

CityMatters

2/2025

Justice in Protest, Chaos on the Streets



On May 05, 2025, central Jaipur witnessed severe traffic disruptions as hundreds of lawyers protested outside the Sessions Court, Collectorate, and Khasa Kothi. The protest, which spilt over into major areas, such as Bani Park and MI Road, brought the city to a standstill for several hours. The lawyers were reacting to an FIR filed at Sadar police station against five advocates allegedly involved in a scuffle on court premises days earlier.



Members of the legal fraternity called the FIR unjust, claiming that even those not present during the incident had been named. Protesters demanded its withdrawal and sought disciplinary action against the Station House Officer, accusing the police of acting with malicious intent.

This is not the first time Jaipur has faced such a disruption. Just months earlier, a similar protest followed the reported death of a lawyer due to medical reasons. That too brought the city's functioning to a halt.

These repeated incidents prompt a larger question: Do lawyers have the right to resort to unrestrained strikes that spill into public spaces? Unlike factory workers or industrial labour, lawyers are officers of the court and are expected to uphold the rule of law. While court boycotts remain a debated issue – particularly in light of Supreme Court judgments discouraging such actions – bringing civic life to a standstill certainly goes beyond acceptable limits.

Even as the right to protest remains constitutionally protected, it must be exercised with a sense of responsibility and in the public interest.

A Way Forward: Managing Protests Responsibly

A structure approach is essential to prevent such disruptions:

- Authorities should identify specific areas for public demonstrations that do not interfere with daily life. Many global cities have successfully implemented this model.
- Protest organisers should inform the police and public in advance to enable traffic management and ensure public safety.
- Complaints involving professional groups, such as lawyers should be reviewed by neutral panels to maintain institutional trust.
- Bar Councils and Human Rights Commissions should facilitate dialogue between lawyers and law enforcement before issues escalate.
- Digital petitions, awareness drives, and symbolic sit-ins can convey dissent effectively without inconveniencing the public.

Conclusion

The Jaipur lawyers' protest highlights the need for effective protest mechanisms that balance the protection of democratic rights with the preservation of civic order. As Indian cities continue to grow, striking a balance between protest and public welfare is no longer optional — it is essential.

Pradeep S. Mehta

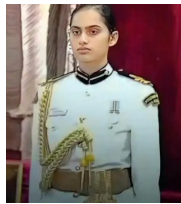
Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

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Breaking the Brass Ceiling

Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solanki has become the first woman officer from the Indian Navy appointed as Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India. Her appointment highlights women's growing role in nation-building. ADCs coordinate communication between the President and armed forces.



Traditionally, five ADCs are selected — three from the Army, one each from the Navy and Air Force. (NDTV, 13.06.25)

Suruchi Strikes Gold Again

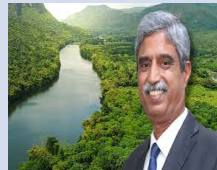
At 19, Suruchi Phogat made history by winning gold in the women's 10m air pistol at the ISSF World Cup in Munich—her third straight individual gold in as many senior events.



With five medals in five tournaments, she's the first Indian to achieve this feat. In Munich, she shot 241.9 to edge out Olympic medallists, after equalling the national record in qualifying with a score of 588. (Tol, 14.06.25)

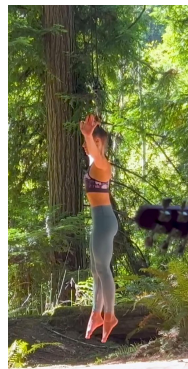
Sailing Against the Plastic Sea

Captain DC Sekhar, a former Merchant Navy officer, has removed over one lakh tonnes of trash from rivers using a low-cost, fuel-free barrier. With the help of natural currents, this made-in-India innovation is protecting seas from plastic pollution. (DB, 14.04.25)



Tresses That Touched the Sky

Leila Noone, 39, broke a Guinness World Record by hanging from her hair for 25 minutes and 11.3 seconds at Redwood National Park. The circus performer trained for two years to surpass the 2011 record. Her aim was to showcase the power of the mind through endurance and determination in the unique feat of hair hanging. (www.upi.com, 13.05.25)



Guardians of Green and Clean

Sudha, a spirited 73-year-old from Nagpur, promotes cleanliness by riding her bicycle through the city, inspiring others to join her mission. Her dream is to see Nagpur as clean and well-maintained as Indore.

