Elizabeth Hurley

# Hurley's Liberating Experience

Elizabeth Hurley felt completely at ease filming intimate scenes for her latest movie, "Strictly Confidential," and it's all thanks to her son, Damian, who directed the film. In a joint interview with Access Hollywood, Hurley confessed that having Damian behind the camera made her feel safe and cared for during the filming process. She described the experience as "kind of liberating" and emphasized the comfort of working with family.

Damian also chimed in, addressing the controversy surrounding the situation, but highlighting that it's just a natural part of their dynamic. For them, it's simply business as usual. The film, written by

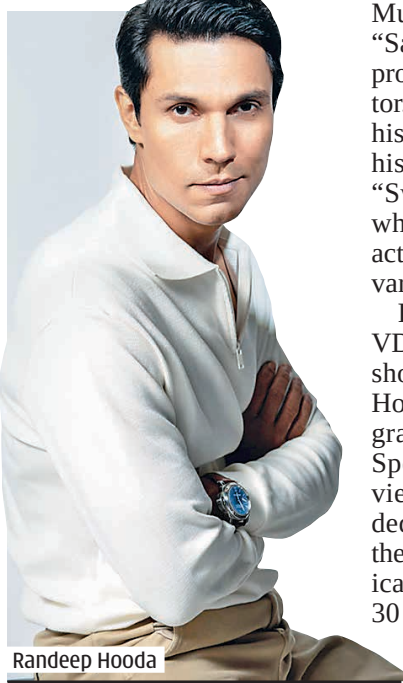
Damian himself, explores the complexities of relationships as a group returns to an island after a loved one's apparent suicide. As the plot thickens, suspicions of foul play arise, adding layers of intrigue to the storyline.

Expressing his gratitude on Instagram, Damian praised his mother's unwavering support and commitment to his directorial debut. He credited her for fulfilling a promise made years ago and commended her professionalism and dedication throughout the project.

The heartfelt post not only showcased the strong bond between Elizabeth and Damian but also shed light on their collaborative and supportive relationship. Despite facing personal challenges, including the loss of Damian's father, Steve Bing, Elizabeth and Damian have remained resilient and united in their creative endeavours.

# Hooda's Savarkar TRANSFORMATION

Randeep Hooda's journey in the Indian film industry has been

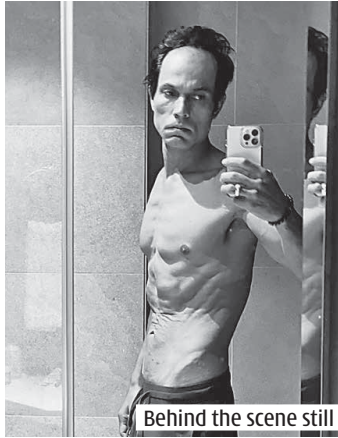


Randeep Hooda

nothing short of remarkable since his debut in 2001. From his early roles to his recent acclaimed performances in films like "Once Upon a Time in Mumbai," "Highway," and "Sarbjit," he has consistently proven his versatility as an actor. Now, he is all set to make his directorial debut with the historical biographical film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar," where he portrays the iconic activist Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

Recently, the grandson of VD Savarkar, Ranjit Savarkar, showered praise on Randeep Hooda for his portrayal of his grandfather in the biopic. Speaking in a recent interview, he applauded Hooda's dedication, mentioning how the actor went through a physical transformation, shedding 30 kilograms for the role.

Ranjit Savarkar also emphasized the importance

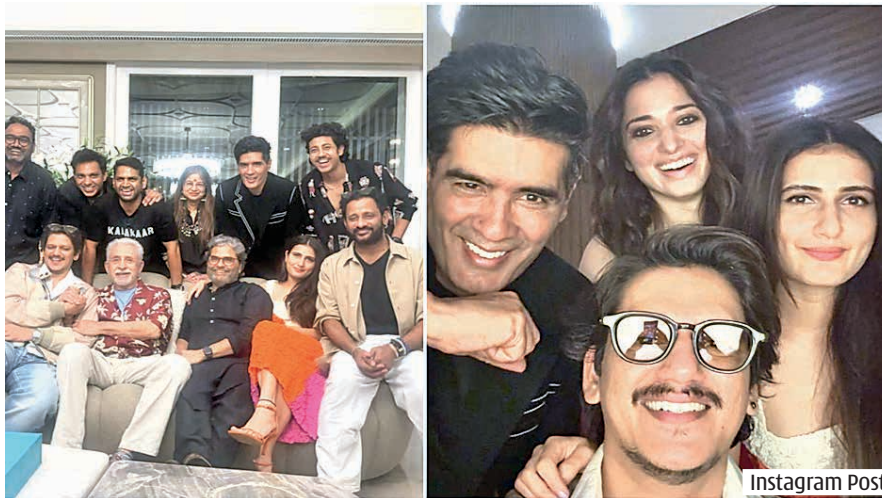


Behind the scene still

of films like these in bringing history to the younger generation.

