



THE QUEEN OF HILLS

Clouds hover over the city skyline following rainfall in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, Friday.

Rajasthan Moves to ‘One State, One Election’ for Local Bodies

Bhajan Lal Cabinet Clears OBC Quota Roadmap and Sweeping Governance Reforms

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

In one of the most politically consequential decisions ahead of Rajasthan’s next electoral cycle, the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led Cabinet on Friday approved the implementation of the “One State, One Election” framework for Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, signalling the government’s intent to synchronise grassroots elections while simultaneously paving the way for the implementation of OBC political reservation in local governance.

The decisions, taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, are expected to reshape Rajasthan’s political landscape by aligning local electoral calendars, accelerating the reservation process, and introducing a series of administrative, labour and



INSURANCE COVER EXTENDED TILL ACTUAL RETIREMENT DATE

The Cabinet also approved amendments to the Rajasthan Government Employees Insurance Rules, 1998, addressing a long-standing anomaly affecting retiring government employees. Previously, insurance policies matured on April 1 of the financial year in which an employee retired, leaving them without insurance protection until their actual retirement date. Under the revised rules, effective from April 1, 2026, state government employees will continue to receive insurance coverage until the day they officially retire.

employee welfare reforms. Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Dr Prem Chand Bairwa, Industries and Commerce Minister Colonel Rajyavardhan

Rathore, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel outlined what they described as a comprehensive governance agenda aimed at administrative efficiency and institutional reform.

Government Pushes ‘One State, One Election’ Model

The Cabinet resolved that future elections to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies will be conducted simultaneously under the “One State, One Election” model. The government argued that staggered local elections repeatedly trigger the Model Code of Conduct, slowing developmental works, delaying administrative decisions and increasing public expenditure. Synchronising elections, it said, would ensure uninterrupted governance, reduce logistical costs and improve administrative efficiency. The move fulfils a key budget announcement made by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma for 2024-25 and mirrors the broader national debate on simultaneous elections, a reform that has been strongly advocated by the BJP.

OBC Reservation Clears Major Legal and Political Hurdle

In another significant political decision, the Cabinet formally accepted the recommendations of the Rajasthan State Other Backward Classes (Political Representation) Commission, submitted to the government on August 5. The approval clears the path for incorporating OBC reservation alongside Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions through amendments to the relevant state laws. With the Cabinet’s approval, the government will now initiate the lottery process for reservation of seats, bringing Rajasthan closer to holding long-awaited local body elections after completing the constitutional requirements linked to political reservation. The decision is expected to carry considerable political significance, particularly in a state where OBC communities constitute a decisive electoral constituency.

New Labour Code: Scientific Wage Formula, Twice-Yearly Revision

The Cabinet also approved the Code on Wages (Rajasthan) Rules, 2026, introducing substantial reforms in wage determination and labour regulation. Under the new framework, minimum wages will be fixed using a scientific formula based on skill classification. Dearness Allowance (DA) will now be linked to the Consumer Price Index and revised twice every year—on April 1 and October 1—ensuring wages keep pace with inflation. The rules prescribe a 48-hour work week, with employees working six days a week entitled to a paid weekly holiday.

Rahul Gandhi Targets Centre Over E20 Fuel Push, Alleges It Is ‘Damaging Vehicles’; Signals Nationwide Campaign

FAIR REPORT
NEW DELHI

Escalating his attack on the Narendra Modi-led government, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has turned his focus to the Centre’s E20 ethanol-blended fuel policy, alleging that it is harming cars and two-wheelers while imposing an unfair burden on consumers.

In a strongly worded statement, Gandhi claimed that the government’s push for E20 fuel amounted to an “E20 scam” and asserted that the policy was adversely affecting vehicle owners across the country. He said he would soon launch a nationwide campaign to challenge the rollout of the fuel blend and raise public awareness about its alleged impact.

