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**Hungary's Péter Magyar takes his oath of office to become the country's new prime minister**, kicking off a fresh political era after 16 years of Viktor Orbán's autocratic rule, P 19

**International Monetary Fund says its board has completed reviews of some of its agreements with Pakistan**, clearing the way for the nation to access about $1.3 billion in fresh funding, P 19

**Meta has officially switched off end-to-end encrypted direct messages on Instagram**, discontinuing privacy-focused feature for users globally. Tech co says users with existing encrypted chats are being notified inside app, P19

**Reigning World University Games champion Sahil Jadhav clinches his maiden Archery World Cup medal in only his second appearance** on the global circuit, winning a bronze in compound men's event of Stage 2 in Shanghai, P 21




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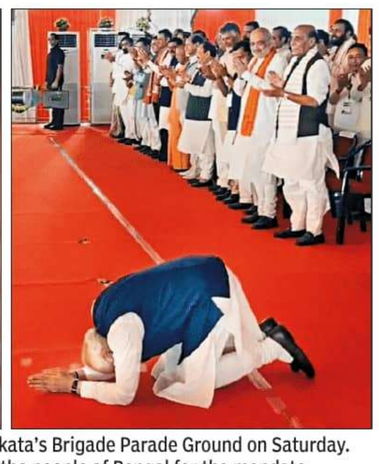

# NDA show of strength as Suvendu sworn in as first BJP CM of Bengal

## Woman Among Five Ministers Who Took Oath

**Tamaghna Banerjee & Rohit Khanna** | TNN

Photos: PTI/IANS





PM Modi with Suvendu Adhikari after he took oath as CM at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday. (Right) Modi kneels down and bows with folded hands to thank the people of Bengal for the mandate

**Kolkata:** BJP began its first stint in office in Bengal on Saturday with Suvendu Adhikari being sworn in as the state's first saffron chief minister along with five cabinet ministers, as PM Narendra Modi joined a lakh-plus crowd at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata to witness a former Left and then centrist bastion take a sharp turn towards right.

**FULL COVERAGE: P 8, 18, 22**
▶**6 new ministers likely in Yogi cabinet today, P 20**

**BJP and RSS veteran Dilip Ghosh, designer-turned-politician Agnimitra Paul, former junior Union minister Nisith Pramanik, another RSS old-timer Khudiram Tudu, and Matua face Ashok Kirtaniya were the other five ministers to take oath. The new cabinet will hold its first meeting Monday. A cabinet expansion is likely next week.**

The pick of ministers displayed a careful balance between regions — a nod to women (without whose support BJP would have found it difficult to defeat Trinamool) and an acknowledgement of RSS's solid organisational support to BJP (another key factor in party's landslide win).

Modi arrived at Maidan in an open vehicle alongside Adhikari and state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya as chants of "Modi, Modi" rolled across Brigade. Present on the dais were Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, party national president Nitin Nabin, his predecessor JP Nadda, transport minister Nitin Gadkari, 21 CMs of NDA-governed states and their deputies, besides former ministers such as Smriti Irani and veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty.

▶'Era of Sonar Bangla', P 22

## Adhikari picks ex-EC observer as his adviser

**Kolkata:** Retired IAS officer Subrata Gupta crossed swiftly from EC oversight to Bengal's new power corridor Saturday, appointed adviser to new CM Suvendu Adhikari barely 48 hours after the poll panel relieved him as special observer for the Bengal polls.

IAS officer Shantanu Bala, a 2017-batch bureaucrat who earlier served as additional district magistrate of South 24 Parganas, was appointed CM's private secretary.

"In earlier govt, efficient and impartial officers were not given any work and had to leave state for central deputation. We want to give these efficient officers a chance to work for people. We want to bring back these officers," Adhikari said. TNN

▶16 officers removed, P 22

# Vijay finally gets invite, to be sworn in as CM today

## Has To Prove Majority On Or Before May 13

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chennai:** Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief C Joseph Vijay will be sworn in as Tamil Nadu chief minister on Sunday.

Days of uncertainty ended after DMK allies VCK and IUML extended unconditional support to TVK on Saturday. The oath-taking ceremony will be held at 10am at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. Nine others, including former minister K A Sengottaiyan, Aadhav Arjuna and Arunraj, will also take oath.

Governor R V Arlekar has asked CM-designate Vijay to prove his majority in the state legislative assembly on or before May 13. Vijay met the governor on Saturday evening and submitted to him letters of support from Congress, VCK, IUML and the Left parties. "The governor issued an order appointing Vijay as the chief minister and invited him to form the ministry," Lok Bhavan said.

The chiefs of parties supporting TVK were present when Vijay visited the governor's office for the fourth time in less than a week to stake claim to form govt.

VCK and IUML's support helped Vijay reach 120, more than the required simple majority mark of 118 MLAs in the 234-member assembly.

▶Informed Stalin: VCK, P 22

### WANT TO AVOID PREZ RULE: VCK, IUML

Photo: PTI

- Vijay gets unconditional support of **4 MLAs of VCK and IUML** on Saturday
- **TVK reaches 120** (excluding one of Vijay's 2 seats), past the 118 majority mark in the 234-member assembly
- VCK says outside support **doesn't mean exit from DMK-led alliance**
- VCK chief Thirumavalavan and IUML say they are **backing TVK to prevent Prez Rule**



Vijay gets letter of appointment as CM-designate from guv Arlekar

- Vijay also has **unconditional support of Congress (5), CPI (2), CPM (2)**

## Will support but won't join TVK govt: VCK

Despite pressure from within VCK to join the TVK govt, VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan resisted, saying that cabinet berths should not come at the cost of political "credibility built over 30 years of hard work", a senior party member said. The party instead chose to extend outside support while staying out of the cabinet, a decision VCK general secretary described as calculated, though difficult. VCK will continue in DMK-led alliance. Stalin appreciated the decision, said the VCK chief. P 22

## Min's son faces Pocso case, claims honeytrap

Telangana cops registered cross-cases against Union minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Bageerath and a 17-year-old girl's family after allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation surfaced Friday. Bhageerath accused the girl of attempting to honeytrap him and extort money. P 11

## Iran foreign min Araghchi likely to visit India next wk

Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi is likely to visit India for the May 14-15 BRICS foreign ministers' meeting that will look to help address the situation in West Asia region. Iran is learnt to have communicated that the visit is on the minister's agenda. P 11

