



# FIRST INDIA

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Rajasthan's Own English Newspaper



## What is the reality behind Swati Maliwal's assault allegations? MALIWAL VS AAP DRAMA 'IN THE HOT SEAT'!

Moni Sharma  
New Delhi

Swati Maliwal has made serious allegations against Bibhav Kumar, an aide to Kejriwal, accusing him of a distressing assault. In her police complaint filed on Friday, Maliwal recounted that on Monday morning, Kumar slapped her 7-8 times on face and struck her chest, stomach & private parts. She described how Bibhav came in,

started abusing her, continued to slap her without any provocation. "I made noise & pleaded 'Let me go,' but he kept beating me continuously & abusing me. He threatened, 'We will see, we will deal with it.' I told him that I was menstruating and in

### MAJOR HAPPENINGS

- Aide to Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal Bibhav slapped, kicked in chest and stomach, states Maliwal's FIR
- Arvind Kejriwal's PA Bibhav Kumar files counter FIR against Maliwal with Delhi Police in assault case
- Kejriwal does not want to be on Swati Maliwal's side, says NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma
- Delhi Police and Forensic team recreated Monday scene at Kejriwal's residence with Swati Maliwal

considerable pain, begging him to leave me alone," she said. Maliwal said she managed to call cops. She also recorded statements at Tis Hazari Court later in the day. Meanwhile, Atishi, dismissed the allegations of "assault" against Bibhav as "baseless," accusing Maliwal of lying and suggesting a conspiracy by the BJP. In response, Maliwal asserted AAP had taken a U-turn after "accepting the truth". P6



Under a goon's pressure, they're questioning my character. I will fight for myself, truth will come out.  
SWATI MALIWAL, AAP Rajya Sabha MP

**SENSEX**

BSE 73,917.03  
NIFTY 22,466.10

253.31 62.25

**FORECAST**

Max 44°C  
Min 31°C

Humidity 14%

Very hot with hazy sun across Rajasthan in day

**Warnings! Heatwave in 6 states; heavy rain in 3**  
IMD issued a warning on Friday about heatwave in Rajasthan, Pb, Haryana, UP, MP and Bihar. Additionally, heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in TN, Kerala, Karnataka.

### IN BRIEF

#### School set on fire after student found dead

**Patna:** A school was set on fire by a mob in Patna's Digha area on May 17 after a four-year-old student was found dead in the campus, police said. The boy did not return home from school on Thursday. When the family approached the school to know if he was there, the authorities denied it.

#### Kanhaiya Kumar attacked while poll campaigning

**New Delhi:** Congress LS candidate from Northeast Delhi Kanhaiya Kumar was on Friday attacked while campaigning. No formal complaint has been lodged yet. Devender Yadav said that the party would report to the Election Commission.

#### Plane with 180 on board collides with tug truck

**Pune:** An Air India flight en route to Delhi experienced a collision with a tug truck on Thursday while taxiing towards the runway for takeoff at Pune Airport. Passengers were soon deboarded and arrangements were made for alternative flight.

#### Visa free travel between Russia and India soon!

**New Delhi/Moscow:** Consultations between Russia and India on a bilateral agreement to ease travel will begin in June, a Russian minister said, adding, Moscow-Delhi were set to strengthen tourism ties by launching visa-free group tourist exchanges.

## Modi govt is on the brink of historic hat-trick, says PM



PM Narendra Modi and BJP candidate from Barabanki constituency Rajrani Rawat being garlanded by leaders in Barabanki on Friday.

First India Bureau  
Barabanki/Fatehpur (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed large and spirited public meetings in Barabanki and Fatehpur on Friday, underscoring the importance of the ongoing elections. He emphasized the need for a decisive mandate for the BJP to continue its development and reform agenda. "I will repay this debt by working even harder," declared PM Modi, emphasizing his unwavering commitment to the nation. He stated that the entire country and the world are aware that the Modi government is on the brink of a historic hat-



PM Narendra Modi greets the gathering while holding the lotus flowers during a public meeting for polls in Fatehpur on Friday.

trick, ready to undertake significant decisions for the poor, youth, and women in the new term.

Emphasizing the importance of strong local representation, PM Modi

### 'I TOLD ISRAEL TO STOP WAR DURING RAMADAN'

PM Modi revealed that India sent an envoy to Israel urging them to stop the airstrike in Gaza during Ramadan. He said that he urged Israel to maintain peace rather than engage in combat during the holy month. In an interview with Aaj Tak, PM Modi said that his envoy told Israel they should not bomb Gaza.

Your one vote on May 20 will decide the future of the country. For all of 'Modi Ki Guarantees' for development of UP to be fulfilled, I need your blessings.

NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

## 'BJP in Odisha will win all LS, Assembly seats'

First India Bureau  
Bhubaneswar

Union Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that this time there will be a double change in Odisha, and the BJP will win over 15 Lok Sabha and 75 Assembly seats in the state. Addressing an election rally in Rourkela city, Shah said the 2024 election is an election to make Narendra Modi the PM for the 3rd time and start a new chapter in Odisha by ousting CM Naveen Patnaik and the BJD.

"Double change is going to take place in Odisha. With more than 15 MPs and 75 MLAs, Odisha is about to turn saf-



Amit Shah holds roadshow supporting BJP candidate for Ranchi seat Sanjay Seth ahead of Lok Sabha polls, in Ranchi on Friday.

If voted to power, the BJP, to help farmers of the state, will procure paddy at Rs 3,100.

AMIT SHAH, Union Minister

fron", Shah said. He added, "If the state needs

to develop, the people here should vote for the double-engine government under PM Narendra Modi's leadership." Shah said the 2024 election is all about restoring the Odia language, literature, culture and pride. P6

## AAP named as accused in latest ED chargesheet

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The ED Friday named Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP as accused in its seventh supplementary chargesheet filed in the money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy. This is first time that Kejriwal, who was arrested on March 21 and granted 21-day interim bail by the Supreme Court last week, has been



## Silence period for Phase 5 LS polls from today

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

The fate of 695 candidates including some prominent ministers and MPs will be sealed when people from 49 constituencies across six states and 2 Union territories will vote for Phase 5 of Lok Sabha polls on May 20. The key constituencies to watch in this phase are Amethi, Rae Bareilly, Lucknow and Kaiserganj in UP; Hajipur and Saran in Bihar; Mumbai North, Mumbai North-West and more.

### AHEAD OF PHASE 5 POLLS, CM SHARMA'S RALLIES SHINE BRIGHT

## Despite resources, majority of Odisha population living in poverty, says CM

Aishwary Pradhan  
Jagannathpur (Odisha)

IN ODISHA, FIRST THERE WAS CONG FOR ABOUT 50 YEARS AND THEN THE BJD FOR 25 YEARS AND BOTH OF THEM DID NO WORK EXCEPT OF LOOTING ODISHA, CM STRESSES

Chief Minister Bhanu Lal Sharma said on Friday that despite Odisha having abundance of resources, a large number of the population here is living in poverty. The CM said that CM Naveen Patnaik has pushed Odisha back by 50 years during his 25 years of rule. "Even today there are 6,412 villages in Odisha where there are no roads. The youth here have to migrate to Surat and other cities of the country for livelihood. During the rule of BJD, the peace-loving Odia land has become a hub of crime and



CM Bhanu Lal Sharma waves during rally in Odisha on Friday.

Odisha has become the number one state in the country in terms of crime against women," CM Bhanu Lal Sharma was addressing a public meet-

ing organized at Jagannathpur Junction in Odisha on Friday. He said that BJD and Congress are responsible for this situation in Odisha. P8

### FRIDAY GOES FOR A TOSS!

## 5 die as UP roadways bus rams into truck

Ravi Katara  
Bharatpur

A horrific road accident took place on the NH in Halaina police station area of Bharatpur in which, according to local people, 7 people died.

Whereas according to the administration, so far 5 women have died and around 15 passengers including 2 children are injured. The tragic accident happened after 1:00 pm when the Uttar Pradesh Transport bus

### 4 KILLED AS TRACTOR COLLIDES WITH BIKE

Ajmer: Another tragic accident occurred at the Kadampura chauraha in the Srinagar police station area of Ajmer on Friday resulting in the death of 4 individuals, including a seven-year-old child. The incident unfolded when a speeding tractor collided with a motorcycle.

was going from Aligarh in UP to Jaipur and bus rammed into a truck loaded with wood.

# Jal Mahal's beauty marred by trash: Urgent cleanup needed



The issue of cleanliness is evident at Jal Mahal. Despite its historical and architectural significance, the surroundings of Jal Mahal are marred by litter and waste. Stray cattle and cows are also leading to cleanliness concerns.



Jal Mahal, nestled serenely in the heart of Jaipur, is not just a monument but a reflection of the city's rich cultural heritage. Tourists walking through dirt settled on the pathways and structures has become a common sight.

© NAIM KHAN

## ACB nabs ASI for taking ₹15,000 bribe in Tonk



Accused ASI Shankarlal  
Navin Sharma  
Tonk

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) apprehended Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Shankarlal from the women's police station in Tonk district for accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000. The bribe was taken from a complainant in exchange for resolving a complaint filed by the complainant's wife at the Tonk Mahila Police Station. ASI Shankarlal had initially demanded Rs 20,000 for the resolution. The arrest was made on the spot by an ACB team led by Additional SP Vijay Swarnakar from ACB Kota. The operation was carried out within the police station premises, ensuring that the accused was caught red-handed. This action underscores the ACB's commitment to combating corruption within law enforcement agencies.

### 30.6 KG GANJA WORTH RS 15.32 LAKHS SEIZED, 2 ARRESTED

Jodhpur: The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Jodhpur on Friday acting on actionable intelligence and under the supervision of Ghanasyam Soni, IRS, Zonal Director, NCB Jodhpur & Jaipur, conducted an operation at Sindh Camp Bus Stand, Jaipur. The team after verification, apprehended two persons namely Vikas Lama of Mahendragarh, Haryana & Vikas Kumar a resident of Jhunjhunu and recovered substantial quantities of suspected Ganja. Total Weight 30.640 kilograms. market Value - 15.32 Lakhs was recovered from them informed the officials.