In a heartfelt tribute on the late politician's death anniversary, Hooda shared his intense preparation for the role, even locking himself in a cell to experience a fraction of what Savarkar endured during his imprisonment. As audiences eagerly await the film's release.

# Ul Jalool CELEBRATION



Instagram Post

Manish Malhotra's star-studded Ul Jalool Ishq has wrapped up its filming journey, marking a milestone for the team. The renowned fashion designer turned producer shared glimpses of the intimate wrap-up party held at his residence on March 18. The cosy affair saw the cast and crew, including Vijay Varma, Naseeruddin Shah, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Tamannaah Bhatia, and Ratna Pathak Shah, celebrating their hard work.

In a series of Instagram posts, Malhotra captured the joyous mo-

ments, emphasizing the dedication of the team behind Ul Jalool Ishq. Among the highlights were candid shots of the ensemble cast, radiant with happiness and camaraderie.

Ul Jalool Ishq, helmed by Vibhu Puri and produced under Malhotra's Stage5 Productions, promises to be a cinematic masterpiece. The film, set in Amritsar, features a stellar cast and boasts musical contributions from the legendary Gulzar and Vishal Bhardwaj.

This venture adds to Malhotra's burgeoning portfolio in film

production, following his debut project Train From Chhapraula and Bun Tikki. Notably, Train From Chhapraula stars Radhika Apte, while Bun Tikki features Shabana Azmi and Abhay Deol, along with the much-anticipated return of the iconic Zeenat Aman.

With Ul Jalool Ishq's wrap-up, anticipation mounts for its release, promising audiences an unforgettable cinematic experience. As Malhotra continues to make strides in the world of film production, fans eagerly await the unveiling of his latest creations on the silver screen.

# Queen's Lavish Gift

Queen Elizabeth's gesture towards her staff following Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's wedding has sparked interest and admiration. As reported by the Daily Mail's Richard Eden, the Queen personally expressed her gratitude to four young troopers who played a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth carriage procession during the grand event. It's said that she was so impressed with their handling of the horses that she decided to reward them with a special treat. Offering them a holiday to Canada to stay with the Canadian Mounties, the Queen's gesture left the staff members thrilled and grateful for the unexpected break from their duties.

Meanwhile, the lavish gift bestowed upon Meghan and Harry for their wedding has also captured attention. The couple's choice of four horses for their carriage, with two addi-

tional horses as outriders, caught the Queen's attention. In appreciation, she gifted them Frogmore Cottage, which underwent significant renovations. However, recent reports suggest a shift in their living arrangements, as King Charles reportedly evicted them following the release of Prince Harry's memoir.

These glimpses into

the royal world offer a fascinating insight into the dynamics and gestures within the monarchy. From the Queen's appreciation for her staff to the grand gestures made for royal events, the world continues to be captivated by the lives and actions of the British royals.



Prince Harry and Meghan

# DAVID GUETTA Welcomes Son



David Guetta and Jessica Ledon

David Guetta and Jessica Ledon have welcomed their first child, Cyan, into the world, marking a joyous milestone for the couple. Their journey to parenthood began when they announced Ledon's pregnancy at the Latin Grammys red carpet in November 2023, where her baby bump made its debut. Now, with their newborn son in their arms, the couple took to Instagram to share their happiness with the world.

But who is Jessica Ledon? A multifaceted talent, she is not only a renowned model but also an actress and producer. Born in Havana and raised in Miami, Ledon's career spans various facets of the entertainment industry, including modelling for fashion brands,

appearing in films and television series, and even creating her short films. Her relationship with David Guetta has been in the spotlight, with the couple previously announcing their separation after seven years of marriage in October 2022, only to later reconcile.