## Abhay Rana brought back from Portugal

CBI, in coordination with MEA and home ministry, has secured the extradition of fugitive Abhay Rana from Portugal to India. The accused, wanted in multiple criminal cases, was brought to Delhi on May 9. P4

## Hantavirus case found in Spain

Suspected cases of hantavirus appeared in Spain and the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha after a cruise ship outbreak killed three. WHO said everyone on board the ship were "high-risk" contacts. P 19

## US plane hits man walking on runway

A Frontier Airlines plane ran over a pedestrian on Denver airport runway during takeoff, sparking an engine fire which forced flyers to evacuate. The man "was at least partially" sucked in, ABC News said. P 19

## Student suspended over Kashmir event

Bengaluru's Azim Premji University has suspended a student for two years and warned two others after a controversy over a discussion this Feb on Kashmir's Kunan Poshpora incident, that was later cancelled. P 20

## SI seeks demotion to 'happier' role

A Delhi Police SI requested demotion, saying he was happier in his earlier role of constable. Officers said he is academically inclined and struggled to balance higher-rank duties with competitive exam preparation. P 2

## Indian sailor killed, four hurt as dhow catches fire, capsizes near Hormuz

**New Delhi:** An Indian sailor was killed and several others injured after their dhow caught fire and capsized near Strait of Hormuz on Friday. The cause of the fire is still being ascertained, according to govt sources.

"A wooden dhow, carrying general cargo, with 18 Indian crew capsized yesterday close to the Strait of Hormuz after it caught fire. Crew members were rescued by a vessel which was passing by," said a govt source requesting anonymity.

"One Indian on the dhow died while four received burn injuries. The injured are receiving medical treatment in Dubai and are safe. Our officials from the Indian consulate met the rescued Indian nationals last night itself. The consulate is also in touch with the dhow owner," he added. TNN

### US, Iran may resume talks next week

US and Iran could resume negotiations as early as next week in Islamabad, as per a WSJ report. It said both sides are working through mediators on the one-page, 14-point MoU intended to establish the framework for a month-long negotiating process. P 19

### 20k Indian shippies stuck in Gulf: Union

Over 20,000 Indian seafarers are staring at a humanitarian nightmare in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz, with fears of conflict spillover leaving crews stranded without food, medicine or escape routes, seafarers' union NUSI said. P 12

## ED arrests Pjb industries minister Sanjeev Arora, AAP alleges 'intimidation'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Chandigarh:** Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora, 62, was arrested by Enforcement Directorate on Saturday in connection with a money laundering case, sending shockwaves through Aam Aadmi Party and triggering turmoil in an already charged political atmosphere less than a year ahead of assembly polls in Punjab.



Arora is one of the most high-profile ministers in the Bhagwant Mann-led Punjab cabinet, holding charge of industries and commerce, power and local govt.

Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann accused the BJP-led Centre of "weaponising" central agencies to target opposition leaders, and said Punjab "would not bow to the politics of intimidation and vendetta". Congress, BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal attacked the AAP govt over corruption allegations.

> "Aurangzeb perpetrated great atrocities on the (Sikh) Gurus. **Modiji is also perpetrating atrocities on Punjabis**... Punjab will confront Modiji's atrocities
> —**Arvind Kejriwal** | AAP

> "**The reality is that their entire govt is steeped in corruption** and whenever any action is taken, they create an uproar. It is Kejriwal who is behaving like Aurangzeb
> —**R P Singh** | BJP

▶'Using central agencies', P 16

## CBI searches at 17 sites in cases linked to ADAG

**New Delhi:** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at 17 locations in Mumbai in connection with three cases registered against Reliance ADA Group companies, Reliance Telecom Limited, Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd and Reliance Home Finance Ltd and their directors.

According to CBI, the searches were carried out at the residential premises of directors of the companies and offices of intermediary firms allegedly used for diversion of bank funds.

The searches were conducted on the basis of warrants issued on May 8 by a special CBI court in Mumbai. The agency said incriminating documents were seized during the searches. TNN

▶Same address, P 11

## Lt Gen Subramani (retd), expert on Pak and China, appointed next CDS

**New Delhi:** An expert on Pakistan and China, Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (retd) has been appointed the country's next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The govt has also appointed Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan as the next chief of the Indian Navy, **reports Surendra Singh.**



Lt Gen Subramani (L); Vice-Admiral K Swaminathan will be new Navy chief

While Lt Gen Subramani will replace CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, who completes his tenure on May 30, Vice-Admiral Swaminathan will succeed Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, who retires on May 31. Currently the military adviser at National Security Council Secretariat, Lt Gen Subramani's key priority will be to implement the theaterisation model by rolling out integrated military commands.

▶Commanded 2 Corps, P 16

## Min: Test of Agni with MIRV tech a success

The defence ministry Saturday confirmed India had successfully conducted flight trial of an advanced Agni missile with multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicle (MIRV) system off Odisha coast on Friday. **TOI** had reported the test-launch on Friday. India has again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a missile system. P 11

## Noida airport's higher fee blunts fare advantage

The new Noida International Airport has the advantage of a lower aviation fuel tax compared to Delhi airport. But the elevated charges it is levying on flights and fliers have grounded the hopes of a fare advantage over IGI Airport — fares from the two airports are now virtually the same.

Though UP has decided on a 1% VAT on ATF, compared with Delhi's 25%, Noida airport's interim passenger user charges are several times higher than those at IGI.

IndiGo, the first to announce flights from Noida, has warned that this would make flying in and out of Noida costlier than Delhi and affect the new airport's footfall. However, the Noida airport has said its tariffs are based on the value it offers. P 7

## Tragedy re-run: Returning from IPL game, 2 die after car hits their bike

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Deceased Hemant (L) and Rohit

**New Delhi:** Two childhood friends were returning home on a Bullet after watching Delhi Capitals versus KKR IPL match on Friday night. Around 11.30 pm, the young men were coming down the Signature bridge flyover in northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas.

Just then, a speeding car, a Maruti Celerio, rammed the bike from behind near the service lane close to the Bhajanpura metro station. While the impact flung both riders into the road, the pillion rider was thrown 15 metres away. The car reportedly spun around three times before crashing into a nearby divider. Doctors declared the two brought dead

The accident bears similarities to a hit-and-run reported earlier last month when two cousins aged 20 and 14 were killed while returning home after watching an IPL match on a motorcycle in central Delhi's Ashoka Road.