The remarks mark a fresh line of political attack by the Congress leader after repeatedly targeting the government over issues such as examination paper leaks, unemployment and inflation. By shifting the spotlight to the E20 programme, Gan-



dhi has sought to question the Centre’s flagship ethanol-blending initiative, which the government has projected as a key step towards reducing crude oil imports, lowering carbon emissions and supporting India’s sugarcane-based ethanol industry. The government has maintained that the phased introduction of E20 fuel follows extensive technical evaluation and that automobile manufacturers are progressively producing vehicles compatible with higher ethanol blends. It has also argued that the ethanol programme advances India’s energy security and environmental objectives.

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma Backs ‘Vocal for Local’ With Handloom Purchase, Urges Rajasthan to Empower Weavers

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Marking National Handloom Day, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma visited the state-run Handloom Store on Jaipur’s MI Road on Thursday, purchasing a range of handloom products to reinforce Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call for promoting indigenous goods under the ‘Vocal for Local’ campaign. Describing the handloom sector as the economic backbone of millions of artisan families, Sharma said the industry represents not only India’s rich cultural heritage but also provides sustainable livelihoods to weavers across the country. He noted that Rajasthan’s renowned handloom clusters—from Barmer to San-

ganer and Bagru—have earned recognition in domestic and international markets for their craftsmanship and distinctive designs. “The products created by our artisans embody years of skill, dedication and hard work. By choosing locally made goods, consumers honour the labour of these craftsmen while contributing directly to their economic well-being,” the Chief Minister said. Appealing to residents to make locally produced goods a part of their everyday lives, Sharma said greater public participation in the ‘Vocal for Local’ movement would strengthen small artisans, weavers and traders, while preserving Rajasthan’s traditional crafts and boosting the state’s economy.

Western States Push for Unified Policing Strategy as DGPs Meet in Indore

FAIR REPORT
JAIPUR

Strengthening inter-state coordination to combat emerging security threats took centre stage at the 13th Western Regional Police Coordination Committee meeting held at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore, where Rajasthan Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar Sharma joined senior police leadership from across western India.

The high-level meeting, attended by Madhya Pradesh DGP Kailash Makwana, Goa DGP Alok



Kumar, and senior police officers from multiple states, focused on evolving a coordinated strategy to address cybercrime, narcotics trafficking, crowd management during large religious gatherings, and the tracing of missing chil-

dren through technology-driven policing.

Representing Rajasthan, DGP Sharma was accompanied by Additional Director General (Law and Order) V.K. Singh, Inspector General K.B. Vandana, and Chittorgarh Su-

perintendent of Police Dharmendra Singh. The Rajasthan delegation shared the state’s experience in cybercrime prevention, technology-enabled policing, crime control, and strengthening inter-state operational coordina-

tion. A series of presentations highlighted innovative approaches to crowd management, dismantling cybercrime infrastructure, integrating digital tools into the criminal justice system, and tackling the growing narcotics menace. Participating states exchanged best practices and explored ways to institutionalise successful policing models across jurisdictions.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma underscored that the effective implementation of India’s new criminal laws, coupled

with seamless intelligence sharing and coordinated operational strategies, would be critical in responding to increasingly sophisticated and borderless forms of crime.

The meeting concluded with discussions on enhancing intelligence exchange, expanding technology-led policing, and preparing a common roadmap to reinforce collaborative law enforcement across western India, reflecting a collective resolve to build a more agile, integrated, and future-ready policing framework.