### CONSTABLE HELD IN DUNGARPUR; JUNIOR ASSISTANT HELD IN JODH

Dungarpur/Jodhpur: In a decisive action against corruption, the (ACB) team from Udaipur has arrested Rohit Katara, a constable at Bichhiwara police station, for accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000. Katara was caught red-handed while engaging in illegal extortion from those selling petrol and diesel illegally along the highway. Sonu Shekhawat, the Circle Inspector of ACB Udaipur, stated that a complaint was filed against Constable Rohit Katara. In another incident, the (ACB) team from Jodhpur Rural Unit arrested Narendra Kumar, a junior assistant at the Bali Tehsil office, on Friday. Kumar was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 8,000. The ACB's Director General of Police, Dr. Raviprakash Meharda, detailed the case.

## Abducted from Tripura, minor rescued from Jpr after 9 mnths

ANI  
Khowai (Tripura)

A minor girl, who was missing for nine months from Khowai district of Tripura, was rescued from Rajasthan's village, said police officials. One person was also arrested in connection with the case, the police officials added. The accused was identified as Ashok Kumar Choudhury.

According to the information, the 16-year-old girl from the Singicherra area under the Khowai police station went miss-

ing from her native area in September, 2023.

In a joint operation with local police, Rajasthan police traced the location of the minor girl. She was rescued on May 11 from Rajasthan village.

Upon receiving the information, the police had initiated a probe into the matter and traced the minor girl in Raj. Police found that she went to the village near Jaipur without informing her family. The police also found that a woman, a resident of Raj, helped the minor girl reach the village.

## Father arrested for attempted arson in Jodhpur

Shivprakash Purohit  
Jodhpur

In a shocking incident driven by a family dispute, a father attempted to burn his son, daughter-in-law, and grandson alive by dousing them with petrol. The incident occurred in the Sadar Kotwali police station area. The heinous act was thwarted when the grandson woke up, alerting the family and averting the tragedy. The police have arrested the father on charges of disturbing the peace.

## JMCH seizes 70 kg of illegal meat from 6 stores

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Municipal Corporation Heritage has launched a campaign against illicit meat and butcher store operations in Jaipur. The animal management section of the corporation raided almost half a dozen stores in the Adarsh Nagar zone. The corporation team confiscated the unlawful slaughterhouse that was conducted from home and took action against careless shopkeepers. According to Dr. Neha, Chief Veterinary Officer of Municipal Corporation Heritage, there have been reports about unlawful meat sales in the city's inner districts.

## Municipal Corporation Greater seizes 1219 kg of Polythene in Jpr

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

The Municipal Corporation Greater Jaipur conducted a rigorous three-day campaign from May 15 to May 17, 2024, targeting the use of banned single-use plastic across all wards and zones. This initiative resulted in the seizure of 1219 kilograms of polythene and the collection of fines totaling Rs 5,07,700. Commissioner Rukmani Riyad highlighted that this effort was part of the broader Swachh Survekshan-2024 initiative. Special squads were deployed to patrol marketplaces, vegetable markets, and shops, en-



Special squad seized 1219 kg polythene & imposed a fine in a 3-day campaign against banned single-use plastic in Jaipur on Friday.

sure strict enforcement of the ban on single-use plastic. The dedicated teams conducted thorough inspec-

tions and took immediate action against violators, significantly contributing to the campaign's success.

## Renewal of MOU between Health Dept & Satya Sai Heart Hosp of Guj

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

An Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed on Thursday between the Medical and Health Department of Gujarat and Shri Satyasai Heart Hospital, with locations in Ahmedabad and Rajkot, under the auspices of the Prasanti Medical Services and Research Foundation. ACS Shubhra Singh announced that under the RBSK program, children in Anganwadi centers,



Ravi Prakash Mathur and Neeraj Batra signed the MoU.

madrassas, & govt schools undergo health screenings conducted by mobile teams of trained health workers. This ini-

tiative helps identify children with congenital rare diseases, who are then referred to higher hosps for free treatment.

## Jpr Airport bomb threat case: No bail for accused

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Ende Ganana Sesh Sai, a Gutnur resident, was denied bail in a case involving threatening to bomb four airports, including Jaipur, by spreading. DJ Nandini Vyas dismissed it as a severe crime that disrupted public order. The accused faces charges under Section 3A of the Civil Aviation Security Act of 1982 as well as an infraction under Section 505 (1) (B) of the Indian Penal Code.

## UDYOGINI BAZAAR

# 'AU SFB' to boost rural women empowerment

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's leading SFB, inaugurated 'AU Udyogini Bazaar' in Navrangpura, Jaipur on Friday. It aims to develop rural women entrepreneurs from socially and economically backward classes by providing them a dedicated space for their business, and also to promote women-owned businesses. This initiative is part of AU Udyogini, a strate-



Kuldeep Dhankar inaugurating 'AU Udyogini Bazaar' in Navrangpura, Jaipur on Friday.

gic program of AU Foundation - the CSR wing of AU Small Finance Bank. AU Udyogini Bazaar is a platform for women

entrepreneurs from backward and deprived sections, who have been carefully selected through a systematic pro-



Jyoti Agarwal with women entrepreneurs at 'AU Udyogini Bazaar' in Navrangpura, Jaipur on Friday.

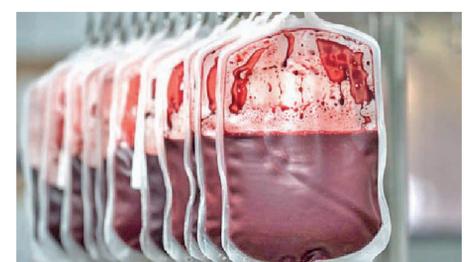
cess. AU Foundation will support these women with training in leadership and entrepreneurship. Jyoti Agarwal, Co-

Founder, Sanjay and Jyoti Agarwal Foundation (SJF) & MLA Kuldeep Dhankar (Viratnagar) were present.

## 450 units of blood spoiled due to negligence of drug officers in Jpr

Vikas Sharma  
Jaipur

In a significant oversight, the negligence of drug officers has resulted in the deterioration of 450 units of blood at the capital's Jeevandaat Blood Center. The center's license was revoked on February 8 following a mutual dispute. Prior to this revocation, the staff destroyed 47 units of expired blood components, but their investigation report failed to specify the quantity of blood components or their expiration dates.



Subsequently, 440 units of packed red blood cells (PRBC) and 33 units of random donor platelets (RDP) expired before the license termination. During the initial inspection, these blood units were transferred to

a government facility. The then-Commissioner deemed the negligence of the drug officers to be extremely serious. On the advice of the Medical Minister, a chargesheet has been issued to the responsible authorities.

**RAJASTHAN CONTINUES TO REEL UNDER SCORCHING HEAT AS BARMER RECORDS 46.5 °C**

## Intense heat wave to prevail for another week: MeT



Two boys deeply engaged in cell-phones, trying to protect them from intense heat by covering self with bag and T-shirt at the Janpath in Jaipur on Friday. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

**Ziauddin Khan**  
Jaipur

The scorching heat continued in Rajasthan where the highest temperature was recorded in Barmer at 46.5 degrees Celsius.

Most parts of the state are experiencing intense heat. According to the weather centre, this phase will continue for another week. During this period, warnings of heat waves have been issued in many areas. According to the Met Centre Jaipur, the maximum temperature on Friday was 46.5 degrees in Barmer, 46.4 degrees in Dholpur, 46.3 degrees in Fatehpur (Sikar), 46 degrees in Phalodi, 45.9 degrees in Piloni (Jhunjhunu), 45.8 degrees in Banasthali (Tonk) and Jaisalmer, 45.7 degrees in Churu, and 45.5 in Jodhpur and Karauli.



Cops filling the feeder nest with the water in Jaipur on Friday.



A lady wades through intense heat, fully covered in scarves & summer coat in Jpr on Friday.

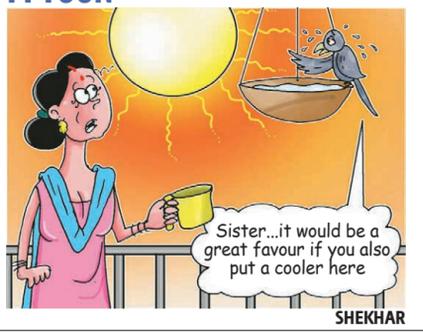
**UDAIPUR COLLECTOR ISSUES ORDER TO PROTECT ANIMALS FROM WORKING BETWEEN 12-3 PM**



At Udaipur's Sajjangarh Biological Park desert cooler has been set up to cool down the bear. Fruits & ice-creams are also being given.

Udaipur: In response to the intense heatwave, Udaipur District Collector Arvind Poswal has issued an order prohibiting the use of pack animals for labor during the hottest part of the day. The ban, effective from 12 PM to 3 PM, applies to animals such as camels, horses, oxen, mules, and donkeys. This decision aims to safeguard the health of these animals, which are at risk of heat-related illnesses due to the extreme temperatures. Violations of this order will be dealt with under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. Collector Poswal emphasized that this measure is taken from a humane perspective, ensuring the well-being of working animals during the severe summer heat. The administration urges residents to comply with this directive to prevent undue suffering and maintain health of their animals. **Ravi Sharma**

**FI TOON**



Sister...it would be a great favour if you also put a cooler here **SHEKHAR**

### I-T raids on ARL: Txn of ₹100 cr suspicious

**Vimal Kothari**  
Jaipur

Income tax raids and surveys continued for the second day at ARL Group, the country's largest asbestos sheet manufacturer and involved in cement corrugated roofs and pipe production and building construction. In income tax raids, success is being claimed in catching the tactics adopted by the group to save income tax. In investigation conducted so far, officials are considering expenditure of around Rs 100 cr as suspicious. Apart from this, it has also been revealed that ARL is also showing many tricks to save income in sale of houses.



You read it in First India on **MAY 17, 2024**

On the second day of the Income Tax raids conducted in RIICO's Bagru Ind Area and Bindaayaka, officials are suspecting that some of documents used in making wasteful expenditure are linked to bogus firms. I-T officials are reported to have seized cash worth Rs 70 lakh, investment worth crores in property and jewelry.

### Food Safety team raids in VKI, seizes misbranded 'Shree Saras' Ghee 13,700 litres spurious ghee seized

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Under the supervision of Food Safety and Drug Control Commissioner Iqbal Khan a continuous campaign is being run against adulteration.

