



Akbar The Great's Simple Coronation Platform

जयपुर • कोटा • बीकानेर • उदयपुर • अजमेर • जालोर • हिण्डौनसिटी • चूरू

राष्ट्रदूत

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Ancient
Volcanoes Erupt
In Iceland

प्रधानमंत्री से 35 मिनट मीटिंग के बाद मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल के परिवर्तन की संभावना पूर्णतया खत्म हुई

**भजनलाल जयपुर से अपनी सरकार के निर्णय व क्रियान्वयन
की विस्तृत जानकारी देने के लिए कई फाइल्स लाये थे**

-रेणु मित्तल-

-राष्ट्रदूत दिल्ली ब्यूरो-
नई दिल्ली, 29 जुलाई। दिल्ली और जयपुर में चल ही इन अटकलों, कि राजस्थान में नेतृत्व परिवर्तन होने वाला है, के विपरीत सूत्रों का कहना है कि फिलहाल भाजपा हाईकमान की ओर से मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल को

- प्रधानमंत्री से 35 मिनट की बैठक के बाद मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल ने 5 घंटे लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिला के कमरे में व्यतीत किये।



मुख्यमंत्री भजनलाल शर्मा ने मंगलवार को संसद भवन में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी से मुलाकात की।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक, भजनलाल प्रधानमंत्री से मिलने के लिए एक विश्वरूप फाइल के साथ पहुंच, जिसमें उनका सरकार के फैसले, कार्यवाहीयां और गतिविधियां शामिल थीं। इनका उद्देश राज्य में उनके आरोपों द्वारा लगाये जा रहे अक्षमता के आरोपों और नेतृत्व परिवर्तन की मार्गों का जवाब देना था।

यह भी बताया जा रहा है कि पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री वसुंधरा राजे कुछ समय से प्रधानमंत्री से मिलने के लिए समय मांग रही थीं, और जब उन्हें यह समय मिल गया, तो भजनलाल ने भी दिल्ली आने का फैसला किया।

संभवतः उन्हें यह आधास था कि वसुंधरा राजे प्रधानमंत्री से उनके काम-काज की शिकायतें बर्गी, इसीलिए भजनलाल पूरी तैयारी के साथ दिल्ली पहुंचे थे, ताकि वे केंद्रीय नेतृत्व के सामने अपना पक्ष मजबूती से रख सकें।

दिल्ली में राजस्थान को लेकर चल रही गतिविधियों को देखते हुए, भाजपा सूत्रों का कहना है कि फिलहाल भजनलाल की कुर्सी को कोई खत्म नहीं है।

(शेष अंतिम पृष्ठ पर)

एसआई भर्ती पेपर लीक में सुनवाई जारी

जयपुर, 29 जुलाई। राजस्थान हाईकोर्ट में मंगलवार का एसआई भर्ती-2021 पेपर लीक मामले में सुनवाई जारी रही। जिस्टस समीर जैन ने अदालती समय पूरा हो जाने के कारण मामले की सुनवाई आगामी दिनों के

- हाई कोर्ट का समय पूरा होने तक याचिकार्ताओं की बहस पूरी नहीं हुई।

लिए टाल दी।

सुनवाई के दौरान, याचिकार्ता कैलाशचन्द्र व अन्य की ओर से वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मेजर आरपी सिंह और अधिकारी हरेन्द्र नील ने पक्ष रक्षा याचिकार्ताओं की ओर से कहा गया कि भर्ती परीक्षा का पेपर परीक्षा के दिन से काफी पहले ही आरपीएससी से लीक हो गया था। ऐसे में यह व्यापक तरह पर अधिकारी के पास पहुंचा था, जिससे भर्ती परीक्षा की सुधारता और शुद्धता धंग हो गई थी। मामले में एसआई जैन ने आरपीएससी के सदस्यों तथा दूसरी एसआई सहित, अन्य लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया है। ऐसे में परीक्षा को रद्द किया जाना चाहिए।

दोनों दलों के बीच बढ़ती निकटता के संकेत तब देखते को मिले, जब ईके पलानीजीवानी (ईपीएस) समेत अन्नद्रमुक के कई दूसरे नेता, जैसे कि के.पी. युनासीमी, एस.पी. वेलुमणि और थलैनी सुदरम, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी से एयरपोर्ट पर मिले।

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#SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS

Ancient Volcanoes Erupt In Iceland

The Reactivation of Iceland's Reykjanes Volcanic System



After lying dormant for nearly 800 years, Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula has entered a period of renewed volcanic activity, surprising scientists and reshaping our

Tectonic Setting

The Reykjanes Peninsula lies atop the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a divergent tectonic boundary where the North American and Eurasian plates are slowly pulling apart. At a rate of about 2 cm per year, magma rises from the mantle to fill the gap, occasionally resulting in surface eruptions. Unlike

central Iceland's explosive stratovolcanoes (like Eyjafjallajökull), Reykjanes is dominated by rift-associated fissure eruptions, which are generally effusive and non-explosive. These eruptions produce low-viscosity basaltic lava, which spreads easily across the surface and forms lava fields rather than ash clouds.

