



## Modi vows to return money embezzled from poor in WB

First India Bureau  
New Delhi/Kolkata

PM Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that he is working to ensure that nearly Rs 3,000 crore "looted" from poor people in West Bengal and attached by the ED is re-

turned to them. Modi made this assertion in a telecon with "Rajmata" Amrita Roy, a member of erstwhile royalty and BJP candidate against TMC's Mahua Moitra in Krishnanagar Lok Sabha constituency, and claimed that power and not coun-

try is priority of Oppn.

Modi also took a swipe at Congress for its support to Kejriwal following his arrest by ED in a corruption case, saying those who made complaint against AAP have now changed tack to help it. Roy told Modi that her family is called traitors & noted that Krishnachandra Roy worked for people and joined hands with other kings to save "Sanatan Dharma".



"Rajmata" Amrita Roy

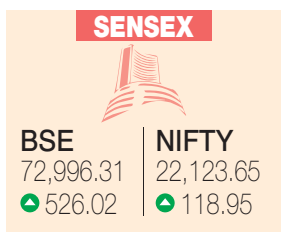
## BJP NAMES BIG GUNS AS LS POLL CAMPAIGNERS



PM Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP National President JP Nadda and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath are among the 40 star campaigners who would canvass for the BJP during the Lok Sabha elections. In the list, the party also named Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani, Giriraj Singh and Nityanand Rai, besides CMs Bhajan Lal Sharma, Mohan Yadav and others.

On the one hand Opposition seek evidence of Lord Ram's existence while on the other they cite incidents dating back to 2 and 3 centuries to defame others. This is their double standards.

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER



## Kejriwal grapples with denied relief

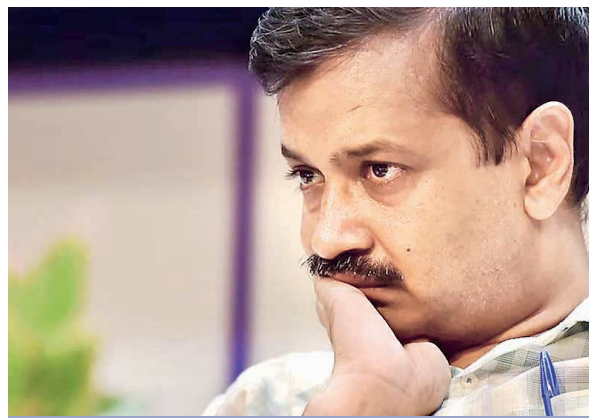
HC rejects Kejriwal's bail plea, next hearing on April 3

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The Delhi high court on Wednesday refused to grant any relief to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had filed a plea against his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy case. The court granted ED 7 days to respond and fixed April 3 as the next date for hearing. Kejriwal, in his plea before Delhi High Court, had asserted that the ED's actions violated his fundamental rights.

Earlier Wednesday, Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita, in a video message, said that her husband would do a "big expose" on the alleged excise policy scam in court on March 28 and also present evidence

AAP chief contended in his plea that the ED has not been able to prove his guilt. "DOE has at time of arrest has failed to establish that Petitioner is guilty of committing activities stipulated under Section 3, i.e., be it one of concealment, possession, acquisition, use of proceeds of crime as much as projecting it as untainted property or claiming it to be so," Kejri pleaded.



## US DIPLOMAT SUMMONED FOR REMARKS ON KEJRI'S ARREST



India on Wednesday summoned a senior US diplomat and lodged a strong protest against Washington's remarks on arrest of Arvind Kejriwal. MEA summoned Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Gloria Berben. India's legal processes are based on "an independent judiciary which is committed to objective and timely outcomes," the MEA said while underlining that "casting aspersions on that is unwarranted".



Tight security arrangements outside Delhi High Court amidst hearing on CM Arvind Kejriwal's bail plea on Wednesday.

## Cong has given nothing except lies & corruption: CM Sharma

Aishwary Pradhan, Ashvini Yadav and Ravi Katara  
Jaipur/Alwar/Karauli

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma on Wednesday targeted the Congress, saying that the Congress has given nothing to the country and the state except lies and corruption. He was addressing the nomination rally of party candidate Manju Sharma in Jaipur. He said, "The way these



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses gathering in Jaipur on Wednesday.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma is in the list of star campaigners for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh for the upcoming Lok Sabha election

Congress people do the work of spreading rumors as soon as the elections come, they do the work of telling lies. Apart from lies and corruption, the Congress has given

nothing to this country and the state." While addressing nomination rally of Bhupender Yadav in Alwar, CM Sharma accused Sonia Gandhi and former CM Ashok Gehlot of nepotism. He said, "If Congress is worried and Congress candidates are worried, then they are only worried about their sons. On the other hand, Sonia Gandhi is worried about her son and on the other hand, Ashok Gehlot is worried about his son," CM Sharma said. P2



PERSPECTIVE P4

IN BRIEF



Spiritual guru Sadhguru acknowledges supporters after being discharged from the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital after brain surgery, in New Delhi on Wednesday.

ED summons Mahua and Hiranandani today

New Delhi: The ED on Wednesday summoned TMC leader Mahua Moitra and businessman Darshan Hiranandani for questioning in a foreign exchange violation case. They were asked to appear before it today.

PMLA case by ED against Kerala CM's daughter

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has filed a money laundering case against Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena Vijayan, her IT company and some others to probe a case of alleged illegal payments.

## RCA ELECTIONS POST LOK SABHA

RCA escapes MCC violation, credits Sunil Arora's counsel

First India Bureau  
Jaipur



Sunil Arora Praveen Gupta

The election for RCA President, initially slated for April 8, has undergone a delay due to the Model Code of Conduct. Acting upon Sunil Arora's counsel, RCA sought clearance from the poll body. On Wednesday, State Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta, in response to RCA's letter dated March 25, deferred RCA polls until conclusion of LS poll in adherence to Model Code of Conduct. Following precedent set

last year, former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora was approached to oversee this election, graciously accepting a symbolic fee of Rs 1 for his services. Acting upon Arora's counsel, RCA sought clearance from the poll body. On Wednesday, State Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta, in response to RCA's March 25 letter, deferred RCA polls until conclusion of LS poll in adherence to MCC.

## Cong's Rawat refuses to contest from R'samand

First India Bureau  
Rajsamand

Congress candidate from Rajsamand Lok Sabha constituency Sudarshan Rawat on Wednesday expressed his desire to surrender ticket saying the chance to contest the LS election should be given to someone else. Rawat, former Congress MLA, was declared as the party candidate from Rajsamand on Monday. In the letter, he said he was not prepared for contesting the elections and the chance should be given to some young candidate. He said that despite all public welfare works done by Congress govt, the result of assembly elections last year was not favourable and the party had to face defeat.



Sudarshan Rawat

Rawat said that in the last one month, during discussion about LS polls, he had several times expressed to all top leaders of the state his inability to contest Lok Sabha polls. Meanwhile, according to sources, Chairman of the Screening Committee Rajni Patil has been summoned by the Congress high command over the errors in screening leading to mistakes in issuing of tickets.

## LOK SABHA BATTLE TAKES CENTRE STAGE

## Phase 1 nominations conclude, Phase 2 commences today



Union Minister for Labour and Employment and BJP candidate from Alwar constituency Bhupender Yadav files his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Alwar on Wednesday.

First India Bureau  
New Delhi/Jaipur

The filing of nominations for the second phase of voting in 18th Lok Sabha elections will begin on Thursday after the ECI issues a notification. "The Gazette notification for 88 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) across 12 States/Union Territories (UTs) going for polls in the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2024 will be issued today," ECI said in a communiqué on Wednesday.

## LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024 PHASE 2

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Date of issue of gazette notification | Last date of filing the nominations         |
| MARCH 28                              | APRIL 4                                     |
| Last date for scrutiny of nominations | Last date for the withdrawal of candidature |
| APRIL 5                               | APRIL 8                                     |

Meanwhile, Chief Electoral Officer Anupam Rajan said as per election schedule of Lok Sabha Elections 2024, the process of filing nomination papers for first phase was completed Wednesday.

STATES GOING TO VOTE IN PHASE 2 OF LS POLLS  
Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, WB and Jammu & Kashmir.

## 131 CANDIDATES FILED 179 NOMINATIONS IN RAJ

Under first phase of the Lok Sabha General Elections 2024, a total of 131 candidates have filed 179 nomination papers for 12 Lok Sabha constituencies. On Wednesday, 91 candidates filed 129 nomination papers.

## ECI ISSUES NOTICES TO DILIP AND SUPRIYA

The ECI issued show-cause notices to BJP leader Dilip Ghosh and Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete for "insulting, offensive and derogatory remarks" against Mamata Banerjee and Kangana Ranaut, resp.



Time: 7:30 PM, Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur

RR have registered 1st victory of the season against the LSG and are now eyeing a second consecutive win to stay ahead in the points table against the DC.

## WEATHER AND PITCH REPORT FOR TODAY

Dew will be in considerable amount and influence captain's decision at the toss as it will be a night game. The pitch at the SMS is known to favour the chasing side.





FIRST INDIA

## Ballot Beat

INDIAN  
GENERAL ELECTIONS  
2024

02

## QUOTE-UNQUOTE



Arjun Meghwal has become an MP. He will cross victory figure of 5 lakhs. The country's PM is working to develop India. Arjun Meghwal is working towards the same objective.

Diya Kumari, BJP Leader &amp; Dy CM



They talk about turning potatoes into gold. On the other hand, the BJP has leaders, policies, and strong leadership. The Modi government talks about enriching farmers and turning soil into gold.

CP Joshi, BJP State President



Being 6 feet 2 inches tall doesn't automatically qualify one to become an MP or MLA. It's not your height that matters, it's people's votes that count. Leaders are made by people's blessings.