On Friday, Pankaj Ojha, Addl Commissioner Food Safety and Drug Control, led a raid on Sanyam Enterprises at VKI Road No. 9, seizing approximately 13,700 liters of substandard spurious ghee misbranded as Saras Ghee.

The investigation revealed that the ghee was brought to Jaipur from Daman near Gujarat and sold in Rajasthan cities.



Team from Food Safety Commissionerate marking the seized ghee. (Inset) Official giving brief to media in Jaipur on Friday.

Since the ghee was misbranded and marketed under the name Shree Saras, therefore Jaipur Saras Dairy was also notified of this information.

On this, Managing Director of Jaipur Saras Dairy, Manish Faujdar, took effective action.

### Fake NOC case: Probe to come under SIT's ambit

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Will the transplants done in SMS come under the ambit of SIT investigation? Organ transplant done in SMS super specialty block were back in discussion on Friday.

First India was the first to disclose on April 24 that transplant through fake NOC had occurred even in super specialty of SMS. Figures also revealed in the report prepared by High Level Investigation Committee that organ transplant was done on 54 patients in last one year. Out of these, 8 patients were transplanted in non-related category whereas there is no organ



transplant approval committee in SSB hospital.

These transplants were done with alleged NOC from SMS hospital committee itself. It is surprising that no committee meeting has been held in SMS in the last one year. Then the question is, from whom transplants were done in SSB hospital after taking NOC. Did SSB Hospital also do the transplant on Gaurav Singh's fake NOC?

### MLA Balmukund seeks spl tourism pkg for Hawa Mahal from Deputy CM Diya

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

Balmukund Acharya, the MLA of Hawa Mahal, has submitted a letter to Dy CM Diya Kumari, highlighting the need to promote tourism in Hawa Mahal constituency.

In his letter, the MLA emphasized the importance of rejuvenating neglected heritage sites, including stepwells and other historical structures, to boost tourism in the area. He requested the Dy CM about a special package for the preservation and restoration of Hawa Mahal, Jal Mahal, and religious sites within the constituency.



MLA Balmukund Acharya with Dy CM Diya Kumari in Jaipur on Friday.

tion and restoration of Hawa Mahal, Jal Mahal, and religious sites within the constituency.

### HC stays encroachment removal in Odwara

**Shivprakash Purohit**  
Jodhpur/Jalore

The Rajasthan High Court has intervened in the ongoing demolition drive in Odwara village of Jalore district, granting significant relief to the villagers by imposing a stay on the removal of encroachments. The decision came after a hearing on the petition filed by 29 individuals affected by the demolition drive.

Justice Vineet Mathur's bench issued the order to

halt the demolition during the hearing held in the High Court on Friday. The controversy erupted on Thursday when the demolition drive commenced in Odwara village, resulting in removal of several encroachments on first day.

During the court proceedings, the AAG Rajesh Panwar represented the govt's stance, while the lawyers for the petitioners argued that the affected individuals had been residing in these houses for 80 years.

### MINISTERS, LEADERS REACH VILLAGE ODWARA AFTER CM'S INTERVENTION



(L) Cabinet Minister Joram Kumawat at the demolition site in Odwara on Friday. (R) Otaram Dewasi, Joram Kumawat and Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit interacting with the affected locals.



The encroachment removal operation in Odwara has attracted the attention of Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, who has shown sensitivity towards the matter. Minister Otaram Dewasi and Joram Kumawat visited Odwara to assess the situation firsthand. MLA Chhagan Singh Rajpurohit also reached Odwara. During their interactions with the villagers, they assured them of assistance and support from the government's side.

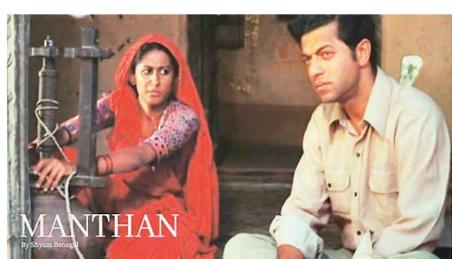
### MOVIE WITH CONNECTION OF DUNGARPUR ROYAL FAMILY

### Film 'Manthan' premiered at Cannes

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

The 77th annual Cannes Film Festival featured a special red-carpet world premiere of the classic Indian film "Manthan" on Friday. Under the leadership of Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, the 48-year-old film has been meticulously restored.

Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, who hails from the royal family of Dungarpur in Rajasthan, is the founder and director of the Film Heritage Foundation.



Still from the movie 'Manthan'.

His efforts have brought new life to this iconic film, showcasing it in the festival's Classics section this year.

The movie "Manthan", originally released in

1976, has been selected for its historical and cinematic significance. The restoration led by Dungarpur highlights the ongoing efforts to preserve India's rich film heritage.

**Shivendra Singh, who hails from the royal family of Dungarpur, is founder & director of Film Heritage Foundation. His efforts have brought new life to this iconic film, showcasing it in the festival's Classics**

age. This premiere marks a significant moment for Indian cinema on the international stage, celebrating both the legacy and the future of film restoration.

Our goal is to ensure quality cure of cancer accessible: ACS

**First India Bureau**  
Jaipur

ACS Health Shubhra Singh highlighted the alarming rise of non-communicable diseases, particularly cancer, over recent years. Addressing FICCI Rajasthan chapter event "Roadmap for Making Cancer Care Affordable & Accessible" she emphasized that cancer has emerged as leading cause of mortality.

"Our goal is to ensure that high-quality cancer treatment is both affordable and accessible in the state," Singh stated.

### BCCI sets up IPL Fan Park at Kota for 3 matches today & tomorrow

**First India Bureau**  
Kota

The BCCI will host the IPL Fan Park in Kota on May 18th and 19th. Three matches will be displayed live on the big screen. The entire event will be hosted at the JK Pavilion Cricket Stadium. Everyone who visits the fan park will have free entry. Following that, a lucky draw will take place, with signed cricket shirts given away.

Anant Datar, a BCCI representative, said that complete security arrangements will be undertaken for the fan park. There will also be face painting for onlookers. A children's play area will



Fan Park set-up at JK Pavilion Cricket Stadium in Kota.

also be developed. A VIP stand has been built for those who helped with this event.

# FROM BUMRAH TO NARINE TOP PERFORMERS OF IPL 2024



**Siddhaarth Mahan**

The writer is a specialist on Sports and Cinema who works as an actor in the Hindi film industry



**I**t's been a thrilling 17th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) so far with record-breaking totals, soaring run rates and countless sixes being quite the flavour of the season. As the race for the playoffs gets almost complete with three spots being clinched by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), the dominance of bat over ball has been more than obvious. In a virtual knock out clash, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will battle for the final spot on 18th May.

Besides the humongous totals, this season will also be remembered for excellent consistency by some players. IPL 2024 so far has had 1,133 sixes, making it the season with the highest number of maximums. Yet, there have been a few bowlers who have made life difficult for batsmen.

Top on this list is Jasprit Bumrah. He is just 2 behind Harshal Patel with 20 wickets but has been phenomenal with his control all through. His average of 16.80 is the best but even his economy rate is stunning - 6.48! To understand it in a better perspective, this is the lowest among all bowlers this season!

In fact, Bumrah was the highest wicket-taker till Harshal crossed his tally in the last game. Experts suggest that might be because most batsmen try to play out the 'dangerous Bumrah



**Top on this list is Jasprit Bumrah. He is just 2 behind Harshal Patel with 20 wickets but has been phenomenal with his control all through. His average of 16.80 is the best but even his economy rate is stunning - 6.48! To understand it in a better perspective, this is the lowest among all bowlers this season! In fact, Bumrah was the highest wicket-taker till Harshal crossed his tally in the last game. Experts suggest that might be because most batsmen try to play out the 'dangerous Bumrah spells' and not give their wicket away.**

spells' and not give their wicket away. It is a hallmark of his genius and control that despite that Bumrah still manages to scalp so many wickets. In a season where Australian pacers Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc are also present, it is Bumrah who has been the dominant fast-bowler of the season!

Among the spinners, Varun Chakaravathy has been brilliant along with Indian regulars- Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav. Varun has taken 18 wickets so far and will potentially take a few more since his team (KKR) is already in the playoffs. He has been one of the main reasons why KKR find themselves at the top of the points table. His mystery spin has bamboozled most batsmen.

While it has been a season of comebacks, fans would be happy to see the return of the KUL-CHA jodi back in action for the T20 World Cup. Kuldeep is in great form over the last

year but Yuzi Chahal has made his presence felt due to his performance in this IPL. He has picked up 17 wickets so far but what is more impressive is the way he has taken those wickets. Chahal has invariably been introduced in the middle overs when there is a strong partnership on and the batsmen have got their eye in. He not only throttles the run scoring but also breaks set partnerships with his wily leggies.

Meanwhile, Kuldeep has been consistent and has 16 wickets but at a miserly economy rate of 8.6. Although his team, Delhi Capitals (DC) is out of the competition, Kuldeep's contribution kept them in the race for the playoffs spot till the very end. Indian fans will pray that he maintains his bowling form in the World Cup as well.

But it's the batsmen who have provided the special thrills. On the batting side, no one comes even close to the champion himself, Vi-

rat Kohli. Many doubted his credentials in the shortest format of the game but Kohli proved his detractors wrong once again by scoring 661 runs in 13 matches. This includes a century and 5 fifties and a strike rate of 155 to go with it. RCB were down and out in the middle of the season but Kohli's brilliance dragged them back in the knock-outs' race. Now, he will once again be the key in the must win game against CSK to decide the final spot in the top 4.

Rituraj Gaikwad, Riyan Parag and Travis Head are the others in the run scoring list behind Kohli. But Head deserves a special mention for the sheer impact he has had for SRH at the top of the order. His 533 runs have come at an average of 53 but at a strike rate of 200! Australia will hope that he remains the 'destroyer-in-chief' even in the T20 World Cup!

The most valuable player of the season, however, is Sunil Narine. He has 461 runs along with 15 wickets against his name. While he has been at the crease, KKR has posted mammoth totals despite the middle order not performing at their best. It is unfortunate that cricket fans will miss his presence in the World Cup since he has retired from international cricket and recently dismissed suggestions of any comeback. Given his exceptional all-round form, Narine may just propel KKR to their 3rd IPL title!