VISION INDIA

FAIR REPORT | 04

Sainik School’s 66th Foundation Day celebrated with great enthusiasm, cadets honoured

Athletic track inaugurated, scholarships given to outstanding cadets; Lieutenant General Padam Singh Shekhawat said – Character and service to the nation are the identity of Sainik School

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

Sainik School Chittorgarh celebrated its 66th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm on Friday at the Shankar Menon Auditorium. The chief guest of the programme was senior Indian Army officer of the South Western Command, Lieutenant General Padam Singh Shekhawat. On his arrival at the school, he was welcomed by Principal Colonel Anil Dev Singh Jasrotia, Vice Principal Lieutenant Colonel Isha

Thakral and Administrative Officer Major C. S. Sreekumar. The cadets gave him a Guard of Honour. The chief guest paid tribute to the martyrs at Smritika. The programme began with the lighting of the lamp. The cadets presented cultural programmes based on folk songs. The school documentary was shown and Art teacher Kirtibala gave a live painting performance. The Principal presented the annual report and gave information



about the development works being carried out at the school. The chief guest digitally released the school’s annual magazine. Cadets who performed well

in the academic year 2025-26 were honoured. Under the scholarship given by former students, Vipul Sharma and Himanshu Bairwa, who secured first

position in Classes 10 and 12, received Rs 11,000 each. Ritika Meena and Naveen Kumar, who secured second position, received Rs 7,500 each, while Shaurya

Singh and Rohit Shingha, who secured third position, received Rs 5,000 each. Seven cadets who performed excellently in different sports and Cadet Yugdar-

shan Singh Hada for successfully writing and publishing five books were also honoured. Lieutenant General Shekhawat said that for more than six decades, Sainik School has played an important role in making young people disciplined, confident, responsible and people of good character. He said that the identity of an institution is not its buildings, but the people prepared to serve the nation. The school’s former students have made important contributions in

military service, administration, diplomacy, education and other fields. The chief guest inaugurated the athletic track built with the support of ICICI Bank. He also visited the Art and Craft and Science Exhibition organised by the cadets. Badal House received the Best Academic Trophy and Sanga House received the trophy for excellence in co-curricular activities. Military officers, former teachers, school staff and former students were present at the programme.

No politics, focus on advocates’ interests: Sreemali honoured after becoming BCR member for the 5th time

Welcomed with drums and fireworks; discussion on advocates’ rights, social and economic security and welfare schemes; Sreemali said – issues of advocates will be raised on priority at BCR-BCI

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

Senior advocate and Co-Chairman of the Bar Council of India, Suresh Chandra Sreemali, who was elected as a member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the fifth consecutive time, was given a grand welcome by the District Advo-



icates’ Institution on his first visit to Chittorgarh after the election. At the main gate of the new court complex, advocates welcomed Sreemali with drums and

fireworks. District Advocates’ Institution President Naresh Sharma, Vice President Chandni Beragi, Secretary Lokendra Singh Ranawat, Treasurer Kam-

lesh Sukhwal, Joint Secretary Vishal Singh Bhati and Library In-charge Rohit Khatik, along with other advocates, welcomed Sreemali. He was then taken re-

spectfully to the programme venue. A large number of advocates attended the programme and congratulated Sreemali on being elected as a member of the Bar Council of Rajasthan for the fifth consecutive time. Institution President Naresh Sharma and the executive committee honoured him by presenting a felicitation letter and a memento. The programme was conducted by former Institution President Om Prakash Sharma. During the felicitation programme, detailed discussions were held on the rights of advocates, social and economic security and various problems related to the legal profession.

Demand to start commercial flights from Hamirgarh Airport, focus on international flights from Udaipur

MP C.P. Joshi met Union Civil Aviation Minister; said – development of Hamirgarh airstrip will directly benefit Bhilwara, Chittorgarh and nearby districts