Govind Singh Dotasra, PCC Chief



The Central govt has done nothing in the last ten years. It's good they haven't chanted the slogan of crossing 600 marks. The Central government is engaging in politics of pressure and retaliation.

Sachin Pilot, Congress Leader

## LS Polls 1st phase

Review will be held on March 28; nomination papers can be withdrawn till March 30

## 131 FILE PAPERS ON 12 SEATS



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addressing the nomination rally of Manju Sharma in Jaipur on Wednesday. Diya Kumari, PC Bairwa, Ashok Parmami, Vijaya Rahatkar, RC Bohra, Bal Mukundacharya, Kalicharan Saraf, Gopal Sharma, and others are also seen.



Ashok Gehlot addressing nomination rally of Rahul Kaswan in Churu on Wednesday. GS Dotasra, SS Randhawa, Krishna Poonia, Nirmal Choudhary and others are also seen.

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

On the last day of nomination for Phase-1 of LS Poll of Rajasthan, leaders across State rush to submit their papers. In Jaipur city, both BJP candidate Manju Sharma and Congress candidate PS Khachariyawas submitted their nominations, while in Jaipur rural constituency, BJP candidate Rao Rajendra Singh and Cong candidate Anil Chopra filed their papers.

In Nagaur, Hanuman Beniwal after filing his nomination, expressed confidence that the INDI alliance would receive full support from the people of Rajasthan in the LS Polls.

In Bikaner it was an interesting sight to see both Congress and BJP candidates arrived together.

Both, AR Meghwal, GR Meghwal even shook their hands.

In Churu, Congress candidate Rahul Kaswan officially submitted his nomination papers, marking a significant step in his campaign for the upcoming elections. Following the nomination, a rally was organized where the Govind S Dotasra, delivered a fiery speech, taking aim at the BJP and its leaders. In Dausa Cong candidate Murari Lal Meena submitted 4 sets of nomination papers. During nomination rally, Sachin Pilot stated that this election requires a united effort.

Following the submission of his nomination papers, BJP candidate from Dausa Kanhaiyalal Meena addressed a gathering at Satyanarayan Garden.



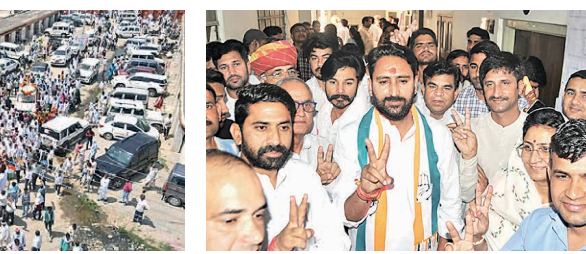
Cong leader Pratap S Khachariyawas filing papers from Jaipur seat. Amin Kagzi, Rafeek Khan, RR Tiwari and others are also seen.



BJP candidate for Jaipur seat Manju Sharma filing her papers. Gopal Sharma, Kalicharan Saraf, RC Bohra & Dr Somya are also seen here.



CP Joshi campaigned for BJP's Sriganganagar candidate Priyanka Balan on Wednesday.



Congress' Bharatpur candidate for LS Poll Sanjana Jatav takes out rally on Wednesday.



Congress MLA Murari Lal Meena filed his papers on Wednesday. Congress leader Mamta Bhupesh and others are also seen.



Rao Rajendra Singh after filing papers from Jaipur rural seat on Wednesday. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and others are also seen.



Hanuman Beniwal (RLP) for I.N.D.I.A. filing nomination from Nagaur on Wednesday.



Brijendra Singh Ola after filing paper from Jhunjhunu seat. Rita Chaudhary also seen.



BJP's Arjun Meghwal & Cong's GR Meghwal arrive together for filing nomination.

NOTIFICATION FOR 2ND  
PHASE OF LS POLL TODAY

The notification for the election schedule for the second phase of Lok Sabha constituencies will be issued on March 28. Returning Officers will release public notifications, and candidates can submit nominations until April 4. Voting is scheduled to take place from 7 AM to 6 PM on April 26 for the remaining 13 seats of Lok Sabha constituencies in Rajasthan.

TOTAL CANDIDATES  
(TOTAL NOMINATIONS)

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Sri Ganganagar  | 9 (11)    |
| Bikaner         | 9 (13)    |
| Churu           | 16 (21)   |
| Jhunjhunu       | 10 (12)   |
| Sikar           | 16 (20)   |
| Jaipur Rural    | 17 (24)   |
| Jaipur          | 16 (24)   |
| Alwar           | 10 (17)   |
| Bharatpur       | 6 (7)     |
| Karauli-Dholpur | 4 (5)     |
| Dausa           | 8 (13)    |
| Nagaur          | 10 (12)   |
| Total           | 131 (179) |

## POLL BATTLE IN PALI

## Pali Lok Sabha Constituency: A Saga of Political Shifts

Abhishek Tiwari  
Jaipur

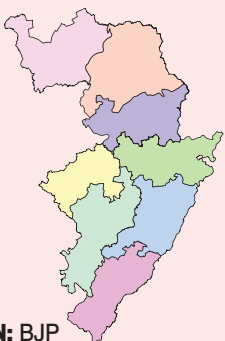
The political landscape of the Pali Lok Sabha constituency, encompassing eight assembly segments from Pali and Jodhpur districts, has witnessed a dynamic electoral history since its inception in 1952. The constituency's journey began with the election of independent candidate General Ajit Singh as its first Member of Parliament (MP). Subsequent elections saw a rotation of power,

with Congress representatives dominating the early years, including stalwarts like Harish Chandra Mathur and Jaswant Raj Mehta. However, the political pendulum swung in favor of the Swatantra Party in 1967, followed by the Janata Party's historic win in 1977.

The constituency's political narrative continued to evolve with the entry of new players, such as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1989. BJP's Guman Mal Lodha emerged victorious, marking the party's foot-

## LIST OF MPs OF PALI SO FAR

- 1952 GENERAL AJIT SINGH: Independent
- 1957 HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: INC
- 1962 JASWANTRAJ MEHTA: INC
- 1967 S K TAPURIAH: Swatantra Party
- 1971 MOOL CHAND DAGA: INC
- 1977 AMRIT NAHATA: Janata Party
- 1980 & 1984 MOOL CHAND DAGA: INC
- 1988 SHANKAR LAL SHARMA: INC
- 1989, 1991 & 1996 GUMAN MAL LODHA: BJP
- 1998 MITHA LAL JAIN: INC ● 1999 & 2004 PUSHP JAIN: BJP
- 2009 BADRI RAM JAKHAR: INC ● 2014 & 2019 PP CHAUDHARY: BJP



## ASSEMBLY SEAT-WISE POSITION OF PALI

- (117) SOJAT: Shobha Chauhan (BJP)
- (118) PALI: Bheem Raj Bhati (INC)
- (119) MARWAR JUNCTION: Kesaram Choudhary (BJP)
- (120) BALI: Pushpendra Singh (BJP)
- (121) SUMERPUR: Joraram Kumawat (BJP)
- (125) OSIAN: Bhera Ram Choudhary (BJP)
- (126) BHOPALGARH: Geeta Barwar (INC)
- (131) BILARA: Arjun Lal (BJP)

hold in the region, which persisted through subsequent elections. Despite occasional victories by Congress candidates like Badri Ram Jakhar in

2009, the BJP's dominance remained unshaken, particularly under the leadership of PP Chaudhary, who has served as the MP since 2014. He

has been fielded as the candidate for the third time by the BJP in 2024.

The 1996 elections stand out in the constituency's electoral history,

witnessing a record-breaking number of contenders, with 43 candidates vying for the seat. However, despite the diverse array of candidates,

including independents and representatives from various political parties, no woman has been elected as an MP from this seat thus far.

In the upcoming elections, Congress has nominated Sangeeta Beniwal as its candidate, aiming to challenge the BJP's stronghold in the region. As the constituency braces for another electoral showdown, the onus now falls on the voters to determine the direction of their representation in the Lok Sabha. With a rich history of political fluctuations and a diverse array of candidates, the Pali Lok Sabha constituency remains a crucial battleground in Rajasthan's electoral landscape.



Intense heat

Phalodi recorded 41.2 degrees Celsius on Wednesday

# Heatwave breaks as rainfall brings relief to the State



Tourists walk under an umbrella on a hot day at Jantar Mantar in Jaipur on Wednesday.

SUNIL SHARMA

Ziauddin Khan  
Jaipur

In Rajasthan, the heat has intensified. On Tuesday, the mercury soared above 40 degrees Celsius in the districts of western Rajasthan. Meanwhile, late on Tuesday evening, after a change in weather, there was thunder and lightning accompanied by rain in the border areas of Bikaner and Sri Ganganagar districts and in Hanumangarh, bringing

| CITY-WISE TEMPERATURE |             |           |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| City                  | Temperature | City      | Temperature |
| Phalodi               | 41.2° C     | Dungarpur | 38.2° C     |
| Bikaner               | 39.2° C     | Kota      | 38.2° C     |
| Jodhpur               | 38.9° C     | Pilani    | 38° C       |

ing relief from the heat to the people there. This phase of clouds and rain continued into the morning as well.

According to meteorologists at Jaipur, similar changes may be wit-

nessed in the state in the next two days. On March 28 and 29, there could be clouds and rainfall accompanied by hailstorms in the districts of the Bikaner region. Clouds persisted in Sri Ganganagar

and Hanumangarh, with rain occurring at several places along with strong winds. Additionally, clouds also covered areas in Jhunjhunu district bordering Haryana. Prior to this, on Tuesday there was intense heat in the state. The hottest day was in Phalodi, where the maximum temperature recorded was 41.2 degrees Celsius. This is the first time this season that such a high temperature has been recorded in any place.