**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE AUTHOR ARE PERSONAL**

## IN-DEPTH

### SUNIL CHHETRI TO LEAVE A VACUUM IN INDIAN SOCCER

**I**ndia may not have footballers like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but those who have led Indian soccer are in a class of their own. PK Banerjee, Subrata Pal, Bhaichung Bhutia, and Sunil Chhetri, among others, have made outstanding contributions to keep India's soccer flag flying high. In a cricket-obsessed country, it is no mean accomplishment to be counted among the country's best sportspersons.

Sunil Chhetri deciding to hang his boots is, therefore, sad news for soccer lovers. It is even sadder to learn that no one is there to immediately fill the void of a striker. That Chhetri scored 94 goals in 19 years of his team appearances and is placed behind Ronaldo and Messi speaks volumes about his talent.

The absence of a striker in the Indian team is due to a preference for foreign players at the league level. List of Chhetri's achievements is long. The Indian soccer body must start looking out for his potential replacement now.

### IN THE DOCK ISRAEL DEFENDS ITSELF



**U**nder intense criticism from South Africa, which has accused Israel of committing genocide in Gaza and called for international legal action, Israel staunchly defended its actions in Palestine before the International Court of Justice. Israel's Deputy Attorney General for International Law Gilad Noam defended his country's action in Rafah and accused South Africa of "ulterior motive" for urging Israeli withdrawal from the area as it wanted "a military advantage for Hamas". Noam denied his country committed any genocide in Rafah. Accusing South Africa of "distorting statements", another Israeli representative said Israel was simply defending itself. There was no genocidal intent on the part of Israel he said. Critics called Israel's defence "dishonest".

Israel has come under attack even from its friend and ally, the US, for killing innocent women and children in Gaza and Rafah. It has also been criticized for blocking aid supply to the Palestinians who are on the verge of starvation. An estimated 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting so far.

Israel told the UN court that any other country would do the same. It held Hamas responsible for the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people and said that "it wishes no harm to Palestinian civilians". Noam told the judges, "This war, like all wars, is tragic and terrible for Israelis and Palestinians and it has exacted a terrible human price." Earlier, some Republican senators threatened the International Criminal Court with US sanctions if it insisted on arrest warrants against senior Israeli officials. With the US by its side, Israel need not worry about the ICJ either.



**Israel has come under attack even from its friend and ally, the US, for killing innocent women and children in Gaza and Rafah. It has also been criticized for blocking aid supply to the Palestinians who are on the verge of starvation. An estimated 35,000 Palestinians have been killed in the fighting so far**

### SUNIL NARINE THE BEST

The most valuable player of the season, however, is Sunil Narine. He has 461 runs along with 15 wickets against his name. While he has been at the crease, KKR has posted mammoth totals despite the middle order not performing at their best. It is unfortunate that cricket fans will miss his presence in the World Cup since he has retired from international cricket and recently dismissed suggestions of any comeback. Given his exceptional all-round form, Narine may just propel KKR to their 3rd IPL title!



**X** A woman MP is beaten with kicks and punches in the Sheeshmahal of the Chief Minister of Delhi and the entire Indy alliance is silent. What is the compulsion of the Congress and its allies that they feel the need to provide protection to those who torture women?

Anurag Thakur (मोदी का परिवार) @ianuragthakur



**X** Extremely traumatized to lose my very charming uncle Shri Phanjen Rijju (standing at left), younger brother of my father. After retiring from Police Department as Sub-Inspector, he was serving as GB (Gaon Bura) of Nakhu Village. His contributions will be valued. His vivacious and frank nature will be missed by everyone. I pray for the peace of his departed soul.

Kiren Rijju (मोदी का परिवार) @KirenRijju

### SPIRITUAL SPEAK

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

**BHAGAVAD GITA**



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# PM SAYS... NDA dedicated to country, I.N.D.I.A. bloc wants to create instability

## I.N.D.I.A. bloc is crumbling like a pack of cards, says PM Modi in UP

First India Bureau  
Barabanki

Launching a fresh salvo against the Opposition specially Congress and Samajwadi Party (SP), PM Narendra Modi on Friday said that as the Lok Sabha elections are progressing, the members of I.N.D.I.A. bloc are crumbling like a pack of cards.

At a rally here, the PM said, "On one side, there is BJP and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) which is dedicated for the welfare of the country and on the other hand there is I.N.D.I. alliance which wants to create instability."

He said, "As the election progresses the people of I.N.D.I. alliance have started crumbling like a pack of cards."

He alleged that when Modi is strengthening the Constitution the people of SP and Congress were spreading rumours.

Modi said that the shehzada of SP has now taken shelter under the new 'Bua' in West Bengal. "The aunty in Bengal has told the I.N.D.I. alliance that she will support them from outside. There is another party which has asked to remain beware of speaking about Punjab," he said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak and others during a public meeting for the Lok Sabha elections, in Hamirpur district, on Friday. **PTI**

**A weak government only counts its days. You tell me that a 100 CC engine can give the speed of 1000 CC. Only a powerful government can give speed to development and only the BJP government can do so.**

**NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER**

**"VIDESH KA TICKET BOOK HO GAYA HAI, KHATA KHAT-KHAT KHAT" PM'S DIG AT CONG AND SP**

→ Fatehpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking a sharp dig at the Congress and Samajwadi Party and at their leaders Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav said that he is been informed by someone that their tickets for a foreign trip post-elections has been booked. While taking a jibe at both leaders without taking their names PM said "Panje aur cycle ke sapne toot gaye, khatakhat khatakhat; ab 4 june ke baad ki planning ho rahi hai ki haar ka thikra kisse phodaa jaaye, khatakhat khatakhat; mujhe to koi bataa rha tha ki videsh yatra ka ticket bhi book ho gaya hai, khatakhat khatakhat..."

**PUBLIC CONFIDENT ABOUT RESULTS ON JUNE 4: YOGI**

→ Barabanki: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath on Friday said that the slogan 'Abki baar, 400 paar,' which echoing across the country, has now become a public declaration. Addressing a public meeting in Barabanki Lok Sabha constituency on Zaidpur Road, the CM said, "With three phases of elections remaining, the entire public is already confident about the results on June 4." He said, "The slogan is the clarion call of the common people across the country against the divisive, appeasement, and anarchic policies of Congress and the I.N.D.I. alliance."



UP CM Yogi Adityanath addresses a rally for Lok Sabha polls, in Saran, on Friday. **PTI**

**CONGRESS AIMING TO WIN 50 SEATS: PM MODI**

→ Fatehpur: Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Friday said the Congress is aiming to win 50 seats in the Lok Sabha elections to save its honour. Addressing an election rally here, Prime Minister Modi took a jibe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for not contesting from Amethi, the seat which he lost to BJP leader Smriti Irani in the 2019 elections. The Prime Minister said he had predicted that Rahul Gandhi would not dare to contest from Amethi and this has turned out to be true.

## Congress looted the country for so many years: Amit Shah

First India Bureau  
Raebareli

Taking on the Congress in this bastion of the grand old party on Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that it (Congress) has looted the country for decades.

Addressing election rallies in support of the BJP candidates from Amethi (Smriti Irani) and Raebareli (Dinesh Pratap Singh) Lok Sabha constituencies the Union Home Minister said that both of them are working very hard and the party will register a victory in



Union HM Amit Shah with Smriti Irani, former SP MLA Manoj Panday and others at a rally in Rae Bareilly, on Friday. **PTI**

both the constituencies. Slamming the I.N.D.I.A. bloc, Shah said, "After a long wait, we got Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. The Congress

says that the Pran Prathishtha has not been done in the right way. But you know what if they come into power they will put a Babri lock on it."

## Corruption has risen under BJD, time to bless BJP: Nadda

ANI  
Bargarh

Bharatiya Janata Party president JP Nadda on late Thursday evening attacked the ruling Biju Janata Dal in Odisha alleging that there was "corruption" and urged the people to bless the BJP in the assembly and Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a public meeting in the Bargarh district, ahead of the fifth phase of polling for Lok Sabha elections on May 20, Nadda said BJP will implement welfare schemes for people including women if voted to power. "Is corruption tak-



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President JP Nadda at an election rally, in Padmapur district of Odisha. **PTI**

ing place under BJD rule or not? Officers are indulging in corruption or not...they have embezzled crores of rupees," he said.

"Will you let these people come to power again?...This is the time to bless the BJP party by making it win," he added.

No SC relief for ex-Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

Agencies  
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to consider the plea filed by former Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren seeking interim release to enable him to campaign during the Lok Sabha elections.

The court was hearing Soren's plea filed against his arrest in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. However, it asked the federal anti-money laundering agency to file its reply, including the interim relief, by Monday (May 20).

## Top guns of BJP, Congress and Samajwadi Party roar in Amethi

Agencies  
Amethi

Just three days before the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections kicks off, Amethi turned into a virtual battleground on Friday with big guns from the BJP, the Congress party and Samajwadi Party addressing major election rallies in the constituency.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and former UP CM Akhilesh Yadav raised political temperatures in Amethi while campaigning.

The I.N.D.I.A. bloc rally was jointly addressed by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav.

An emotional Rahul Gandhi recalled his 42-year-old association with the constituency.



Rahul Gandhi with Akhilesh Yadav during a public rally for the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha polls, in Amethi on Friday. **PTI**

**"WAS, AM AND WILL BELONG TO AMETHI", SAYS CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI**

→ Amethi: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday attended a joint public rally in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi constituency to campaign for Congress and I.N.D.I.A. bloc candidate KL Sharma. Speaking at the rally, the Congress leader said, "And that is also (my style) of politics. So, you do not think that I am contesting from Rae Bareilly... I was, am and will belong to the Amethi."

Agencies  
New Delhi

The AAP on Friday rejected the allegations leveled by the party's Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, calling it a conspiracy hatched by the BJP. Delhi Minister Atishi, at a press conference, said it was the BJP who sent Maliwal to Kejriwal's house and she has become the 'face of BJP'. Meanwhile, Bibhav Kumar filed a counter against Maliwal with the Delhi police. AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj also questioned Maliwal's allegations in a social media post. Maliwal, in her complaint, alleged that Kumar, a close aide of Kejriwal, slapped her 7-8 times, dragged her, and kicked her in the chest. The probe by Delhi Police is underway.