The bikers who died in Friday's accident were residents of Karawal Nagar. They were identified as Rohit Kashyap (31), and Hemant Sharma (33).

The car driver, identified as Himanshu (27), a lawyer, was beaten up by locals. People said he was driving over 80 kmph and appeared intoxicated.

▶Severe head injuries, P 4

### Families of both lose their sole breadwinners

The friends, fathers of two young sons each and sole breadwinners for their families, had spent years playing cricket together every weekend. Over time, that bond turned into an annual ritual of watching an IPL match each season. Hemant Sharma worked as a contractual personal assistant to a Customs officer at Udyog Bhavan, while Rohit Kashyap worked at a travel agency and cared for his father, paralysed three years ago. Friday's last-minute cricket plan ended with a 10 pm video call from Sharma to his brother-in-law saying "they had a lot of fun". P 4

## Cops probe leak, sale of customs data online

Delhi Police registered an FIR after Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs reported a major breach of sensitive customs data from protected systems, **reports Rajshekhar Jha**.

Investigators found that stolen trade information, including pricing, supplier links and sourcing patterns, was being sold through nearly 70 websites in India and abroad. CBIC officials secretly purchased sample datasets and confirmed they matched official records despite altered headers.

Police are examining possible insider involvement, including that of a disgruntled official, along with economic espionage.

Provisions of Customs Act, IT Act and BNS have been invoked. P 4

## WFI issues show-cause to Vinesh, bars her from Gonda comeback event

**Sabi.Hussain**
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PTI



Vinesh after returning from the Paris Olympics in Aug 2024

**New Delhi:** In a major setback to Vinesh Phogat and her comeback endeavour nearly 20 months after her retirement following her dramatic disqualification at the Paris Olympics, Wrestling Federation of India on Saturday barred the star wrestler from competing in the Senior Open Ranking Series event in Gonda beginning May 10.

In a 15-page long show-cause notice, which detailed a litany of disciplinary and anti-doping related charges, WFI said Vinesh would remain ineligible to compete in any WFI competitions and events till June 26, 2026. The federation also cited violations linked to retirement and return-to-competition regulations under United World Wrestling rules.

Vinesh's event was scheduled on Tuesday in Gonda — bastion of former WFI chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against whom Vinesh and five others have filed sexual harassment complaints.

▶Mulls legal route, P 21

## *Census effect: Cities will see 'less crime' next yr*

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In 2027, most Indian cities will show a decline in crime rate. That is a safe prediction to make. Historical precedent suggests crime rates in large Indian cities fall sharply in a Census year. This is not because of better policing, but because of a mathematical glitch — one that the National Crime Records Bureau mentions in its fine print, but which is often missed in reports based on its data.

NCRB updates the number of crimes every year. But for cities, it uses the last Census population as the denominator for calculating crime rate. That remains unchanged until the next Census. So, while crimes recorded each year may rise or fall, the population used to calculate the rate stays frozen — usually for a decade, this time for over 15 years.

This is why comparisons such as "Delhi's crime rate has risen" or "Delhi's crime rate is higher than Mumbai's" can be misleading unless the population base is understood.

**5 CITIES WITH STEEPEST DECLINE IN CRIME RATE AFTER 2011 CENSUS**

| Cities | 2010 | | | 2011 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IPC Crimes | Pop* | Rate | IPC Crimes | Pop* | Rate | +- |
| Kochi | 25,715 | 14 | 1,898 | 34,658 | 21 | 1,636 | -261 |
| Vizag | 7,112 | 13 | 535 | 4,886 | 17 | 282 | -253 |
| Bengaluru | 32,188 | 57 | 566 | 30,283 | 85 | 356 | -210 |
| Indore | 14,230 | 16 | 868 | 14,504 | 22 | 669 | -199 |
| Ahmedabad | 21,442 | 45 | 475 | 20,203 | 64 | 318 | -156 |

*Population in Lakh | Source: NCRB

Take Delhi. In the latest NCRB report, the population used for Delhi City is 1.6 crore, based on the 2011 Census. But projected population of Delhi NCT is 2.2 crore. Since Delhi City accounts for almost the whole of NCT, the city clearly cannot still have only 1.6 crore people if NCT has 2.2 crore.

This difference changes the crime rate sharply. The number of IPC crimes for both Delhi and Delhi City is 2,75,402. But because NCRB uses different population bases, Delhi's crime rate is shown as 1,259 per lakh, while Delhi City's rate is 1,688 per lakh — 34% higher.

In 2001 Census, India had 35 cities with million-plus populations. When city populations were updated in 2011, crime rates fell in 27 of them. Kochi's rate dropped from 1,898 per lakh to 1,636. Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Indore, Ahmedabad and Bhopal also saw drops of over 150 points. The steepest 'falls' came in fast-growing cities, where the old population number had become most outdated.

▶Crime numbers..., P 20

## 32 yrs on, Central Ridge gets 'reserved forest' tag

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Tarun Rawat



The region is home to historical monuments, biodiversity parks and a wildlife sanctuary

**New Delhi:** Providing the highest legal protection to the city's 'green lungs', Delhi govt has granted reserved forest status to 673.3 hectares of Central Ridge after a wait of more than three decades.

Part of the ancient Aravali range, Central Ridge — a long rocky forest area running through the heart of the city — borders iconic landmarks such as Rashtrapati Bhavan, Sardar Patel Marg and the diplomatic enclave of Chanakyapuri, and acts as a massive green buffer.

A reserved forest gets the highest degree of legal protection under Indian Forest Act, 1927. The initial notification of ridge areas had been made in 1994. However, they did not receive legal protection then.

▶Illegal activities, P 5

## Nanny alleges assault at IIM-B prof's home

**Bengaluru:** A 23-year-old nanny from Manipur has accused the wife of an Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B) professor of illegally confining, assaulting and starving her at their campus residence.

C Nianghaunuam had been working since 2019 for professor Amar and wife Anshu, primarily taking care of their children while staying in their home. She claimed Anshu frequently assaulted her, checked her mobile phone conversations and, at times, confiscated it. Based on the complaint, a case has been filed.