## Chief Secretaries and DGPs of 6 states discuss LS polls measures



Sudhansh Pant addressing a video conference on Wednesday with the Chief Secretaries of other states. DGP Utkal Ranjan Sahoo, Praveen Gupta, Anand Kumar, Dr KK Pathak, Vishal Bansal, Anshdeep, Aparna Gupta, Anil Tak & Anshuman Bhowmiya were also present.

Dr Rituraj Sharma  
Jaipur

Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant addressed a video conference on Wednesday with the Chief Secretaries, Directors General of Police, and Principal Secretaries (Home) of the neighboring states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,

and Gujarat. The meeting discussed preparations related to law and order, among other issues, in view of the LS polls.

The CS emphasized the need for coordination among all neighboring states, including Rajasthan, to ensure that the Lok Sabha elections are conducted independently, impartially, and trans-

parently. Utkal Ranjan Sahoo, the Director General of Police, stated that the police force is taking effective measures statewide to ensure a peaceful election process. Identification of sensitive areas and assessment of law and order situations have been conducted to allocate central police forces district-wise.

ED's 3rd summon, Joshi asked to appear today

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Enforcement Directorate has sent the third summons to former PHED Minister Mahesh Joshi in connection with a case of scam in Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme. Mahesh Joshi has been instructed to reach ED's Jaipur office at 10.30 am on Thursday. In the letter sent by Mahesh Joshi in compliance with the summons issued on March 18, he had asked the ED officials to give him 15 days to gather the information sought in the summons but the ED rejected this demand and issued a notice on the next day.

### 180 MW SOLAR POWER PLANT

## AGEL solar plant to power 1.1L homes

First India Bureau  
Jaisalmer

A dani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest and one of the world's leading renewable energy (RE) companies, has commissioned a 180 MW solar power plant at Devikot in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

A statement from the company said that the plant has a 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).



The 180 MW solar plant will produce approximately 540 million electricity units annually, powering over 1.1 lakh homes and reducing around 0.39 million

tonnes of CO2 emissions. Next-generation bifacial solar PV modules and horizontal single axis solar trackers (HSAT) have been deployed to maximise generation

through better efficiency of modules and tracking the sun throughout the day, the company said.

The plant is equipped with waterless robotic module cleaning systems, enabling water conservation in the barren region of Jaisalmer. The Energy Network Operation Centre (ENOC), anchored in the secured digital cloud platform, enables real-time monitoring of AGEL's renewable energy assets, leading to enhanced operational performance.

QR code system: Principals under fire for negligence

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Eight medical college principals have received a notice including SMS for failing to implement a QR code-based sanitation system. ACS Shubhra Singh of the Department of Medical Education stated that instructions were given to the hospitals linked to the medical college to establish a QR code-based sanitation system. With the implementation of this technique, the toilets in govt hospitals have improved significantly. Despite this, some medical college principals remain neglectful.

Call for Raj Day Celebration on Hindu New Year

Yogesh Sharma  
Jaipur

The 'Nav Varsh Samaroh Samiti' has written a letter to Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma demanding that Rajasthan Day be celebrated on Hindu New Year (Chaitra Shukla Pratipada) instead of March 30. It is noteworthy that Greater Rajasthan was inaugurated by the then Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 30 March 1949 at 10:40 am in Rohini Nakshatra Indrayoga.

## Armed robbers loot ₹10.75L from UCO bank in Baran



First India Bureau  
Baran

Two armed robbers entered UCO Bank in Baran, looted Rs 10 lakh 75 thousand at gunpoint, then fled while firing. According to the police, two masked miscreants approached UCO Bank in Badgaon at 12 p.m. They intimidated the bank staff with guns, looted cash, and escaped. During this time, the miscreants also fired into the air. Following the event, authorities blocked off the areas and are searching for the suspects. Police began hunting for the accused based on CCTV footage. The police have filed a complaint based on the bank's management report.

Mumbai actress allegedly raped in Jpr

A Mumbai actress was raped in Jaipur's Amber police station area. On the victim's allegation, Mumbai Police forwarded a zero-number FIR to the Amer Police Station.



ACB APPREHENDS BROKER IN RS 80,000 BRIBERY CASE, CONSTABLE EVADES CAPTURE IN UDAIPUR



Udaipur: ACB team in Udaipur conducted a raid on Wednesday, apprehending Kamlesh Pokharna, a broker associated with the Vallabh Nagar police station for accepting a bribe of Rs 80,000 from a private individual. Meanwhile, the accused constable, Bajrang Singh Meena, has absconded.

KOTA ELECTROCUTION: 1 MORE KID SUCCEUMS

Kota: Another child died after being burned by an electrical current during a Shiv procession. Kushal, 7, died during treatment at SMS Hospital. On March 8, 18 children were electrocuted & 5 children have died as a result of the tragedy. The flag had touched the high-tension line during the journey. The current spread throughout the Shiva procession.

CCTV CAPTURES THIEF'S RITUALISTIC ROBBERY

Jaipur: A thief first sat in the temple and performed puja and then broke the donation box with a trident and stole the cash. The matter is of Mewar Apartment in Pratap Nagar police station area of Jaipur. The incident of theft was captured in the CCTV camera installed in the temple. The thief entered the temple at night and worshiped Hanumanji.

### FOUR MEN THRASHED ON SUSPICION OF COW SMUGGLING

Alwar: Four men from Haryana were allegedly beaten up by locals on suspicion of cow smuggling in Alwar district early Wednesday, police sources said. While



police sources said the suspected cow smugglers were allegedly beaten up by the locals, residents claimed that the four got injured while trying to escape from the spot.

## Birla foresees merger of PoK with India



Om Birla during a campaign for LS elections in Kota on Wednesday.

Bhawar S Charan  
Kota

Kota MP and BJP candidate Om Birla on Wednesday said that the day is not far when PM Narendra Modi with the support of the public will merge PoK with India. Birla said that during Congress rule, Ram devotees had to take bullets and saints had to go to jail, but when Modi became PM, a magnificent Ram temple was built,

and article 370 was also removed. He was addressing people during campaigning for Lok Sabha elections in Kota. Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar and Sangod Pradhan Jaiveer Singh Amritkuan were also present in the campaigning held in Mundla, Nayagaon, Kotsuwan, Bhaunra, Digod, Nemo-da Hariji, Dungarjya, Railgaon, Dhonthi areas in Sangod assembly constituency.

## Gehlot calls Lok Sabha polls a battle for democracy

First India Bureau  
Churu

Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday termed the upcoming Lok Sabha elections as a big challenge for the country and said that this is the election for the country's future. He was addressing a public meeting on the occasion of the filing of nomination by Congress candidate Rahul Kaswan in Churu. Pointing towards the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Gehlot said, "This election is a big challenge for the country. This election is being held for the future of the country. This election is



Ashok Gehlot addressing a public meeting in Churu.

for the future of democracy. This election is being held to save the Constitution." Without naming anyone, Gehlot accused the ruling BJP leaders of horse-trading MLAs and said, "These robbers are sitting inside the country. They are looting the country."

Hearing loss reported in Mumps patients

Vikas Sharma  
Jaipur

With the change of seasons, the mumps virus is also active throughout the state. Virus sufferers have begun to visit hospitals, including the SMS Hospital. This virus is also spreading among children and the elderly, and as a result, some patients are reporting hearing loss. Patients are coming with complaints of fever, edema, and pain near the ear. Each day, children affected by this illness arrive at JK Lone Hospital.

## CS Pant conducts inspection at Commercial Tax headquarters

Vimal Kothari  
Jaipur

Continuing with his practice of conducting inspections in the government departments, Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant arrived at the commercial tax headquarters to conduct a meticulous inspection on Wednesday where he oversaw the cleanliness arrangements in the department and also took stock of the attendance of officials in the department. Notably, Commercial Tax Commissioner Dr. Ravi Kumar Surapur has been assigned elec-



Sudhansh Pant interacting with the officials at the commercial tax headquarters in Jaipur on Wednesday.

tion duty and appointed as an observer in West Bengal. Dr. Ravi Kumar Surapur departed for Kolkata on Sunday. The CS also gave directives to the officials

who were present. In the last several weeks, the Chief Secretary has conducted inspections at various of offices and departments of the state government.



‘MODI HAI TO MUMKIN HAI...’ UNTOLD STORIES OF PM MODI – PART 78

Modi’s love for technology makes him stay ahead of times



Amrut Patel  
Ahmedabad

In my area, Bapu Nagar, there is Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium. A winter camp of the RSS was once organised there. Being in charge of the area, I had a lot of responsibilities on my head for smooth conduct of the event. This was in 1978 and all the tents were in place two-three days before the beginning of the camp. Back then, telephones were not common, not even in anyone’s home. In my area, to make a phone call, I had to go the post office. Such were the times, when I saw Modi sitting with some people at the ground with all the arrangements for a telephone connection at the venue. Telephone lines were to be installed in the camp. But Modi ji was not thinking about one telephone connection. He was thinking beyond that. The camp was planned in a way that there were different tents spread all across the stadium, each with its own responsibilities and functions. For instance, there was a pandal set up only for meetings. Another was rigged up for dining and cooking related facilities. There was yet another tent that was meant for handling medical emergencies of the attendees and likewise, more such separate departments were set up at the venue. Now, what Modi ji ideated was to provide each of these entities, a telephone connection, that would be connected to the main telephone. Simply speaking, it was the concept of extension lines or extension numbers as we know it today. But at that time, it was a novel concept which none of us had thought or known of. It was never done before in any programme of Sangh, simply because no one had thought of it or realised its importance. Modi’s love and deep passion for technology has always made him stand ahead in time.