**"WILL FIGHT, TRUTH WILL COME OUT": SWATI MALI WAL AFTER AAP'S ALLEGATIONS**

→ New Delhi: Swati Maliwal responded to the charges by AAP, which rejected her assault allegations. "The leaders who joined the party yesterday declared a 20-year-old worker as a BJP agent. Two days ago the party had accepted the truth in the PC and today it has taken a U-turn. This goon is threatening the party, if I get arrested I will reveal all the secrets. That is why he is roaming around in Lucknow and everywhere seeking shelter. Today, under his pressure, the party gave in and to save a goon, my character was questioned by the entire party. No problem, I have been fighting alone for the women of the entire country, I will fight for myself too," she wrote on X.



Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal leaves Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's residence at Civil Lines, in New Delhi, on Friday. The police had taken her to CM's residence to recreate the crime scene. **PTI**

**MALI WAL'S 'AFTER-ASSAULT' VIDEO SURFACES AND GOES VIRAL, BEING TOLD TO MOVE OUT**

→ New Delhi: Four days after the assault on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal at Delhi CM's residence, the chilling details of the incident have started to surface, with the lodging of the First Information Report (FIR) and subsequently the surfacing of alleged video of the incident. The video, now viral on social media, captures the voices of shouting and screaming, though not so-clear, at the crime scene and comes as incriminating evidence of the episode which is making the AAP leadership uncomfortable.

**KEJRI WAL SHOULD APOLOGISE ON THE MALI WAL ISSUE, SAYS SITHARAMAN**

→ New Delhi: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday held Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal responsible for the assault on AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal, saying the AAP chief was present in the house when the incident took place. In a press conference at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters in New Delhi on Friday, Sitharaman said, "Arvind Kejriwal is responsible for this incident. He was present in the house when the incident took place. His own staff attacked Maliwal. On this issue, the focus should remain only on Kejriwal. He is shamelessly roaming around with the accused when he should apologise for the assault."

## CHAR DHAM YATRA

### Don't start Yatra sans registration, people told

ANI  
Uttarkashi

Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday inspected Char Dham Yatra arrangements at the Dobata and Palighat routes heading towards Uttarkashi and appealed to the devotees not to come without registration.

Addressing the media, Dhami noted, "This year, the number of tourists coming for the Char Dham Yatra has significantly increased com-



Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Dhami at a visit to check arrangements for 'Char Dham Yatra', at Barkot in Uttarkashi, on Friday. **PTI**

pared to the past few years. Due to this surge, we had to pause the pilgrimage at certain points. However, the

**MASTER PLAN WILL BE MADE SOON: DHAMI**

→ Uttarkashi: After several reports showed pilgrims facing difficulties because of overcrowding en route to Char Dham Yatra, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said in future a master plan will be made for Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham so that devotees don't face any difficulties.

troubles or hardships." He further emphasised, "We are ensuring that every devotee can complete their worship.

**DON'T USE FRAUDULENT MEANS FOR YATRA: COPS**

→ Uttarkashi: Warning pilgrims not to register for the Char Dham Yatra through fraudulent means, the police said necessary action will follow against those who do so. The police said that the ongoing pilgrimage to the Yamunotri and Gangotri Dham was going on smoothly without any disruption.

We appeal to all devotees not to come without registration, as it creates difficulties for both them and the system."

## 2nd India-Aus-Indonesia trilateral Maritime Security Workshop held

First India Bureau  
Kochi

2nd edition of India - Australia - Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop was held from May 15 to 17, at INS Dronacharya.

The Theme of workshop was 'Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security'. It was conducted under the aegis of Headquarters Southern Naval Command and witnessed participation of delegates from the three participating Navies.

The workshop was presided over by RAdm



Naval officers during 2nd edition of India-Australia-Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop, in Kochi. **PTI**

Nirbhay Bapna, ACNS (FCI), and Co-Chaired by Cmde Paul O'Grady, Commodore Flotillas from Royal Australian Navy, FAdm Heri Triwibowo, Assistant for

Operations to CIC Indonesian Fleet Command from TNI (AL) and Cmde Manmeet S Khurana, Cmde (Foreign Co-operation) from the Indian Navy.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE  
**INDIA KA TYOHAR**



**Match 67** Rahul & Nicholas Pooran share a 109-run stand as LSG manage 214/6

# KL Rahul becomes the highest scorer versus Mumbai Indians

First India Bureau  
New Delhi

KL Rahul is now the highest scorer versus Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history. The Lucknow Super Giants captain scored 55 from 41 balls in Match 67 against MI at the Wankhede on Friday. He raced past Shikhar Dhawan in terms of IPL runs against the five-time champions.

Rahul & Nicholas shared a 109-run stand as LSG managed 214/6. Rahul's 55 was laced with 3 fours and three sixes (SR: 134.15). Rahul, who has been a consistent force in IPL, owns 950 runs from 18 matches against MI at 79.16.

This was his sixth fifty versus MI (100s: 3). The star opener surpassed Dhawan's tally of 901 runs. Virat Kohli is the 3rd-highest scorer against MI with 855 runs at 30.53.

Rahul owns 4,683 runs in the IPL at 45.46. He slammed his 37th fifty (100s: 4).



Mumbai Indians players celebrate the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants batter Arshad Khan during the IPL 2024 cricket match between Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians, at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, on Friday. **PTI**



Lucknow Super Giants' skipper KL Rahul plays a shot during the match, at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Friday. **ANI**



Lucknow Super Giants' Nicholas Pooran plays a shot during the match against Mumbai Indians in the IPL on Friday. **ANI**

## Consequences will be there, says Jaishankar

EAM warns Pakistan of consequences of cross-border terrorism

ANI  
New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, on Friday, emphasised that the tolerance for any kind of cross-border terrorism activity in India is very low, reiterating that if something like this happens, there will be consequences.

Speaking at the CII Annual Business Summit 2024, Jaishankar stressed that Pakistan has been unrelentingly practicing terrorism.

"Where Pakistan is concerned, one, we have struggled continuously with the fact that they have unrelentingly practiced terrorism. This attitude in our country earlier that we put up with terrorism as an eccentricity of our neighbour, that's the way they are, and we have to live with it..." he said.

He also added that in 2014, India made a clear decision that they were not going to tolerate any cross-border terrorism.



External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar at the CII Annual Business Summit 2024 in New Delhi on Friday. **ANI**

### WHAT EAM SAID ON NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

**On Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan Sri Lanka:** Looking at the last 10 years, there has been great improvement in regional connectivity and inter-dependence. Look at Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. You can definitely see that in Bangladesh and Nepal, there is road and rail connectivity, fuel pipelines, increased volume of business, and access to ports in Bangladesh is very big.

**On Maldives:** Our development projects are doing well. We had some political turbulence, which we are hopeful about managing. Things are a little bit more constructive after the visit of my counterpart.

**On China:** We need to put a national security filter. Where China is concerned, we will still encourage people in this country to manufacture in India and procure from India. We are not completely and utterly prohibiting people from working with China, but we would much rather you work with Indian companies if the option is available.

### JAISHANKAR SLAMS PAKISTAN WITH A MESSAGE

New Delhi: "If they wind down this industry they have created, then people will treat them as normal neighbours. If they make this their core competence, that will define their image. We have been straight with them. They have to make up their mind. Part of the problem is that after 2019, the Imran Khan government took a number of steps that downgraded relations. We did not do, they did. Our messaging is very clear", EAM S Jaishankar said on Friday.

## Sunak, Akshata's fortunes rise in rich list of 2024



UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty.

PTI  
London

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty, who made their debut in the annual 'Sunday Times Rich List' two years ago, have moved up the ranks in the 2024 edition released on Friday thanks to the Murty's lucrative Infosys shareholding.

The couple, both 44, have risen from 275th

last year to 245th with an estimated wealth of GBP 651 million, making them the "wealthiest people to call 10 Downing Street home".

Murty's earnings are said to far exceed that of her husband as financial statements published in February are quoted to say Sunak made GBP 2.2 million in 2022-23 compared to Murty's estimated GBP 13 million in dividends over the past year.

## India has become an alternative investment source for West: UN

Agencies  
United Nations

Indian economy's growth rate projection for this year has been raised by 0.7 per cent to 6.9 per cent from the forecast made in January by the UN and it retains its position as the world's fastest-growing large economy.

The better outlook is fueled by lower inflation, robust exports, and increased foreign investments, Hamid Rashid, the chief of the UN's Global Economic Monitoring Branch, said on Thursday. "The drivers (of higher projection) are very simple: inflation has come down significantly, and that means the fiscal position is not as constrained as in other countries," he said.



United Nations Headquarters in New York. **FILE**

### INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTION

India registered "very robust" economic growth performance and has become an alternative investment destination for many western companies as "less and less" foreign investment is going into China, an expert at the UN said as the global body revised upwards the Indian GDP growth for 2024.

Expert at the UN was briefing on the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects

2024 that has revised upwards India's growth projections for 2024, with the country's economy now forecast to expand by close to seven per cent this year.

In India, labour market indicators have also improved amid robust growth and higher labour force participation, it said. India's government remains committed to gradually reduce the fiscal deficit, while seeking to increase capital investment.

## Israeli military finds bodies of three hostages in Gaza

Agencies  
Cairo

The Israeli military said Friday its troops in Gaza found the bodies of three Israeli hostages taken by Hamas during its Oct. 7 attack, including German-Israeli Shani Louk.

A photo of 22-year-old Shani's twisted body in the back of a pickup truck ricocheted around the world and brought to light

the scale of the militants' attack on communities in southern Israel. The military identified the other two bodies as those of a 28-year-old woman, Amit Buskila, and a 56-year-old man, Itzhak Gelerenter. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the deaths "heart-breaking," saying, "We will return all of our hostages, both the living and the dead."



Smoke rises in northern Gaza, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, as seen from Israel on Friday.

## Slovak PM Fico remains in serious condition

Agencies  
Bratislava

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has undergone another operation two days after being shot multiple times and remains in serious condition, officials said Friday.

Miriam Lapunikova, director of the University F D Roosevelt hospital in Banska Bystrica, where Fico was taken by helicopter after he was shot, said Fico underwent a CT scan and is currently awake and stable in an intensive care unit. She described his condition as "very serious." She said the surgery removed dead tissues that had remained inside Fico's body.