▶'Beat me when ill', P 20

# Month After, 90k Students Yet To Get Basic Stationery

## Lack Of Writing Material Affects Classroom Work: Teachers

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**New Delhi:** More than a month after the academic session began, over 90,000 students in Delhi govt schools are still without notebooks and basic stationery, highlighting persistent last-mile delivery gaps despite closer monitoring by the education department.

The academic year started on April 1, but delays in supplying writing material have left many students without essential classroom tools. The problem is compounded by parallel delays in textbook distribution for the current session.

According to a status report prepared following directions from the Directorate of Education (DoE), district-wise data accessed by **TOI** up to April 30 shows that 90,911 students — around 12.9% of total enrolment — are yet to receive writing material, even as distribution has picked up pace in recent weeks.

The shortfall varies sharply across districts. West B has the highest number of students awaiting material at 16,571, followed by West A (12,154) and North-East I (9,709). In percentage terms, West A reports the largest gap, with over 29% of students still awaiting supplies, followed by West B at nearly 24% and North-East I at close to 20%.

Other districts such as South East (13.8%), South West-B (I) (13.8%) and North West-B (I) (12.1%) also continue to report significant delays.

In contrast, some districts have achieved near-complete coverage. South West-B (II) has reported full distribution, while North West-B (II) and South West-A have negligible pending cases at 1.2% and 0.9%, respectively.

An education department official said the distribution process was fast-tracked this year with enhanced monitoring. "All deputy directors were asked to submit district-wise updates on the distribution of writing materials supplied in kind to students of Classes I to VIII. A fresh report was sought by May 6, and most districts are expected to reach near-complete coverage by then," the official said.

Teachers, however, say the delays are affecting routine classroom work, particularly in primary grades where structured writing practice is critical.

Education experts stress that timely access to basic learning materials is essential for equitable participation in classrooms. "Such delays create an uneven learning environment where some students are able to keep pace while others struggle due to lack of resources. It is difficult to expect meaningful learning outcomes when students do not have the basic tools required to engage with lessons. Even textbooks have not reached all students so far, compounding the problem," said education activist and lawyer Ashok Agarwal.

He further said, "We frequently benchmark govt schools against private institutions in terms of outcomes and performance. But are students in private schools also waiting for basic supplies a month into the session?"

As per the department, writing material includes class-wise notebooks, basic stationery such as pencil sets, additional supplies within a prescribed limit and geometry boxes for upper classes. These are to be distributed in kind to students at the start of the academic session.

### TIME TO TAKE NOTE

**WHAT COUNTS AS WRITING MATERIAL**

1. Notebooks (class-wise allocation)
2. Basic stationery items, including pencil set box and related supplies
3. Additional stationery within prescribed limit
4. Geometry box (for upper classes)
5. Supplied in kind (physical materials, not cash)

**ACADEMIC SESSION**

**Session began on April 1**

Supplies expected to reach students at the start of session

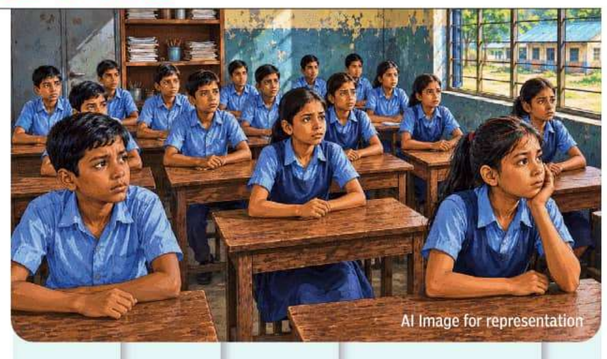
**STEPS TAKEN**

1. Directorate sought district-wise status update
2. The table shows the status till April 30
3. A fresh status report has been sought by May 6

**WHY IT MATTERS**

**Affects daily classroom work, especially in primary classes**

Impacts continuity of learning in the early weeks of session



AI Image for representation

| Name of district | Number of schools | Total enrolment till date | Pending students to whom writing material and notebooks need to be distributed | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| East | 121 | 77,602 | 7,759 | 10 |
| NE I | 50 | 48,809 | 9,709 | 19.9 |
| NE II | 91 | 49,757 | 6,421 | 12.9 |
| SE | 94 | 64,582 | 8,902 | 13.8 |
| North | 64 | 32,486 | 2,582 | 7.9 |
| NW A | 118 | 86,218 | 7,595 | 8.8 |
| NW B(I) | 86 | 68,199 | 8,270 | 12.1 |
| NW B(II) | 49 | 30,740 | 376 | 1.2 |
| West A | 59 | 41,709 | 12,154 | 29.1 |
| West B | 88 | 69,315 | 16,571 | 23.9 |
| SW A | 35 | 21,693 | 190 | 0.9 |
| SW B(I) | 47 | 36,940 | 5,091 | 13.8 |
| SW B(II) | 49 | 16,084 | 0 | 0 |
| South | 71 | 45,314 | 2,703 | 5.9 |
| New Delhi & Central | 43 | 16,008 | 2,588 | 16.2 |
| **Total** | | **7,05,456** | **90,911** | **12.9** |

## Rain likely for two days, to cool capital

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** The national capital experienced a slight temperature rise, while the Met expected another western disturbance to bring respite before the heat could return. A yellow alert was issued by IMD, predicting rain and thunderstorms on Monday and Tuesday.

The maximum temperature on Saturday was recorded at 36.9 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature was recorded at 23.8 degrees Celsius.