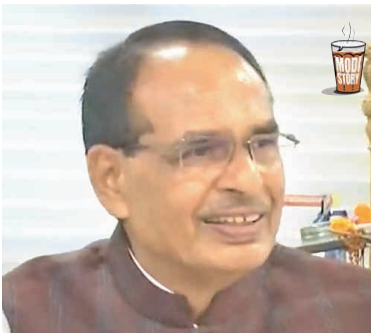
MODI’S PASSION PIONEERS PROGRESS!

The narrators recount instances showcasing PM Narendra Modi’s enduring love and profound passion for technology, which has continuously propelled him ahead of his time. Since his earliest days, Modi has consistently marked September 17 each year as a day to celebrate his birthday among the people, emphasising their care, welfare, and myriad other concerns.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Modi’s b’days have always been dedicated to the nation



Shivraj Singh Chouhan  
Former CM, Madhya Pradesh



Vasanbhai Ahir  
Former Gujarat Minister



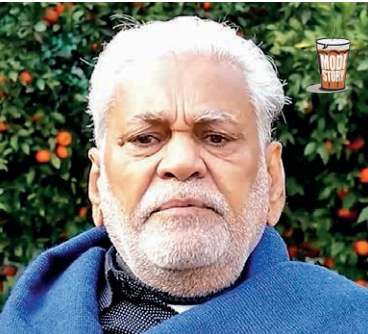
Neema Bhakkar  
Gujarat

For Modi, birthday means selfless service. He is very strict about work and duties. Be it a minister or a party worker, Modi ji’s yardstick is the same. When once asked if a minister could celebrate his birthday and skip a cabinet meeting on a particular day, he strictly refused to give permission and said, a birthday is to be celebrated by the people. What is there to celebrate our own birthday? Our first priority is work and we must stick to that. It is Modi ji who gave us the idea of adopting a tribal child and taking care of his/her health and education on the birthday of our children in the family. So we started to celebrate every birthday or birth of our children by adopting one poor child instead of spending extravagantly on fun and frolic.

On his birthday in 2015, the PM visited the military exhibition Shauryanjali to mark the golden jubilee of the 1965 Indo-Pak war. In 2016, he visited Navsari and celebrated his birthday by attending an event organised for aid-distribution to the differently-abled persons. On his birthday in 2017, Modi ji inaugurated the Sardar Sarovar Dam project and also spent the day with school children in Varanasi. In 2019, he released scores of colourful butterflies at Butterfly Garden in Kevadia. He also visited the Cactus Garden and river rafting sports facility at the place. In 2022, after the Covid-induced lockdown, Modi ji celebrated his birthday by introducing the Cheeta in India at Kuno in MP.

Modi ji says, over 1 billion Indians march a step ahead of me. Their hard work and dedication inspires me and gives me immense happiness to dedicate my life at their service. That is why he makes it a point every year to celebrate his birthday on September 17 amidst people, in their care and welfare.

Country’s edu landscape saw paradigm shift under Modi’s leadership



Parshottam Rupala  
Union Minister

Modi ji had said, if we have to stand tall in the 21st century world with our heads held high, there can be no compromise in education. It is our great responsibility to watch out how we are nurturing and preparing our children of today who would take up the responsibility of the nation 15-20 years from now. He was always concerned that all children should go to school. For this, he started the Shala Pravesh Utsav, under which a silent movement was started in the villages, especially during the admission season every year, to ensure not one child was left out from school admission in any village. Ministers, chief ministers all



Anil Mukim  
Former Chief Secretary, Gujarat

came down to the villages and created such an atmosphere that today we have achieved 100% success in school admissions. His concern was also the greater participation of the girl child in education.

Once, he had a huge collection of mementos, shawls, and such other gifts he had received during his visits to different places, which he wanted to bring to some good use. He then asked what to do with them and finally himself decided that those articles should be auctioned and the money generated from the same be spent on the education of the girl child. When he came to Dang, he was told that the ashram shalas for the



Vijay Patel  
MLA, Gujarat

tribal students were not in that great shape and if they could be upgraded with more funding and better infrastructure, children would get quality education. Modi ji immediately upgraded all the ashram shalas in Eklavya Model schools that seminally changed the education scenario in the tribal belt. In Gujarat the drop-out ratio was almost as high as 22% in 2003.

All the collectors, SPs, secretaries and ministers were involved and given the task to ensure that children were brought to schools. Drop-out ratio dropped to less than 1%. And importantly, there is now greater accountability on teachers and principals to ensure



PD Vaghela  
Former IAS officer

all are present and quality education is imparted and fourth, school infrastructure has improved a lot under the initiatives. Also, people’s participation has increased in school management that has in turn, increased accountability as well as transparency.

When the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme was launched in 2014, we didn’t have any brand ambassadors. But our brand ambassadors were common people, people present in nook and corner of every non-descript village in the country, who were working tirelessly and carrying forward the torch of education to enlighten the lives of millions of children for a bright future of India.



Preeti Sudan  
Former Health Secretary



You read PART 77  
ON MARCH 21, 2024

COMPILED AND EDITED BY  
SHASHIKANT SHARMA





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## LS POLL BUZZ

FIRST INDIA 06

Filing of nominations for the 1st phase of LS elections ended on Wednesday. BJP turned the nomination filing of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari into a show of strength and took out a massive rally in Nagpur. Nominations for Phase 2 to begin today.

## Last day of 1st phase nominations



BJP candidate Nitin Gadkari files his nomination in presence of Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Dy CM Devendra Fadnis, Praful Patel & Chandrashekar Bawankule in Nagpur on Wednesday.



TN BJP president K Annamalai files his nomination papers to contest from the Coimbatore constituency on Wednesday.



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma with BJP candidate Kamakhya Prasad Tasa during a rally before the latter files his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Golaghat on Wednesday.



Congress candidate from Udhampur Chaudhary Lal Singh addresses a rally after filing his nomination on Wednesday.



BJP candidate Biplab Kumar Deb files his nomination papers in the presence of Tripura CM Manik Saha, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, former Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar and others.



BJP candidate Jitin Prasada files his nomination papers for upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Pilibhit on Wednesday.



BJP candidate Ghanshyam Lodhi flashes the victory sign after filing his nomination papers in Rampur on Wednesday. Former union minister and party leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi is also seen.

## Lok Sabha elections

■ **Rudrapur:** BJP candidate Ajay Bhatt from Nainital-Udhampur constituency files his nomination for the Lok Sabha polls, in Rudrapur on Wednesday.

■ **Chandrapur:** Congress candidate Pratibha Dhanorkar with party leaders during filing her nomination from Chandrapur constituency for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Chandrapur on Wednesday.

■ **Tezpur:** Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Rishiraj Kaundinya from Sonitpur Constituency files his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, at

Tezpur in Sonitpur district on Wednesday.

■ **Sonitpur:** BJP candidate for Sonitpur Lok Sabha seat Ranjit Dutta with other leaders during filing his nomination papers for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Tezpur on Wednesday.

■ **Dibrugarh:** Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Manoj Dhanowar during filing his nomination for the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha constituency, in Dibrugarh on Wednesday.

■ **Bastar:** BJP candidate Mahesh Kashyap with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and the party's state President Kiran

Singh Deo files nomination for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, at Jagdalpur, in Bastar district on Wednesday.

■ **Bastar:** Congress candidate Kawasi Lakhma shows victory sign after filing nomination papers for the LS elections, at Jagdalpur in Bastar district on Wednesday.

## PM gave women samman, swasthya, suvidha: Singh

First India Bureau

Hiranagar (J&amp;K)

Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given "suvidha", "swasthya" and "samman" to women through different schemes.

Singh, who is the ruling BJP candidate from Udhampur in the upcoming LS polls, said most of the Centre's schemes are women and youth-centric, without any terms and conditions or mortgage, and the only guarantee is "Modi ki guarantee".

"PM Narendra Modi has given suvidha (facility), swasthya (healthcare facilities) and samman (respect) to women. In other words, he has provided facilities for the convenience of women, thereby also taking care of their healthy well-being and, at the same time, according them the respect and esteem that they deserve," he said.

The Union minister of state for personnel recalled that in his very first Independence Day address after taking over as prime minister, Modi had given a call for building toilets.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur during a roadshow in support of BJP candidate Jitendra Singh ahead of upcoming Lok Sabha elections, in Udhampur on Wednesday.

PTI

## BJP: LS POLLS WILL BE A DISASTER FOR OPPN

➔ New Delhi: BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Wednesday said the LS polls will prove to be a "disaster for dynasty" and claimed that the opposition has accepted that it is "losing ground" even before taking on the ruling party. Naqvi said a "Modi mood" is prevailing in the country due to the diligence of the crores of dedicated workers of the saffron party and the hard work of PM Modi that has made the BJP a "natural choice for governance".

## UMA BHARTI MISSING IN BJP'S STAR LIST

➔ Bhopal: Former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Uma Bharti is missing from the BJP's list of star campaigners for the Lok Sabha polls in the state. However, the party has picked Suresh Pachauri, who had led the BJP to victory in the 2003 assembly polls, had also failed to make it to the BJP's list of star campaigners during the 2023 state polls.

## AAP'S MP &amp; PUNJAB LEADER JOIN BJP

➔ New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party's MP and lone Lok Sabha member Sushil Kumar Rinku joined the BJP on Wednesday along with party MLA Sheetal Angural, dealing a blow to the party already facing a crisis following the arrest of its leader. Rinku, the MP from Jalandhar in Punjab, and Angural, who was elected to the state Assembly from Jalandhar West, joined the BJP in the presence of Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

## DELHI CM ARREST ROW

## BJP protests outside Assembly, demands Kejriwal's resignation

First India Bureau

New Delhi

MLAs from both the ruling AAP and opposition BJP held protests on the Delhi Assembly premises on Wednesday.

While the BJP MLAs held a demonstration demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who has been arrested by the ED in an excise policy-linked money-laundering case, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators and their supporters raised slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Both parties staged their protests simultaneously. As the BJP legislators took out a march carrying placards, the AAP leaders & workers, dressed in yellow T-shirts, started raising slogans against Modi and following the saffron party's MLAs. Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said Kejriwal should resign as chief minister.

"The CM should resign from his post. There are almost a dozen allegations of corruption against him. If the excise policy was world class, why did he take it back? We are demanding Kejriwal's resignation," he said.



## MY HUSBAND WILL REVEAL TRUTH: KEJRIWAL'S WIFE

➔ New Delhi: Stressing that no money was found in multiple Enforcement Directorate raids, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita on Wednesday said her husband would do a "big expose" on the alleged excise policy scam in court on March 28. Sunita Kejriwal in a digital briefing said her husband will reveal the truth on March 28 and also present evidence. "Despite two years of probe, the ED has not been able to find even one paisa in evidence," she said.

## KEJRIWAL'S HEALTH DETERIORATED: AAP

➔ New Delhi: The blood sugar level of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is diabetic, is fluctuating and his health has deteriorated in custody, AAP sources said on Wednesday. Kejriwal's blood sugar level dropped to 46 Mg at one point of time they claimed.

## DELHI BJP DEMANDS PROBE INTO 'LETTERS'

➔ New Delhi: A Delhi BJP delegation met Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora on Wednesday to demand a probe into the "letters" being sent by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to his ministers from Enforcement Directorate custody.

## MANDAVIYA SLAMS KEJRI OVER AYUSHMAN SCHEME

➔ New Delhi: Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday took a swipe at Arvind Kejriwal for voicing concern over delivery of healthcare services in the city, saying had he been worried he would have implemented the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme. Mandaviya slammed Kejriwal for not implementing the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.

## BJP names WB assembly by-election candidates

PTI

New Delhi

In a significant development, the BJP has declared its candidates for the upcoming by-elections in two Assembly constituencies in West Bengal. The party will put up candidates from both Bhagawangola in Murshidabad and Baranagar in Kolkata.

Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillor Sajal Ghosh and BJP leader will be the candidate from Baranagar. Ghosh has been associated with the party for a prolonged period, bringing his experience to the forefront in this electoral battle. On the other hand, Bhaskar Sarkar will represent the BJP from Bhagawangola.

Sarkar, formerly associated with the youth wing of the Trinamul Congress and currently serving as the mandal president of Bhagawangola, brings a blend of grassroots connect and organizational skills to the table. The announcement comes as the Election Commission of India had earlier indicated that by-elections for these seats would coincide with the Lok Sabha elections, ensuring an intense political atmosphere in both constituencies.





# SRH smash highest IPL score

Head slams an 18-ball fifty for SRH

Abhishek hits 16-ball fifty for SRH



Sunrisers Hyderabad players celebrate the wicket of Mumbai Indians batter Rohit Sharma during the IPL match between SRH & MI, at Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Stadium, Uppal, in Hyderabad, Wednesday.

PTI

Kuala Lumpur

Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Mumbai Indians in match number 8 of the Indian Premier League 2024 season on Wednesday. SRH scripted history by scoring the most runs by a team in IPL history after hitting 277/3 in 20 overs. Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma and Heinrich Klaasen smoked whirlwind fifties.

In response, Mumbai Indians fought hard but fell short by 31 runs.

Travis Head (62 off 24) and Abhishek Sharma (63 off 23) came up with a sensational dis-



Rohit Sharma played his 200th match for Mumbai Indians in the IPL. Rohit has become the first player for the five-time winners to register a total of 200 matches.

play of power-hitting, that saw the latter snatching the franchise record for fastest fifty from the Australian within minutes.

Heinrich Klaasen (80 not out off 34 balls) provided the fireworks in the end to help Sunrisers Hyderabad break an 11-year-old record.



Saurav Ganguly, Rishabh Pant during a practice session ahead of the IPL cricket match. **SANTOSH SHARMA**



Delhi Capitals players during a practice session ahead of the IPL 2024 T20 cricket match between Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals, at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Wednesday.



State sports minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore distribute free tickets to Anganwadi Workers in Jaipur on Wednesday.

India releases second tranche of ₹500 crore to Bhutan

PTI

Thimphu

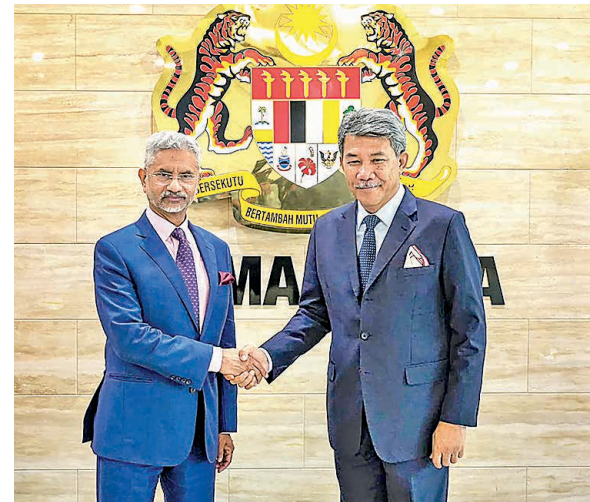
India has released the second tranche of Rs 500 crore to Bhutan for the development of infrastructure related to the GyalSung Project.

This comes less than a week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 23 concluded a fruitful two-day state visit to Bhutan during which he assured Thimphu of New Delhi's firm support in its quest for development and agreed to provide Rs 10,000 crore to the Himalayan nation over the next five years. The second tranche was handed over by India's Ambassador to Bhutan Sudhakar Dalela to Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Lyonpo D N Dhungyel.

## ₹370 CRORE TO FENCE MYANMAR BORDER

New Delhi: India plans to spend nearly \$3.7 billion (Rs 370 crore) to fence its 1,610-km (1,000-mile) porous border with Myanmar within about a decade, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter, to prevent smuggling and other illegal activities.

# Jaishankar lauds Malaysian PM for stronger ties



Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim during a meeting.

PTI

Kuala Lumpur

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday called on Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and appreciated his vision for stronger bilateral ties, asserting that it would help craft a more "ambitious agenda" for the India-Malaysia relationship.

Jaishankar is in Kuala Lumpur on the third and last leg of his three-nation tour to Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia.

"Honour to call on Prime Minister @anwar-

ibrahim of Malaysia. Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Praising the Malaysian prime minister's vision for a stronger bilateral relationship, he said, "His vision for stronger India-Malaysia ties, both in traditional and new-age areas, will help us craft a more ambitious agenda for the relationship."

"Benefitted from his guidance and insights on regional developments," he added. Earlier, Jaishankar met his Malaysian counterpart Mohamad bin Haji Hasan.

# Is Jaipur Development Authority bowing before 'sweet-treats'?

Abhishek Srivastava

Jaipur

The Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) is seemingly bowing before Shankar Mishthan Bhandar located at Gandhi Nagar turn on Tonk Road where three floors were illegally constructed above the ground floor of Shankar Mishthan Bhandar. Apart from this, illegal construction was also done behind this establishment.

The JDA had sealed the upper three floors and the illegal construction at the rear on 8 November 2019. However, later on the order of JDA Appellate Tribunal dated 6 September 2022 and under the order of 14 July 2022 issued by the state government, this illegal construction was



exempted from sealing for a period of six months on 21 March 2023.

According to the order of the state government dated 14 July 2022, a condition was put for opening the seal wherein all illegal constructions should be removed within the next 2 months. But even after 4 months the illegal construction has not been removed. Government order says that if illegal construction is not removed within the stipulated period then JDA will

seal this construction again and the cost of sealing action will be recovered from the builder only. And after this, prosecution proceedings will be taken against the builder in the concerned court in the next 30 days.

It is clear in this order of the state government that disciplinary action will be taken against the officer who does not follow the order. But JDA officials, it appears, do not even care about this order of the government.

# "Plan to pull back troops, considering revoking AFSPA in JK"

ANI

New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the central government is considering pulling back some troops from Jammu & Kashmir and leaving law & order to the police. Shah said the government will leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"We have plans to pull

back troops and leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police alone. We are strengthening the police, who are at the forefront during the encounter," Shah said.

"The troops will slowly and slowly go to the barracks. Such a design has already been formed. We have made a blue print of 7 years," he added. The Home Minister also indicated that the



government is considering revoking the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in parts of Kashmir.

## US: Indian Embassy condoles 'bridge crash'

PTI

New York

The Indian Embassy in the US has condoled the "unfortunate accident" in Baltimore where a cargo ship manned by a 22-member Indian crew, struck and demolished a key bridge, an accident

that may have killed six people and brought one of the most important ports in the northeast US to a grinding halt.

Officials said the Singapore-flagged ship 'Dali' suffered a "power issue" and issued a distress call moments before the crash.

## BIDEN PRAISES INDIAN CREW'S PROMPT ACTION

New Delhi: Joe Biden said the alert sent by the ship's crew saved lives. "Personnel on board the ship were able to alert the Maryland Department of Transportation that they had lost control of their vessel," Biden said.

## AMIT SHAH TO ADDRESS MEETING IN SUPPORT OF BJP CANDIDATE IN PORT BLAIR ON APRIL 4

Port Blair: Home Minister Amit Shah will address a public meeting on April 4 in support of BJP Andaman and Nicobar Island Lok Sabha candidate Bishnu Pada Ray. Ray is contesting against sitting MP and Congress candidate Kuldeep Rai Sharma. Shah is likely to arrive in the morning of April 4 and he will then proceed towards the Indian Trade Fair ground (which is very close to Veer Savarkar International Airport) for a public meeting.

"We will definitely consider this proposal (revoke the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

The situation is being normalised. We are speedily considering this proposal," he said.

# Gujarat's Garba dance makes it to UNESCO's cultural heritage list



First India Bureau

New Delhi

In a momentous occasion celebrating culture and unity, the vibrant tradition of Garba has been honored with a place on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The Certificate of Inscription was presented in a ceremony held in Paris, marking a significant milestone for the beloved Indian dance form.

The ceremony in Paris was met with enthusiasm and pride, with representatives from the Indian community and cultural enthusiasts coming together to commemorate this achievement.



Garba is a celebration of life, culture and devotion. It also brings people together. It is gladdening to note that Garba's global popularity on the rise! Sometime ago, Garba found a place in the @ UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. I am glad that the Certificate of Inscription was presented a few days back in Paris. At the same time, a memorable Garba Night was also held in Paris, which was attended by the Indian community in large numbers.

Narendra Modi @narendramodi

## PRESIDENT ACCEPTS CREDENTIALS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

# Envoys of five nations present credentials to Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu accepts credentials from the (1) Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines Jose Francisco Ignacio, (2) Ambassador of Georgia Vakhtang Jaoshvili, (3) Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus Mikhail Kasko, (4) High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya Peter Maina Munyiri, (5) Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sardor Rustambaev during a ceremony on Wednesday. **PTI**

ANI

New Delhi

President of India, Droupadi Murmu, accepted credentials from the Ambassadors/High Commissioner of Philippines,

Uzbekistan, Belarus, Kenya and Georgia at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday, Rashtrapati Bhavan said. Those who presented their credentials were Jose Francisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Re-

public of Philippines; Sardor Rustambaev, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mikhail Kasko, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus. "President Droupadi Murmu received credentials from Mr Jose Fran-

cisco Ignacio, Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines; Sardor Rustambaev, Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan; & Mikhail Kasko, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus at Rashtrapati Bhavan,"

said Rashtrapati Bhavan. Peter Maina Munyiri, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya and Vakhtang Jaoshvili, Ambassador of Georgia were among those presented the credentials to President, the release said.

**Prez accepted credentials from the Ambassadors/High Commissioner of Philippines, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Kenya and Georgia**



# fi FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

The true comfort of a friendship lies in silence, acceptance and understanding.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief

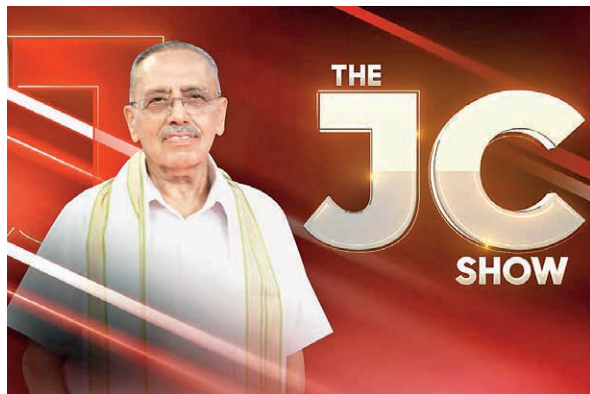


08



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra in conversation with (L-R) Mahima Kanwar, Ayush Singh, Pooja Yadav, Shikha Thakur and Poornima Mishra during The JC Show.

# HAS KEJRIWAL'S POLITICAL CAREER COME TO AN END?: Dr CHANDRA



Revealing how the Enforcement Directorate played an extremely patient role in handling matters related to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, **Dr Jagdeesh Chandra** explains how the Chief Minister's political career may have taken one step closer to coming to a halt, what caused Anna Hazare's heartbreak, why AAP's leader from Punjab lost love for Kejriwal, why ED issued nine summons and was on way to issue a tenth and why Kejriwal will not be able to run the government from behind bars. Excerpts.....

● **Has Arvind Kejriwal's political career come to an end with his arrest?**

**Dr Jagdeesh Chandra:** It surely appears like that. However, it is also said for politicians that till the time a politician is alive, one cannot make any predictions about their future. For example, Narasimha Rao had decided to sit at home and made a sudden return to take the helm of the nation. No one has seen the future. Moreover, Manish Sisodia is behind bars, and the manner in which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has made this case up, with its successful prosecution rate of 90-95 per cent, on that basis, I don't think anyone can come out of jail before a decade. And even if he stays inside for five years, the future of the political party would not be as vibrant. So we can say that the first phase of Kejriwal's career has come to a grand halt. Now it all depends on his fate, luck, and what view the Supreme Court takes on the matter. Till the time he is behind bars, there is no future for him

or the party. And the track record of ED cases also points to the impossibility of Kejriwal coming out of jail anytime soon, like Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and Satyendra Jain. So in such a situation, one can say that his political career has moved towards an end.

● **What is your take on Anna Hazare's statement about his student, Arvind Kejriwal?**

It is the pain in his heart that has come out. Anna was Kejriwal's Guru, who taught him politics and showed him the path of politics. Remember the massive public meetings that used to happen in Delhi? Anna Hazare used to give a clarion call regarding ending corruption from the platform of these meetings, and perhaps he never thought that his own student would be caught for corruption. So Anna tweeted that he taught him and that it was their resolve to bring Swaraj and that they used to talk about banning liquor, so he has been arrested today for his own actions. So this tweet is the pain that has come out of Anna, and it is very unfortunate for him.

● **And what about Ravneet Singh Bittu's remark regarding the Punjab government?**

He is also on the same lines as Anna. He was also a supporter of Anna at one point in time and he has said that Kejriwal used to talk about Lokpal, etc. He has even gone to length to say that

now he thinks Kejriwal is a thug. He has used harsh words in expressing himself. Furthermore, he has also said that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

● **Politicians have been arrested in the past, but it has happened for the first time that a sitting Chief Minister has been arrested...**

See, Soren was arrested but he tendered his resignation. However, Kejriwal was arrested right from his home without resignation. Unfortunately, but what could have been done? When a person does not even bow before the law, does not appear before ED, so till when will the law keep mum? Basically, the law of the land is taking its course in this case. Secondly, they had taken the High Court route, but they lost in the High Court as well. The High Court also made the observation by asking who had asked not to arrest him. So if such an observation comes, then it becomes impossible for any official of ED or otherwise to stop the arrest, especially when you have already formed the case and have issued a summons for him. So law of the land will take its own course and the law does not differentiate whether you are a CM or a commoner. That is what has happened in this case.

● **Why didn't Kejriwal appear before the**

**ED even though the agency issued nine summons to him?**

This is also bizarre. Generally, ED does not give so much time in taking action but in this case, the agency gave a huge slack to Kejriwal. Just imagine, the tenth summons was on its way after no response was given on the first nine summons. This was Kejriwal's mistake. He should have gone and appeared before the ED in all humility. If ED arrested him, then the court's route would have been open for bail. But he did not go. Since the tenth summons was also on its way, perhaps ED officials would have waited longer. But the court gave its observation which the agency had to comply with. So it can be said that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) exhibited extreme patience in this

case, but that patience inevitably reached its limit. The High Court's decision accelerated this breaking point, leading to Kejriwal's arrest. Officials do not like arresting people on constitutional positions but they had to because it was Court's orders. First, you do not appear before the agency and do not give a reply, then you move High Court and the Court gives a decision that goes against you. Then what other option does ED have with itself? Therefore, a joint Director level officer was sent and not any SP or Dy SP.

● **AAP has claimed that Kejriwal will not resign**

**and will run the government from jail. Is that even possible?**

See, such a thing does not actually happen. This is just motivated party workers making statements. Such a thing does not happen. He should have responded to the summons. Now he should resign from the post in all humility, call the meeting of the legislative party, choose a new leader, hand them the power, sit in jail and after a few days when the CM comes to meet him in jail, then he can give the direction that he wants. But to say that I will run the government sitting in jail, does not look like a possibility, and neither does it appear to be democratic. Perhaps there may not be a legal ban on such a situation, but democratically, it does not suit the status of CM. So I do not think this will happen.

● **So, if suppose Kejriwal does not resign, will that mean the President's rule will be imposed in Delhi?**

There are fewer chances of that happening reason being that he won't resign, and then the matter will go to court and then to the Supreme Court. But I believe that the SC too must be feeling a little let down since nowadays every second non-political issue is being taken to the Apex Court. Had the BJP got enough legislators in its kitty, perhaps it could have got one-

third of MLAs over from AAP and formed a government but that would not happen. At the most what can happen is that Kejriwal can be dismissed by the Lieutenant Governor and if such a situation occurs, then he will bow down and prefer to install another leader of his choice as CM. As of now, I don't see any possibility of President's Rule in Delhi. Moreover, Narendra Modi and Amit Shah carry out their political work gracefully and since this is election time, I don't think there will be a possibility of President's Rule the way the situation stands right now.

● **Not much crowd was observed near ITO Chowk and the Court premises. Does it mean that Kejriwal's popularity is on the decline now?** Isn't that apparent? A few people from Punjab had come to Delhi and there was a possibility that about 50,000 people would come to national capital, but nothing of that sort happened. There were only a handful of people where the bail hearing was conducted. At most there may have been 500 odd people or perhaps some more, but this was the hearing of a sitting Chief Minister and this number is paltry for such a post. So, in effect, it seems that ED's action has received general public consensus and support. This means there is no major rebellion among the people on this action. So of course, his graph is declining.

● **Will Kejriwal's arrest have an impact on Lok Sabha elections on seats of Delhi and Punjab?**

It won't have any major impact. Today the voters are extremely vigilant and knowledgeable and they cast their vote of their own volition. Their supporters will obviously vote for them and there was a possibility that Congress and AAP may contest together and win a few seats. But on the other hand there is Narendra Modi, the Ram Lalla card and the overall political situations in the nation are in Modi's favour. In such a situation, it was already difficult for them to win 2-3 seats, but now with such a huge crackdown, I don't think AAP and Congress together would win a substantial number of seats. So, Kejriwal's arrest will have a negative impact on AAP's victory in Delhi or Punjab. Had Kejriwal been arrested after the election, he would have got political benefit out of it but I don't think in prevailing situations these parties would get any benefit.



Scan to watch The JC Show

During the show #JConKejriwalArrest trended top All-India on X



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra during The JC Show.



भारत 24  
Vision of New India







**BACK TO BACK PROJECTS**  
T riptii Dimri has swiftly risen to prominence in the entertainment realm, captivating audiences with her compelling performances and earning accolades for her talent.

P11

# FACTORY FLOOR TO THE CATWALK

Discover the fascinating journey of boiler suits, from their humble origins as industrial workwear to becoming a global fashion staple. Explore their versatile styles, cultural significance, and enduring appeal in the modern fashion landscape



**Mohit Choudhary**

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**I**n the world of fashion, where trends come and go, one style staple has stood the test of time and continues to make waves: the humble boiler suit. Originating from the practical attire worn by workers in industrial settings, boiler suits have evolved into a versatile and fashionable wardrobe essential. The history of boiler suits dates back to the early 20th century when they were first introduced as protective clothing for boiler engineers and mechanics. With their durable fabric and full-body coverage, boiler suits provided much-needed safety and functionality in hazardous work environments. However, it wasn't long before their utilitarian design caught the eye of fashion-forward individuals seeking a unique and edgy look.

Boiler suits gained popularity in the 1940s during World War II when they became synonymous with the iconic Rosie the Riveter, symbolizing the strength and resilience of women entering the workforce. Since then, boiler suits have been embraced by various subcultures, from punk rockers to streetwear enthusiasts, cementing their status as a timeless

fashion statement.

Fast forward to the present day, and boiler suits have undergone a revival in the fashion industry, gracing the runways of top designers and becoming a favourite among celebrities and influencers alike. With their effortlessly cool silhouette and practicality, boiler suits offer a perfect blend of style and comfort for the modern individual.

One of the reasons for the enduring popularity of boiler suits is their versatility. From sleek and tailored designs suitable for formal occasions to relaxed and oversized fits perfect for casual outings, there's a boiler suit to suit every taste and preference. Pair it with sneakers for a laid-back vibe or dress it up with heels and statement accessories for a chic ensemble.

Despite their association with blue-collar workwear, boiler suits have transcended boundaries and become a global fashion phenomenon. From New York to Paris, London to Tokyo, fashionistas worldwide have embraced the boiler suit trend, incorporating it into their everyday wardrobes with enthusiasm.

But beyond their fashionable appeal, boiler suits also carry a rich cultural significance. They symbolize empowerment, independence, and the spirit of adventure, harkening back to their roots as attire for hardworking individuals striving for a better future.

As we continue to embrace the evolution of fashion, the boiler suit remains a timeless classic that speaks to the enduring allure of practicality and style. So whether you're channelling your inner Rosie the Riveter or simply looking to make a bold fashion statement, don't overlook the humble boiler suit – it's a trend that's here to stay.









# UNVEILING THE ARTISTRY



Designer Parul Vijayvargia



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**P**arul Vijayvargia, a designer hailing from the vibrant city of Jaipur, embarked on her illustrious career journey with an unwavering passion for handcrafted clothing. As the visionary behind 'Zeba by Parul Vijayvargia', her brand stands as a testament to her dedication to Indian and Western attire, blending cultural nuances seamlessly.

Despite her journey commencing later in life, Parul Vijayvargia's love for draping fabrics sparked the inception of her brand, earning her the endearing title of the 'Queen of Drape' among friends. Encouraged by her peers and supported wholeheartedly by her husband, she ventured into the realm of fashion, driven by her desire to infuse unique handcrafted elements into every creation.

At the heart of Zeba lies its distinctive USP – the intricate handcrafted details meticulously crafted in workshops, elevating basic fabrics into exquisite pieces fit for any occasion, be it formal or festive. Parul's keen eye for design ensures that each ensemble not only accentuates the wearer's beauty but also celebrates individuality, catering to diverse body types with confidence-boosting collections. Inspired by Jaipur's rich cultural heritage, Zeba's designs reflect the city's artistic flair, incorporating traditional techniques like tie and dye alongside contemporary colour combinations reminiscent of the Pink City's vibrancy.

Parul Vijayvargia's commitment to originality is unwavering; she finds solace in her creative process, draping fabrics on herself rather than relying solely on mannequins, ensuring every detail is meticulously curated. Despite facing challenges such as duplicity and imitation in the era of social media, she remains undeterred, viewing imitation as a form of flattery and a catalyst for innovation. Looking ahead, Parul Vijayvargia envisions Zeba gracing international platforms while establishing offline stores, all while prioritizing sustainability in her practices. With a talented team by her side and an unwavering dedication to her craft, Parul Vijayvargia's journey with Zeba continues to inspire and captivate fashion enthusiasts worldwide.



Parul Vijayvargia in her brand Zeba's beautiful collection



Sunny Leone gracefully showcases the cocktail dress by 'Zeba'



Divyanka Tripathi Dahiya  
aces the beautiful attire by 'Zeba'

## Back-to-Back Project Triumphs



Triptii Dimri

**T**riptii Dimri has swiftly risen to prominence in the entertainment realm, captivating audiences with her compelling performances and earning accolades for her talent. Since her debut in "Laila Majnu," where she showcased her acting prowess opposite Avinash Tiwary, Dimri has been on an unstoppable trajectory. Her roles in projects like "Qala" and "Bulbul" further solidified her reputation as a versatile and skilled actor. However, it was her portrayal in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Animal" that truly catapulted her to nationwide adoration, earning her the endearing title of "National Crush."

Basking in the success of "Animal," Dimri has been inundated with a flurry of project announcements, underscoring her soaring popularity and demand in the industry. Her commitment to delivering im-



Insta Post

pectful performances is evident as she embarks on diverse roles across multiple genres. Even before the release of "Animal," Dimri was already immersed in filming projects like "Bad Newz" alongside Vicky Kaushal and "Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video" with Rajkummar Rao, stirring excitement among her fans.

In the wake of "Animal's" triumph, Dimri has expanded her repertoire with a slew of captivating projects. Notably, she is set to star in Anees Bazmee's "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3" opposite Kartik

Aaryan and has an intriguing untitled film lined up under the esteemed Dharma Productions banner.

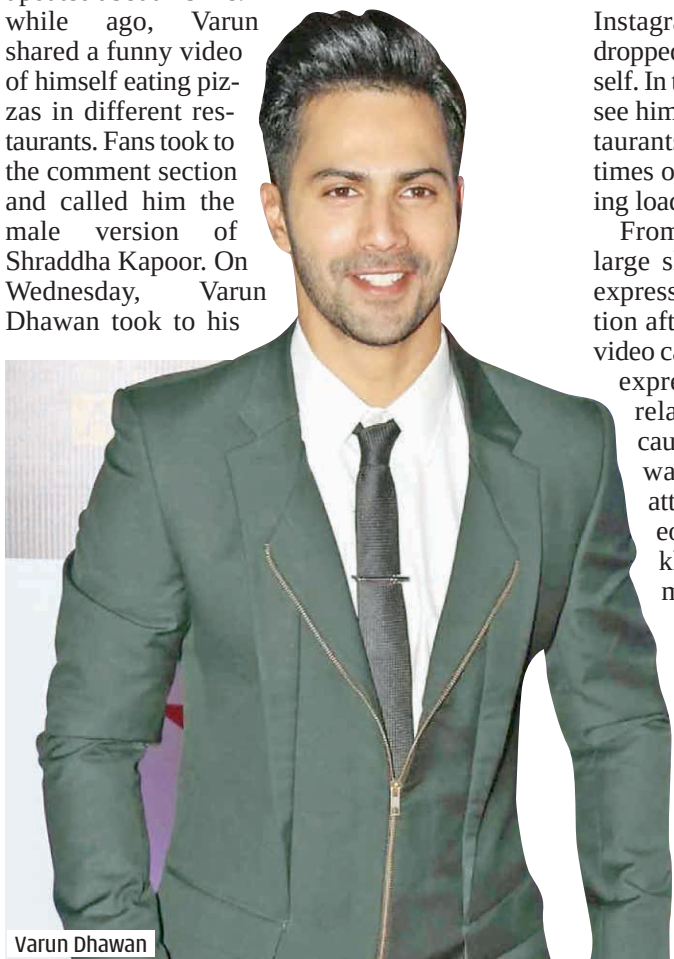
As anticipation mounts around her upcoming releases, Dimri's trajectory reflects her burgeoning stature as a powerhouse performer and a sought-after talent in the industry. With her stellar track record and unwavering dedication, Triptii Dimri continues to captivate audiences and cement her status as a rising star on a remarkable ascent in the world of entertainment.

## DROOPED GOOFY VIDEO

**V**arun Dhawan is one of the most loved celebrities in the film industry. He enjoys a huge fan following on his Instagram account and often drops pictures and videos of himself to keep his fans updated about his life. A while ago, Varun shared a funny video of himself eating pizzas in different restaurants. Fans took to the comment section and called him the male version of Shradha Kapoor. On Wednesday, Varun Dhawan took to his



Insta Post



Varun Dhawan

Instagram account and dropped a video of himself. In the video, we can see him in different restaurants at different times of the day, enjoying loaded pizzas.

From looking at a large slice of pizza to expressing his satisfaction after finishing, the video captures it all. His expression is just so relatable. But what caught our attention was the caption he attached to the video. It reads, "Pizza khane ke baad mujhe guilt aur khushi dono hoti hain (I feel both guilty and happy after having a pizza)." To make the Reel funnier, he added the trending song Premika in the background.





# THE JC Show!

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R)  
Mahima Kanwar, Palak Sharma,  
Pooja Yadav, Poornima Mishra,  
Shikha Thakur, Preeti Negi,  
Sakshi Mishra and Ranjana Rawat  
during The JC Show titled,  
**'Kya Sachmuch Hua Kejriwal  
Chapter ka The End',**  
at Bharat24- Vision of New  
India, Noida on Friday.

# Vision for safety!

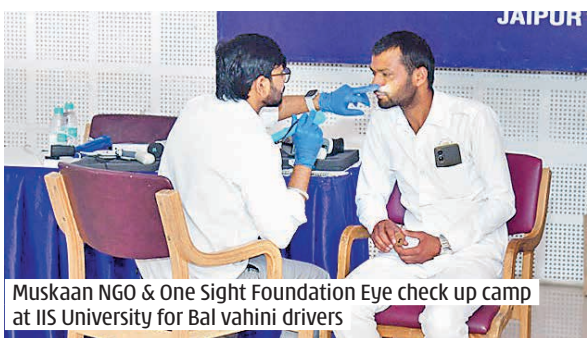
**City First**  
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**I**n a concerted effort to enhance road safety and prioritize the health of drivers, Muskan Foundation, in collaboration with IIS University, organised a two-day Road Safety and Health- Eye Sight check-up camp on March 26-27. The event specifically targeted Bal Vahini drivers and took place at the premises of IIS University.

During the camp, drivers underwent comprehensive eye check-ups, and thanks to the generous support of OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation, prescription glasses were distributed to those in need. Furthermore, in a proactive measure to ensure the safety of two-wheeler



Dr Mridul Bhasin and Dr Rakhi Gupta with others during the helmet distribution



Muskaan NGO & One Sight Foundation Eye check up camp at IIS University for Bal vahini drivers

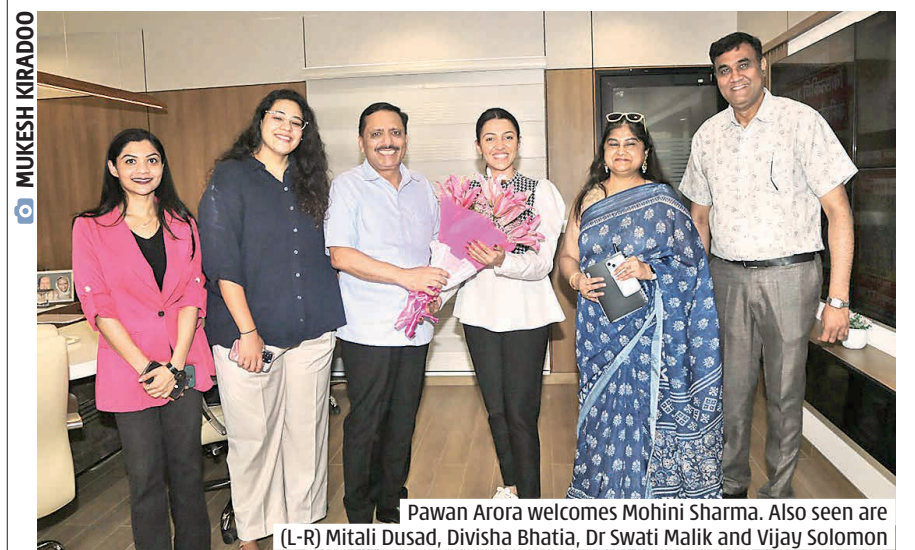
drivers, support staff received ISI 4151-marked helmets, courtesy of SK Finance.

Over the past six months, Muskaan Foundation has been relentless in its efforts to promote road safety, distributing over 750 free helmets and reaching out to

more than 20,000 students to raise awareness. The NGO has extended its outreach to include more than 500 drivers, spanning various sectors such as Rajasthan Roadways, Police Headquarters and educational institutions.

At the event, Neha Khullar, Director Projects at Muskaan Foundation, underscored the critical importance of good eyesight and quality helmets for drivers' safety. Dr Mridul Bhasin, Founder Trustee of Muskaan Foundation for Road Safety, Professor Rakhi Gupta, the Registrar of IIS University, and Shantanu Bhasin, Trustee of Muskaan Foundation for Road Safety, graced the occasion with their presence, demonstrating their commitment to the cause of road safety and health promotion.

## MEET & GREET!



Pawan Arora welcomes Mohini Sharma. Also seen are (L-R) Mitali Dusad, Divisha Bhatia, Dr Swati Malik and Vijay Solomon



Dr Swati greets Divisha Bhatia



Dr Swati greets Divisha Bhatia

Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News Channel, First India English Newspaper and First India Plus Entertainment (Events) warmly welcomed Mohini Sharma Founder, Mrs India Inc along with Divisha Bhatia, Founder, Big Flex Marketing during a courtesy visit at the First India News Channel office, on Wednesday. The occasion saw the presence of Dr Swati Malik, Vijay Solomon and Mitali Dusad from the First India family, who further extended greetings to the guests. The meeting evolved into a productive exchange, delving into discussions spanning media dynamics, political landscapes, and the rich cultural tapestry of Rajasthan, including its heritage. Entertainment

events also took center stage during the discourse. Mohini and Divisha expressed admiration for the recently launched First India OTT platform and First India Plus productions, indicating a keen interest in potential future collaborations or affiliations with the organisation.

## EVENTS!



 SANTOSH SHARMA

CA Naveen Sharma and CA Vijay Kumar Aggarwal, President and Secretary respectively, of the Jaipur branch, spearheaded a conference aimed at honouring and empowering women on Tuesday. Roli Aggarwal, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, graced the event as the chief guest, lauding the CA Institute's initiative. The conference featured sessions on health, and success stories from accomplished women, and concluded with a vibrant fashion show, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and celebration amongst attendees.



The Heritage Kids Fashion Show will take place at the Rangayan Auditorium, Jawahar Kala Kendra on May 18. Archana Bairathi, the program coordinator, unveiled the event's poster at Sonali Dance Academy, Ajmer Road on Tuesday. Aimed at nurturing young talent, the show by Ananya Soch Seva Sansthan promises to showcase adorable kids, and captivating hearts with their endearing skills. Registration is now open for three age categories: 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

# Jaipur's Meenakari Marvel


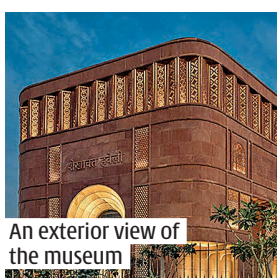


A view of the Galleries in the museum

**City First**  
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**J**airpur witnessed a groundbreaking event on Wednesday as the city proudly inaugurated the Museum of Meenakari Heritage (MOMH), a pioneering establishment in the country. Spearheaded by founder Sunita Shekhawat, this visionary project crystallized her profound love and dedication to the art of enamelling. The gallery sprawls over 3,000 sq. ft, immersing visitors in a rich tapestry of Meenakari craftsmanship.

The inauguration ceremony drew luminaries from diverse back-



An exterior view of the museum

grounds, including art connoisseurs, international jewellery designers, and prominent media figures. Gauravi Kumari, musician Ricky Kej, and actor-director Nandita Das were among the distinguished guests who graced the occasion.

The museum's collection is a testament to centuries of artisanal mastery, showcasing over 300 images sourced

from premier museums and private collections worldwide. These artefacts trace the evolution of enamelling from Renaissance Europe to its indelible imprint on Indian soil. The House of Shekhawat contributed over 120 reproductions, preserving archival motifs and oral histories intrinsic to the craft.

Designed by Siddhartha Das Studio and Studio Lotus, the museum's aesthetic blends traditional charm with modern vibrancy, echoing Jaipur's timeless allure. Through painstakingly hand-painted ceilings and locally sourced materials, MOMH encapsulates the essence of Made in India.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Jaipur's Rajasthan University witnessed the unveiling of the book "Eminent Social Scientist" authored by Dr Niharika Rathore and Dr Girwar Singh Rathore on Wednesday. Vice Chancellor Prof Alpana Kateja, at the University Secretariat, praised the book for its comprehensive exploration of 108 distinguished social scientists. The authors, both esteemed scholars, meticulously curated the content, promising invaluable insights for students of management and administration. Published by Gautam Book Company, the book retails for Rs 600.



Jaipur was abuzz with eco-conscious fervour as the State Bank of India breathed new life into its hallmark event, the 'SBI Green Marathon', last Sunday. With more than 3000 eager volunteers gathering at Suraj Maidan, the city became a hub for environmental advocacy and sustainable living. Spearheaded by Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat, Independent Director of SBI, the marathon offered three categories: 21 KM, 10 KM, and 5 KM, catering to participants of all levels. This event not only promoted a greener future but also emphasized the power of individual responsibility and collective action in shaping it.



DPS Jaipur, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India, hosted an enlightening 'Electronic Banking Awareness (E-Baat)' session for students of classes X and XII, recently. Led by Archana Mishra and Shubham Kumar Sharma, the session tackled online transaction challenges, fraud prevention and digital payment methods like NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, UPI and debit/credit cards. Stressing financial inclusion and risk awareness, the session aligned with the 'Digital India' initiative, promoting digital empowerment among students.