## CONGRESSMAN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS...

# "Indian Americans to run for office at all levels"

PTI  
Washington

It's time for Indian Americans to run for office at all levels and never miss to vote, influential Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi told community members gathered here from across the country.

We have to vote. Will everyone here vote in that coming election? Because we can talk politics all day, but doing politics is what matters. Remember, politics is



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. **FILE**

not just a noun, it's a verb. And we have to do politics this year. We have to vote, Congress-

man Raja Krishnamoorthi told a room full of eminent Indian Americans who had gathered in

### MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Lecturing India on human rights would not work; conversation will: Indian-American lawmakers
- Second generation Indian Americans see real value of being involved in public sector, says Sikh Mayor Bhalla
- Is Ro Khanna running for president? Yes says his Indian American colleagues in Congress

the American Capital for the annual summit of Indian American Impact, a Democratic think-tank.

Secondly, we have to work on political causes bigger than ourselves. We have to support our local mandirs. We have to support our local mosques. We have to support our local not-for-profits. Now is the time to do it. I hope you do that and you give generously. But we also have to work on political issues bigger than ourselves, said the Indian American Congressman Krishnamoorthi, who represents the suburb of Chicago in the House of Representatives.

## US 'playing with fire' in 'indirect war' with Moscow, says Russia

Agencies  
Moscow

A Russian diplomat said on Friday the United States had long since entered into a state of indirect war with Moscow and was playing with fire over Ukraine by behaving in such a way that situation could spin out of control.

The comments by deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov in an interview with state TASS news agency reflect growing Russian concern over what Moscow casts as dangerous Western escalation in Ukraine as

### RUSSIA AUTHORITIES REPORT MORE THAN 100 UKRAINIAN DRONE ATTACKS

Moscow: Russian authorities on Friday reported more than 100 Ukrainian drone attacks, causing at least one fatality and damage in various regions. The Krasnodar region in the south of Russia and the Belgorod region on the border with Ukraine were particularly badly affected. In Belgorod, a woman and her son died after a drone hit their car, according to Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov. The father and another man were injured.

Russian forces advance in several places.

"We warn that they are playing with fire. They have long been in a state of indirect war with the Russian Federation," Ryabkov said. "They some-

how fail to realise that, in order to satisfy their own geopolitical ideas, they are approaching a phase in which it will be very difficult to control what is happening and to prevent a dramatic crisis."

# FIRST INDIA 2ND FRONT

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Intelligence and strength are critical factors, but the most important is adaptability when we come to survival.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, CMD & Editor-in-Chief



08

### Mega Auditions-Super Singer+ Rajasthan



(L-R) Mohan Singh Tada, Pawan Arora, Virendra Choudhary, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Jinendra Singh Shekhawat during the mega auditions held at Veda-Panigrah in Jaipur on Friday.

## The quest for top singers begins

Mitali Dusat  
Jaipur

The first reality singing show, 'Super Singer Plus Rajasthan,' has been launched on the First India Plus Entertainment OTT Platform, offering a golden opportunity for local talent to shine. This singing talent hunt show is open to Rajasthan residents aged 16 to 40, aiming to unearth the best singing voices in the region.

The mega auditions commenced at 'Veda-Panigrah' in Jaipur, on Friday, marking a significant milestone in the competition.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, alongside Virendra Choudhary, Director First India News, and Pawan Arora, the CEO and Managing Editor of First India News Channel, First India English Newspaper, and First India Plus Entertainment (Events), inaugu-



Pawan Arora welcomes Raja Hasan, Swaroop Khan and Shraddha Pandit.

rated the ceremony. Mohan Singh Tada of the First India family also graced the occasion as

special guest. **MORE ON CITY FIRST**

## CM Patnaik's 25-year rule set Odisha back 50 years, says CM

The youth here have to migrate to Surat & other cities for livelihood: CM

First India Bureau  
Jagannathpur

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma while addressing a public meeting at Jagannathpur Junction in Odisha on Friday, said that despite Odisha having abundance of resources, a large number of the population here is living in poverty. The Chief Minister further said that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has pushed Odisha back by 50 years during his 25 years of rule. "Even today there are



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma being felicitated by local leaders during a public meeting held in support of BJP candidate Anita Subhadarshini in Odisha on Friday.

6,412 villages in Odisha where there are no roads. The youth here have to migrate to Surat and other cities of the country for livelihood," Sharma said. "During the rule of

BJD, the peace-loving Odia land has become a hub of crime and Odisha has become the number one state in the country in terms of crime against women," he added.

Bhajan Lal Sharma also said that BJD and Congress are responsible for this situation in Odisha. In Odisha, first there was Congress govern-

ment for about 50 years and then BJD government for 25 years and both of them did no work except looting Odisha, Rajasthan Chief Minister Sharma further stressed.



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addresses the gathering during a public meeting in Odisha on Friday.

## Diya Kumari pays tributes to Madhavi Raje Scindia in Gwalior

Diya Kumari will campaign for Dharambir Singh in Bhiwani-Mahendragarh LS constituency today

Dimple Sharma  
Jaipur

Deputy CM Diya Kumari arrived in Gwalior on Friday morning by a special plane. In Gwalior, she offered condolences on the demise of Rajmata Madhavi Raje, the mother of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Rajmata Madhavi Raje passed away on Wednesday at AIIMS Hospital in New Delhi after suffering from pneumonia for several days. Diya Kumari visited Scindia's residence to console the bereaved family and pay tributes to Rajmata Mad-



Diya Kumari offers floral tributes to late Madhavi Raje Scindia during a condolence meeting held in Gwalior on Friday.

havi Raje.

On Saturday, Diya Kumari will campaign in Ateli assembly area under Bhiwani-Mahendragarh LS seat and appeal for votes for Dharambir Singh. She will address public meeting in Dhanauada at 11 am and thereafter in Khedi at 12 noon.

Raj Cong leaders intensify campaign efforts in Amethi

Dinesh Dangi  
Amethi

Rajasthan Congress leaders actively campaigned in other states, notably former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, stationed in Amethi.

Gehlot joined a public rally alongside Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, engaging in discussions on Amethi's political dynamics.

Sharing updates on social media, Gehlot highlighted his participation in a rally at Jamo Block of Amethi with Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav. The event, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Ram Manohar Lohia, emphasized the transition from 'hath' (hand) to 'nyay' (justice), symbolizing a commitment to justice and social justice principles.

## Guv, other leaders pay tributes to Kamla Beniwal during prayer meeting



Governor Kalraj Mishra pays floral tributes to late Dr Kamla Beniwal during a prayer meeting held in her memory at Gandhi Nagar Club in Jaipur on Friday.

Dinesh Dangi  
Jaipur

The 'Tiye Ki Baithak' of former Governor Dr Kamla Beniwal was held at Gandhi Nagar Club on Friday where, public representatives, administrative officers, family members and her supporters paid tributes to her. A prayer meeting was held, offering prayers for the departed soul's peace through bhajans. On this occasion, Governor Kalraj Mishra also reached the venue and offered floral tributes to Dr. Kamla. Various leaders from both Congress and BJP including Dy CM Dr PC Bairwa, Rajyavard-

### STATE HONOUR SNUB RAISES CONCERNS

The absence of state honor at ex-Guv Kamla Beniwal's funeral has stirred controversy, with blame directed at officials, including the Collector. Despite her gubernatorial roles and freedom fighter status, negligence led to her cremation without state honours. After Delhi's intervention, action is underway, but Congress targets the state govt, questioning its efficiency.

hanSingh, Ajay Kilak, Rajendra Rathore, Lalchand Kataria, Nomanarayan Meena, Rajaram Meel, Satish Poonia and Dr Chandrabhan also paid tributes.

## Finally, Prusty gets key posting after 35-day wait!

Tina Dabi set to resume work after child-care leave

Rajendra Chhabra  
Jaipur

In a significant development due to the impact of a First India News report on May 16, Prusty gets a posting! IAS officer Debasish Prusty (2005 batch) has been appointed as Secretary Finance (Budget) after a 35-day delay. This position, held by 2 experienced officers over the past 4 years who were subsequently given foreign assignments, was long overdue for Debasish. Previously, the role was being managed by Naresh Thakral, Secre-



Debasish Prusty

tary Finance (Revenue), due to Debasish's delayed joining.

In another development, IAS officer Tina Dabi (2016 batch) is set to return to duty on Monday, May 20.

Appointed as Jaisalmer Collector in July 2023, Tina has been on APO since September 14, 2023, taking maternity leave until May 13, 2024,



Tina Dabi



You read it in First India on MAY 16, 2024

and then extending it until May 19, 2024, for child care. As Tina Dabi prepares to report to the DoP, it is to be seen what posting she gets. The anticipation builds as her return date approaches.

### STATE GOVT ASSIGNS NEW DG POSTS TO PROMOTED IPS OFFICERS

The State government assigned new postings to two IPS officers on Friday following their recent promotions. IPS officer Hemant Priyadarshi has been appointed as DG of SCRB, and IPS Sanjay Kumar Aggarwal as DG of Intelligence. Both the officers were recently promoted.

### SUSPENDED IPS MANISH AGARWAL REINSTATED AFTER OVER 3 YEARS

Jaipur: Suspended IPS officer Manish Agarwal has been reinstated after being suspended for three years & three months. Agarwal, who was suspended on Feb 2, 2021, was accused in a corruption case involving substantial bribe demands through an intermediary, Neeraj Meena. Agarwal was initially suspended following a primary probe that found his involvement in corruption. On Feb 5, 2021, orders were issued for his suspension. He was arrested after being accused of demanding a bribe through Neeraj Meena On July 9, 2021, the ACB presented a prosecution sanction against him. The reinstatement decision came after a review committee meeting held on May 13, 2024, chaired by CS. The panel recommended his reinstatement, & official orders for his return to duty were issued on Friday.

### STATE OFFICERS RECEIVE NEW CENTRAL DEPUTATION & POSTINGS

Two state officers have been selected for central deputation. IPS officer Dr Vikas Pathak from the 2008 batch has been chosen to assume the responsibility of DIG in the ITBP. Vikas Pathak will serve in ITBP for 5 yrs. Meanwhile, an order for central deputation of IPS Umesh Chandra Dutta who has been IG made in SPG at the Centre, has been issued & he has been relieved. Now IPS Anil Tank will be the IG, Jaipur Range.