Meanwhile, 63-year-old Dilip contributes by planting saplings, adding greenery and beauty. Together, they are shaping a cleaner, greener future for their beloved city. (DB, 05.05.25)

Turning Trash into Cash

In Gujarat, initiatives encourage plastic recycling by offering rewards, including cash. Reverse Vending Machines let people deposit used plastic bottles and earn money or e-wallet points. Some towns give direct cash for every kg of plastic collected.

These efforts aim to manage plastic waste and promote a circular economy, supporting a cleaner environment through innovative, incentive-based approaches. (DB, 29.05.25)

From Shadows to Spotlight

Blaise Metreweli has been named the first female chief of MI6 since its founding in 1909. A career intelligence officer and tech innovator, she replaces Richard Moore amid rising threats from Russia, China, and cyberattacks.

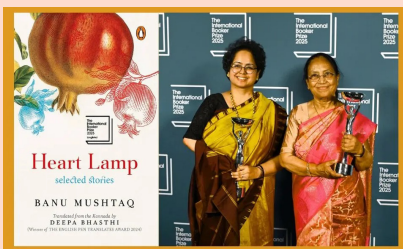
Prime Minister Keir Starmer called it a historic appointment during the G7 summit. Metreweli, 47, will be the only public-facing MI6 officer, stepping into the spotlight to lead Britain's foreign intelligence agency. (Tol, 16.06.25)

Lost City of Imet Unearthed

Archaeologists from the University of Manchester collaborated with a team from the University of Sadat City in Cairo to excavate the ancient city of Imet in Egypt's eastern Nile Delta.

The team combined remote sensing techniques using high-resolution satellite imagery with on-the-ground archaeological methods, unearthing artefacts including a cooking pot containing the remains of a fish stew dating back to the 4th century BC. (BBC, 29.06.25)

"Heart Lamp" Lights the World



"Heart Lamp," a short story collection by Banu Mushtaq, translated into English by Deepa Bhasthi, became the first Kannada work to win the 2025 International Booker Prize, marking a historic moment for Indian regional literature.

It features stories portraying women's struggles under patriarchy, echoing the Bandaya Sahitya movement and highlighting universal themes of gender discrimination. (Tol, 22.05.25)

Akbar's Bride, A Tale Untold

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade made a shocking declaration, stating that history books that mention the marriage between Hindu Rajput princess Jodha Bai and Mughal Emperor Akbar are historically inaccurate and a lie.

He further alleged that there is no mention of the marriage between the Rajput princess and the Mughal Emperor in Akbarnama, the official chronicle of Akbar's reign. (IT, 30.05.25)

Dolls Dance and Hearts Follow

Videos featuring emotional moments with hyper-realistic baby dolls have sparked both online fascination and political debate in Brazil, with lawmakers even bringing the lifelike dolls into legislatures.



Influencers have staged situations such as birth simulations and strolls in shopping malls with the hand-crafted baby figures, known as "reborn" dolls, creating videos that have gone viral.

(AP News, 30.05.25)

Echoes of an Ancient Queen

In coastal Peru, archaeologists uncovered a 5,000-year-old tomb of an elite woman from the ancient Caral civilisation. Found in the Aspero area, the discovery suggests women held high status.

Her remains were well-preserved, including skin and hair,



and she was buried with valuable offerings such as a feather mantle, baskets, vases, gourds, and a toucan's beak — highlighting her importance in early Peruvian society.

(ET, 24.04.25)

Venom in His Veins, Hope in Hands



Tim Friede is no ordinary snake lover. In the last 18 years, the self-trained venom expert has injected himself with snake venom over 850 times. His daredevil approach might sound crazy, but it has resulted in something remarkable: a breakthrough in worldwide snake control.

(BBC, 02.05.25)

The Snake's Deadly Kiss

A 50-year-old man in Amroha's Haibatpur village is in critical condition after a snake bit his tongue during a risky stunt. Intoxicated and attempting to impress by kissing the rescued snake on camera, Jitendra Kumar was bitten as bystanders filmed.

The video, now viral, has drawn ridicule online. He was rushed to a hospital and later referred to a higher facility. Authorities have not been formally informed. (Tol, 16.06.25)

Serpents in the Snowline

Ten King Cobras were spotted between 1,000–2,700m in Nepal's Everest region, far above their usual lowland habitats. Experts link this unusual shift to climate change, noting earlier sightings and eggs in the Gauri Shankar Range.