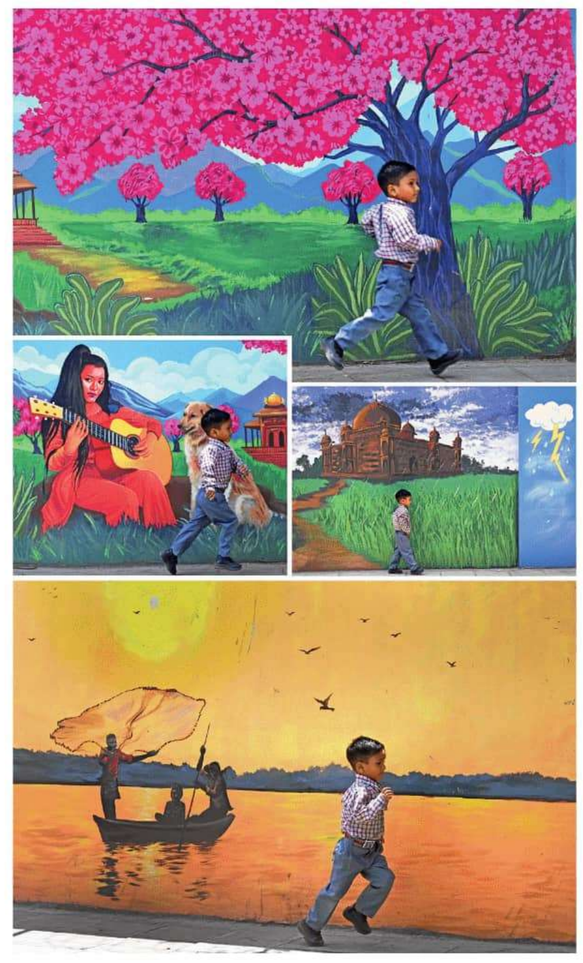
"A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect the Western Himalayan Region from May 10. Gradual rise in maximum temperatures by 3-4 degrees during next 3 days and fall by about 2 degrees thereafter. Gradual rise in minimum temperatures by 2-3 degrees during next 3 days and no large change thereafter," stated IMD.

The maximum temperature was expected to go up to 38 degrees Celsius on Sunday, 39 degrees Celsius on Monday and 37 degrees Celsius on Tuesday.

The air quality was moderate with an air quality index (AQI) at 116 on Saturday against 100 or satisfactory a day earlier.

## RUNNING THROUGH CANVAS

Text and photos by **Anindya Chattopadhyay**



While May in Delhi typically signals a relentless heatwave, a recent spell of thunderstorms and rain has gifted the city a rare, breezy reprieve. Making the most of the cool weather, a young student finds a vibrant playground in the city's street art. From the pink blooms of cherry blossoms to golden sunsets over painted waters, these four frames capture a joyful journey past the murals of Delhi, turning a simple walk home from school into an immersive dash through an open-air gallery

## 'I was happier earlier': Cop asks for demotion

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** A Delhi Police sub-inspector posted at Karawal Nagar police station has voluntarily sought demotion to the rank of constable, saying he was happier in his previous role.

The request was accepted by the North-East district police administration, and orders reverting him to the rank of constable have been issued.

In his written application, SI Manish stated, "Sir, I was perfectly fine as a constable; please revert me from sub-inspector to constable. I attained this rank by passing an examination, but I have become unhappy."

Manish had originally joined the Delhi Police as a constable and was later promoted to sub-inspector after clearing departmental examinations. However, after taking up the higher rank, he reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with the role and sought to return to his earlier position.

Before approving his request, police headquarters sought reports from all units concerned to ascertain whether any departmental inquiry, vigilance probe, criminal case, suspension, complaint, overpayment issue, medical concern or unauthorised absence matter was pending against the officer. Units were also asked to furnish a "No demand certificate".

Senior officers said the deputy commissioner of police has the authority to demote a sub-inspector. The officer's request has been accepted, and formal orders were issued accordingly, a senior police officer confirmed .

Police said Manish is academically inclined and is believed to be preparing for competitive examinations. According to officers, he found it difficult to manage time for studies while serving in a higher post.

## Gang sold IPL passes for ₹20k each, 3 held

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Exploiting the IPL frenzy by posing as authorised DDCA officials, a black-marketing syndicate was busted for selling "not for sale" complimentary passes at exorbitant prices. Three men have been arrested, one of them was also previously involved in a ticket black marketing case during the auto expo in Faridabad.

"The complimentary passes were being sold for nearly Rs 20,000 each, while regular tickets were sold at almost double their printed price depending on the demand and popularity of the match," said DCP (crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav.

The accused were identified as Mukeem (35), resident of Moradabad; Gufran (36), resident of Jamia Nagar; and Mohammad Faisal (38), resident of Seelampur. The accused were held near Delhi Gate on Thursday following a trap laid by a team led by inspectors Man Singh and Sunder Gautam. Police said 54 IPL match tickets, including 33 complimentary passes, along with cash, were seized from the accused.

Police records show that the accused were involved in previous criminal cases as well.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that they were part of a wider network engaged in black marketing IPL tickets across different cities. They used to travel by air to cities hosting IPL matches and procured tickets and complimentary passes through various contacts.

"Premium tickets were supplied at inflated prices to people involved in online betting operations inside stadiums as well as to pickpockets and other criminal elements," the senior police officer added.

Cops are probing the role of others linked to the syndicate and examining the source of the tickets and passes.

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# Sensitive customs data breached, sold online

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**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has filed an FIR on a complaint from Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) reporting a massive breach of sensitive data from their critical information infrastructure and protected systems like Icegate, etc.

The data was sold online and further put on sale by around 70 portals. CBIC officials, as part of their investigation, bought the data and found them to be authentic, matching their database information. The complaint was subsequently filed by a joint director of CBIC.

Police are learnt to be probing an "insider hand", besides an economic espionage angle, sources said. The role of a disgruntled customs official is under the scanner and several people have been questioned.

The FIR reveals that highly sensitive trade data, including pricing, supplier relationships and sourcing patterns, was illegally extracted and put up for commercial sale online by dozens of entities across the globe.

The breach targets protected systems declared as critical information infrastructure under IT Act, specifically the ICEGATE and ECCS portals used by importers and exporters to file official documents.

According to the FIR, investigators identified 70 websites spanning Indian, Chinese, and other international jurisdictions that were purportedly monetising this stolen govt data.

To verify the authenticity of the leak, CBIC officials conducted a "clandestine exercise" where they created undercover accounts and bought sample datasets from several platforms.

The analysis confirmed that while the data format headers had been altered, the actual contents perfectly matched official govt records. Authorities have warned that the dissemination of this "economic intelligence" allows competitors to undercut Indian exporters, distorts fair market discovery and poses a systemic risk to national economic security.

The case has been registered under several stringent provisions, including Section 135A of Customs Act for the unauthorised disclosure of information and multiple sections of Information Technology Act, 2000.

Police have also invoked sections 318(4) and 61(2) of Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita to investigate the criminal conspiracy and the wrongful loss caused to the state.

Given the sensitivity of the breach, officers refused to divulge details. The investigation focuses on tracing financial trails, identifying data exfiltration vectors and examining the role of any internal vendor or contractor, sources said.