## Vasudev Devnani to launch 'Vidhan Sabha Jandarshan' today to foster public engagement

First India Bureau  
Jaipur

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani will inaugurate the 'Vidhan Sabha Jandarshan' programme today, an initiative under which common people will now be able to visit the Assembly. The masses will be able to enter the Assembly

building by showing Aadhaar card from Gate No.7 between 10 am & 5 pm. "Under Vidhan Sabha Jandarshan programme, public engagement with Assembly will be promoted. Commoners, tourists, & students can now visit the Legislative Assembly, showcasing state's distinctive architecture," he said.



### 15 PANELS FORMED, CHAIRPERSONS APPOINTED

Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani announced the formation of 15 committees on Friday, including the Rules, Ethics, Urban and Rural Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions, Special Privileges, Subordinate Legislation, Petitions, Government Assurances, Questions and References, Environment, Library, Welfare of Women and Children, Welfare of Backward Classes, Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, and Welfare of Minorities Committees. The Assembly Speaker appointed chairpersons and members, with notable figures like Vasundhara Raje, Ashok Gehlot, Siddhi Kumari, Hanuman Beniwal, Murari Lal Meena, Sachin Pilot, Pratap Lal Bhil, and Deepti Kiran Maheshwari on the Rules Committee.

## CS to hold review meet on various concerns on Sunday

Dr Rituraj Sharma and Vikas Sharma  
Jaipur

CS Sudhansh Pant is committed to ensuring smooth water, electricity, and health services during the summer. He will hold a review meeting on Sunday at 12 noon to assess the water and electricity supply situation and preventive measures against seasonal diseases. District Collectors

and officials will join the video conference. On Friday, Pant was in Delhi, addressing concerns raised by public representatives about inadequate water and electricity. Additionally, MLA Lalit Meena submitted a memorandum regarding 'Ayushman Arogya Yojana' treatment issues. In response, Pant scheduled the Sunday meeting to address these critical concerns.



# City First

JAIPUR, SATURDAY | MAY 18, 2024



## FASHION SPECTACLE!

The 14th edition of the Montrose Runway Fashion Week (MRFW) dazzled attendees at the Cavallo Polo Club, Jawahar Circle, with a captivating blend of Indo-Western and Korean collections recently. **P12**



(L-R) Swaroop Khan, Manmeet Singh, Raja Hasan and Shraddha Pandit

## Super Singer + Mega Auditions in Jaipur

# ...& the SamaVeda BEGINS!

Experience the musical marvels with Super Singer Plus Rajasthan, the inaugural reality singing show on First India Plus Entertainment, an OTT Platform. Open to talents aged 16-40, the mega auditions that began at 'Veda-Panigrah' in Jaipur on Friday, inspired by the Samaveda, the Veda of melodies and chants!



(L-R) Virendra Choudhary, Pawan Arora and Dr Jagdeesh Chandra exchange warm greetings

MUKESH KIRADOO, SUNIL SHARMA AND RAJESH SADI

The first reality singing show, 'Super Singer Plus Rajasthan,' has been launched on the First India Plus Entertainment, an OTT Platform, offering a golden opportunity for local talent to shine. This singing talent hunt show is open to Rajasthan residents aged 16 to 40, aiming to unearth the best singing voices in the region.

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**Mitali Dusad**

mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in



CEO and Managing Editor of First India News Channel, First India English Newspaper, and First India Plus Entertainment (Events), inaugurated the ceremony. Mohan Singh Tada of the First India family also graced the occasion as special guest. Auditions began on

March 31, 2024, across 12 major cities in Rajasthan—Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Udaipur, Kota, Sriganganagar, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Jaipur, Ajmer, Sikar and Alwar—as well as in Guwahati and Dubai. This extensive search concluded on May 11, 2024, with 49 contestants earning the coveted 'Golden Ticker' to Jaipur. The mega auditions will determine the top three winners from these talented individuals. The first prize winner will receive a car, the second prize includes ₹5 lakhs and the third prize is ₹2 lakhs.

Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor, congratulated the participants, saying, "We are thrilled to witness such incredible talent from across Rajasthan. 'Super Singer Plus Rajasthan' is not just a competition; it's a celebration of our rich musical heritage. **Turn to 10-11**

Clockwise: Meha Jha Kasiwal, Raja Hasan, Shraddha Pandit & Swaroop Khan



MUKESH KIRADDO, SUNIL SHARMA AND RAJESH SADH



Virendra Choudhary addressing the audience  
 Pawan Arora addressing the audience



Pawan Arora and Virendra Choudhary with (L-R) Ashok Singh, Vishal Mathur, Prerana Bhati, Hemant Sharma, Ghanshyam Karol, Jinendra Singh, Sanjeev Kumar, Mohan Singh Tada, Manvendra Singh, Vanja Singh, Swaroop Khan, Indu Rathore, Sarita Dwivedi, Raja Hasan, Shruti Varma, Maanya Varma, Nishu Sharma, Shweta Mishra Awasthi, Shradha Pandit, Dr Swati Malik, Vijay Solomon, Shantanu Varshney, Manmeet Singh, Chhavi Faujdar and Mahesh Sharma



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra addressing the audience



Pawan Arora felicitates Aarush Verma



(L-R): Pawan Arora, Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Virendra Choudhary



Jinendra Singh Shekhawat extends a warm welcome to Dr Jagdeesh Chandra and Virendra Choudhary. Also seen are Pawan Arora and Mohan Singh Tada



Sanjay Poomia with Pawan Arora

# Rajasthan's Singing Sensations Emerge as "Super Singer Plus" Mega Auditions Begin in Jaipur

FROM PAGE 09

I encourage all contestants to give their best and embrace this opportunity. The grandeur of this event, with its esteemed judges and exciting prizes, underscores our commitment to nurturing and showcasing the finest singers in the region."

Virendra Choudhary emphasized that this initiative would be a milestone for First India in the entertainment sector. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra remarked that institutions that evolve with time thrive, and the launch of this OTT platform tailored to viewers' entertainment needs will significantly boost First India's popularity.

The inaugural event began with a Ganesh Vandana performed by famous dancer Meha Jha Kasliwal. Pawan Arora shared insights about this pioneering entertainment venture and highlighted upcoming unique programs on the OTT platform. At the event, Mahesh Sharma, of the First India family, earned praise from Pawan Arora and the organising team for executing exceptional auditions in Guwahati on April 28. Sharma's talent and dedication exemplified the spirit of "Super Singer Plus Rajasthan," showcasing the diverse pool of talent discovered throughout the auditions.

The seamless execution of the event was attributed to the dedicated efforts of the First India OTT team, led by Dr Swati Malik (General Manager), Vijay Solomon (Chief Grievance Officer), Jinendra Singh Shekhawat (First India News Editor), Shweta Mishra Awasthi (Associate Editor), Hemant Sharma

(Programming Head), Shantanu Varshneya (IT Head), Vishal Mathur (Vice President, Marketing), Sanjeev Kumar (Productions Head), Manmeet Singh (Anchor), Sarita Dwivedi & Alok Dwivedi (Show Mentors), Shruti Anindita Verma (Show Director), Shubhanji Pathak (Content Head), Ravi Katara (Senior Reporter), Suraj B Goswami (Reality Director), Maanya Varma (Reality Producer), Chhavi Faujdar and Indu Rathore (Anchors), Vanya Singh (Show Stylist), Manish Beniwal & Pratishtha Kanwar (IT Team), Pankaj Punjabi (Event Coordinator), Rahul Meena, Hitesh Saini, Siyaram Meena, Abhishek Inkiya, Anil Meena, Ajay Mahwar, Koshal Meena, Yogendra Meena, Hemendra Meena, Vishal Meena, Manish Meena, Sahil Khan, Monty Rajput & Dheeresh Mewara (Team of V Production) and Ram Chandra Singh, Kedar Raghuveer Sharma, Om Prakash Kumar, Ghanshyam Karol, Sandeep Rawat, Ankit Singh Rathore, Ashmit Yogi and Chhitar Khan (Productions Team).

The collective efforts of the entire team were lauded, with special recognition extended to anchors and reporters, namely Indu and Chhavi, for their outstanding contributions. Manvendra Singh's exclusive dress designs were also commended. Pawan Arora expressed immense gratitude towards reporters from 12 cities in Rajasthan for flawlessly conducting auditions. Prerna Bhati, Vishal Mathur, Lalit Gangwani, Poonam Sharma Solanki, Vijendra Solanki, Shishir Mishra Awasthi,

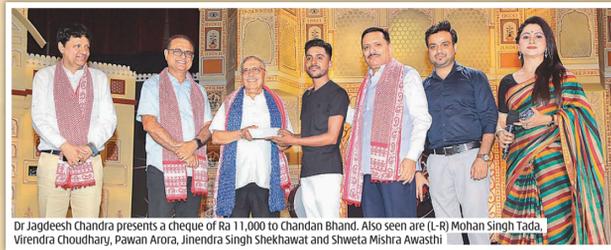
and Ashok Raj Singh, among others, were present at the event and received accolades for their pivotal roles in ensuring the success of the show. The grand launching ceremony was elegantly hosted by Shweta Mishra Awasthi, of the First India family. Adding to the star-studded affair was the presence of budding actor Aarush Verma from the upcoming movie OMG 2, who added a touch of glamour to the occasion.

The final selection will be made by three renowned Bollywood singers: Shradha Pandit, Swaroop Khan and Raja Hasan. The Grand Finale, set for October 2024, will also feature a special appearance by Bollywood singer Alka Yagnik. The show is already gaining immense popularity not only in Rajasthan but nationwide, making it the largest production ever by a regional channel.

The event was made possible through the generous support of sponsors including Wonder Cement (Powered by), AU Small Finance Bank (Co-sponsor), Jaipur National University (Associate Sponsor), Spring Board Academy (Associate Sponsor), Competishun (Associate Sponsor), JK Masale (Associate Sponsor), Shri Mahaveer College, Jaipur (Associate Sponsor), Dr Kamdar Eye Hospital (Supported By), Eakia X Orab-Couture House (Supported By), Metta Yoga & Music Centre (Supported By) and Devranjani Music School (Supported By), KBC, Unisex Salon (Supported By) and HOTS MAN (Supported By).