Scientists say warmer temperatures may be expanding the snakes' range, but call for more research to confirm if this is part of a broader ecological change or isolated incidents. (Tol, 13.06.25)

Tall Tails and Tiny Paws



When both dogs are walking, Pearl, a 9.14-centimeter (3.6-inch) tall chihuahua, barely reaches the top of Reggie's paw, such is the towering height of the 1.007-meter (3-foot, 4-inch) Great Dane. It's easy to forget they are the same species.

Pearl is the world's shortest living dog and Reggie is the world's tallest and, despite their 91.56-centimeter (3-foot) height difference, they happily played together when they first met in Idaho earlier this month, according to Guinness World Records.

(DB, 01.05.25)

Before They Vanish Mini Wonders

The replicas of the Seven Wonders of the World in Ajmer, located near Ana Sagar Lake, are being removed due to a violation of environmental norms and encroachment on the lake's wetland area.



The National Green Tribunal ordered their removal, and the district administration began the process in March 2025. Therefore, the last picture of these replicas that will not be seen is the one taken before the removal process began.

(DB, 27.04.25)

Living The Dream Life of Many



Sonu, a man from the Indian state of Bihar, documented his beautiful journey as he cycled through India with his furry friend Charlie, who is a rescued dog. Their journey showcases the special bond between humans and dogs.

Dogs are known for their unwavering loyalty and ability to form strong bonds with their owners. They have been human companions for thousands of years, providing loyalty, affection and support. Sonu said that he has ridden his bike 12,000 kms with the dog. (NDTV, 30.06.25)

Cave Chronicles of Ancients

Ancient Neolithic-era cave paintings have been discovered in the Yelagiri hills, exciting archaeologists. Local visitors alerted Sacred Heart College scholars to unusual markings in a natural cave at Reddiur.

A team led by Professor Prabhu, a historian and archaeologist, along with District Forest officials, inspected the site. They were

astonished by the extent and remarkable preservation of the artwork, shedding new light on early human history in the region.

(IT, 23.06.25)

Divine Stone Unearthed in Ayodhya

Excavation near Kuber Tila in Ayodhya's Ram Temple complex has revealed an ancient relic of a goddess standing atop two lions. Likely from a Shakta or Vaishnavite tradition, the carving reflects early medieval temple art.

Found during foundation work on a spiritual trail, the discovery adds to growing evidence of Ayodhya's rich civilisational heritage, despite erosion softening the figure's finer details.

(<https://www.news18.com/>, 23.06.25)

Traffic Calming Takes a Twist

In Montgomery Township, Pennsylvania, wavy or "squiggly" traffic lines were painted on a portion of Grays Lane to address speeding concerns. The lines, resembling a chicane, were installed



in response to residents' complaints about speeding drivers on the residential street.

The unique traffic calming measure has generated discussion among residents, with some expressing confusion and others questioning its effectiveness. (DB, 09.04.25)

Global Indian of the Year

Fareed Zakaria, the Indian-born American journalist and political commentator, was honoured as the Global Indian of the Year at the ET Awards for Corporate Excellence in Mumbai.



The award recognised his contributions to journalism and his insightful commentary on global affairs, particularly his efforts to bridge understanding between India and the world. (ET, 10.03.25)

Wedding Bells Went Silent

A 40-year-old woman from Aligarh's Mandrak area allegedly eloped with her daughter's 20-year-old fiancé, just days before their wedding. They reportedly took ₹2.5 lakh in cash and jewellery.

Both families have filed complaints. Police suspect they may be in Uttarakhand and are reviewing CCTV footage to trace them. (HT, 17.04.25)

A Stethoscope of Lies

An MBBS doctor, Pankaj Mohan Sharma, is accused of impersonating a cardiologist at Badshah Khan Civil Hospital in Faridabad. He allegedly performed over 50 heart procedures using forged qualifications and a false identity.

The hospital terminated Sharma after suspicions arose, and police are investigating the matter following a complaint. (ET, 07.06.25)

The Chakravyuh of Change

At PM Shri Government Girls School, Sector 18, Chandigarh, students make compost from waste, learn about medicinal plants in Arogya Vatika, and enhance focus through a Chakravyuh installation. A science park made from junk adds to the learning environment.

The transformation began in 2015 under teacher Ramesh Sharma, who brings fresh ideas from his travels. The school now has 2,000 students and attracts visitors from other schools to observe its innovations. (DB, 05.05.25)



Ring Road to Ease Traffic

The Rajasthan government has greenlit a significant infrastructure project, a 110-km-long Northern



Ring Road around Jaipur, with an estimated investment of ₹6,500 crore.