Geophysical Indicators

In July 2025, followed weeks of elevated seismic activity and ground deformation. Using GPS data, InSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar), and microseismic monitoring, the Icelandic Meteorological Office detected magma intrusion at shallow depths as early as June 2025. The data showed horizontal expansion of the crust, clas-

sic signs of dyke formation, where magma forces its way through rock layers, cracking them apart.

At the height of the eruption, lava fountains reached up to 100-150 meters, and a fissure over 2 km long opened up. Gas sensors recorded elevated levels of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂), common volcanic gases that provide insight into magma depth, composition, and temperature.

Volcanic System Reactivation

What makes this ongoing sequence of eruptions scientifically remarkable is its episodic nature. Since 2021, at least a dozen eruptions have occurred, most lasting days to weeks. This pattern resembles the Reykjanes Fires period between 1210-1240 CE, during which multiple eruptions were separated by months or years, suggesting that the region may enter-

ing a new multi-decade volcanic cycle.

Recent petrological studies of erupted lavas indicate a primitive basalt composition, sourced directly from the upper mantle. The chemical uniformity suggests that the magma reservoir is relatively shallow and not significantly evolved, which aligns with the fast and frequent eruption style observed in the region.

Implications for Hazard Assessment

From a scientific and civil protection standpoint, the reactivation of the Reykjanes system presents both challenges and opportunities. While these eruptions are not currently threatening any infrastructure such as the Svartsengi geothermal plant, Grindavik town, and the Blue Lagoon resort. The Icelandic government has responded by constructing lava



Next to the haunting pillars of the Akbari Mosque is a one-grave shrine, maintained as a living legacy by the locals of Kalanaur.



Adil Ahmad

understanding of long-term tectonic cycles. Since March 2021, the region has experienced a sequence of fissure eruptions, most recently in July 2025 near Sundhnukur, that signify the reawakening of a complex and long-slumbering volcanic system.

K

alanaur is a village in Punjab that few have heard of, let alone visited. Yet, this small settlement, close to the border with Pakistan and about an hour's drive from Amritsar, has made an oversized contribution to history. For it was here, on February 14th, 1556, that a young and unruly boy-prince, the fourteen-year-old Jahangir, Muhammad Akbar, was crowned the King of Hindustan.

"Sirji, did you know that Baisakhi is celebrated even in Canada?"

"Sirji, farmers have now banned the lighting of firecrackers at Spring. Because their dry crops could get burnt."

"Sirji, earlier we had eucalyptus trees lining these highways. Now it is poplar, much better for making plywood and matchsticks."

"Occasional brick kilns dotted the landscape, dotting the yellow-green fields, emitting lazy plumes of smoke into a pale blue sky. Simranjeet had ready information on this too."

"Sirji, these kilns are very valuable for farmers for an extra income. The kiln owners buy clay

history. For it was here, on

February 14th, 1556, that a young and unruly boy-prince, the fourteen-year-old Jahangir, Muhammad Akbar, was crowned the King of Hindustan.

Akbar's coronation platform, the Takht-i-Akbari, still stands among the swaying wheat fields of Kalanaur as a mute reminder that this is where it all began, for one of India's most famous rulers. Not in the celebrated corridors of Delhi or Lahore or Agra, all of the cities associated with Akbar, but here, in the rural heart of Punjab.

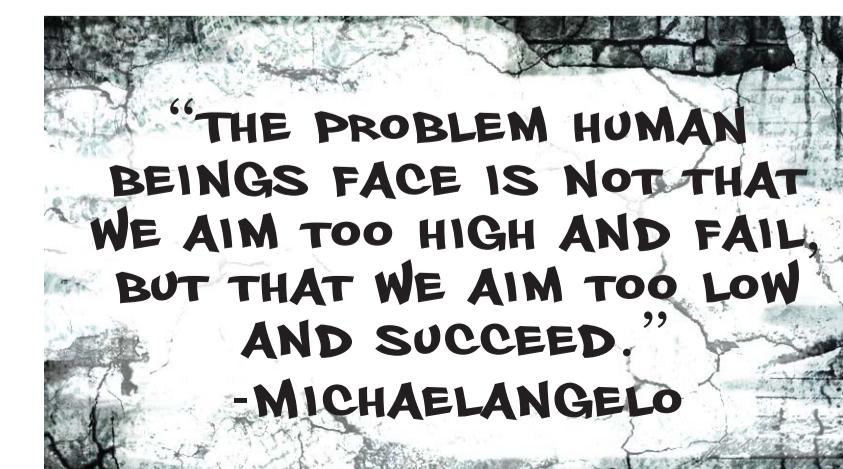
Kalanaur is difficult to reach when treated as a one-off. But, if combined with a visit to Amritsar and the Golden Temple, it makes for a perfect itinerary. Specially for history buffs like me, I could hardly wait to touch and connect with arguably the greatest king my country has produced. What a bonus, barely an hour's drive from Amritsar.