**NOTES OF INSPIRATION!**

The inaugural event dazzled audiences with outstanding performances from Chandan Bhand and Nishu Sharma, displaying extraordinary vocal prowess. Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, Virendra Choudhary and Pawan Arora and entire team lauded Chandan Bhand's rendition, acknowledging his exceptional talent. In a gesture of recognition, Dr Chandra awarded Chandan a cheque worth Rs 11,000. Hailing from Ajmer, Chandan, a remarkable singer, often performs on trains to make ends meet. Undeterred by adversities, he persevered to audition, showcasing his dedication and passion for music amidst challenges. His remarkable journey serves as a testament to resilience and determination in pursuit of one's dreams.



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra presents a cheque of Ra 11,000 to Chandan Bhand. Also seen are (L-R) Mohan Singh Tada, Virendra Choudhary, Pawan Arora, Jinendra Singh Shekhawat and Shweta Mishra Awasthi



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Vijay Singh, Ashok Raj Singh, Jinendra Singh, Shishir Awasthi, Shruti Varma, Vishal Mathur, Aarush Verma, Indu Rathore and Shivangji Singh Rao



Mammeet with the stunning jury members, Swaroop, Raja and Shradha amid the grand setup, showcasing the rich culture

**RAJASTHAN'S CULTURE WITH ICONIC SET!**

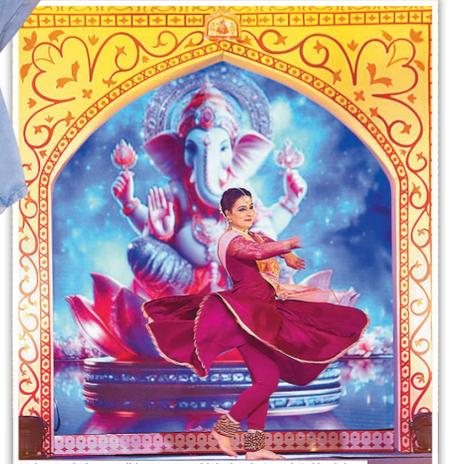
A stunning replica of the Ganesh Pol, inspired by the iconic Amer Fort, which was constructed between 1611 and 1667 by King Jai Singh II, graced the stage of the "Super Singer Plus Rajasthan" mega auditions. This magnificent set featured a beautifully coloured idol of Hindu Lord Ganesh, capturing the essence of Rajasthan's rich heritage. Enhancing the grandeur, the stage also included side wings modelled after the Tripolia Gate, showcasing Rajasthan's vibrant tourism, art and culture. This thematic design uplifted the event, reflecting the state's historical splendour and artistic brilliance.



Swaroop Khan mesmerizes audience with his performance



Pawan Arora with talented singers, Raja Hasan and Swaroop Khan



Meha caught in a candid moment amid the lovely Ganesh Pol backdrop



Kavita Pant and Rachna Singh



Nishu Sharma captivating the audience with her soulful voice



Shruti Varma & Chandan Bhand lighting up the stage with their powerful performance



Jury members: (L-R) Swaroop Khan, Shradha Pandit and Raja Hasan



Manmeet Singh mesmerizes audience with his performance



Shantanu Varshney and Mahesh Sharma



Padmanabh Singh learning the nuances of Fresco art at the Cultural Heritage Training Camp at the City Palace in Jaipur



Still from the training camp



The melody of the flute

## HERITAGE CAMP

The Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust launches a month-long Cultural Heritage Training Camp at the City Palace, coinciding with International Museum Day on May 18. Themed 'Museums for Education and Research,' the camp aims to foster interest in traditional arts and crafts. Led by organizations such as 'Rangreet' and 'Saraswati Kala Kendra,' it offers workshops on diverse art forms, including Vedic Astrology and visits to 'Jantar Mantar.' With renowned instructors like Ramu Ramdev and Dr Madhu Bhatt Tailang, the camp invites on-spot registrations for eager participants.

# Fashion Spectacle

MUKESH KIRADDO



A model showcases the lovely gown



Supermodels walk the ramp showcasing stunning Indo-western and Korean attire

City First

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The 14th edition of the Montrose Runway Fashion Week (MRFW) dazzled attendees at the Cavallo Polo Club, Jawahar Circle, with a captivating blend of Indo-Western and Korean collections recently. Hosted as part of the 'Show for a Cause' series, the event showcased the artistic ingenuity of over 10 esteemed fashion designers through more than 40 stunning models gracing the runway.

Among the standout collections were Reena Beniwal's

Indo-Western, Leena Dwivedi's Korean creations, and Neha Sharma and Satyam Joshi's exquisite Indian ensembles. Deepti's bridal collection, Your Veg India's menswear line, and Ravi Rajoria's Western attire also garnered significant attention from the audience.

Under the expert direction of choreographer Mohit Rastogi, models mesmerized spectators with their graceful movements, illuminated by vibrant lights and pulsating music. The event was further enhanced by special performances from Siddharth Siddh, Raunak Nav J, Afrani, and Bunty, adding a musical flourish to the fashion extravaganza.

Notable personalities includ-



Model acs the unique western outfit with a head gear

ing film director Nitin Arora, Prashant Bhardwaj, Mohit Arora from 360 Productions, and film editor Vini graced the occasion as special guests. The fashion show, organised in collaboration with NGO partner Beti Foundation Delhi and People's Choice Events Director Rahul Khurana, was elegantly hosted by celebrity anchor Aamir Khan from Prayagraj. The launch of the teaser for the music video "Paapi," directed by Nitin Arora, featuring star cast Nitin Bhardwaj, Siddharth Siddh, Akanksha Tiwari, and Ritu Kaushik, added a cinematic flair to the event, culminating in an unforgettable evening of style and glamour.

SANTOSH SHARMA



Sumit Gera, Sai Giridhar, Satinder Bajwa, Sumit Bang and Sonali Ahluwalia cut the inaugural ribbon

## MOTOR SHOWROOM UNVEILED!

City First

cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

MG Motor India, rooted in British Legacy, strengthens its commitment by unveiling a state-of-the-art showroom and workshop in Jaipur at Plot No C-7-D, Sawai Jai Singh Highway, Banipark, on Friday. This expansion, aligning with MG Motor India's strategic vision, enhances the overall buying and ownership experience, now boasting 19 touchpoints in Rajasthan.

The newly inaugurated MG Saisum Motors spans 11,806 sq. ft., embodying MG India's futuristic customer approach, appealing to modern, urban car



(L-R) Sai Giridhar, Satinder Singh Bajwa, Sumit Gera & Sumit Banga

buyers. Accompanied by a 21,527 sq. ft. modern service facility, located in Banipark and Vishwakarma Industrial Area, respectively, it ensures comprehensive customer care.

Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India, expresses delight in expanding to Rajasthan, emphasizing plans to establish 100 new touchpoints, especially in Tier 3 and

4 cities. MG's service centres strategically cover 85% of the market within a 15-kilometre radius, aiming for over 500 touchpoints across 275 cities by FY 2024-25, enhancing accessibility and customer satisfaction. MG Saisum Motors pledges a superior ownership journey, blending technology and customer-centricity, promising an immersive experience.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING!



St Teresa's School, Jhotwara, Jaipur, celebrated stellar performances in CBSE X and XII board exams recently. The AISEE saw Shrinav Lala clinching the top spot with 97.8%, followed by Tulsi Yadav and Prasiddhi Dixit. In AISEE, Babloo Singh from Science (PCM) secured 95.4%, while Poomima Nathawat and Tushar Premani excelled. With 100% results, St. Teresa's students continue to shine, lauded by Principal Sister Neelima for their dedication and promising futures.



Banasthali Vidyapith recently conferred a PhD degree upon Bindhya Sharma for her research on "Internet Addiction

Personality, Sleep Hygiene, and Cognitive Failure among Adolescents". Supervised by Dr Santosh Meena, a Professor at Vindhya Sharma University's Department of Psychology, Sharma's work delves into crucial aspects of adolescent behaviour. Her dedication to understanding these issues underscores her commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of psychology.

MUKESH KIRADDO



Brijesh Gupta, Dr Sandeep Jain, Mukesh Mishra, Advt Kamlesh Sharma & Dr Parmila Sanjay

On World Abdominal Cancer Day, Jaipur will join cities worldwide in an International Multi-City Awareness Walk on May 19. Organised to promote healthy living, the walk starts at 6 AM. On Friday a press conference was held along with the preparation of bibs and medals unveiled. Dr Sandeep Jain, founder of the Abdominal Cancer Trust, highlighted the urgency of early detection, as symptoms often go unnoticed. The walk's route covers iconic Jaipur landmarks, emphasizing the importance of continuous awareness in combating abdominal cancer.

SANTOSH SHARMA



Vinita Chauhan, the librarian at Shri Karna Narendra Agricultural University, Jobner, presented modern library technologies at the ICRLS 2024 seminar at IILM University, Delhi recently. Delegates discussed innovations in smart libraries, with keynotes from Prof KP Singh on virtual documents and AI applications by Dr Rupesh Gaur and Prof Buddha Chandrashekar served as chief guest. Chauhan chaired a technical session, highlighted library consortia, and stressed continuous training for digital document use. International participants shared insights on current technologies.

NAIM KHAN



(L-R) Sanjana Sarkar, Saudamini Deo, Brigitte Singh, Julia Trouilloud & Mohit Batra

The French Institute in India unveils 'Pardon My French' corners in Indian bookshops to foster accessibility to French literature on Wednesday. Rajat Book Corner in Jaipur hosts one such corner, offering translated classics by Emile Zola, Albert Camus, Annie Ernaux, and contemporary works by Catherine Poulain. To celebrate, a panel discussion on Culture & Reading took place at 28 Kothi, featuring industry experts advocating for physical books and multilingual literature to enrich India's reading culture.



renowned singers like Alok Katdhare and Priyanka Mitra performing classic Bollywood hits. Supported by 34 musicians, including Mohit Shastri and Jeetu Thakur, the night promises a nostalgic journey through the golden era of Hindi cinema.

LP-RD Gulabi Nagar, with Rotary Club Jaipur Citizen and International Vaishya Mahasammelan, District Jaipur, presents "Burman Night: An Evening with Laxmikant Pyarelal and RD Burman" on May 26 at Birla Auditorium, 6-10 pm. Organised by Sudhir Jain Godha, the event features