# Fugitive Rana extradited from Portugal

**New Delhi:** Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in coordination with the ministry of external affairs and the ministry of home affairs, has secured the extradition of fugitive criminal Abhay Rana from Portugal to India.

The accused, wanted by Haryana Police in multiple criminal cases, was brought to Delhi on May 9 after Portuguese authorities approved his extradition following legal proceedings.

According to CBI, Rana was wanted in several cases registered in Haryana involving charges of extortion, criminal intimidation, operation of an organised crime syndicate, attempt to murder and issuing life threats.

Investigators said that in one of the cases registered in Karnal district, the accused and his associates allegedly threatened local businessmen through social media platforms, demanding ransom money. Police alleged that businessmen who failed to comply with the demands were assaulted by members of the syndicate.

Senior officials said a Red Notice against the accused was issued through INTERPOL channels at the request of Haryana Police. After he was geo-located and arrested by authorities in Portugal, India formally submitted an extradition request. TNN

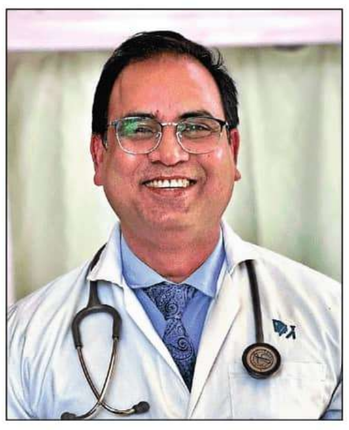

HEALTH AWARENESS INITIATIVE

# Head and neck cancer: What treatment options are available today?

In my clinical practice, I often see how lifestyle habits can significantly influence the health of the head and neck region over time. This includes the mouth, throat, voice box, and nasal cavity, areas essential for speaking, swallowing, and breathing. When these tissues are repeatedly exposed to harmful substances, the risk of developing serious conditions, including head and neck cancers, increases.

In India, cancers of the oral cavity and surrounding regions remain a major health concern. Data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) show that these cancers contribute to a significant proportion of cases in the country.[1] Beyond the diagnosis, they may affect daily functions and overall quality of life.

A key part of prevention is understanding risk factors. Tobacco use, both smoked and chewed, along with heavy alcohol consumption, are among the most common contributors. The use of chewable products containing areca nut or *supari* has also been frequently associated with cancers of the oral cavity. Over time, these exposures can damage the lining of the mouth and throat, leading to changes in cells.[2]



**Dr P K Das**
Sr. Consultant, Medical and Haemato-Oncology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Author, New Delhi

When head and neck cancer are diagnosed, treatment is carefully tailored to each patient's condition. Surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy continue to form the foundation of care. Surgery is often used to remove the tumour, while radiation and chemotherapy help control or destroy cancer cells.

In recent years, newer approaches, such as immunotherapy, have become available to some patients. Unlike traditional treatments, immunotherapy works by helping the body's immune system recognise and respond to cancer cells.[3] In certain situations, it may be used alone or in combination with other treatments, depending on the stage of disease and overall health.

Like all treatments, these approaches can have side effects, which require careful monitoring and management.

***"Equally important is recognising early symptoms. I advise patients not to ignore signs such as a mouth ulcer that does not heal, difficulty swallowing, a lump in the neck, persistent throat discomfort, or changes in the voice lasting more than two to three weeks. While these symptoms may not always indicate cancer, early evaluation allows for timely diagnosis and better outcomes"***



With timely care and regular follow-up, many of these effects can be managed effectively.

No two patients are the same, and treatment decisions are always personalised. What remains consistent, however, is the importance of awareness. Informed lifestyle choices, early recognition of symptoms, and timely medical consultation can make a meaningful difference in outcomes.

IN-KEY-01620 || 2/5/2026 | 21/7/2026

**References:**
1. Tobacco Monograph. ICMR
2. Risk Factors of Oral Cancer in India: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis
3. American Cancer Society. Immunotherapy

**Disclaimer:** This feature is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice. Consult your medical practitioner before acting upon the information. Issued in public interest by MSD Pharmaceuticals Private Limited for awareness purposes.


# Childhood To Death, United By Cricket

## Both Were Breadwinners, Watched An IPL Match Together Every Season

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**New Delhi:** For Rohit Kashyap and Hemant Sharma, who died on Friday night in an accident while returning after watching an IPL match, cricket was more than just a shared hobby. It signified a friendship that had stayed unbroken since childhood.

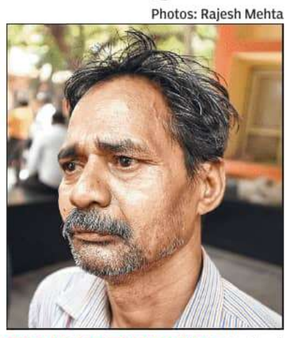
The friends, fathers of two young sons each and the sole breadwinners of their families, had spent years playing cricket together every weekend before turning their love for the sport into an annual tradition of watching an IPL match together every season.

On Friday, the plan had come together at the last minute. Along with two friends from Noida, they booked tickets for the Delhi Capitals versus Kolkata Knight Riders match at Arun Jaitley Stadium. Hours later, while returning home, their motorcycle was allegedly hit by a car from behind in northeast Delhi's Khajuri Khas.

"Bunty (Sharma) video-called me from outside the stadium around 10pm after the match and said they had a lot of fun," said brother-in-law Ved Prakash, standing outside the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital mortuary on Saturday. "None of us knew it would be the last time we would hear his voice."



Photos: Rajesh Mehta



**TWO HOMES SHATTERED:** Harkesh (left), brother of Hemant Sharma, and Dinesh Kumar, brother of Rohit Kashyap, at the mortuary

Sharma (33), who worked as the personal assistant to a customs officer at Udyog Bhavan on contract, leaves behind his wife Aarti, nine-year-old son Gauransh and seven-month-old Sharvansh, and elderly parents. His brother, Harkesh, said, "He had only recently become a dad for the second time. How can I explain to those young boys that their father is gone?"

Nearby, Kashyap's brother, Dinesh Kumar, stood with tears in his eyes. "Rohit had taken an early off from work just for the match," he murmured. Kashyap (31) is survived by his wife Preeti, sons Naksh (5) and Daksh (2), and 77-year-old father Shiv Prakash.