The purpose is to enhance connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and promote regional development. This improved infrastructure is crucial for the smooth movement of goods and people. (IJ, 04.06.25)

Land Mutation Goes Online

To curb land fraud, Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) has integrated the 90A, eRegistration, and eDharti portals, enabling fully online land mutation. After a 90A order, the mutation request is auto-sent for quick verification.

If uncontested, it's completed within a month. The system ensures transparency, timely updates, and reduces fraud by syncing ownership details across platforms. (Tol, 25.06.25)

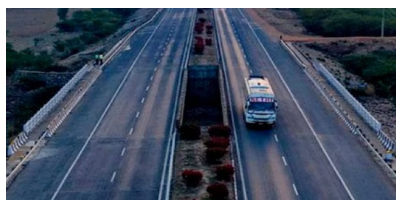
3 Flyovers on Jaipur-Agra

To reduce accidents and traffic congestion, NHAI will build three flyovers on the Jaipur-Agra highway at Kanota, Bassi T-point, and Banskho Gate — identified as accident-prone black spots.

These locations face frequent snarls due to unregulated cuts. The district collector has approved the plan, and a nearby cut near the 52-foot Hanuman temple will also be closed soon. (Tol, 22.06.25)

JDA To Develop 71 Sector Roads

To address deteriorating roads, the JDA will construct 71 sector roads under its annual maintenance



programme. These roads, part of the Master Plan 2025, faced earlier delays.

Now, ₹454 crore has been approved for their development. Selected from A and B category roads, they were chosen based on future traffic needs and planned settlements. The project aims to improve connectivity and reduce road damage across the city. (Tol, 22.06.25)

E-rickshaw Ban on Flyovers



Jaipur's traffic control board has banned e-rickshaws and e-carts on key roads and flyovers, including Ajmer, Delhi, and Agra Roads, and overbridges like Bharat Jodo Setu and Gopalpura flyover. Specific stretches across the city are affected.

Officials said minibuses and CNG/LPG autos are available as alternatives. The board also approved adding 5,000 CNG/LPG auto-rickshaws to improve transport amid urban expansion and rising demand. (Tol, 20.06.25)

Ozone Pollution Hits Jaipur

Jaipur is among the cities in India experiencing levels of ozone pollution. Recent reports indicate that Jaipur, along with other major Indian cities, faces challenges with ground-level ozone, particularly impacting individuals with respiratory conditions.

The Central Pollution Control Board has identified Jaipur as one of the cities with alarming ozone levels, with some monitoring stations exceeding the national standards. (Tol, 11.06.25)

Say Goodbye to Aadhaar Copies

Soon, you may no longer need to submit Aadhaar photocopies. A new QR-based app will allow sharing full or masked e-Aadhaar.

By November, address and detail updates will not require Aadhaar centre visits, as UIDAI plans to pull verified data from documents like birth and matriculation certificates, DL, passport, PAN, PDS, and MNREGA records—aimed at simplifying processes and curbing use of forged documents. (Tol, 16.06.25)



2-Week Antyodaya Campaign

CM Bhajan Lal Sharma announced a two-week state-wide campaign, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Sambal Pakhwada, from June 24 to ensure last-mile delivery of welfare schemes.

It complements the Garibi Mukta Gaon Yojana, aiming to uplift BPL families in 5,000 villages. Daily gram panchayat camps will offer services like land dispute resolution, Swamitva deed distribution, NFSA case redressal, soil health cards, and Aadhaar seeding for eligible families. (Tol, 16.06.25)

Govt Plans App-Cab Policy

The Transport Department of Rajasthan will draft a new cab policy considering both passenger and driver demands. Additional Transport Commissioner Renu Khandelwal directed cab companies to open offices in Rajasthan and follow government-approved fares.

Some companies agreed to set up offices in Jaipur soon. Officials said a list of company representatives will be shared with the RTO for further coordination and policy implementation.

(Tol, 12.06.25)

RTO Issues New Route Permits

To boost Jaipur's public transport, RTO Jaipur will issue over 740 permits for city buses and shared vehicles across 18 routes. For the first time, permits will also be issued from the Heerapura bus stand, improving connectivity in areas like Ajmer Road, Vaishali Nagar, Chauraha Marg, and Gandhi Nagar.

Unlike previous years, when few permits were granted, this drive includes 300 for buses and 400 for tempo/shared vehicles.

(Tol, 11.06.25)

Renaming School Names

The school education department has ordered the renaming of 40 government schools with caste- or community-based names to promote equality and inclusivity.