So, on a bright April morning with a slight winter nip in the air my driver, Simranjeet, and I had left Amritsar for Kalanaur. Within a few minutes, we were on to the wide



The Brick Throne where Akbar the Great sat, to be crowned the next Mughal King.

THE WALL



Akbar The Great's Simple Coronation Platform

The villagers of Kalanaur clearly knew their legacy. I was quickly pointed the way to the Takht-i-Akbari, and also informed of the village's other attractions; a famous Shiv Mandir, and the Gurdwara Banda Bahadur. We drove on to a *kuccha* track, leaving the village behind us and lurching through waist-high wheat fields. In the middle of the fields, we passed the haunting ruins of the once-imposing *Akbari Masjid*, which from the size of its massive pillars and the fine carvings still visible, must have been an impressive structure in its prime. Besides its broken remains was a small shrine with a single grave draped in a green cloth. I stopped to have a look, and the villagers told me that this was part of the *Akbari Masjid* and was now looked after by the locals.

#HISTORY



Shiv Temple's unique horizontal Shivalingam, in a lying position.



Eat your Cheesecake!

National Cheesecake Day is one of the creamiest days of the year! It's a day to indulge in the decadence of this dessert, and sample some of the tastiest flavours. From the humble plain baked to the tangy key lime, or maybe, a chocolate one will hit the spot. Whatever grabs that sweet tooth, it's certain that today is the day for some cheesecake! Celebrating National Cheesecake Day is super easy. Just eat, bake and enjoy cheesecake of any variety. Over the centuries, cheesecake moved around the world and popped up as different expressions in different regions. But no matter the variation, cheesecake is a tasty invention that has developed and evolved over time into something that almost everyone in the world loves to eat!



Akbar's Coronation Platform: Where the fourteen-year old Boy-King was crowned King of Hindustan.



The gurgling sound of fresh water, a farmer's *tabela* now adjoins Akbar's Takht-i-Akbari.

maintaining the Takht-i-Akbari. He does a fine job. The enclosure was neat and well swept, with no litter. I complimented Harbhajan and his son on their excellent work, and signed the red coloured ASI visitor's register he had with him.

The sun was now hot in a cloudless sky as I returned to the air conditioned comfort of Simranjeet's Innova. There were still the other attractions of Kalanaur to visit; Gurdwara Banda Bahadur and the Shiv Mandir. Simranjeet, who, when we started the journey, had no idea about this historical gem in his own backyard, asked me how I was liking the visit. What could I say? I was a bit overwhelmed and still taking it in. Just the thought that this was the last coronation that had shown the history of India had been created, left me in awe. Is there any other place in the world where one could sit on the coronation throne of the country's most famous ruler? And, be so close to historical legacy as to actually touch it and feel it for oneself.

I was due to visit two religious places in the next hour at Kalanaur, and at the end of an upward sloping lane, was the Gurdwara Banda Bahadur. In 1715, the heroic Banda Bahadur and his Sikhs fought and staged their last great stand against the Mughals, at the famous battle of Gurdas Nangal, just a few miles from here. He had been captured and taken to Delhi in an iron cage, where he was executed in a particularly cruel manner. This Gurdwara is located on the spot where Banda Bahadur had built a well. I took off my shoes to enter the Gurdwara, but hesitated as I hadn't carried a handkerchief to cover my head. An elderly *sardar* offered to give me his, but his wife mentioned that there were head coverings available at the entry gate. As indeed, there were. I pushed open the mesh doors to enter the Gurdwara. Inside, there were about twenty devotees seated on a red carpet, women on one side and men on the other. The holy *Guru Granth Sahib* was under a golden canopy. I sat in a corner of the Gurdwara, and once again, I prayed.

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Praying at Kalanaur

Opposite Kalanaur's hectic bus station is an arched gateway to the village's old Shiv temple, famous locally for its Shivalingam mela.

According to legend, Lord Shiva had rested in Kalanaur, so the Shivalingam in the temple lies horizontal instead of vertical, which

set in to the coronation platform with floral carvings on four corners. As I climbed down into the water tank, I thought to myself, why the need for this, in the harsh winter cold of February in Punjab? But to lend this impromptu stage some additional flourish and dignity fit for the occasion, the coronation of a Mughal king!

I was due to visit two religious places in the next hour at Kalanaur, and at the end of an upward sloping lane, was the Gurdwara Banda Bahadur. In 1715, the heroic Banda Bahadur and his Sikhs fought and staged their last great stand against the Mughals, at the famous battle of Gurdas Nangal, just a few miles from here. He had been captured and taken to Delhi in an iron cage, where he was executed in a particularly cruel manner. This Gurdwara is located on the spot where Banda Bahadur had built a well. I took off my shoes to enter the Gurdwara, but hesitated as I hadn't carried a handkerchief to cover my head. An elderly *sardar* offered to give me his, but his wife mentioned that there were head coverings available at the entry gate. As indeed, there were. I pushed open the mesh doors to enter the Gurdwara. Inside, there were about twenty devotees seated on a red carpet, women on one side and men on the other. The holy *Guru Granth Sahib* was under a golden canopy. I sat in a corner of the Gurdwara, and once again, I prayed.

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