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

Chittorgarh MP C.P. Joshi met Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and raised two important demands to improve air connectivity in southern Rajasthan. The MP requested to develop Hamirgarh airstrip in Bhilwara district and start regular commercial flights from there. He also requested to start regular international flights from Maharana Pratap Airport in Udaipur to Gulf countries and other major in-



ternational destinations. BJP District Media In-charge Manoj Pareek said that MP Joshi said that a new terminal building has been completed in Udaipur at a cost of about Rs 887 crore. He requested that international flights from Udaipur should also be started at the time of inauguration of the new terminal building. He said that Udaipur is a famous tourist and wedding destination. A large number of Indian and foreign tour-

ists visit the city every year. Thousands of people from southern Rajasthan are connected with jobs and business in Gulf countries and other countries. Direct international air connectivity will save time and also help tourism, business and the economy of the region. The MP said that important districts like Chittorgarh and Bhilwara are still without regular commercial air services. Chittorgarh has the world-famous Chittorgarh Fort and many historical and religious places, while Bhilwara is a major textile hub of the country. Despite this, the region does not have a commercial airport. He said that Hamirgarh airstrip is currently being used only as an airstrip.

Congress Reshuffles UP Team: Pilot Loyalist Dheeraj Gurjar Out, Gehlot Camp’s Jangid Steps In

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

In a move that has once again turned the spotlight on the enduring Pilot-Gehlot fault line within the Rajasthan Congress, the party has removed Dheeraj Gurjar — a leader widely seen as close to Sachin Pilot — from his post as AICC secretary and co-in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, replacing him with former Sadulshahar MLA Jagdish Chandra Jangid, a leader identified with the camp of former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The Congress high command

has overhauled its entire team of AICC secretaries attached to the party’s General Secretary in charge of Uttar Pradesh, dropping six senior functionaries — Nilanshu Chaturvedi, Pradeep Narwal, Rajesh Tiwari, Satyanarayan Patel, Tauqeer Alam, and Gurjar — ahead of key organisational activities in the poll-bound state. In their place, the party has brought in Jangid alongside Abhishek Dutt, Kunal Chaudhary, Sanjeev Arya, Varun Chaudhary, and Abdul Mannan. Of the six outgoing secre-

taries, Gurjar alone represented Rajasthan — and tellingly, his successor Jangid hails from the same state, indicating that while the Rajasthan Congress’s presence in the UP unit has been preserved, the individual entrusted with that responsibility has changed hands, in what many within the party read as a subtle but deliberate shift in factional balance. Gurjar’s exit brings the curtain down on a near seven-year run in UP politics. First appointed AICC Secretary in 2019 during Rahul Gandhi’s

tenure as Congress president, he began by working alongside Jyotiraditya Scindia, then general secretary in charge of western Uttar Pradesh, before being attached to Priyanka Gandhi — a posting he retained even after Mallikarjun Kharge took over as party president, and one that continued into 2024. A former Congress MLA from Jahazpur in Bhilwara district, Gurjar cut his political teeth in the NSUI and Youth Congress before graduating into mainstream state and national politics.

Rajasthan Cabinet Clears Sweeping Agriculture, Food Processing and Green Growth Reforms; Millets Agency, Food Parks and ₹1.5 Crore Subsidy Announced
Jaipur: In a major policy push aimed at transforming Rajasthan into a leading agri-processing and green economy hub, the Bhajan Lal Sharma-led Cabinet on Friday approved the Rajasthan Agriculture and Food Processing Policy, 2026, unveiling a comprehensive roadmap to strengthen value addition, boost farmers’ incomes, attract private investment and generate rural employment.

Rajasthan Sets Expenditure Ceiling for Urban Civic Polls; Bans Camel Carts, Loudspeakers on Campaign Trail
Jaipur: Ahead of the upcoming urban local body elections in Rajasthan, the State Election Commission has issued a detailed set of guidelines capping campaign expenditure and restricting the mode of transport candidates can use — a move aimed at reining in excess spending and ensuring a level playing field across municipal corporations, councils, and municipalities. According to the new rules, candidates contesting for the post of corporator in a Municipal Corporation area can spend up to 3.50 lakh on their campaign. The ceiling stands lower for other categories — 2.50 lakh for those contesting Municipal Council member seats, and 1.50 lakh for candidates in the Municipality category. Vehicle usage, too, has been tightly regulated. Corporator candidates in Municipal Corporation limits are permitted a maximum of three vehicles for campaigning, while those contesting in Municipal Council areas can use two, and Municipality candidates are restricted to just one. In a rule that harks back to the state’s rural-urban divide, the Commission has explicitly barred the use of camel carts, bullock carts, and horse-drawn tngas in campaigns — a practice not uncommon in Rajasthan’s smaller towns and semi-urban belts.