The family had recently enrolled Daksh in school and was preparing to celebrate his third birthday on May 13 with a dinner outing. "They had invited all the relatives and were excitedly discussing restaurant options," recalled younger brother Guddu. "Everything was planned."

Kashyap, who worked at a travel agency, used to spend much of his time caring for his father, who had suffered a paralytic seizure three years ago and only recently begun recovering.

Though both friends had spent their entire lives in the narrow lanes of Karawal Nagar, their roots lay in Uttar Pradesh. While Kashyap's family is from Etawah, Sharma's family came from Bulandshahr.

Family members said the two were inseparable and rarely went anywhere without each other. From their shared love for cricket and loyalty to their home team to the responsibilities of fatherhood, relatives said the two had stood by each other through every phase of life, a bond that remained unbroken even in death.

FROM CRIMES TO FIRE, CITY SEES ALL IN A DAY

# Capital on alert after terror strike warning

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Security measures have been heightened in the city following a terror alert from intelligence agencies warning of the possibility of strikes in key places in central Delhi.

Delhi Police, along with paramilitary and other security agencies, intensified surveillance and security measures at key installations and crowded public locations across the city.

Among the locations placed under the enhanced security cover are the BJP headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, where additional armed personnel have been deployed. Barricading around the premises has been strengthened and intensified vehicle screening is being carried out in the surrounding areas.

The alert has allegedly flagged the possibility of attacks targeting high-profile offices and densely populated zones in central Delhi. The inputs mentioned threats involving suicide attackers, vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, firing incidents and coordinated strikes.

Following the warning, anti-sabotage inspections were launched at important govt buildings, party offices, transport hubs, marketplaces and other sensitive public spaces. Bomb disposal squads, sniffer dog teams, quick reaction units and Delhi Fire Service have also been placed on standby.

Police personnel have been instructed to keep a close watch on suspicious activities, unattended items and vehicles parked near sensitive locations. Local police are carrying out random checks and verification drives.

Sources said all district police units had been directed to remain vigilant and maintain coordination with intelligence and central security agencies, while senior officers continue to monitor the situation and review preparedness across the city.

# Blast victims' kin seek higher compensation

**New Delhi:** An NGO has written to the Centre and Delhi govt on behalf of victims of the bomb blast near Red Fort in Nov last year and their families, seeking enhanced compensation.

The representation follows an order of the Delhi High Court dated April 29, which asked the NGO to "make a representation for redressal of the grievances" to both govts after it approached the court highlighting several cases.

Among those cited is Pankaj Ram Sahni, a sole breadwinner who lost his life in the blast. His damaged vehicle was seized. The family received Rs 10 lakh as compensation.

The NGO also highlighted the plight of several injured victims, including Ankush, who lost his left eye and suffered jaw injuries. While he was granted Rs 2 lakh in compensation, his medical expenses reportedly exceeded Rs 5 lakh.

Ashok Randhawa, president of the South Asian Forum for People Against Terror, said the compensation awarded so far did not reflect the severity of loss suffered by the victims and their kin.

"We demand that the families of the deceased receive at least Rs 20 lakh each and the injured receive at least Rs 4 lakh each," Randhawa said, adding that an exception should be made for Ankush, who should receive at least Rs 6 lakh. TNN

# Both suffered severe head injuries: Witness

▶Continued from P1

DCP (northeast) Ashish Kumar Mishra said, "The accused driver has been arrested, and the offending vehicle has been seized."

His blood sample has been sent for testing. Police said the accused was going to a friend's house in Dayalpur.

**The family of the deceased has alleged police negligence, saying PCR vehicle took 20 to 25 min to reach**

When **TOI** saw the seized car, it bore a Delhi High Court Bar Association sticker, and a band tie was hung on the rear-view mirror. Cops are verifying whether Himanshu, a resident of Holambi Kalan in northwest Delhi, is a practising lawyer.

A 20-year-old local resident said, "Neither of the bikers were wearing helmets and had suffered severe head injuries." Another resident, a 45-year-old woman, said, "One of the two men was still a little conscious when we saw him. He kept calling out to us."

The family of the deceased has alleged police negligence, saying PCR vehicle took 20 to 25 min to reach. Sharma's brother Harkesh alleged that "Hemant was still breathing a little when locals tried to keep him in the van. The cops refused until they forcibly placed him in the vehicle."

When **TOI** reached out to police on the allegation, a senior officer said the first call was received at 11.26 pm and the second call was received at 11.27 pm. "The PCR had reached by 11.35 and at 11.42 pm, they moved with both injured to the hospital."

A case has been registered under Sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of the BNS at the Khajuri Khas police station.

## CAR SPUN THRICE BEFORE RAMMING DIVIDER

**When:** Around 11.30pm, May 8

**Where:** Near Bhajanpura metro station, northeast Delhi





Photos: Rajesh Mehta

The spot where the accident took place

**WHAT HAPPENED**

- Two friends were returning on a Bullet motorcycle after watching an IPL match when a silver Maruti Celerio allegedly rammed them from behind
- The bike was descending from the Signature Bridge flyover, while the car came speeding from behind near the service lane
- The force of the collision flung both riders off the motorcycle
- After the crash, the car allegedly spun three times before smashing into a divider
- The victims were rushed to the hospital in a PCR van but were declared dead on arrival. The driver, Himanshu (27), was caught by locals and later arrested by police



The damaged front of the car that allegedly hit the motorcycle

# Cyber fraud: Delivery executive loses ₹2.5L

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** A 23-year old man from Bihar, accused of running an APK-based cyber fraud racket that duped a delivery executive, was arrested. Accused Vikash Kumar Gupta had previously provided bank accounts to cyber fraudsters for routing money before forming his own gang involving mobile phone compromise scams using malicious APK files.

According to police, a case was registered after the complainant reported that Rs 2.5 lakh was fraudulently withdrawn from his bank account. The complainant, who works as a delivery executive, told cops that while he was on duty, an unknown mobile application was automatically installed on his mobile phone. He later discovered that the money had been siphoned off from his account.

DCP (north) Raja Banthia said, "A police team examined the complainant's mobile phone but found no malicious application. The APK file had been deleted after the transaction. Technical analysis and scrutiny of IP logs later led the team to a beneficiary bank account in Bihar, where Rs 2 lakh from the cheated amount was transferred."