Meanwhile, Guetta's illustrious career as a DJ and record producer has solidified his status as a global music icon. With over 10 million albums sold worldwide and numerous hit singles, Guetta has received accolades including two Grammy Awards and a Billboard Music Award. His impact on the electronic music scene is undeniable, with tracks like "When Love Takes Over" and "Titanium" becoming classics.

# HRITHIK SUPPORTS COUSIN



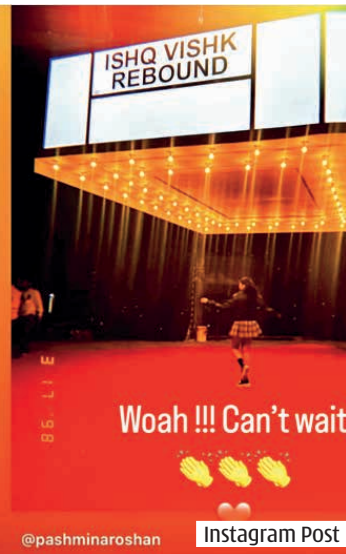
Hrithik Roshan

Get ready for a blast from the past with a modern twist as "Ishq Vishk Rebound" gears up to hit the screens on 28 June! Fans are buzzing with excitement as the release date of the much-anticipated sequel draws near. Alongside Rohit Saraf and Jibraan Khan, the film introduces Pashmina Roshan, Hrithik Roshan's cousin, in her debut role.

Pashmina

recently took to social media to share a sneak peek of the film's vibe, sending waves of anticipation through the digital realm. Her post didn't just catch the eyes of eager fans but also garnered a heartwarming reaction from none other than her superstar cousin, Hrithik Roshan himself. His response, a simple yet enthusiastic "Woah!!! Can't wait," echoed the sentiments of fans worldwide.

"Ishq Vishk Rebound" promises to be a delightful continuation of the beloved romantic comedy that stole hearts back in 2003 with its fresh storyline and endearing characters. Directed by Nipun Avinash Dhamdhikari and produced by Ramesh Taurani, the sequel brings a new generation of talent to the forefront while hon-



@pashminaroshan Instagram Post

ouring the legacy of its predecessor. With its mix of nostalgia and contemporary flair, this film is poised to capture the hearts of audiences once again, proving that some love stories

truly stand the test of time. So mark your calendars for June 28th and get ready to be swept off your feet by the enchanting world of "Ishq Vishk Rebound"!



# CULTURAL VAGANZA BEGINS!

 **MUKESH KIRADOO**

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra lights the inaugural lamp. Also seen are (L-R) Sunita Agrawal, Anil, Dr Vinod Sharma, Rajesh Gupta and Alpna Kateja



An art lover showcasing beautiful ceramic painting on clay plate



Student indulging in painting the mask



A still from the traditional dance performance



Beautiful Rajasthani dance highlighting 'Ghungroo'

The vibrant Inter College Youth Fest, 'Mridang 2024,' hosted by Rajasthan College, commenced with zeal as Dr Jagdeesh Chandra inaugurated the event as chief guest. Among esteemed guests were Prof Alpna Kateja, Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan University and Vinod Sharma, Principal of Rajasthan College. Over two days, the fest will feature 25 competitions including solo and group performances, quizzes, creative writing, and debates. Drawing participation from over 300 teams representing 50 colleges and universities in Jaipur, the fest promises spirited competition. Dr Chandra addressed the gathering, reminiscing about his student days and highlighting contemporary challenges in education. He commended the Bhajanlal government's efforts to combat cheating and expressed optimism about the entrepreneurial opportunities for youth, lauding Rajasthan College's efforts and wishing the students success.

## ROYAL TRIUMPH!



### The winning RPC team

Jaipur's Rajasthan Polo Club (RPC) triumphed in the Northern India Polo Championship, defeating Jindal Panther-Delta Polo 8-7 in a gripping final at New Delhi's Jaipur Polo Ground. Salvador Jauretxe led RPC with 4 goals, supported by Padmanabh Singh and Jaisai Singh, each contributing 2 goals. Notable performances included Siddhant Sharma's 4 goals for Jindal Panther-Delta Polo. Maharaja Padmanabh hailed Jaipur's polo prowess, emphasizing the club's national and international acclaim. Jaisai Singh, a key figure in RPC, received recognition for his role in promoting the sport. The championship showcased thrilling matches, underscoring efforts to expand polo's reach.



