



**Ashok Gehlot**, chief minister

# WATCH OUT!

## THE 9 WHO WILL SHAPE 2009

*Neta, abhineta, archer, scientist, builder, an unique minister — Rajasthan's tryst with 2009 will see them on the forefront*



**Vasundhara Raje**, leader of Opposition

### 'Clean government and good governance'

The year 2009 is all set to bring a new set of challenges to the newly sworn-in chief minister, who, after catapulting to power in the fog end of 2008, will have to prove his majority on the floor of the house, before meeting the expectations of the people.

"We would ensure that the people of Rajasthan get a clean government and a good governance for which they have elected the Congress," said Ashok Gehlot, the new chief minister. However, taking as many as 11 Independents including supporters of BJP rebel Kirori Lal Meena and the Jat leaders, would require political manoeuvring and adjustments where jugglery skills of this "magician" will be put to test.



**FUTURE'S NOW**

### 'I'll play a constructive role as leader of Opp'

Her victory with a mammoth margin in the Assembly elections was not much of help as her party lost to Congress in the Assembly elections early this month. After shifting from her 8 Civil Lines residence, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje is just settling down to face her next innings as the leader of Opposition. In fact, her stance would be apparent during the first Assembly session when the newly-formed Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government has to prove its majority and set the tone for its tenure. "I will play a constructive role as a leader of Opposition and would ensure that the schemes and projects for the welfare and development of state continue and are completed well in time," says Raje.

### Congress's big hope for Lok Sabha polls

He may not be as charismatic as his father. But he is certainly more close to 10, Janpath than the late Rajesh Pilot ever was, courtesy his proximity with Rahul Gandhi. No wonder, young Sachin is being seen as the future of the Congress in Rajasthan. The title suits the Wharton graduate just fine. Though Sachin is among the new lot of young politician, his party has pinned hopes on him for the Lok Sabha 2009 elections. Insiders say he would be given the job of mobilising young voters in the next election. But Pilot Jr is too coy to admit his importance. "I am just an ordinary worker," he says. Year 2009 would prove if the 'ordinary worker' can live up to the extraordinary expectations everyone has from him.



**Sachin Pilot**, MP



**Sudhir Raniwala**, scientist

### The 'Big Bang' Raniwalas

Sudhir Raniwala is an associate professor in the physics department of Rajasthan University. Taking part in the famous Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment in Geneva was one of his major achievements in 2008. After that he has been called by different universities from across the country to share his experiences about the LHC. For 2009, Raniwala's work on an important American experiment is also under operation, where his team is working on a new phase of the matter called 'quark gluon plasma' experiment. He says that this experiment will help in creating conditions which were present at the time of beginning of the Universe. His wife Rashmi Raniwala is also a well-known physicist. The couple has a common goal in the coming year — to see the proton fluid experiment and successful installation of the photon detector in 2009. Besides, a grid computing experiment, for which the government has provided him all lab facilities, is also in the offing.



**Rajiv Khandelwal**, actor

### A silver-lining on the silver screen

The actor from Jaipur, who carved a niche for himself with his debut film Aamir, is all set to do take up more challenging roles in 2009. Rajiv Khandelwal is on Cloud 9 after the success of Aamir. His next venture, Peter Gaya Kaam Se, is a love story on the backdrop of Goa. Initially considered as just another television actor wanting to make it big on the silver screen, Rajeev Khandelwal silenced critics with his performance in Aamir. The actor claims that he will be doing films of different genres in 2009. Jaipurites can expect more from him with three of his films slated to be released in the coming year.

### The squash sensation

A promising young squash talent from Jaipur, Surbhi Misra (18) is a name to reckon with. Winner of many national and international squash championships, the year 2008 brought her many laurels. Misra was a runner-up at the Under-19 Junior National Squash Championship at Chennai. Same year, her team clinched the fifth place in the Asian Squash Championship held at Kuwait and she was also a plate group runner-up in the same championship. Talk of awards and Mishra has been felicitated with Shri Durga Shankar Smriti, "Pratibha Samman" and Dainik Bhaskar "Stree Shakti Samman" in 2008.

Sharing her ambitious plans for 2009, she says, "I'm excited about participating in the World Junior Women's Squash Championship to be held in August in Chennai." She will also play in the world doubles and mixed doubles championships in Chennai. But her focus is on the Commonwealth Games to be held in 2010. "I'm getting myself trained by the internationally renowned squash coach Sandra Wu of Malaysia as I don't want to leave any stone unturned," Mishra adds. She will be participating in every professional event in the country to hone her skills.



**Surbhi Misra**, squash player



**Golma Devi**, minister of state, gov't of Rajasthan

### Breaking glass ceilings, the Rabri Devi way

First-time MLA Golma Devi, better known as wife of BJP dissident leader Kirori Lal Meena, who was inducted as minister of state for khadi and village industry, reportedly took three days to learn how to put her signature. However, she is happy to be compared with Bihar's former chief minister Rabri Devi. Soon after taking the oath, with the assistance of her colleague, as she could barely read, Golma promised to improve basic amenities in the rural areas. With her husband Kirori Lal Meena enjoying a clout because of his stature as Meena leader and as a BJP rebel, what role Golma would play in the days to come would be interesting to watch.

### Building for the future

Atma Ram Gupta is the chairman of ARG group. Recently, he bagged the most prestigious award—Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in the construction industry. The award was conferred upon him by the Builders Association of India. He has changed the face of the city by introducing many commercial and residential projects across the state. Now, as with recession affecting the buying capacity of the people and the property market undergoing correction, Gupta has decided to introduce low-cost flats with 2-3 rooms within Rs10 lakh to Rs15 lakh for the middle class families in cities like Jaipur, Ajmer and Kota. "We are constantly trying to serve the citizens of Jaipur by way of providing housing and commercial spaces for their commercial activities at the best and cheapest prices along with modern amenities," said Gupta. He claims to have built the biggest mall of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Besides, Gupta is also planning to build many high-rise buildings in the city in 2009.



**Atma Ram Gupta**, builder

### Target: Commonwealth Games

Limba Ram shot to fame in 1992 when he made a world record and bagged the gold medal in Beijing Asian championship. He was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1991. In the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Limba Ram missed out on the bronze medal by a point. He has been one of the most celebrated Indian archers. Because of his potential, recently in 2008, he was appointed as a field director of rural sports in the state. He has been assigned the job to hone the budding talent of the state in rural Rajasthan and to ensure that adequate facilities are being provided to sportspersons in rural Rajasthan.

Now, in 2009 his role would be crucial in archery. As the Commonwealth Games 2010 are round the corner, Limba Ram could become the coach of the India archery team for the Commonwealth Games. "My name is among the probable archery coaches for India for the Commonwealth Games," said Limba Ram.



**Limba Ram**, archer