Following recommendations from local authorities, schools like "Kanjara Basti" and "Bhil Basti" have been renamed with neutral identifiers.

Officials say the move aims to avoid reinforcing social stigma. Schools must update names across records and signboards, with compliance due by month-end.

(HT, 04.05.25)

Poshan Tracker Rollout

From July 01, take-home nutrition at anganwadi centres in Jaipur will be distributed only through facial recognition. The ICDS department has directed officials to fast-track enrolment and e-KYC via the Poshan Tracker.

Attendance of children aged 3–6 years and records of hot cooked meals provided to them must also be updated on the platform.

(Tol, 30.06.25)

Plans On-Demand Garbage Pickup

Jaipur Municipal Corporation will introduce an on-demand garbage pickup service, letting residents schedule waste collection



at their convenience. Aimed at improving urban cleanliness, the service includes a premium 'VVIP' option with an extra fee of up to ₹100.

Proposals and citizen suggestions are being sought, and a separate tender will assign service providers. The initiative will complement existing door-to-door collection without disruption.

(Tol, 11.05.25)

Boosting Delhi-Jaipur Connectivity

From June, travel from Delhi to Jaipur will take just 2.5 hours with a new link connecting Bandikui on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway to Jaipur Ring Road. This reduces the distance by 20 km.

By December, a 9-km stretch of the DND Flyway–KMP interchange will also open, enabling seamless travel from Ghaziabad, Noida, and east Delhi to Jaipur. The full 260-km route will be smooth and non-stop.

(Tol, 21.04.25)

BRTS Demolition Set to Ease Traffic

The JDA will begin dismantling the BRTS corridor after getting finance department clearance. Work will start on Sikar Road, creating more space for traffic. The corridor overlaps with the proposed Metro Line 2.

Originally built at ₹170 crore, ₹30 crore will now be spent on removal. The Centre may also seek a refund with interest for its 50 percent contribution under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

(Tol, 19.04.25)

Infra: Parks, Elevated Road Ahead

Jaipur is developing four new parks, and one of the projects also includes an elevated road in Sanganer. This elevated road, particularly around Malpura Gate and the New Sanganer Road railway overbridge, aims to ease traffic congestion in the area.

The initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance infrastructure and improve traffic management across the city.

(DB, 14.06.25)

Jaipur Metro Phase-II Gains Speed

The Rajasthan government is expediting Jaipur Metro Phase-II, targeting tender issuance by year-end and construction start by March 2026. The 42.8 km corridor will cost ₹12,260 crore, with 60 percent funded via ADB and AIIB loans.



Managed by Rajasthan Metro Rail Corporation, the project aims for completion by 2031, with retroactive financing covering up to 30 percent.

(<https://firstindia.co.in/>, 01.06.25)

To End Plastic Pollution, Look Beyond Recycling

Pradeep S. Mehta*

Plastic trash is everywhere in the Global South — from city parks to riverbanks. As World Environment Day (June 5) focuses on “Ending Plastic Pollution,” countries like India have taken steps through bans, awareness drives, and recycling targets. Yet plastic waste continues to surge.



Every week, our team at CUTS finds trash – even reusable PET bottles – littering Jaipur’s Central Park. Despite sporadic enforcement and fines, the problem persists. This is because bans and recycling alone are not enough.

India generates nearly 10 million tonnes of plastic waste annually. While per capita consumption is lower than in wealthier nations, India contributes nearly 20 percent of global plastic pollution – surpassing China and the US in mismanaged waste. Less than half of our plastic waste is recycled.

Even when plastic is recycled, it is often downcycled into lower-grade products that soon become waste again. Recycling, while useful, is ultimately just damage control.

Reduce, Reuse, Redesign

The real solution lies in reducing plastic use and redesigning products. India’s 2022 partial ban on single-use plastics was a step forward, but enforcement is patchy. Plastic bags and disposable items are still widely available.

India must push for packaging that is minimal, reusable, or made from alternative materials. Reuse models have been piloted in metros and by some FMCG companies. But scaling them up requires better infrastructure, incentives, and clear standards. Such systems not only reduce waste but can also create green jobs in logistics, cleaning, and maintenance.

From Bans to Systemic Change

India’s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Policy 2025 mandates that producers collect and process their plastic waste and use recycled content. But many firms outsource compliance or lack transparency.

Circular economy policies must go further – encouraging eco-design, building reuse and repair

infrastructure, and supporting local innovations. Financial incentives like reduced GST for sustainable products are also key.

Decentralised waste management systems are critical. Local governments must be equipped to manage waste at the source, promote segregation, and engage citizens in co-creating solutions.

The Cultural Shift We Need

Plastic pollution is not just a material issue – it is cultural. Modern consumerism promotes a throwaway mindset, at odds with India’s traditions of frugality and reuse.

Behavioural change must be part of the solution. Campaigns should reach schools, temples, festivals, and even social media influencers. In Ladakh, monks are leading awareness drives. In Kerala, fisherfolk collect ocean plastic.

Global Treaty, Local Solutions

India plays a key role in global talks like the UN Global Plastics Treaty. The Global South, including India, emphasises that international rules must reflect local realities – not impose one-size-fits-all measures.

Meanwhile, local efforts can feed into global frameworks. International examples like Rwanda’s bans or Chile’s reuse laws offer inspiration.

A New Vision

To end plastic pollution, India must go beyond recycling. We need to redesign our systems, rebuild sustainable habits, and reimagine progress – not as material excess but ecological balance.

This is more than an environmental goal – it is an opportunity for India to lead by uniting ancient wisdom, innovation, and collective action toward a cleaner future.

**Secretary General, CUTS International. Abridged from an article that appeared in the Deccan Chronicle and Asian Age on June 03, 2025*

World Bicycle Day

Indian Cities Need a Cycling Revolution

Amardeep Singh*

In June 2025, Paris topped the Cycle-Friendly City Ranking 2025 by the Clean Cities Campaign. Once infamous for gridlock and pollution, the French capital has reinvented itself as a global model for sustainable urban mobility.

This transformation matters beyond Europe—especially for cities like Jaipur, often called the Paris of India for its planned layout and architectural symmetry. While both cities share grid-based designs rooted in Enlightenment-era ideals, their paths diverge sharply when it comes to cycling.



Significance of World Bicycle Day

World Bicycle Day, observed on June 03, was recognised by the United Nations in 2018 to highlight the bicycle as a simple, clean, and affordable mode of transport. In cities like Jaipur, where toxic air and traffic congestion pose serious challenges, the bicycle is more than a symbol – it's a necessity.

Cycling: Urgent and Inclusive

India's cities are choking under rapid urbanisation, vehicular overload, and poor air quality. In Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, daily gridlocks cost commuters time, money, and health.

In this context, bicycles have re-emerged as a practical, low-cost alternative. Cycling reduces emissions, saves time, and cuts transport expenses. It also promotes cardiovascular health and reduces exposure to polluted air. Moreover, bicycles remain the most accessible mode of transport.

Jaipur's Missed Opportunity

With its flat terrain and wide roads, Jaipur is naturally suited for cycling. Yet safety concerns deter

most people from biking outside early morning hours. Major roads such as Tonk Road, Ajmer Road, and Jhotwara Road are dangerous for cyclists due to heavy traffic and the absence of dedicated lanes. Without safe infrastructure, cyclists are left to navigate hostile road conditions. Social stigma also plays a role, with cyclists often viewed as second-class road users.

A Cycling-Friendly Jaipur

A cycle-friendly city is not just about bike lanes – it reflects a people-first approach to urban design. Cities that embrace cycling benefit all: children, women, the elderly, and the working poor.

To make Jaipur more cycle-inclusive, a five-point action plan is needed:

1. Build a city-wide network of protected cycle lanes linked to public transit and key destinations
2. Offer subsidies for bicycles and implement Public Bicycle Sharing systems in residential and commercial zones – not just tourist hubs

3. Promote cycling as a healthy, aspirational, and eco-conscious lifestyle through sustained public messaging
4. Leverage digital platforms to provide real-time updates on cycle routes, low-traffic areas, and parking
5. Urban design must account for all users

Toward a Sustainable Future

As India celebrates World Bicycle Day 2025, it must move beyond symbolism. The bicycle is not just a mode of transport – it's a vehicle for climate resilience, public health, and inclusive growth.

Jaipur, with its historic layout and untapped potential, could lead this movement. It can evolve from being the *Paris of India* in architectural terms to becoming a true model of 21st-century, people-centric urban planning.

It's time to reclaim the streets – one pedal at a time.

**Senior Programme Officer. CUTS International. Abridged from an article that appeared in the Policy Circle on June 02, 2025*

Sources: AP: Associated Press; BBC: British Broadcasting Corporation; DB: Dainik Bhaskar; ET: Economic Times; HT: Hindustan Times; IT: India Today; NDTV: New Delhi Television Ltd; Tol: Times of India; IJ: Infra Junction

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