Padmanabh Singh with Jaisal Singh



Poornima Group of Colleges (PGC), Jaipur, recently concluded its annual extravaganza, 'Aarohan', marked by a blend of technical prowess, cultural finesse, and spirited sportsmanship. The event, themed 'Fictional Spectra: The World of Animated Characters', witnessed vibrant performances from renowned artists, including Bollywood singer Akhil Sachdeva and the sensational 'Sanam' Band. Youth favorites, rapper duo 'Seedhe Maut', electrified the atmosphere with their dynamic performance, drawing over four thousand attendees. DJ Tejas set the stage on fire with his infectious beats, while students showcased their talents in a range of competitions, from technical challenges like Robo War to cultural showcases like Solo-Duo Dance. 'Aarohan' truly encapsulated the spirit of celebration and skillful expression.

## EVENTS!



The Signing Star School's Annual Sports Meet 2024 showcased children's enthusiasm through diverse competitions and cultural performances. Unique sports races integrating phonics and reading proficiency were highlights. In the cultural segment, children conveyed poignant messages about the detrimental impacts of social media, followed by an emotional rendition of the Ramayana. Upma Gupta Nitin Gupta awarded medals and certificates. Parents lauded the event for its societal guidance. They advocated for more such programs fostering holistic development and social awareness.



Kuldeep Sharma, Nirmal Aman, Prakash Sarswat,  
Nisha Sarswat & Rakhi Shukla

Jaipur's Jawahar Art Center recently concluded a vibrant two-day Bookaroo Children's Literature Festival from March 30 and 31. The event, aimed at connecting children with literature, featured authors, illustrators, and storytellers from across India. Over 27 speakers engaged in more than 50 sessions, including workshops, storytelling, drama, and crafts. The festival, in its fourth edition at the centre, attracted widespread participation and left a lasting impact on young minds, fostering a love for reading and creativity.



Celebrities were lauded at the Peace and Leadership Award 2024, hosted by the Department of Peace and Education, for their remarkable contributions to national progress took place on Saturday at Hotel Ansal Gurgaon, attendees from various fields like education, literature, administration, and entertainment graced the event. Notable figures including Bollywood's Varun Suri, supermodel Rajesh Mahajan, and Miss Universe Nidhi Singh were present. Priyanka Chauhan, the organizer, stressed the pivotal role of education in societal advancement. Each participant received mementoes, symbolizing appreciation for their impactful endeavours.



The Jaipur branch of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India hosted a pivotal one-day seminar on Bank Audits for CA members ON Saturday. Chairman CA Naveen Sharma and Secretary CA Vijay Kumar Aggarwal emphasized the importance of ensuring accuracy and transparency in financial reporting. Speakers from various cities covered topics such as Long Form Audit Reports, Income Recognition, Asset Classification Norms, and the use of Artificial Intelligence in bank audits. A panel discussion concluded the event, addressing members' queries satisfactorily.

## DURING THE DAY!



Hemangi Chakravarty alongside founders of Wor Lassies and Born Lippy at BBC Radio Newcastle

Hemangi Chakravarty, a talented poet from Jaipur, clinched victory at a renowned poetry slam hosted by Born Lippy in England. Amidst esteemed local poets and an enthusiastic audience, Hemangi secured the top spot with her poignant verses on women and feminism. Her success led to a special performance at a Women's Day event jointly organized by Wor Lasses and Born Lippy. BBC Radio Newcastle also featured her, amplifying her journey and poetic prowess. Hemangi's literary journey, spanning from India to the UK, showcases her dedication to spoken word poetry and creative expression.



The School of Management at UEM Jaipur hosted the 2nd International Conference "AIMBG 2024" on Artificial Intelligence in Management. Keynote speakers addressed AI's impact on education and entrepreneurship. UEM Jaipur received recognition from Scholar's Books of World Record Australia and inaugurated a UN Global Centre of Excellence. Panel discussions explored AI's role in decision-making and workforce dynamics. Prof Dr Preeti Sharma was honored with the Woman Award. The event was chaired by various academic leaders and featured international quests.



A press conference was organised on the 4th Floor of Seva Sadan, Sahakar Marg, in the city. This conference aims to address pertinent issues and updates. Additionally, the 'Entrepreneurial Conference' will be organised by Laghu Udyog Bharti Mahila Sangathan on March 17th and 18th, 2024, at 'Utsav Marriage Garden', Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur. This event promises valuable insights and networking opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs.