



FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS SET FOR THIRD SPACE VOYAGE
Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams is set to go to space for 3rd time as she launches onboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft on May 6.



PAYTM MONEY CEO SRIVIDYA RESIGNS; SINGH TO TAKE OVER
Paytm Money, wealth management platform of One 97 Communications Ltd, appointed Rakesh Singh as chief executive, replacing Varun Srividya.



RBI SAYS 97.76% OF ₹2,000 CURRENCY NOTES RETURNED
The RBI on Thursday said 97.76% of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes have returned and only ₹7,961 crore worth of the withdrawn notes are left.



DHARMENDRA PRADHAN FILES NOMINATION FROM SAMBALPUR
Union Minister and BJP's Lok Sabha candidate from Odisha's Sambalpur seat, Dharmendra Pradhan files his nomination papers in Sambalpur. P5

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI IGNITES THE GUJARAT HEARTLAND – ANAND, SURENDRANAGAR, JUNAGADH AND JAMNAGAR, WITH HIS POWERFUL RALLIES

MODI'S VISION FOR LAST MILE DEVELOPMENT!

Moni Sharma

Anand/SurenDRanagar/ Junagadh/Jamnagar

Ahead of impending Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed powerful rallies in Anand, SurenDRanagar, Junagadh and Jamnagar in Gujarat on Thursday.

Speaking on the robust development ushered by the BJP in 10 years compared to the 60 years of Congress, PM Modi said that our goal has been to enable the last-mile reach of development benefits to all. Modi said, "The country that exports terror is struggling to import 'Atta'." He added that this same country's reign of terror was prominent during Congress times, but our govt's all-round development model has kept country at bay. P5



PM Narendra Modi waves during rally in Jamnagar on Thursday. Guj CM Bhupendra Patel is also seen.

MODI'S MISSION IS A VIKSIT BHARAT AND "24 X 7 FOR 2047 TO ENABLE A VIKSIT BHARAT".

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

MEETING JAM SAHEB IS ALWAYS A DELIGHT: MODI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday called upon former cricketer Jam Saheb Shri Shatrughyasinji, amid his hectic election campaign, in Jamnagar. Talking to X, the Prime Minister wrote he had a wonderful interaction with him, adding meeting him is always a delight and his warmth and wisdom are exemplary.

Prime Minister and 5 TV9 editors discuss...



PM Narendra Modi in conversation with 5 editors of TV9 Network.

In a touching moment during an exclusive round table interview with 5 editors of TV9 Network, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated a heartwarming gesture of a senior citizen's selfless dedication to serving the nation. In the interview, titled 'Prime Minister and Five Editors', PM Modi addressed a myriad of pressing issues facing the nation, ranging from the ongoing Lok Sabha elections to constitutional matters, the Ram Mandir construction, the situation in Bengal, reservation policies, and PM Narendra Modi's vision for the country's future.

MODI CALLS ON SHATRUGHYASINJI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls on Jam Saheb Shri Shatrughyasinji in Jamnagar at Gujarat on Thursday.



UHM Amit Shah during an interview with Network18 on Thursday.

CAA will begin this month: Shah

First India Bureau
New Delhi

Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the first citizenship will be issued under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA before the last phase of the election. "Applications have started to come in. Scrutiny is happening according to rules," Shah told Network18 Group Editor-in-Chief Rahul Joshi in an interview. "And I think before elections, before the last phase, the process of giving citizenship will start." UHM

Amit Shah also expressed confidence in achieving NDA's goal of crossing 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections and dismissed the accusations made by the Opposition regarding EVM tampering and the BJP benefiting from such practices. Regarding the concept of "One Nation, One Election," Shah emphasized that the BJP has included it in its manifesto and is committed to its implementation. Shah also said over the past decade, PM Modi has achieved a significant transformation in the Indian economy. P5

SENSEX

BSE 74,611.11
NIFTY 22,648.20

128.33 43.35

Rahul promises youth apprenticeship rights



Cong leaders Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Siddaramaiah & DK Shivakumar during public rally in Shivamogga on Thursday.

First India Bureau
Shivamogga

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressed rally in Shivamogga, he said, "Our govt is going to accord the right of apprenticeship to youths. They gave you unemployment, whereas we are going to provide apprenticeship right, ₹1L in your bank account and world's best

training," Rahul Gandhi said. Congress leader also alleged that Hassan JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna had raped 400 women and made their videos, and sought an apology from PM Modi for soliciting votes for him. He targeted Modi and said he should apologise to the women of India for seeking votes for the "mass rapist".

'Molestation' allegations against Guv

First India Bureau
Kolkata

Police in Kolkata have received a complaint of the sexual harassment against Governor CV Ananda Bose from a woman learnt to be a contractual staffer attached with Raj Bhawan. Shortly after the allegations emerged, Bose told, "Truth shall triumph. I refuse to be cowed down by engineered narratives. If anybody wants some election benefits by maligning me, God bless them. But they cannot stop my fight against corruption and violence in West Bengal."



BJP fields Brij Bhushan's son from Kaiserganj, Dinesh from Raebareli

First India Bureau
New Delhi

With last day for the nomination deadline for Phase 5 of the Lok Sabha elections today, BJP on Thursday fielded incumbent MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's son Karan Bhushan Singh from Kaiserganj constituency, replacing his father who is facing criminal charges of sexually harassing women wrestlers. BJP also named Dinesh Pratap Singh as its candidate from Raebareli, a Gandhi family bastion which has been won by Sonia Gandhi for 5 times.



Karan Bhushan Singh



Dinesh Pratap Singh

BALL IS IN COURT OF GANDHIS FOR AMETHI, RAEBARELI

The suspense over Congress candidates in Amethi and Raebareli has been dialled up a notch, with Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra being given a few hours to decide. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge suggested that both contest, but left the final decision to them in view of their "knowledge of the ground reality". They are said to convey decision to Kharge by late Thursday night, sources said.



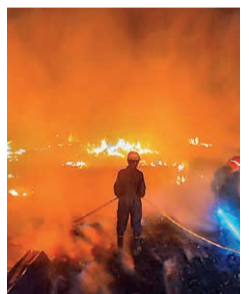
Global lookout notice against Prajwal Revanna

No political clearance sought or given: MEA

First India Bureau
Bengaluru

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the obscene videos case involving JD(S) Lok Sabha candidate Prajwal Revanna, on Thursday issued a look-out notice against him. The notice was issued at all immigration points across the world. The development comes as Revanna allegedly fled to Frankfurt, Germany on April 26, as a huge cache of explicit videos and photographs showing him indulging in the sexual abuse of several women went viral on social media.

IN BRIEF



Firefighter douse a fire which broke out in a slum at Kanchan Puri, in south Delhi on Thursday.

68.66% turnout at repolling in Nandsi Ajmer: Nandsi polling booth, under the Masuda town of the Ajmer Lok Sabha constituency, on Thursday recorded 68.66% turnout in re-polling due to missing/misplacement of a register in Phase 2 election on April 26. P8

SC orders 33% quota for women in bar body
New Delhi: The SC has ordered the Supreme Court Bar Association to reserve at least a third of its posts for women in its executive committee. The direction comes just before the elections for the lawyers' body, which are set to be conducted on May 16.

VK Pandian's wife transferred by EC Bhubaneswar: The ECI on Thursday ordered transfer of Sujata R Karthikeyan, wife of former IAS officer and BJD leader V K Pandian, from the Mission Shakti dept to a "non-public facing dept" with immediate effect.

CHIEF MINISTER'S 6-KM-LONG SHOW OF STRENGTH

CM Sharma holds maiden roadshow in Capital for West Delhi LS candidate

Aishwary Pradhan and Vinod Singh Chauhan
New Delhi

CM BHAJAN LAL SHARMA ALSO MET UNION MINISTER ANURAG SINGH THAKUR, THE 2 LEADERS HELD TALKS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Chief Minister Bhanu Lal Sharma was on a tour of Delhi on Thursday during which Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Singh Thakur met the Chief Minister at Jodhpur House and the 2 leaders discussed various issues. CM Bhanu Lal Sharma also participated in 6-km-long road show of West Delhi LS candidate Kamaljeet Sehrawat and got nomination papers of candidate filed.

There was a convoy of about 3 kilometers long in the road show that



CM Bhanu Lal Sharma participates in road show to support West Delhi LS candidate Kamaljeet Sehrawat in Delhi on Thursday.

started from Janakpuri. During the road show, along with the Chief Minister, Lok Sabha candidate from West Delhi

Kamaljeet, Union Minister Hardeep Puri, Delhi BJP State President Vinod Sachdeva also rode in the chariot.

Meharda is ACB DG, two other IPS officers shifted

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

The DoP has transferred 3 IPS officers. These include 1 DG and 2 ADGs. The new head of ACB will be Dr Ravi Prakash Meharda, while ADG Hemant Priyadarshy, who is currently holding responsibility of acting DG of ACB, has been sent to the police headquarters and appointed as ADG Cyber Crime and SCRB. Sachin Mittal, who till now was holding post of ADG Cyber Crime along with Re-



Ravi Prakash Meharda

cruitment and Promotion Board, has been transferred to the post of ADG (Recruitment and Promotion Board). Meharda told media that ACB's action will continue in future also and pendency of files will be reduced.

SI Paper leak case Challan is against 25 accused, including 17 selected SIs with 15 under training

2,369 page chargesheet filed against accused, master mind



First India Bureau
Jaipur

The SOG, on Thursday, presented a chargesheet in the court against 25 accused in Sub Inspector (SI) Recruitment Exam 2021 the paper leak case. The challan of 2,369 pages was presented in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Jaipur Mahanagar II. The SOG team of more than 15 members reached the court with several copies of the challan and got them deposited. The challan is against 25 accused, including 17 selected SIs (15 trainee SIs) and gang leader Jagdish Vishnoi.

The court will analyse and on the basis of that the accused will be sentenced. The next hearing in this case will be on May 4.



The SOG team of more than 15 members reached the court with several copies of the challan on Thursday.

THREE MASKED MISCREANTS LOOT TWO FLATS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT IN JAIPUR'S SHYAM NAGAR

Three masked men broke open the locks of two flats in broad daylight on Thursday in Laxman Colony, Shyam Nagar and stole jewellery and cash worth lakhs of rupees. The miscreants had come on a bike. When a retired soldier living in the apartment interrupted, they attacked him and fled. Shyam Nagar police station collected evidence with the help of FSL team and police are searching for the miscreants on the basis of the CCTV camera footage. Police said that the flat of Padmakar Sharma and Shivani Sharma on the first floor of the apartment was targeted. **— Satyanarayan Sharma**

GODARA GANG MEMBER OUT ON BAIL, FLEES ABROAD ON FAKE PASSPORT FROM UP

Rahul Swami, a henchman of the Rohit Godara gang has fled abroad using a fake passport. Swami is a history-sheeter of Sadar police station village Rinaun of Sikar was on parole from March 4 to March 16 to attend sister's wedding. He was to be sent to Bikaner Central Jail on March 16. Swami, however, got a fake passport made with the address of Subhashpuri Kankar Khara in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh and fled the country. Sadar police station has registered a case of fake passport against the accused. Many cases, including murder are registered against him.

FILMING REEL: DAD DEMANDS PROBE

The Mahavir Nagar police registered a case in the death of a young man who was shot dead while making a reel in the Mahavir Nagar area of Kota. The father of the deceased has denied his son having any enmity or rivalry with anyone. Police, however, showed his father a video, in which a person named Uday is seen shooting Yashwant. Police are investigating the case.

2-YR-OLD KID HIT BY SPEEDING JEEP DIES

In a tragic incident in Jaipur, a speeding jeep struck a two-year-old girl who was standing outside her home. Following the accident, the driver fled the scene, leaving the injured child behind. Relatives rushed the injured toddler, identified as Kavya Saini, daughter of Kishor Saini from Bhurthal village, to the hospital. Despite medical efforts, the child succumbed to her injuries.

MAN HELD WITH 990 GRAM GOLD IN JPR

Man held with 990 grams of gold at Jaipur Airport. The customs department team at Jaipur Airport seized 990 grams of gold worth around Rs 72.41 lakh on Thursday and has arrested a passenger. The accused passenger had come from Dubai. Based on suspicion, the customs officials stopped and checked him. During enquiry, he could not answer satisfactorily. Later, the smuggled gold was detected hidden in his rectum.

14-YRS-OLD RAPED IN SLEEPER BUS

A shocking case has come to light in Churu district of the state where a case of rape of a 14-yrs-old girl from Ratannagar village who was raped in a sleeper bus. The accused kidnapped her by threatening to make the obscene photo viral. The victim reached the SP office along with her father to register the case. The accused Anil Meghwal raped her an year ago and has been blackmailing her since. The girl was threatened that her parents would be killed if she spoke.

Relief for teachers

Eligibility of UGC Regulation 2010 extended till Dec



First India Bureau
Jaipur

University Grants Commission has extended the eligibility of UGC Regulation 2010 for Career Advancement Scheme till December 31. President of All India National Educational Federation, Professor JP Singhal said that now teachers who complete eligibility by December 31 can opt for the scheme. State President of Educational Federation, Dr Deepak Sharma said that, there was an option to get promotion in the old regulation after

In this regard, the educational federation received a formal letter from the UGC on Thursday. The decision will provide relief to thousands of teachers across the country

completing the eligibility in UGC Regulation 2018 for three years i.e. till July 2021.

But in this regulation, it was not possible to complete the mandatory and other provisions of PhD in the period.

Rajput Samaj seeks Z+ security for Sheo MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati



Members of the Rajput community demand Z+ security for independent MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati on Thursday.

Shivendra Singh Parmar
Jaipur

After receiving threats to his life through social media, the state government has decided that Sheo MLA Ravindra Singh Bhati will soon get security. The decision has been taken at highest level after MLA received threats and now Bhati will get 2 PSOs.

Notably, on Thursday, members of Rajput Sabha gathered at Jaipur Collectorate and a memorandum was submitted to the Collector by Rajput community members regard-

ONE MAN HELD FOR THREATENING BHATI

The Rajasthan police have arrested a man for threatening an Independent MLA from Sheo, Ravindra Singh Bhati, in name of gangster Rohit Godara. Bhati recently contested the Lok Sabha elections from Barmer as an Independent candidate. Barmer SP Narendra Meena said on Thursday that accused, Mangaram, had given the threat on social media a few days back.

ing providing security to Bhati. They request the government to take this matter seriously.

NGT team in Udaipurwati to probe Katli river area violation

Pradeep Gadwal
Jhunjhunu

The National Green Tribunal team reached Gawa in Udaipurwati and investigated the downstream area of Katli river, the lifeline of Shekhwati. On Thursday, pits made by illegal gravel miners in previous years were found but no encroachments. Amit Kumar had complained in NGT that Katli river has been completely destroyed due to illegal gravel mining and en-



FILE

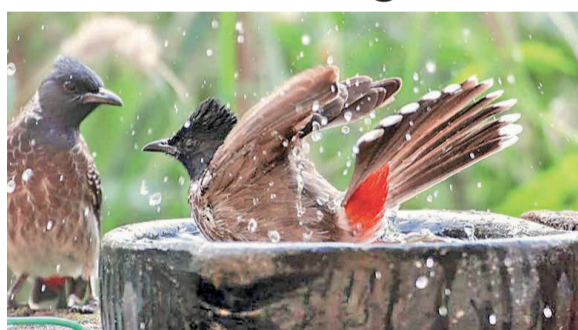
croachment. In a few years, drinking water sources in Sikar and Neem Ka Thana, including Jhunjhunu will be over. The NGT team will look into the flow area of the river till Gudhagaudji Natas Bagad Mandrela, Norangpura of Rajgarh. They will investigate illegal gravel mining and focus will be on encroachment.

Raj Secretariat staff hangs water pots for thirsty birds

Dr Rituraj Sharma
Jaipur

To help birds getting water in summer season, principal Secy DoP Hemant Gera along with other employees tied water pots for birds on trees on secretariat premises. Employees leader Vivek Chaudhary and others were present with him.

"Life is impossible without water and birds



too need water like humans to survive," Hemant Gera said.

Nitin Kumar, working in the secretariat, made paintings of

Current HoFF retires on May 31

Search on for a new Head of Forest Force

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Rajasthan will get a new Head of Forest Force (HoFF) after the current HoFF Munish Garg retires on May 31. Screening for the new HoFF will be held between May 7 and 15. Chief Secy Sudhansh Pant, ACS Aparna Arora and a representative from the centre and current HoFF Munish Garg will be there in screening committee.

Arindam Tomar, Arijit Banerjee and PK Upadhyay are in the race for the post and their names will be considered in the meeting. Considering seniority, Arindam Tomar could be the new HoFF because there has been a tradition of making the most senior IFS a HoFF. However, if Tomar becomes HoFF, his tenure will be only for 2 months. Currently there are 4 PCCF and 10 APCCF in State IFS cadre.

MLA Saraf writes to Aviation Min, asks for more flights from Jpr



First India Bureau
Jaipur

BJP MLA from Malviya Nagar Kalicharan Saraf has written a letter to the Union Civil Aviation Minister demanding to operate direct flights from Jaipur to religious and tourist places. Saraf said that at present there are no direct flights from Jaipur to major religious spots and tourist places. He said that only connecting flights are available to go to these places. Saraf has written that the summer holidays have started but due to lack of direct flights, people are not able to make travel plans. "If direct flights are operated from Jaipur to these places then the income of airlines as well as of the said places will also increase," he said.

ENCHANTING TOURISTS

Rajasthan all set to show off cuisine, wedding venues at the 3-day GITB'24

First India Bureau
Jaipur

A three-day annual event, "The Great Indian Travel Bazaar-2024," will be held in Jaipur from May 5 to 7 with the objective of boosting tourism in the state. Tourism Director Dr. Rashmi Sharma said that 'Wed in India' expo will also be held in the event to attract both domestic and international tourists to choose Ra-



A snap from the previous edition of GITB.

jaasthan as their wedding destination. During GITB, 11 inter-

national level and 30 national level wedding planners have been

invited, so that the concept of Wedding in India can be realized and Rajasthan can play an important role in it.

It is noteworthy that 75% of the country's heritage forts and havelis are in Rajasthan adding to its rich cultural heritage. She said that Rajasthani cuisine will be served during lunch. Celebrity chef Ajay Chopra, who has been the host of Master Chef India, will also give a live demo of Rajasthani cuisine.

SUV falls into ditch, 1 JEN dead, 2 injured

Hanspal Yadav
Baran

In this horrific accident, one JEN died on the spot while two JENs were injured when the SUV they were travelling in went out of control and fell into a deep ditch late on Wednesday in Baran. Both the injured were referred to Kota after first aid was done.

Police said that the accident happened in Sarthal valley of Harnavdashahji area. The JENs were going from Sarthal towards Chhabra when the accident happened.

JDA razes illegal colony, other constructions in zone 2, 7 & 11

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The Jaipur Development Authority enforcement squad demolished an illegal colony on about one bigha agricultural land in Zone-11. In Zone 2 and 7, about four kilometres on the road going from Raj Bhavan from Ajmer Pulia intersection towards Sodala, encroachments were removed.

Chief Controller of Enforcement Mahendra Kumar Sharma said that in village Mahapura, located under the jurisdiction of Zone-11, without



the approval of JDA and without land conversion illegal constructions were made overnight.

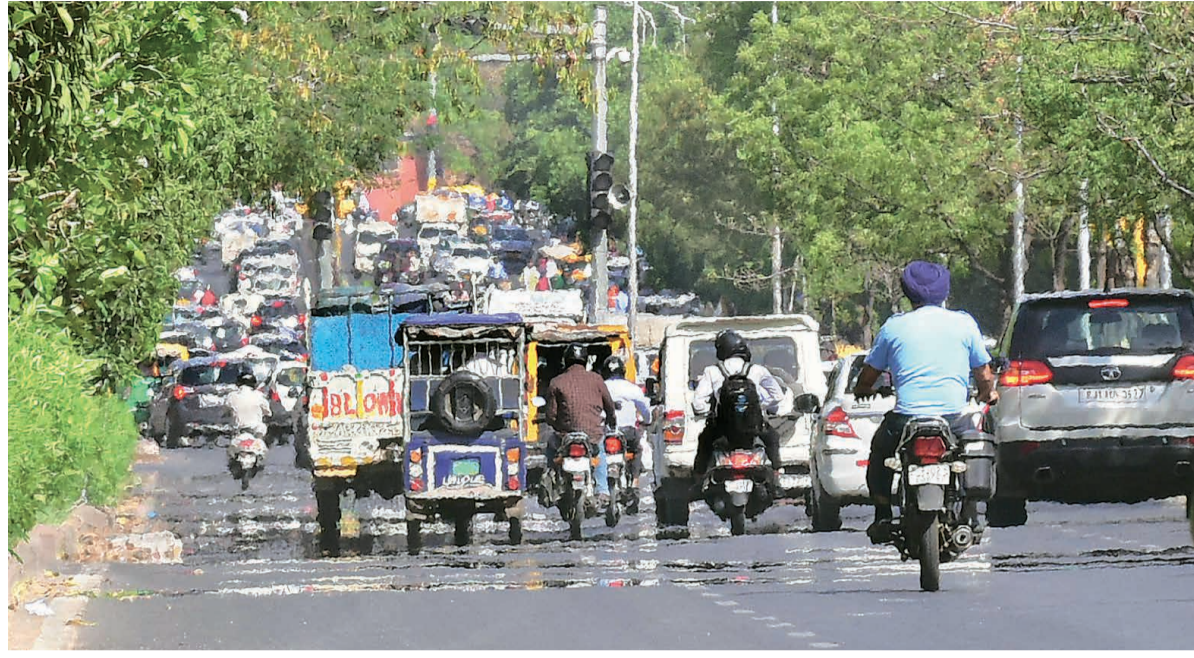
The four km stretch from Raj Bhavan from Ajmer Pulia intersection, under the jurisdiction of Zone 2 and 7, towards

Sodala, the road was freed from encroachment by the enforcement squad. The above action was carried out under the supervision of the Enforcement Officer Zone-1, 7, 10, officers in authority & technical staff.

SCORCHING SUMMERS

MeT dept says, there will be some relief from heat in first week of May

MERCURY SOARS ABOVE 40°C



Due to intense heat, Mirage seen on the Bhawani Singh Road near Rambagh Circle in Jaipur on Thursday. © SANTOSH SHARMA

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Barmer was recorded as the hottest place in Rajasthan by recording a maximum temperature of 40.4 degrees Celsius. However, the temperature was 1.6 degrees Celsius less than the normal temperature.

The day temperature was recorded at 39 degrees Celsius in Durgapur and Jalore whereas the maximum temperature in Jaisalmer was 35.6 degrees Celsius and 36.6 degrees in Jodhpur.

Meanwhile, Kota remained among the hottest cities of the state for several days in April but



People relaxing under tree shade during a hot afternoon in Ashok Park in Jaipur on Thursday. © SANTOSH SHARMA

the mercury is falling from the last week of April. According to the Met center, there will be relief from heat in the first week of May.

Day temperature in many cities including Sriganganagar, Churu,

Bikaner and Sikar was below normal. The weather will change again in the state from tomorrow due to western disturbance. The impact of the western disturbance will be there in North-Western districts.

HEATWAVE WARNING: MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ON ALERT MODE

The arrangements related to prevention and treatment of heat stroke in the state during the summer season were reviewed through video conference at Swasthya Bhavan on Thursday. Joint Directors of all zones, CMHOs, CMOs and concerned district level officers participated in meeting. Director Public Health Dr. Ravi Prakash Mathur said that a detailed review was done regarding making district level action plan regarding prevention of change and heat-related diseases.

ACB books former DIG based on audio clips shared by accused cop

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The ACB of Rajasthan booked its former DIG Vishnu Kant, a head constable and a constable in a corruption case, officials said on Thursday. The FIR registered on Wednesday alleged that IPS officer Vishnu Kant as the DIG, ACB had taken a bribe of Rs 9.5 lakh in March 2022 from head constable Sardar Singh through his constable brother Pratap Singh. Meanwhile, Sardar Singh, the accused in alleged bribery case of 2021 forwarded some audio clips, including one of a purported conversation between his brother Pratap Singh and Vishnu Kant, to complainant Satyapal Pareek. The complainant made all audio clips available to the DGP who sent them to the ACB for further action.



Vishnu Kant, former DIG (ACB)

ALWAR RAS TRAP: DEO YADAV SENT TO JUDICIAL CUSTODY TILL MAY 14

Alwar: District Excise Officer Suresh Yadav, arrested in the bribery case, has been sent to judicial custody by court till May 14. Yadav was arrested late on Wednesday night while taking bribe of Rs 3 lakh from a liquor contractor in exchange for approving the location of the warehouse. Yadav had already taken Rs 3 lakh from complainant. Not only this, he had also asked for Rs 30,000 as monthly. Ashvini Yadav



ACB TRAPS VDO IN BHLWARA WHILE TAKING ₹1.5L; ASST TECHNICIAN NABBED IN TONK WITH ₹4K BRIBE

Bhilwara/Tonk: A village development officer was arrested by the ACB for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 1.50 lakh in Bhilwara. ADG ACB Hemant Priyadarshy said that Ramlal Mali had demanded a bribe of Rs 2.50 lakh in lieu of issuing a lease deed when he was posted in Sataliyas gram panchayat in Bhilwara. After verification of complaint, a trap was laid and accused was held while taking Rs 1.50 lakh as the bribe amount. Meanwhile, in Tonk ACB arrested an assistant technician of the electricity department red handed while taking a bribe of Rs 4,000 in Tonk on Thursday. The accused, Umendra Kumar, posted in Todaraisingh of Kekri district, had demanded bribe in lieu of releasing a domestic connection.



(Above) Girl tries to save herself from harsh sun under an umbrella near Albert Hall in Jaipur. (Below) Girls cover faces with masks & scarves to beat the heat in Jaipur on Thursday. © SUNIL SHARMA

Kota girl student traced after 11 days in Ludhiana

Bhanwar S Charan
Kota

Student Tripti, who had gone missing from a PG in Kota 10 days ago, was traced to Ludhiana, Punjab on Thursday. Police have handed over the girl to her family members in Ludhiana. Kota City Superintendent of Police Amrita Duhani said that Tripti went missing on April 21 and the PG owner lodged a missing complaint on April 23. Police found a suicide note in a notebook inside her room. They searched the Chambal river with a team of divers but she was not found.

Later, a team was sent to Mathura and Vrindavan where they found Radha-Krishna written in Tripti's handwriting at many places.

I-T raids at JKJ Jewellers & Joshi Group I-T dept sleuths collect evidence of undeclared business worth ₹160 cr

Vimal Kothari
Jaipur

In the raids being conducted at JKJ Jewellers and Joshi Group in Jaipur, the Income Tax officials have collected evidence of undeclared business worth Rs 160 crore from both these groups. It is said that the work of physical verification of the stock of JKJ Jewellers Group has been completed, but the account of about 100 kg of gold is not found. Similarly, the account of jewelery worth Rs 45 crore is also not available anywhere. Officials associated with the raid claim that so far evidence of black money worth Rs 150 crore has been found at JKJ Jewellers Group, while accounts of cash transac-



JKJ Jewellers.

FILE

tions worth Rs 10 crore have been recovered from Joshi Group. All the 8 lockers found in the Income Tax raid have been opened, in which jewelry and investment documents were found. Officials are busy examining the documents etc. found so far from the account books, on the basis of which the black earnings of both the groups will be revealed.

In this action of Income Tax raid, the officials have also started scanning the mobile phones of the operators of both the groups. It has been revealed that these mobiles contain WhatsApp chats related to Hawala business & documents related to investment. Both groups are said to be involved in hawala transactions, on basis of which the investigation can be taken further.

Two ice-making factories sans licence sealed

First India Bureau
Jaipur

Under the direction of Food Commissioner Pan-kaj Ojha, the teams of the Food Commissionerate carried out raids at two ice-making factories and sealed them for not having licences. Balaji Ice Cube on Kalwar Road did not have a food licence. Food Safety Officer Deepak Kumar Sindhia, Ramesh Chandra Yadav and Ratan Godara were present during the raid.

Besides, Mahapura Jaipur Cold Storage Pvt Ltd also could not produce a licence & was sealed. The team did not find medical certificate of even a single employee in both factories. Besides, ice was being made without testing safety standards.

Forest dept fails to rewild 2 cubs of T-114 into MTR

Nirmal Tiwari
Jaipur

The forest department of Rajasthan has failed in rewilding 2 tiger cubs.

Rewilding refers to a process by which captive-born tigers learn to survive on their own in large natural enclosures and then are eventually returned to a protected natural environment. Both the cubs of tigrress T-114 are more than 15 months old but they are living in an enclosure in Abhedra where they were sent from Ranthambore after the death of their mother on Jan 31 last year. The forest department had promised to rewild them after some time in Mukundara Tiger Reserve.

However, even after 15 months, rewilding of both cubs will not be easy.



T-114 Tigress.

FILE

Fake NOC case: Internal panel formed in SMS

Vikas Sharma
Jaipur

The SMS Medical College administration has formed an internal committee to investigate the organ transplant fake NOC case. Senior Professor of CTVS Dr Anil Sharma has been made the convener.

Professors Monish Grover, Deepali Pathak and DLR Sukhdev Singh are its members.

A state-level committee is already investigating and its report is awaited. Meanwhile, the bail of Organ Transplant Coordinator of EHCC Hospital Anil Joshi has been rejected. ACB judge Surendra Kumar rejected the allegations citing serious allegations and pending investigation.

NATIONAL JOURNALIST CONFERENCE

Scribes' conference held at Pink City Press Club

First India Bureau
Jaipur

The National Journalist Conference was celebrated in the auditorium of Pink City Press Club here on Thursday. The function was presided over by former Medical and Health and Information Broadcasting minister Dr Raghu Sharma and the chief guest was Gopal Sharma, MLA, Civil Lines and Editor-in-Chief of Dainik Mahanagar Times.

The special guests



Raghu Sharma, Gopal Sharma being felicitated by Naresh Sharma during the programme in Jaipur on Thursday. © SANTOSH SHARMA

were members of the Press Council of India and editor-in-chief of Khabaron Ki Duniya Dainik Dr LC Bharatiya and Jagdish P Purohit,

founder of India Press Mumbai.

Narayan Bareth, former State Information Commissioner and Sunny Sebastian, former

GUV'S BEST WISHES ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Governor Kalraj Mishra extended congratulations and his best wishes on World Press Freedom Day (May 3). Governor Mishra said that the media has been considered the fourth pillar of democracy. "Media not only makes the common people aware of their constitutional rights but also makes them aware of their duties. Freedom of the press is the main basis for ensuring constitutional rights and human rights," he said. While extending best wishes to all the journalists associated with print, electronic and web media on World Press Freedom Day, the Governor has called upon them to act as vigilant sentinels of democracy with healthy values of journalism.

Vice-Chancellor of Hard-ey Joshi Communication University, said that there was a time when trade unions used to dominate and the government used

to take decisions on their issues seriously. But today, journalism is not what it used to be earlier and even the government lacks sensitivity.

Super Singer+ auditions



Bharatpur audition winners: (L-R) Kashish Acharya, Nishu Sharma and Sonu Sharma

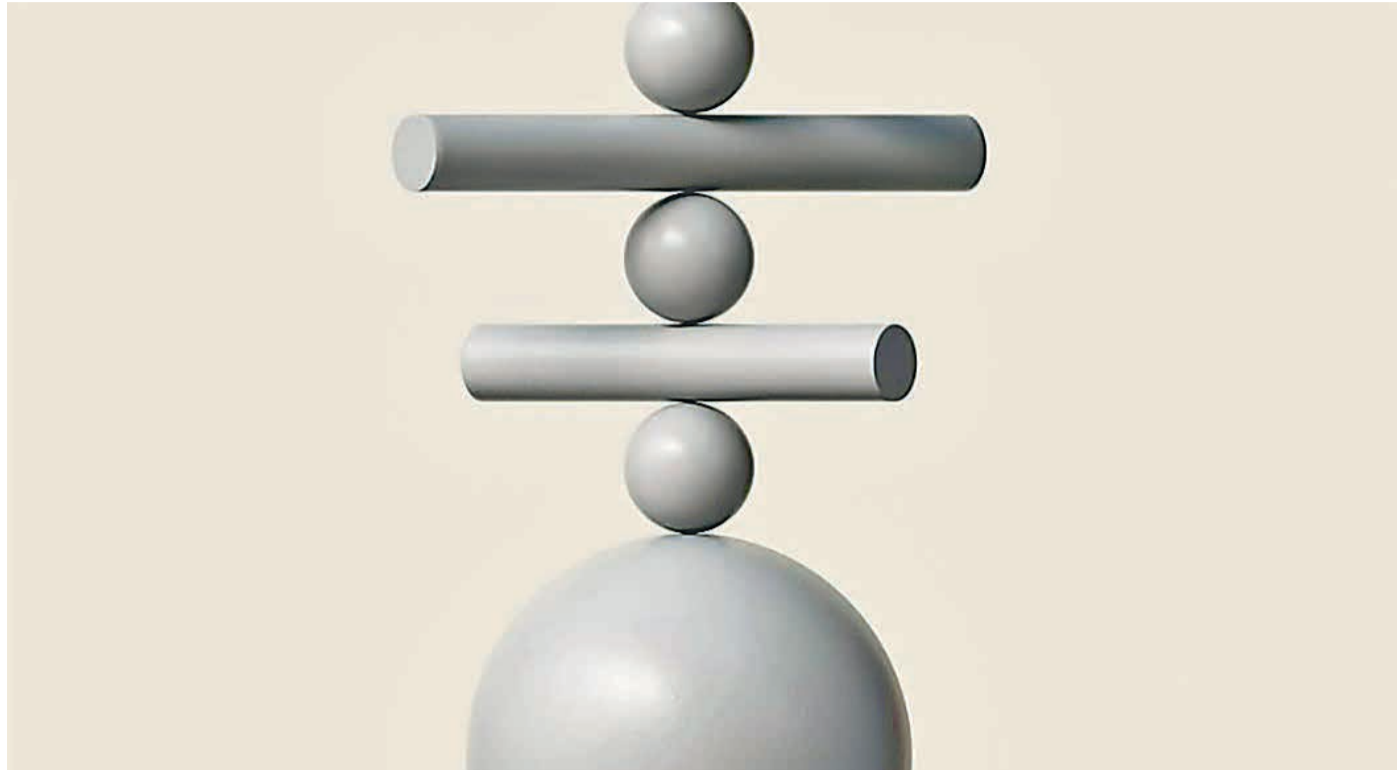
Melodies filled Bharatpur as Super Singer+ Rajasthan auditions, hosted by First India Plus, captivated audiences at Surya Vilas Palace, on Thursday. 42 talented singers showcased their skills, impressing judges Veeru Sharma, Mukesh Sharma and KP Katara. Among notable guests were Jawahar Singh Bedham, Deep Raj Singh and Shruti Bharadwaj. Nishu Sharma, Kashish Acharya, and Sonu Sharma secured 'Ticket to Jaipur' with outstanding performances. The event, supported by sponsors like Wonder Cement and AU Small Finance Bank, was flawlessly executed by the First India OTT team.

THE ENLIGHTENED SELF: WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU



Deepak Chopra

The writer is MD, FACP, FRCP founder of the Chopra Foundation, a non-profit entity for research on well-being and humanitarianism, and Chopra Global



Enlightenment is a confusing concept, blurry

enough that most people don't think about it and certainly don't assume it applies to them. But in many ways it does. If you break down the meaning of enlightenment, every Eastern tradition offers common features despite their differences. To be enlightened means that you possess the following qualities:

- Inner peace
- Silent mind
- Detachment from pain and suffering
- Complete self-awareness
- Bliss consciousness
- Compassion, reverence for life
- Absence of inner conflict
- Expanded sense of self beyond the individual "I"
- Experience of the divine

Different traditions emphasize one aspect over another, but more important is a fact that is often overlooked. Everything on this list is the common inheritance of everyone. We all possess an enlightened self. The only question is how developed that self is. By analogy, homo sapiens has always possessed a higher brain, going back between 200,000 and 50,000 years, but it has taken all that time to use the higher brain for art, music, science, engineering, and mathematics. The raw potential of the higher brain had to develop.

It only seems reasonable to apply the same measure to the qualities of enlightenment. Everyone has had glimpses of feeling blissful or experiencing inner peace. There's a natural tendency to seek a creative outlet, and no one exists who doesn't identify with "I," the sense of self. If you put these diverse experiences together, they all trace back to an en-

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tity we can call the enlightened self.

You might not have considered the fact that you already have more than one self. You have a social self, the face you present to the world and other people. You have a private self, which contains your personal beliefs, habits, likes and dislikes, private thoughts and feelings, and everything else that is intimate about you. You also have an emotional self, a relationship self, an unconscious self, and if you are devout, a spiritual self.

What these various selves indicate is that human beings are multidimensional. Just as the human body can digest a meal, ward off invading bacteria, process visual information, and be pregnant at the same time, the human mind organizes itself on many levels, or dimensions, at once. If a dimension is important enough, a self organizes around it. For a non-believer, there's no interest in having a spiritual self, while for a devout believer, this might be the most important self of all. A recluse has no need for a social self or a relationship self.

The self you favor gives your existence a major source of purpose and

ture adults, instead their behavior remains adolescent or even childish. Sad as that is, countless more people don't experience a deeply loving relationship.

It would be unjust and wrong to deny personal evolution to anyone. As long as the potential is there, it can evolve. Looking around with this in mind, you see that everyone spends their day making choices that lead in an evolutionary direction or not. In the back of our minds, we all say, I want to be happier. I want to be loved. I want success, and so on.

To this should be added, I want to be enlightened. Once you break enlightenment down into the aspects listed above, wanting enlightenment is the same as wanting anything else that you find desirable. It's a source of profound misdirection that the whole concept of enlightenment has been shrouded in notions about renunciation and giving up the world. Enlightenment is actually about gaining more out of life.

Other wrong notions have been thrown into the mix. Enlightenment, contrary to popular belief, isn't exotic, Eastern, religious, or mystical. You aren't required to have a monk's personality or to spend years of controlled discipline. Once you realize that the enlightened self is a dimension that you already participate in, just as you participate in society, relationships, and your private inner world, the goal of enlightenment reveals itself as universal. The evolution of consciousness has been an unbroken thread from prehistory to today. Developing your enlightened self is the next step, whose rewards wait to be discovered one person at a time.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL

ILLUMINATE JOURNEY

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IN-DEPTH

FOCUS IS NOW ON AYURVEDIC MEDICINES

Thanks to the Supreme Court taking Patanjali Ayurved Ltd and its arm, the Divya Pharmacy, to task, focus is now on spurious Ayurvedic medicines which are being sold in the market. In a rare action the Uttar Pradesh government banned about 30 Ayurveda products for being "spurious" and "adulterated". It does not happen often that so many Ayurveda drugs get banned in one go.

Ayurveda being the buzz word of our times, the gullible consumer buys these medicines only in the name of Ayurveda without being aware of the genuineness of the formulation(s). Some of the drugs were found to be allopathic drug compositions and others contained steroid, anti-inflammatory painkiller diclofenac and glimepiride, a medicine for diabetes.

Very few Ayurvedic companies follow standardized research, clinical trials and production methods. Like in spices, it remains doubtful if the herbs and roots used in production are free of chemicals and pesticides. Until there is a proper scientific temper, all Ayurvedic medicines cannot be considered safe.

US UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES UNDER STUDENTS' SIEGE



American university campuses have been turned into battlegrounds between pro-Palestine and pro-Israel protesters, challenging President Joe Biden's "iron clad" support for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The former group wants Israel to be held accountable for its excesses in Gaza, a stop to Israel's ground offensive in Palestine and return of Jewish endowments by the universities. The pro-Israel faction says that the protests have turned anti-Semitic and threatening for Jews. Only Brown University has agreed to discuss divestment of Israeli funds.

Chants of free Palestine and Allah-o-Akbar by protesters could be heard as police tried to uproot the encampment. Riot police moved in to oust protesters occupying the Hamilton Hall after clearing the strong impediments with great effort. President Biden has said that there is freedom of expression and students have the right to protest. But the students are taking their freedom to disrupt academic life on campuses which have witnessed quite a few protests, including those against the Vietnam War and apartheid in South Africa. The first of these protests was in 1968 against the Vietnam War when hundreds of students staged demonstrations.

In Palestine, Israel persists in its offensive in Rafah despite reports of civilian casualties, including children. Children's deaths are seen as collateral damage in Israel's retaliation against Hamas. Amid the devastation, American diplomat Anthony Blinken endeavors to broker peace. However, with both Israel and Hamas insisting on their own terms for peace, uncertainty looms large. Netanyahu has made it clear that the Rafah offensive will continue. Hamas wants a complete ceasefire as a precondition. Neither side is ready to blink.

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TOP TWEETS

X A well documented and pointed response to the @INCIndia. Collating all Congress' past actions, their current public statements and then also drawing on their Manifesto (intent) @ amitmalviya calls out Congress' vote bank/appeasement politics.

Nirmala Sitharaman (Modi Ka Parivar) @nsitharaman

X Jai Avasan Mai. Participated in the festival of faith 'Durduriya' organised by local mothers and sisters in Mangarouli, Shukul Bazaar in Amethi Lok Sabha constituency and worshipped Avasan Maiya. I pray that the blessings of Avasan Mai remain on all the people of Amethi.

Smriti Z Irani (Modi Ka Parivar) @smritiirani

SPIRITUAL SPEAK

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

BIBLE



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Cong is dying and Pakistan is crying, says Modi in Guj

First India Bureau
Anand

At a largely-attended rally here on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a swipe at the Congress party, accusing them of failing to uphold the Constitution and drawing parallels between their decline and Pakistan's woes.

PM Modi highlighted the diminishing strength of the Congress in India while humorously noting Pakistan's apparent concern over it. He criticized the Congress for allegedly prioritizing division over unity and claimed credit for efforts towards national integration, particularly through the abrogation of Article 370.

Emphasising his commitment to fulfilling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision, Modi contrasted his administration's focus on nation-building with what he termed as the Congress' history of constitutional neglect. He spoke about achievements under his government, contrasting them with what he portrayed as decades of Congress mismanagement, citing examples like



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by BJP leaders and workers during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Surendranagar, Gujarat on Thursday. PTI

Look at the coincidence, today Congress is getting weaker in India. The funny thing is that here Congress is dying and there Pakistan is crying. Now Pakistani leaders are praying for Congress.

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

banking reforms, sanitation initiatives, and water supply improvements.

Modi rallied support for his government ahead of

the upcoming elections, highlighting Gujarat's significance in his political journey and urging voters to continue their endorse-

ment of the BJP's agenda for national development. He also mentioned the uncontested victory of the BJP in one Gujarat Lok Sabha seat due to the rejection of the Congress' nomination, underscoring what he portrayed as a lack of competition from the Opposition.

PM JABS I.N.D.I.A. BLOC OVER ALAM'S VOTE JIHAD APPEAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fresh attack against the Opposition coalition, I.N.D.I. alliance accusing them of "dangerous intentions" referring to an appeal for 'vote jihad' allegedly by Congress leader Salman Khurshid's niece and Samajwadi Party leader Maria Alam Khan. "A leader from the I.N.D.I. alliance has exposed their strategy in front of the country. The INDI alliance has asked Muslims to go for Vote Jihad. This has come from an educated family, not from a child coming out of a Madrasa. I.N.D.I. alliance is saying that all Muslims should get together and vote," PM Modi said. Salman Khurshid and Samajwadi Party leader Maria Alam Khan were booked for the latter's alleged speech during a public rally in Uttar Pradesh's Kayamganj on April 30. As per the FIR, Maria Alam Khan allegedly asked the minority community to go for "vote jihad".



Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah with other party leaders during a public meeting for Lok Sabha elections, in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh on Thursday. PTI

'Congress Dhundo Yatra' after June 4: Amit Shah

First India Bureau
Bareilly

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today attacked Rahul Gandhi, saying he started his party's campaign with 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' that will end with a 'Congress Dhundo Yatra,' suggesting that the party will get a severe drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing an election rally in UP's Bareilly, Amit Shah said that Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and SP's Akhilesh Yadav did not attend the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya fearing

LALU'S RJD STANDS FOR 'RISHWATKHOR JUNGLERAJ DAL': NADDA

Araria: Launching a frontal attack on the RJD, which is an alliance partner of the I.N.D.I.A. bloc in Bihar, BJP chief JP Nadda on Thursday said the party led by Lalu Prasad stands for 'Rishwatkhori Jungleraj Dal'. Araria will go to polls in the third phase on May 7.

CONG FOOLING PEOPLE OVER RELIGION-BASED QUOTA: RAJNATH SINGH

Chhapra: Hitting out at the Congress, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that it is "fooling" people in the name of religion-based reservation, as there is "no provision for it" in the Constitution. He addressed two rallies in Saran and Supaul constituencies in Bihar.

this may alienate their vote bank.

Shah said that this election is for ending terrorism and Maoist extremism and making India the third major economy globally.

Amit Shah hit out at

the I.N.D.I.A. bloc partner Samajwadi Party, saying it indulges in dynastic politics for its president Akhilesh Yadav has given tickets to five members of his family in the current election.

We support ECI on Anantnag-Rajouri LS seat, says Azad

Agencies
Jammu

Ghulam Nabi Azad, chairman of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) said on Thursday that the decision of the Election Commission of India (ECI) to postpone polls in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency has come as a relief to several political parties.

The ECI postponed the polling date from May 7 to May 25 in the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency.

Azad is on a poll campaign in Rajouri for his party candidate, Mohd Saleem who is contesting from the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat against



Mian Altaf Ahmad of NC, Mehbooba Mufti of PDP and Zafar Iqbal Manhas of J&K Apni Party.

The Congress is supporting the NC while BJP and People's Conference are supporting the Apni Party candidate. Justifying the ECI decision to postpone the poll dates in the constituency, Azad said that it took him three days to reach Rajouri through Jammu and another three days to return.

"It is I.N.D.I.A. bloc against I.N.D.I.A. bloc": Poonawala

ANI
New Delhi

Taking a dig at the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, BJP's national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said that the alliance is fighting among itself and that the alliance is filled with confusion and lacks any mission or vision.

Speaking to ANI, Poonawala said, "Everywhere in the country, from north to south and from east to west, the I.N.D.I. alliance is fighting against the I.N.D.I. alliance. Omar vs Mehbooba, Congress vs Left in Kerala, Congress vs TMC in Bengal. In Punjab, it's AAP Vs Congress, even though they have formed an alliance."

Yogi Adityanath slams Kharge's remark on Lord Ram and Shiva

Agencies
Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, slammed Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for his statement on Lord Ram and Shiva and said that the Congress party is now resorting to insulting the beliefs of the Hindu community to vent its frustration over impending defeat in the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

Yogi Adityanath said that in the Sanatan Dharma, Lord Ram and Lord Shiva hold great reverence. He pointed out that in the epic Ramcharitmanas, there are instances where Lord Ram worships Lord Shiva and vice versa, illustrating



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and BJP Leader Yogi Adityanath addresses a rally for Lok Sabha polls, in Sangli. FILE

their mutual respect and complementarity.

The UP chief minister condemned the attempt to pit Lord Ram against Lord Shiva in speeches of Congress leaders.

He remarked the Congress president's recent derogatory remarks are a "new beginning of the party's downfall."

KHARGE WRITES AGAIN TO MODI ON CONG'S MANIFESTO

New Delhi: Reiterating the promises made by the Congress party in its public declaration for Lok Sabha elections 2024, Congress Party president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday wrote a letter, challenging PM Narendra Modi and the BJP for a debate on the party's manifesto. Kharge referred to the letter written by PM Narendra Modi candidates ahead of the third phase of voting, asking them to raise awareness about Congress' 'divisive' agenda.

Stop registering voters for beneficiary schemes: ECI

PTI
New Delhi

The Election Commission on Thursday said it has taken a "serious view" of political parties and candidates seeking details of voters under the guise of various surveys for their proposed beneficiary schemes as it amounts to a corrupt practice under election law.

The EC noted that some political parties and candidates have been engaging in activities that blur the lines between legitimate surveys and partisan efforts to register individuals for post-election beneficiary-oriented schemes. The EC issued an advisory to all national and state political parties.

NOMINATION FILING ON THURSDAY

Pradhan, Rudy, Naveen Jindal, Chirag, Omar others file nominations. Several leaders filed their nomination papers for the Lok Sabha elections from different constituencies across the country on Thursday.



Union Minister and BJP candidate from Sambalpur Dharmendra Pradhan with others before filing nomination, in Sambalpur.



BJP candidate from Saran constituency Rajiv Pratap Rudy files his nomination papers for Lok Sabha elections, in Saran, Bihar.



J&K National Conference (JKNC) candidate from Baramulla Omar Abdullah on his way to file his nomination papers.



BJP candidate from Kurukshetra constituency Naveen Jindal files his nomination for the Lok Sabha polls, in Kurukshetra.



Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief and NDA candidate from Hajipur Chirag Paswan with his mother before filing his nomination for the Lok Sabha polls, in Patna, on Thursday.

FI TOON



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RAMA BABU GUNTURI

India hopes Palestine's bid as UN's full member is reconsidered

Agencies

New Delhi/New York

Amid the ongoing Gaza conflict and days after the US' veto, India has voiced hope that Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations will be reconsidered and be endorsed by the other members.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj said in a statement in the UN General Assembly on the Use of Veto: "While we have noted that Palestine's application for membership at the United Nations was not approved by the Security Council because of the aforesaid veto, I would like to state here at the very outset that in keeping with India's long-standing position, we hope that this would be reconsidered in due course and that Palestine's endeavour to become a member of the United Nations will get endorsed."



Protesters are detained at a pro-Palestinian protest encampment at the University of California Los Angeles, as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, in Los Angeles, on Thursday.

CALIFORNIA POLICE DISMANTLE PRO-PALESTINIAN PROTEST CAMP AT UCLA

Los Angeles: Hundreds of helmeted police muscled their way into a central plaza of the University of California at Los Angeles early on Thursday to dismantle a pro-Palestinian protest camp attacked the previous night by pro-Israel supporters. The pre-dawn police crackdown at UCLA marked the latest flashpoint for mounting tensions on US college campuses, where protests over Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza have led to student clashes with each other and law enforcement. TV footage showed about six protesters under arrest, kneeling on the ground, their hands bound behind their backs with zip-ties. Dozens of loud explosions were heard during the clash on flash-bang charges, or stun grenades, fired by police. Demonstrators, some carrying makeshift shields and umbrellas, sought to block the officers' advance by their sheer numbers, shouting, "push them back" and flashing bright lights in the eyes of police.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Rebuilding homes in the Gaza Strip could drag into the next century if the pace follows the trend of previous conflicts, as per a UN report released on Thursday.
- Nearly seven months of Israeli bombardment have caused billions of dollars in damage, leaving many of the crowded strip's high-rise concrete buildings reduced to heaps, with a UN official referring to a "moon-landscape" of destruction.
- shows that around 80,000 homes have been destroyed in a conflict triggered by Hamas fighters' deadly attacks on southern Israel on Oct. 7. Israeli strikes have killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.
- The assessment, released by the UN Development Programme, said Gaza needs "approximately 80 years to restore all the fully destroyed housing units".

IMD predicts heatwave in many states, rainfall in Northeastern region



An extreme heatwave is announced when the temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and 6.5 degrees above normal.

First India Bureau

New Delhi

On Thursday, the IMD issued a warning that several states, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, and Gangetic West Bengal were experiencing heatwave conditions. While the IMD has given a 'red' alert for West Bengal and coastal Andhra Pradesh, an 'orange' alert has been issued for Bihar, Telangana, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Odisha.

Notably, a heatwave is announced when the maximum temperature is more than 40 degrees Celsius

and 4.5 degrees above normal. In the meantime, an extreme heatwave is announced when the temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and 6.5 degrees above normal.

The IMD has given an 'orange' alert for rain in eight states i.e. Meghalaya, Sikkim, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.

As indicated by the weather office, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura will probably observe severe rains in the days to come.

CRUCIAL READ

Sisodia seeks bail from HC in Delhi Excise Policy case

New Delhi: AAP leader Manish Sisodia moved the Delhi High Court on Thursday challenging the trial court order refusing him bail in the excise policy case being investigated by the ED and CBI. Advocates Rajat Bharadwaj and Mohd Irshad mentioned the matter before the bench led by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and requested for urgent listing of the matter.

India's mfg PMI dips to 58.8 in April from 59.1 in March

Bengaluru: Growth in India's manufacturing sector slowed marginally in April but remained robust thanks to strong demand, prompting firms to ramp up purchases of raw materials at a near-record pace, a business survey showed on Thursday. Asia's third-largest economy is the fastest growing among major peers and strong consumption is needed to keep up the pace.

India widens probe amid concerns over spices contamination

First India Bureau

Hyderabad

India's food safety regulator said on Thursday it had ordered testing and inspections at all companies making spice mixes, widening an investigation into the sector as global regulators look into suspected contamination in two popular local brands.

Hong Kong last month suspended sales of three spice blends made by India's MDH and an Everest spice mix for fish curry. Singapore ordered a recall of the same Everest mix as well, flagging high levels of ethylene oxide, which is unfit for human consumption and a cancer risk with long

exposure.

MDH and Everest products are hugely popular in India and also sold in Europe, Asia and North America, and the companies have said they are safe. Still, U.S. and Australian food authorities said they are gathering more information on the matter, and India had already ordered testing of the two brands' products.

The Indian regulator has now ordered officials to conduct "extensive inspections, sampling and testing at all the manufacturing units", for powdered spices, with a focus on those making curry powders and mixed spice blends for local and foreign sales.



Russian missiles hit Ukraine's Odesa third time in a week

Agencies

Kyiv

Russia struck the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa with ballistic missiles in a nighttime attack, injuring 14 people and starting a massive blaze, local officials and emergency services said.

The third attack on the city in a week hit a sorting depot belonging to

Ukraine's biggest private delivery company, Nova Poshta. No staff were injured, the company said, but the strike started a major fire.

Earkuer on Monday, six people were killed in a Russian missile strike on Odesa, and two days later three people died there when the Kremlin's forces targeted civilian infrastructure.



'Xenophobia' behind India and China's economic troubles: Biden

Agencies

New York

Arguing that immigrants have made the United States stronger, President Joe Biden Wednesday said that xenophobia from India, China, Russia and Japan has stalled their economic growth, media reported.

"Why is China stalling so badly economically, why is Japan having trouble, why is Russia, why is India, because they are xenophobic. They don't want immigrants. Immigrants are what makes us strong," Biden remarked. The US President was



speaking at a Washington fundraising event for his 2024 re-election campaign, which also marked the start of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. "One of the reasons why our economy is growing is because of you

and many others. Why? Because we welcome immigrants," he said.

Biden, who is up against Republican candidate and former president Donald Trump in the presidential race, has often criticised his rival for his "anti-immigrant" rhetoric.

Delhi L-G sacks 223 women's panel staffers

Agencies

New Delhi

In a major crackdown, Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has removed 223 employees of the capital's women commission. AAP MP Swati Maliwal, it is alleged, made the appointments during her term as chairperson of Delhi Commission for Women in violation of the rules.

Maliwal has slammed the Lt Governor's order, saying that the women's commission will shut down if all contractual staff are removed. She has said the panel has a



total of 90 staff members now. Out of them, 8 are from the government and the remaining are on three-month contracts. "Why are they doing this? This organisation has been nourished with blood and sweat." Darling the Lt Governor to put her in jail, she added, "I will not let the women commission shut down. Put me in jail, but don't torture women."

Bank robbed by armed men in Manipur's district

Imphal: A bank was robbed in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Thursday. The incident happened at SBI's Salbung branch in the Tuibong area around 2 pm, the officials said. Preliminary information suggests that around Rs 20 lakh in cash was robbed by four armed men, who are yet to be identified, they added. An investigation was underway, officials said. Following the robbery, the armed men who were wearing masks and helmets fled towards Kangvai, eyewitnesses told the police.

Life term for 4 persons in Bihar murder case

Patna: A sessions court in Bihar awarded rigorous life imprisonment to four youth in connection with a murder case and slapped a fine of Rs 15,000 against each of the convicts. The convicts are Rahul Kumar of Jakkanpur police station area of Patna and Bhawani Tiwari, Satish Kumar alias Sangram and Deepak Kumar alias Chotu of Kadamkuan police station area.

ADANI MEETS UK ENVOY

"Fascinating to learn about wide set of topics"

First India Bureau

New Delhi

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani today met the British High Commissioner to India, Lindy Cameron, and said he was fascinated to "learn about a wide set of topics ranging from her tenure across the world."

"An honour to meet and hear from Her Excellency Lindy Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India. Fascinating to learn about a wide set of topics ranging



Gautam Adani with British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron. (R) The Adani Green Energy Gallery' inaugurated in London in March.

from her tenure across the world, including Iraq and Afghanistan, to cybersecurity, the future of nuclear and so much more," Adani said on X.

"We wish her the best in her pivotal role to continue to enhance India-UK relations," he added.

Lindy Cameron was appointed the new British



High Commissioner to India last month, replacing Alex Ellis.

In an official post on X, Lindy Cameron expressed her "immense

pride" at being appointed as the next British High Commissioner to India and extended gratitude to Alex Ellis.

The India-UK rela-

tionship was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the India-UK virtual summit between PM Modi and then-PM Boris Johnson in May 2021.

In March, the 'Energy Revolution: The Adani Green Energy Gallery' was inaugurated at the Science Museum in London.

The gallery shows how the past, present and future are shaped by human imagination and innovation and explores how we all have a role to play in deciding our energy future.

Dubai hit by heavy rain again, flights affected

Agencies

Dubai

Days after the United Arab Emirates witnessed severe flooding in April, heavy rain and thunderstorms hit Abu Dhabi and Dubai early on Thursday, leading to flight cancellations and suspension of bus services in Dubai.

Five inbound flights to Dubai were diverted overnight, while nine arrivals and four outbound flights were cancelled. Several flights by the Emirates were also cancelled, media reports said. Local media reports



said Dubai residents woke up to strong winds, thunder and lightning at around 3 am on Thursday.

Nearly an hour later, the country's weather department issued an amber alert indicating that rain-bearing clouds had covered most parts of the country.

INDIA KA TYOHAR



IPL Match 50 Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Rajasthan Royals by 1 run on last ball

SRH break Royals' four-match winning streak with last-ball win

First India Bureau
Hyderabad

SunRisers Hyderabad edged past Rajasthan Royals by one-run at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday.

Nitish Reddy and Travis Head produced explosive fifties to power Sunrisers Hyderabad to a competitive 201 for three. SRH opener Head made full use of an early reprieve by slamming his fourth fifty of the season with a 44-ball 58, while Nitish (76 not out in 42 balls) hit his second half-century en route a 96-run stand off 57 balls for the third wicket.

Nitish and Heinrich Klassen (42 not out off 19) added another 70 off 32 balls to take SRH across the 200-mark for the fifth time. After a solid partnership between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rryan Parag, RR have conceded their dominance in the chase of 202 runs.



RR batter Yashasvi Jaiswal celebrates his half century.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's players celebrate during the match against Rajasthan Royals in the IPL in Hyderabad on Thursday.



Rajasthan Royals' players celebrate a wicket during the IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL in Hyderabad on Thursday. (R) SRH batter Travis Head celebrates his half century.

TRAVIS HEAD SMASHES HIS THIRD FIFTY IN IPL

Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Travis Head has slammed a 58-run knock versus Rajasthan Royals in Match 50 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season on Thursday. Head, who was dropped early on, got to a crucial half-century. His knock consisted of three fours and three sixes. The Australian opener has been sensational in the IPL 2024 season. Head and Abhishek Sharma added 25 runs for the opening wicket. Thereafter, SRH lost Anmolpreet Singh cheaply to be reduced to 35/2. SRH managed 37/2 in their powerplay with Head unbeaten on 17 from 17 balls. Head targeted Yuzvendra Chahal after the powerplay and got the desired boundaries. SRH picked up pace as Head got to his fifty from 37 balls. Playing his 119th T20 match (115 innings), Head has neared the 3,000-run mark (2,992). His averages near 30 and his strike-rate reads 140-plus. Head slammed his 13th T20 fifty (100s: 2) in the IPL 2024.

India T20 World Cup Squad Press Conference

No discussion regarding Kohli's strike-rate: Ajit



Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma and BCCI Chief selector Ajit Agarkar address a press conference in Mumbai, on Thursday.

First India Bureau
Mumbai

Virat Kohli's vast experience is worth its weight in gold in an event like the T20 World Cup and the selection committee never discussed about his strike-rate in the ongoing IPL, chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar said on Thursday.

Kohli has so far scored 500 runs in 10 innings with a hundred and four half-centuries. But what has been questioned is a strike-rate of 147 plus after opening the innings, which is less compared to some of the overseas openers like Travis Head (194 plus), Phil Salt (180

ROHIT, CHIEF SELECTOR EXPLAIN RATIONALE BEHIND T20 WORLD CUP SQUAD SELECTION

Mumbai: Skipper Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar explained that the choices were made due to combinations that the team wanted. Rohit Sharma and Ajit Agarkar answered queries about Rinku Singh not being part of the 15-member squad and the omission of Shubhan Gill. Calling it one of the "toughest decisions" the selectors had to make, Agarkar said the two players had done "nothing wrong" and the choice dictated by the desired team combinations. "It [Rinku Singh's omission from the first 15] is probably the toughest thing we have had to discuss," Agarkar said. "There are a couple of wrist spinners included to give Rohit more options. It's just unfortunate," Agarkar said.

plus) and Sunil Narine (182 plus). "I don't think we've been discussing it. He's been in great form, fortunately in the IPL so no concerns there at all. With regards to how it's going in the IPL, you're still going to a World Cup, still international cricket — there is still that gap there," Agarkar said.

ROYALS REIGN SUPREME WITH A BLEND OF TALENT, STRATEGY, LEADERSHIP IN IPL-24

In a nail biting last ball thriller, table toppers Rajasthan Royals have finally lost their second match of the IPL season against Sunrisers Hyderabad by 1 run. Chasing a huge 202, RR were jolted right at the beginning losing Buttler and Samson with just 1 run on board. Despite a brilliant century partnership between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rryan Parag, Royals lost string of wickets at the end. But nevertheless they have had a brilliant season till now and look poised to enter the playoffs with 8 wins out of 10 games



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma with Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Ranjit Barthakur, Rajeev Khanna, Kumar Sangakkara, Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler and other Rajasthan Royals team players.

Siddharth Mahan
Jaipur

The Rajasthan Royals have emerged as the undisputed leaders of the IPL 2024 season so far, showcasing a blend of talent and leadership that has catapulted them to the top of the table. With the recent inclusion of three key members, skipper Sanju Samson, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and leggie Yuzvendra Chahal, in the Team India squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, the Royals' dominance on the field is undeniable. Rajasthan Royals are

virtually through to the playoffs already. They have played consistent cricket and have now a chance to topple their own record of most wins in a season. In 2008, when they won the inaugural IPL, RR had won 11 of the 14 group matches. At the moment, the gap between the Royals and the rest is quite obvious and impressive. Their success can be attributed to their diverse squad composition, combining seasoned pros like Sanju Samson, Jos Buttler, Trent Boult, and Ravichandran Ashwin with energetic young talents such as Rryan



Rajasthan Royals' fans cheer during the IPL match at the SMS Stadium in Jaipur.

Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Avesh Khan. This blend of experience and youth has provided them with the resilience to bounce back from tough situations, evident in their ability to consistently turn matches in their favour. Captaincy plays a crucial role, with Samson

leading by example, both with the bat and in setting high standards for the team. His leadership on the field has been instrumental in guiding the Royals to numerous victories. Behind the scenes, the Rajasthan Royals benefit from a well-structured support system. Kumar Sangakkara's role as a mentor and the Head Coach brings invaluable experience and guidance to the team.

With a settled squad and a winning mentality, they are not just contenders but serious title challengers. As they march forward in pursuit of IPL glory, the Rajasthan Royals epitomize the essence of team spirit and determination, poised for a triumphant campaign.

MEN BEHIND THE SCENES FOR RAJASTHAN ROYALS



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with (R-L) Chairman Ranjit Barthakur and owner of Rajasthan Royals Manoj Badale.

Vision Behind Rajasthan Royals: Ranjit Barthakur

Ranjit Barthakur, the esteemed chairman of Rajasthan Royals, exemplifies the dedication and vision driving the franchise's success. Behind the scenes, Barthakur handles everything from team selection to marketing and business support. He is one of the key reasons why Rajasthan Royals possess the best bowling attack in the IPL currently. After the 2022 IPL auction, Barthakur had shed light on Rajasthan's unique approach, emphasizing the significance of data-driven analysis and how it helped the Royals gain deeper insights into player performance. He underlined the pivotal role of bowling in determining match outcomes, leading them to prioritize the formation of a formidable bowling attack.

Architect of Rajasthan Royals: Rajeev Khanna

Rajeev Khanna's illustrious career in the IPL spans over a decade, marked by his instrumental roles in shaping the management landscape of cricket franchises. From his tenure as the COO of Punjab Kings to his current position as Vice-President of Rajasthan Royals, Khanna has been a driving force behind the scenes. His adept administrative skills have steered Rajasthan Royals towards professionalism and excellence. Khanna's commitment to enhancing sports management standards has left an indelible mark on the league, underscoring his invaluable contribution to the success of Rajasthan Royals and the broader cricketing ecosystem.



FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Can anyone see the actual real truth, which is only visible beyond the prism of perspective and belief?
Dr JACDEESH CHANDRA, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

LOK SABHA POLLS 2024

8 Congress & BJP candidates couldn't vote for themselves

- Both candidates on Rajsamand seat couldn't garner votes from their own families or neighbours
- Vaibhav Gehlot & Sangeeta Beniwal's names included in voter list of Jodhpur LS seat; Bhupender Yadav's name in voter list of Haryana LS seat

Pankaj Soni

Jaipur

This time in the Lok Sabha battle of Rajasthan, there were eight candidates from both BJP and Congress who could not cast their own vote. In Rajsamand seat, both Congress and BJP candidates could neither garner their own or the vote of their families. The reason was that the name of that candidate was not in the voter list of the seat from which he/she was contesting. These in-



Exclusive

cluded Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, who contested the elections on BJP ticket, Vaibhav Gehlot, son of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Assembly Speaker Dr CP Joshi. The electoral history of Rajasthan is witness to the fact that elections here have been won or lost by one vote. CP Joshi himself had lost the

 Bhupender Yadav, BJP LS Seat Alwar Voter From Pataudi, Gurugram	 Dr CP Joshi, Congress LS Seat Bhilwara Voter From Nathdwara, Rajsamand
 SS Jaunapur, BJP LS Seat Tonk, Sawai Madhopur Voter From Sohna, Gurugram	 Vaibhav Gehlot, Congress LS Seat Jalore-Sarohi Voter From Sardarpura, Jodhpur
 Mahima Singh, BJP LS Seat Rajsamand Voter From Udaipur City	 Damodar Gurjar, Congress LS Seat Rajsamand Voter From Sanganer, Jaipur
 Priyanka Balan, BJP LS Seat Ganganagar Voter From Bikaner	 Sangeeta Beniwal, Congress LS Seat Pali Voter From Jodhpur City

MLA election from Nathdwara in 2008 by one vote. At the same time, in the history of the country's Lok Sabha elections, there has been victory and defeat by even nine votes.

Whenever there is talk

of winning with the least number of votes, the name of BJP's Som Marandi comes first. In fact, Som Marandi holds the record of winning with the least number of votes since 1998. Marandi had won from Rajmahal par-

liamentary constituency of Bihar by just 9 votes. Apart from this, in the 1989 general elections, Konthala Ramakrishna of Congress also won from Anakapalle parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh by 9 votes.

Ajmer: Turnout surges at Nandsi polling booth no. 195



A voter submits his mobile phone before casting his vote at a polling booth in village Nandsi of Masuda assembly constituency in Ajmer district on Thursday.

Shubham Jain

Ajmer

In LSpolls (Re-polling) 2024, 68.66% voting occurred at Nandsi polling station 195, Ajmer LS constituency. Re-polling, as per ECI directives, took place at Govt Higher Sec School, Nandsi in Masuda assembly seat. The villagers participated enthusi-

astically in this and out of 753 registered voters in the polling booth, 517 voters voted, Chief Electoral Officer Praveen Gupta said. Election Officer, Dr Bharti Dixit, with SP Ajmer, Devendra Vishnoi and SP Kekri, Vineet Kumar, inspected polling that witnessed increased turnout as compared to April 26.

Congress strong on 8-11 seats, reveals survey

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Raj Congress' internal survey post-polls reveals strategic focus on securing 8 to 11 seats, strengthening positions in key constituencies like Churu, Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Nagaur, Dausa, Bharatpur, Karauli, Tonk, and Kota. Barmer and Banswara constituencies seen as Congress strongholds. However, concerns arise over the overconfidence displayed by three Congress candidates. One candidate got LS ticket for the first time, has demonstrated a lack of initiative, one candidate even failed to open a constituency office. The candidate's weak booth management has been linked to funding neglect.

Assembly Speaker suspends employee for embezzlement

First India Bureau

Jaipur

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani suspended Nitin Sharma, a Class IV employee, following a preliminary investigation into misconduct. Sharma faces allegations of embezzlement from individuals seeking employment in Assembly and other agencies. Devnani initiated a probe, re-



Vasudev Devnani enquires about the health of Kanhaiya Lal Choudhary during his visit to the latter's residence in Jaipur on Thursday.

sulting in Sharma's suspension due to substantial evidence of financial malpractice. Principal Secretary MP Sharma, under Rule 13 of Rajasthan Civil Service Rules 1958, issued the suspension order. Sharma's headquarters during suspension will be the Rajasthan Assembly Secretariat, Jaipur. Charges against Sharma include embezzling lakhs and fraudulent activities.

Employees' Union urges 4-day work week with WFH

First India Bureau

Jaipur

After discussions regarding a six-day workweek, there are now talks of implementing a four-day workweek with one day of remote work in the government sector.

Sitaram Chaudhary, the President of Secretariat Employees' Union, has submitted a memorandum to the CM stating that some countries have a provision for a four-day workweek. In such a scenario, he suggests implementing a system, where employees work four days in office & one day remotely from home in govt offices. This change would benefit the state govt in terms of revenue & enhance employees' productivity.

'Modi's criticism boosts Cong's manifesto success'

Dinesh Dangi

Ahmedabad

The political battle over the Lok Sabha elections rages on, escalating daily as party leaders trade verbal blows. On Thursday, former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot launched another fierce attack on the BJP and PM Modi. Speaking to the media before departing for Gujarat, Gehlot criticised the Prime Minis-



Ashok Gehlot being extended a warm welcome by the local Congress leaders at Ahmedabad Airport on Thursday.

ter's recent statements, calling them bizarre. "He says that if you have two buffaloes, Congress will take one. There's no merit in such remarks," Gehlot said. "Why does Modi feel the need to assure that reservation won't end? His criticism actually boosted Cong's manifesto popularity, leading to increased downloads, he added. He called for action on the Karnataka sex scandal.

16 Raj cadre IAS officers on poll duty; additional roles assigned to others

First India Bureau

Jaipur

16 IAS officers of the Rajasthan cadre have been summoned for election duty, with officials of Principal Secretary and Secretary ranks assigned to discharge their responsibilities. Among them are Principal Secretary Vaibhav Galaria, Naveen Jain, Jogaram, Ashutosh Pednekar, Doctor Prithvi, PC Kishan, Director of Public Services - Hari-mohan Meena, Special Secretary of Food - Rajendra Vijay, Colonization Commissioner - Pradeep Keshav, RIICO MD - Nakate Shivprasad, Disability Commissioner - H Guite, LSG Director - Suresh Ola, Secondary Education Director - Ashish Modi, Elementary Education Director - Sitaram Jat, Deputy Chief Protocol Officer - Kishore Kumar engaged in election duty.

Meanwhile, the DoP has also assigned additional responsibilities to 16 IAS officers on election duty, while two IAS officers have been given additional responsibilities in place of IAS Alok, who is on leave.

The additional charges of Principal Secretary, Agriculture and other posts of IAS Vaibhav Galaria will go to the Chief Secretary's office through the Collector. Weak performance may lead to officer accountability at CS's office, where responsibilities will be determined.

tary Bhavani Singh Detha; addl charge of Rural Development Secy Ashutosh given to IAS Ravi Jain, that of Labour Secy handled by Dr Prithviraj and PC Kishan has been given to Vikas Sitaram Bhale; while IAS BS Detha has been given addl charge of the post of ARD Secretary of Rajan Vishal and IAS Apama Arora has been given additional charge of Rajan Vishal's post of Minority Affairs Secretary. Furthermore, IAS Aparna Arora has been given additional charge of TAD Secretary, which was handled by Dr Jogaram. While IAS OP Bairwa has been given additional charge of the post of Director Public Services held by Hari-mohan. Similarly, IAS Vishwamohan Sharma has been given additional charge of Food Special Secretary held by Rajendra Vijay; IAS Vandana Singhvi given the charge of Pradeep's post; IAS Ghanendrabhan Chaturvedi given additional charge of T. Guite's post, additional charge of the post of Suresh Ola has been given to RAS Shyam S Shekhawat, additional charge of the post of IAS Ashish Modi and Sitaram Jat given to IAS Avichal Chaturvedi and additional charge of the post of IAS Kishore Kumar has been given to RAS Neetu Rajeshwar.

Courtesy Meeting



Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa greets Governor Kalraj Mishra at Raj Bhavan in Jaipur on Thursday. It was Dr Bairwa's courtesy visit to Governor Mishra.

BUREAUCRACY TALES

CS TIGHTENS REVENUE OVERSIGHT, MONTHLY REPORTING INTRODUCED

Dr Rituraj Sharma

Jaipur

Chief Secretary **Sudhansh Pant** is serious about instructions being followed related to revenue collection. The CS has sought for information from districts till May 5 regarding revenue collection achievement from April 1 to April 30. Additionally, information related to allocated targets will also have to be sent to CS's office.

The Excise, transport, mines, registration-stamp and commercial taxes departments have been allocated targets and information about revenue collection achievements will have to be given to CS and CS has specified that there should be no double counting in the data of new districts and their associated ancestral districts. Pant has advised to take precautions regarding this.

Therefore, for this, information about targets



and achievements should be sent in coordination. The districts have been asked that information should be sent from collector level instead of district level offices and other agencies. Furthermore, instructions have been is-

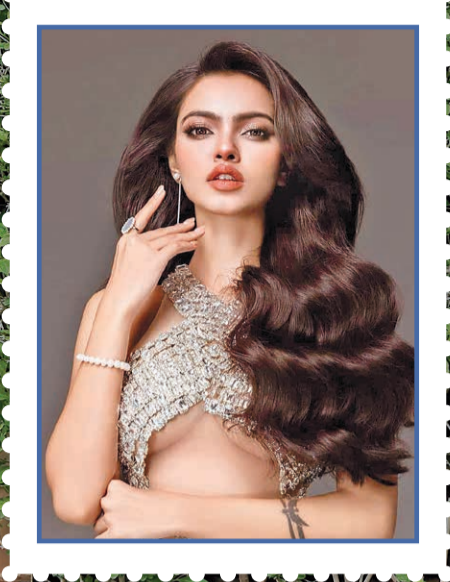


City First

JAIPUR, FRIDAY | MAY 3, 2024



A SYMPHONY OF VOICES!
Bharatpur was filled with melodious tunes as Super Singer+ Rajasthan, an initiative by First India Plus, conducted its auditions at Surya Vilas Palace on Thursday. **P11**



MUKESH KIRADOO

The Pulse of Purpose!

Discover the extraordinary journey of Priyan Sain with City First, from a tomboy in Sikar to Miss Earth India 2023, blending her roles as a medical student, model and advocate for holistic well-being!

Met Priyan Sain, the embodiment of grace, resilience, and ambition. Hailing from Sikar, a quaint town near Jaipur, Priyan's journey epitomizes the triumph of the human spirit. Raised by her mother, Sunita Sain, a beacon of strength and support, Priyan imbibed qualities of boldness, confidence, and fearlessness from a tender age.



Mitali Dusad

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

Transitioning from a tomboy to a multifaceted individual, Priyan's metamorphosis began when she embarked on a quest for self-discovery. Fate led her to the

world of pageantry, where she surprised herself by clinching the title of Miss Rajasthan 2022 1st Runner-Up. Guided by the nurturing hands of Miss Rajasthan Founders & Directors Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra, her pageant mentors, Priyan blossomed into Miss Earth India 2023, representing her nation on a global stage with unparalleled grace and eloquence.

Balancing her pursuits in the medical realm, Priyan remains indebted to her college principal, Dr Sangeeta

Saxena, and her teachers, who unwaveringly supported her academic endeavors. Amidst the rigors of MBBS, Priyan found solace in her friends and family, whose unwavering encouragement propelled her forward.

Priyan's advocacy for holistic well-being echoes in her mantra: "The time to be happy is now, and the place to be happy is here." Rooted in her passion for health, both environmental and human, Priyan envisions a future where she seamlessly integrates her roles as a model, actress, and doctor, leaving an indelible mark on society. With a steadfast commitment to making a difference, Priyan Sain emerges as a beacon of hope, embodying the ethos of beauty with purpose and substance. As she continues to soar to greater heights, her journey serves as an inspiration for generations to come.



Celebrating the Ink of Liberty

City First brings you: Unfurling the Banner of Truth on World Press Freedom Day - Celebrating the Legacy, Embracing the Future!

In the distant echoes of history, where quills danced across parchment and town criers echoed news through cobblestone streets, journalism was a storied affair—a tapestry of truth and triumph woven with ink. From the humble beginnings of handwritten newsletters to the thunderous roar of printing presses, the dissemination of news stood as a cherished duty, a beacon of enlightenment cutting through the darkness of ignorance.

But let us fast forward to the present, where the digital age has ushered in a new era of press freedom, where the ink of liberty flows freely in the vast expanse of cyberspace. World Press Freedom Day stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of journalism, a celebration of the freedom to speak truth to power. It harkens back to a time when brave souls risked life and limb to uncover the truth when the printing press was both a weapon and a shield against tyranny.

Yet, let us not dwell solely on the past, for today, the landscape of media has evolved beyond recognition. With the rise of social media platforms and citizen journalism, the power to report lies not just in the hands of a privileged few but in the pockets of billions. From tweets to TikToks, modern-day journalists harness the power of technology to shine a light on injustice and hold the powerful to account.

Consider the Arab Spring, where social media platforms became the battleground for truth amidst the chaos of revolution. Or reflect on the #Me-Too movement, where survivors found solace and solidarity in the digital sphere, igniting a global conversation on sexual harassment and abuse.

As we celebrate World Press Freedom Day, let us not forget the journalists who risk their lives every day to bring us the news. From war zones to corrupt corridors of power, they stand as guardians of democracy, unwavering in their pursuit of truth.

On this day, let us raise a toast to the ink of liberty, to the journalists past, present, and future, who dare to dream of a world where truth reigns supreme. Happy World Press Freedom Day! In the tapestry of history, journalism has always been a vital thread—a conduit for truth, a voice for the voiceless, and a beacon of hope in times of darkness. From the earliest scrolls of antiquity to the digital age of today, the role of the press in shaping the world cannot be overstated.

The advent of World Press Freedom Day serves as a poignant reminder of the inherent importance of free and independent media. It is a day to celebrate the tireless efforts of journalists around the globe who work tirelessly to uncover the truth, hold the powerful accountable, and shine a light on the darkest corners of society.

The landscape of media has undergone a dramatic transformation. With the rise of social media platforms and citizen journalism, the power to report the news is no longer confined to traditional newsrooms. Instead, it lies in the hands of billions of individuals who can share information instantaneously with the click of a button.

This newfound democratisation of information has had a profound impact on the way news is disseminated and consumed. From viral videos to trending hashtags, social media has become a powerful tool for amplifying marginalised voices, exposing injustices, and catalysing social change.

However, with this newfound freedom comes great responsibility. In an era of fake news and misinformation, it is more important than ever for journalists to adhere to the highest ethical standards and uphold the principles of accuracy, impartiality, and integrity.

On this day, let us recommit ourselves to defending the fundamental right to freedom of expression and supporting the vital work of journalists around the world. Together, let us strive to build a future where the press is truly free to fulfil its essential role as the fourth estate and guardian of democracy.



Mohit Choudhary

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in



INTERESTING FACTS

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 as World Press Freedom Day in 1993.

According to Reporters Without Borders, over 50 journalists were killed in 2020, highlighting the dangers faced by media professionals worldwide.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of a free press in combating misinformation and promoting public health awareness.



Muhammad al-Bishawi, Raffaele Ciriello, Imad Abu Zahra, Issam Tilawi, Nazih Darwazeh, James Miller, Mohamed Abu Halima, Fadel Shana, Basil Nabil Ibrahim Faraj, Hussam Salama, Mahmoud al-Kumi, Hamid Shihab, Khaled Reyadh Hamad, Mohammed Nour al-Din al-Deiri, Rami Rayan, Sameh al-Aryan, Yaser Murtaja, Ahmed Abu Hussein, Yousef Abu Hussein, Shireen Abu Akleh

TUNING INCLUSION!



Ravi Katara, a senior journalist from Bharatpur, played a key role in organizing the successful Super Singer+ Rajasthan Bharatpur Audition, a notable initiative by First India Plus. With his in-depth knowledge of the local culture and community, he fostered an inclusive and lively environment, enabling talented singers from various backgrounds to showcase their skills on stage. Katara's commitment and careful planning were commended by the entire team, ensuring a seamless audition process for 'Super Singer+ Rajasthan' in Bharatpur.

A Symphony of Voices



(L-R) Satyendra Faujdar, Shivdayal Goyal, Chanchal Jindal, Than Singh, Diwan Singh, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Dilip Singh, Deepraj Singh, Jawahar Singh, Ravi Katara, Shweta Mishra, Shailesh Kaushik, Vishal Mathur, PD Sharma, Sanjay Rautwar & Chhabi Faujdar



(L-R) Surendra Singh, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat, Shruti Bhardwaj, Rahul Prakash, Sanwarmal Verma, Ravi Katara, Shweta Mishra, Vishal Mathur and Uday Saini

Shubhanshi Pathak
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Bharatpur was filled with melodious tunes as Super Singer+ Rajasthan, an initiative by First India Plus, conducted its auditions at Surya Vilas Palace on Thursday. The event drew an impressive crowd of forty two talented singers from Bharatpur, all eager to showcase their skills on the grand stage. The distinguished panel of judges, including Veeru Sharma, Mukesh Sharma and K P Katara were astounded by the exceptional performances displayed by the participants. Jawahar Singh Bedham (Home State Minister), Deep Raj Singh (BJP Leader), Shailesh Kaushik (State spokesperson of BJP), Dilip Sinsinwar (Chairman representative of Nadbai Municipality), Thaan Singh Sinsinwar (Social Worker), Shruti Bhardwaj (Collector of Deeg), Surendra Kumar (Additional Chief Engineer, PWD), Deewan Singh (Owner of Hotel Surya Vilas Palace), Adaram (District Excise Officer), Uday Saini (Director of Saini Sweets), Sanwarmal Verma (Regional Commissioner), Rahul Prakash (Bharatpur Range IG) and Santosh Katara were present as Guests of Honour. Among the plethora of talented singers, three standout

performers including Nishu Sharma, Kashish Acharya and Sonu Sharma secured the coveted "Ticket to Jaipur" (Golden Pass), capturing the hearts of the discerning judges. The event was made possible through the generous support of sponsors including Wonder Cement (Powered by), AU Small Finance Bank (Co-Powered by), Jaipur National University (Associate Sponsor), Spring Board Academy (Associate Sponsor), Competishun (Associate Sponsor), JK Masale (Associate Sponsor), Surya Vilas Palace (Hospitality Partner), Modern School Bharatpur (Supported by), Saini Mishthan Bhandar Bharatpur (Supported by), Engine Brand, Since 1959 (Supported by), Motion Bharatpur (Supported by), Dr Kamdaar Eye Hospital (Supported by), Eakia X Orab-Couture House (Supported by), Metta Yoga & Music Centre (Supported by) and Devranjani Music School (Supported by). The seamless execution of the event was attributed to the dedicated efforts of the First India OTT team, led by Jinendra Singh Shekhawat (First India News Editor), Shweta Mishra Awasthi (Associate Editor), Hemant Sharma (Programming Head), Vishal Mathur (Vice President, Marketing), Sanjeev Kumar (Productions Head), Manmeet Singh (Anchor), Sarita Dwivedi &

Alok Dwivedi (Show Mentors), Shruti Anandita Verma (Show Director), Shubhanshi Pathak (Content Head), Ravi Katara (Senior Reporter), Suraj B Goswami (Reality Director), Maanya Varma (Reality Producer), Chhavi Faujdar (Anchor), Vania Singh (Show Stylist), Manish Beniwal & Pratiksha Kanwar (IT Team), Pankaj Punjabi (Event Coordinator), Rahul Meena, Hitesh Saini, Siyaram Meena, Abhishek Inkia, Anil Meena, Ajay Mahwar, Koshal Meena, Yogendra Meena, Hemandra Meena, Vishal Meena, Manish Meena, Sahil Khan, Monty Rajput & Dheeresh Mewara (Team of V Production) and Ram Chandra Singh, Kedar Raghuveer Sharma, Om Prakash Sharma, Rohtash Kumar, Ghanshyam Karol, Sandeep Rawat, Ankit Singh Rathore, Ashmit Yogi and Chittar Khan (Productions Team). As the spotlight now shifts to Dubai on May 11, audiences can expect the magic to continue with more dazzling performances and unforgettable moments. And for those eagerly awaiting their chance to shine, stay tuned for updates on auditions in the USA and Canada.



(L-R) Shruti Anandita Verma, Ravi Katara, Nishu Sharma, Mukesh Sharma, KP Katara, Veeru Sharma, Sonu Sharma, Kashish Acharya and Sarita Dwivedi



Participants during the audition



Thrilled participants during the audition



Jury members: (L-R) Veeru Sharma, KP Katara and Mukesh Sharma



Nishu Sharma



Sonu Sharma



Rampal Jangid



Harsh Tank



Mannu Sharma



Ansh Raj Singh



Kashish Khatri



Varsha Kulshrestha



Jinendra Singh Shekhawat and Ravi Katara greet Santosh Katara

Cardi, Offset Reunite?

Cardi B and Offset's rollercoaster romance takes another surprising turn as they're spotted together at a New York Knicks game, sparking rumours of a rekindled flame. The couple, who famously split last December, have been on-again-off-again, keeping the fans guessing about the status of their relationship. Offset's Instagram stories add fuel to the fire, with a heartwarming video featuring Cardi B, suggesting that love might be in the air once again. But this isn't the first time their relationship has had twists and turns. From public declarations of love to Twitter

rant and cryptic messages, their love saga has kept the gossip mills running at full throttle. Cardi B's unfiltered honesty adds another layer to the saga, with her candid Twitter live chat revealing snippets of their recent rendezvous. Despite shutting down speculation and urging fans to mind their own business, the couple's actions speak louder than words. With a history of secret weddings, cheating scandals, and reconciliations, Cardi B and Offset's love story is nothing short of a Hollywood drama. Whether this latest outing signifies a permanent reunion or just another chapter in their tumultu-



Cardi B

ous relationship, one thing's for sure: fans can't get enough of this power couple's captivating saga.

AKSHAY'S JOLLY TEASE

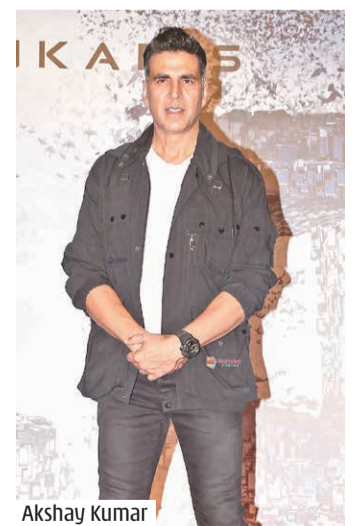
Jolly LLB 3 is gearing up to be the talk of the town as Akshay Kumar drops a hilarious BTS video from the sets, leaving fans in splits! The clip features Akshay alongside Arshad Warsi and Saurabh Shukla, teasing viewers with the age-old question: who's the real Jolly? With their trademark wit and charm, the trio sets the stage for what promises to be another blockbuster instalment. But that's not all! City First spilt the beans on the movie's latest scoop, revealing Arshad Warsi's imminent shoot schedule in Rajasthan. Sources suggest a month-long stint for



Instagram Post

Warsi, hinting at high-octane courtroom drama in the offing. With Saurabh Shukla reprising his role as the judge and a riveting case in the pipeline, Jolly LLB 3 is shaping up to be a rollercoaster ride of legal antics and uproarious laughter.

And let's not forget the franchise's stellar track record! From its inception, Jolly LLB has captivated audiences with its unique blend of satire and social commentary, earning both critical acclaim and box office success. With Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi at



Akshay Kumar

the helm once again, fans can expect nothing short of a cinematic masterpiece. Get ready to witness the courtroom showdown of the century as Jolly LLB 3 takes centre stage!

WEDDING BELLS!



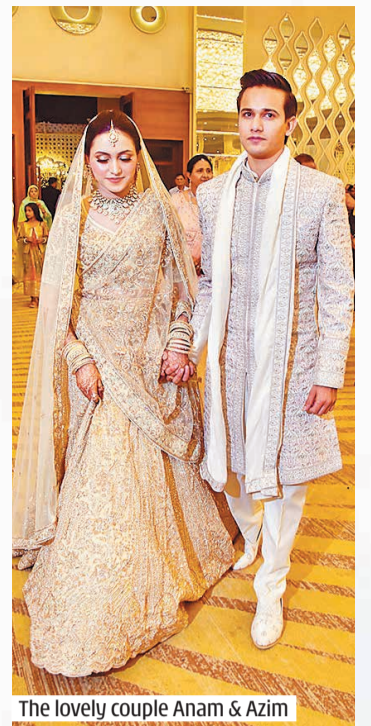
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra congratulates Amin Kagzi. Also seen is Islam Kagzi



MLA Amin Kagzi with Lalchand Kataria, Udailal Anjana, Dr CP Joshi, MP Ramcharan Bohra and Aziz Mansoori during the ceremony



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra greets Harish Meena. Also seen is Raju Malawat



The lovely couple Anam & Azim

The beautiful wedding ceremony of Azim Kagzi, son of Shaheda and Nizamuddin Kagzi, with Anam Kagzi, daughter of Naseem & Janab Abdul Hasan Kagzi, was held at Chandan Van, Main Tonk Rd, Beelwa, Jaipur on Wednesday. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra reached the occasion and congratulated the couple. Anam Kagzi is the nephew of MLA Amin Kagzi, who was also present to bless the newlyweds. Various dignitaries including Lalchand Kataria, Udailal Anjana, Dr CP Joshi and MP Ramcharan Bohra among others also graced the ceremony and congratulated the couple.

NAIM KHAN

Jaipur Foot Initiative

City First
cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

In a remarkable display of humanitarian aid, a Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment camp was inaugurated in Semera, Ethiopia on Thursday. This initiative, generously sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of India under its 'India for Humanity' program, aims to provide rehabilitation to persons with disabilities. Implemented by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BM-



Kailash Sharma, Anil Rai (India's ambassador of Ethiopia), Satish Mehta and others



During the camp

VSS), Jaipur Foot, the camp is set to produce and fit 600 custom-made limbs.

The event was held at the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare, Semera University Hospi-

tal, the camp enjoys support from the Regional Government and the Embassy of India. India's ambassador to Ethiopia, Anil Rai, emphasized the enduring bond between India and

Ethiopia, underscoring the significance of such collaborative efforts.

Local dignitaries expressed gratitude for India's assistance, recognizing the impact on disability rehabilitation.

Ambassador Rai highlighted the need for sustainable solutions, advocating for local capacity building.

Satish Mehta, Executive President of BM-VSS, revealed plans for

a permanent Jaipur Foot Centre in Ethiopia, echoing the program's success across 21 countries.

The 'India for Humanity' program, initiated to honour Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday, exemplifies India's commitment to global welfare. With over 13,000 beneficiaries across Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands, the initiative embodies the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' – the world is one family. Senior dignitaries witnessed the limb-making process, marvelling at the efficiency of providing a perfect-fit limb in just one day.

MEET & GREET!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by supermodel Yashika Shekhawat, as she reached the former's residence during a courtesy visit. During the meet, Dr Chandra wished her success, as she discussed about her upcoming projects and her journey under the mentorship of Miss Rajasthan Founder & Director Yogesh Mishra.

EVENTS!



(L-R) Harshika Khandelwal, Shraddha Rawat, Swati Chhabra, Raghushree Poddar, Aditi Mehta, Amikka Halderiya, Neeta Joshi, Seema Baid, Jaspreet Thakkar, Ruchika Dhoot



Dr Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar

Jaipur's cultural tapestry is set to unfurl at the Jaipur Art Fair, 'Rang De Jaipur', orchestrated by the FICCI Ladies Organisation. Scheduled for May 4 and 5 at the Rajasthan International Centre. On Thursday, the poster launch event pledges a vibrant homage to Rajasthan's rich heritage and inaugurated by Dr Lakshyaraj Singh of Mewar, the fair will spotlight 88 artisans, including 15 lauded by the Crafts Councils of Weavers and Artisans. Chairperson Raghushree Poddar aims to empower artisans, fostering a cultural renaissance. The fair promises insightful talk shows and culinary delights, culminating in an award ceremony celebrating artistic prowess.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Dr Kriti Bharti, renowned rehabilitation psychologist and advocate, urged youth at MNIIT Allahabad's Techno Fest to foster an exploitation-free society by dismantling gender fears on Thursday. Addressing a diverse audience including IITians, she highlighted the perils of gender discrimination leading to abuse and exploitation. Dr Bharti emphasized the need for women to discern when to protest and when to adjust, sharing insights from her own journey as a protector of women and children. The event also featured notable personalities like magician Suhani Shah and activist MS Bitta, celebrating Dr Bharti's groundbreaking work in annulling child marriages and halting thousands more.



The two-day Palace MUN 2024 concluded with a historic resolution against the Partition of India. Held at The Palace School's Kamal Burj ground on Monday, the event brought together 400 students to simulate the Mountbatten Plan Committee. Rejecting the proposal of division, the young leaders showcased their commitment to unity. Jaysree Periwai High School emerged as the standout institution, winning numerous awards, including Best Institution, for their exemplary performance. Their dedication highlights the potential of the younger generation in shaping historical decisions.



Karemma Khan (Miss Teen World India 2023) blossoms amidst a sea of petals, her grace mirrored in the delicate blooms and soft reflection. With each flower, a story blooms, echoing her timeless elegance and inner beauty. In this floral symphony, she radiates a captivating charm, a portrait of grace and sophistication reflected both in nature's beauty and the mirror's gentle gaze.



The Rajasthani film "Bharkhama" is set to hit 60 theatres nationwide directed by S Sagar. The movie is inspired by an award-winning book. The motion poster launch event was held at Fort Restaurant, presented by the Shravan Sagar Rajasthan Foundation on Wednesday. Lead actors, Shravan Sagar and Anjali Raghav graced the occasion. The writer of this film is Dr Jitendra Kumar Soni who has received the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Award. Shravan Sagar, emphasizing Rajasthani cinema's growth, aims to release the film in July. Rajveer Gurjar and Nix Bohra express their commitment to promoting Rajasthani culture through cinema.



Jayshree Periwai International School's Investiture Ceremony saw the induction of new council members amidst a farewell to outgoing leaders. Lakshay Maheshwari and Alisha Gang assumed roles as Head Boy and Head Girl. Dr Jayshree Periwai stressed the pivotal role of parents, teachers and peers in leadership development. Newly appointed members were warmly welcomed, taking oaths and delivering speeches. CEO Ayush Periwai and Director Aakriti Periwai encouraged academic and extracurricular excellence.



A still from the event

At Jawahar Kala Kendra's Nityam 2024, organised by Agarwal Educational Cultural and Welfare Society, octogenarian dancer Dr Shobha Kosar mesmerized the audience with her timeless performance, defying age barriers in dance on day two recently. Accompanied by Fateh Singh Gangani on tabla, Pandit Kaivalya Kumar's classical singing added to the charm. Supported by the Government of Rajasthan, the event concluded with gratitude from Dr Swati Aggarwal.

MUKESH KIRADOO



Jaipur is set to host a divine spectacle as the Bageshwar Dham Government's divine court convenes from May 30 to June 1. Dharendra Krishna Shastri will enlighten devotees with a three-day Hanuman Katha. On Thursday poster launch event was held at Hotel The Lavin, Shastri Nagar. The event will show expectations soar with a projected attendance of 10 lakh participants daily. A grand Kalshayatra on May 29 will herald the event, accompanied by elaborate festivities including floral showers from helicopters.

MUKESH KIRADOO



In a heartwarming initiative, the Radha Govind Dev Jagmohan Temple in Jaipur distributed bird feeders to devotees for the first time on Thursday. Led by Mahant Anjan Kumar Goswami, the temple's officials personally handed out feeders to worshippers, initiating a campaign to aid birds during the scorching summer. Gokuldas Maheshwari, founder of the Sonal Maheshwari Charitable Trust, emphasized the community's role in placing feeders with water for birds. This compassionate effort underscores the temple's commitment to environmental stewardship.