‘Laws Alone Won’t Fix Social Media’: Mohan Bhagwat Flags Digital Risks for Gen Z, Calls for Responsible Online Culture



■ FAIR REPORT
 NEW DELHI

Raising concerns over the growing influence of social media on younger generations, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat called for greater digital responsibility among Gen Z and Gen Alpha, arguing that laws and regulations alone cannot address the challenges posed by the online ecosystem without a corresponding change in societal behaviour. Speaking at a public event, Bhagwat said the rapid expansion of digital platforms has profoundly shaped the thinking and habits of young people, making responsible online conduct an urgent social priority. He stressed that while governments can frame rules and enact laws to regulate digital spaces, their effectiveness ultimately depends on public acceptance and individual accountability. “Laws become meaningful only when society embraces them and people

voluntarily change their attitudes,” Bhagwat said, underlining that lasting solutions to the problems associated with social media require collective social awareness rather than legal enforcement alone. His remarks come amid an intensifying national debate over the impact of social media on misinformation, online addiction, cyberbullying and the mental well-being of children and young adults. Policymakers, technology companies and civil society groups have increasingly called for stronger digital literacy and responsible content consumption as internet penetration continues to rise across India. Bhagwat’s intervention places the spotlight on the broader societal dimension of the digital revolution, suggesting that technological progress must be accompanied by ethical awareness, self-discipline and informed participation if its benefits are to outweigh its risks.

Mop left in stomach during C-section, FIR registered after 3 months; woman’s condition worsened due to infection

Operation was done on May 2, mop removed from stomach during operation in Ahmedabad on June 27; case registered against doctors on August 7 after Medical Board report

■ FAIR REPORT
 CHITTORGARH

The mop used during the C-section operation was allegedly left inside the woman’s stomach, which caused infection for nearly two months. As her condition worsened, she had to be taken to Ahmedabad for treatment. The operation was done at Daksh Hospital in Kumbhanagar on May 2. After the operation, the woman’s health continued to worsen. On June



Claim of ₹15 lakh spent on treatment

In the complaint, Lokesh said that around 15 lakh has been spent on his wife’s treatment so far. It was also mentioned in the complaint that due to the long treatment, the newborn baby could not get breast milk from the mother. According to the police, the complaint was submitted at the office of the Superintendent of Police. As the matter was related to medical negligence, a Medical Board was formed through the Chief Medical Officer, General Hospital, Chittorgarh, and its report was obtained. After this, Sadar Police registered an FIR on August 7 and started the investigation.

Nagar. Lokesh had complained to the Superintendent of Police, alleging medical negligence in the C-section operation of his wife Jaya Choudhary. According to police records, Jaya was taken to Daksh Hospital on May 2 during her pregnancy. On the advice of the doctor, a C-section operation was done on the same day and she was discharged from the hospital on May 6. After about 10 days, Jaya’s health started get-

ting worse. She had stomach pain and fever, stopped eating and drinking, and started suffering from vomiting and dizziness. On May 19, during a check-up at Birla Hospital, it was found that there was swelling in the liver and infection had spread in the body. As her condition did not improve, Jaya was admitted to Zydus Hospital in Ahmedabad on June 24. During the examination there, a cotton mop was found inside her

stomach and fluid had collected around it. According to the complaint, the large intestine had also ruptured due to the infection. On June 27, an operation was done and the mop was removed from her stomach. The complainant alleged that the mop was left inside her stomach during the C-section operation on May 2, due to which the infection continued to spread and her internal organs were affected.