Police said that the account belonged to Gupta and the money was withdrawn using self-cheques.

Raids were conducted at the accused's residence in Chhapra, but he was missing. The accused was finally apprehended from Delhi on May 5.

During interrogation, Vikash allegedly disclosed that one of his accomplices had asked him to provide a bank account for receiving cheated money in exchange for a 10% commission. Due to financial difficulties, he agreed and became involved in cyber fraud activities, police said.

The amount has been transferred back to the complainant's account.

# Fire at DD office, no casualties

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out in a transformer outside DD Prasar Bharti's office in central Delhi's Copernicus Marg on Saturday afternoon.

According to Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call was received about the fire around 2.05 pm, after which eight fire tenders with around 48 fire personnel rushed to the spot. The fire was doused by 2.50 pm.

Officials said that since the transformer was outside the main building, not much damage was reported and the fire was easily doused. No injuries or casualties have been reported either. A probe is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the fire. TNN

# Wrong-side driving: 72 FIRs filed & 7.2k challans issued in just five days

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** Delhi Traffic Police registered 72 FIRs and issued 7,249 challans against motorists for wrong-side driving between May 4 and May 9 as part of a crackdown on the traffic violation, a major cause of head-on collisions, congestion and fatal road accidents.

Strict legal action is being taken not only through challans but also through registration of criminal cases in blatant violations, police said. "Wrong-side driving poses a serious threat to public safety, disrupts smooth traffic flow and significantly increases the risk of fatalities," a senior traffic police officer said.

Data shared by the Traffic Police showed that the Central Range registered the highest number of FIRs at 16 during the enforcement period. Eastern Range followed with 14 FIRs, while New Delhi Range recorded 13 cases. Northern Range registered 12 FIRs, Western Range 10 and Southern Range seven.

"Such violations are commonly seen among two-wheeler riders, e-rickshaw drivers, delivery vehicle riders and private vehicle owners, especially on busy arterial roads, intersections and service lanes. The practice often forces vehicles moving in the correct direction to suddenly brake or swerve, increasing the possibility of collisions," additional commissioner of police (Traffic Headquarters) Vijayanta Goyal Arya said.

Police said personnel have been directed to take action against offenders found driving on the wrong side of the road. In serious cases, FIRs are being registered.

Police also appealed to commuters not to take shortcuts by driving against traffic and urged motorists to strictly follow designated carriageways and traffic rules.

# 76-year-old woman falls prey to 'digital arrest' scam

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**New Delhi:** For 14 days, a 76-year-old homemaker in a south Delhi neighbourhood lived as a prisoner in her own home, monitored 24x7 through a smartphone lens. Between April 20 and May 4, cybercriminals posing as Mumbai Police and ED officers drained Rs 1.4 crore from her accounts — savings her late husband had built over a lifetime of service — after accusing her of funding ammunition for a deadly terror attack.

An FIR has been registered, recipient bank accounts identified and a probe is underway. The ordeal began with a landline call on April 20. The voice on the other end claimed to be a senior Mumbai Police officer and recited her full name, address and the fact that she lived alone.

She was told that her bank accounts were used to fund a terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, which had resulted in 26 deaths.

"They told her a non-bailable warrant had been issued against her," a relative told **TOI**. "They insisted they needed to perform a 'financial cleaning' of her accounts to prove her innocence. While one person would pretend to believe her, another would scream that they needed to take immediate action. It was absolute psychological torture."

To maintain total control, the conversation was shifted from the landline to a smartphone. For the next two weeks, the victim was placed under a 'digital arrest'. She was ordered to keep a video call active for over 16 hours a day.

"Even during visits to banks, she was instructed to carry a bag with the phone inside, the video call running silently. She was instructed to watch only bhajans on TV, if needed, to calm herself down," the relative said.

AI image for representation



The woman managed to hide the crisis from her two children, who live abroad, and relatives. "At one point, on a call, she mentioned a Wi-Fi issue. When I offered to send a friend over to fix it, she insisted it was already handled," the relative said. Even the two domestic helps noticed nothing unusual.

Over the 14-day period, the victim visited multiple bank branches to break fixed deposits, including one worth Rs 30 lakh.

The family expressed outrage that despite a history of modest spending, these massive, atypical transactions were never flagged. "She had a withdrawal limit of Rs 10,000 at a time," her relative said. "We had even ensured my sister stayed in touch with the relationship manager of the private bank, yet no one flagged this."

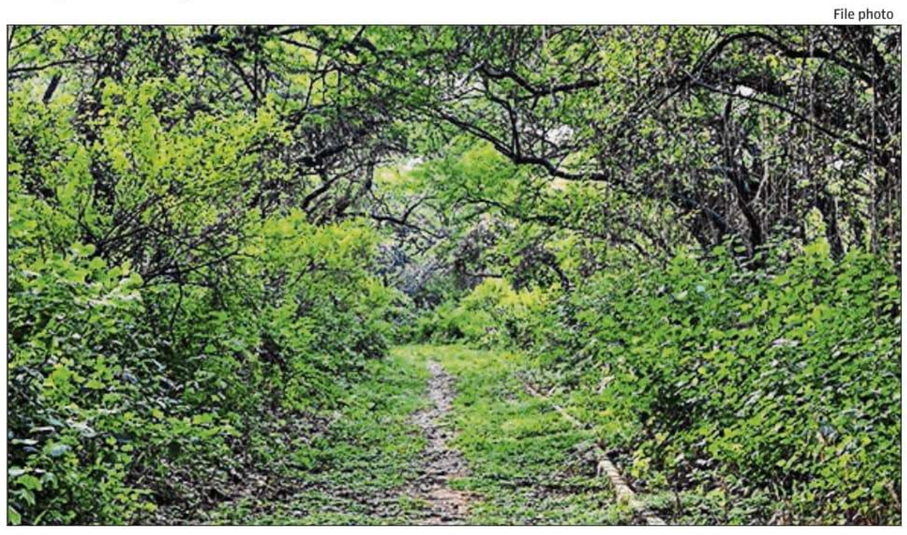
The 'arrest' only ended on May 4, once the victim's accounts were completely drained. She then reached out to her family and police were informed.

# Reserved Forest Status To Curb Illegal Activities: Govt

## Want To Permanently Strengthen Delhi's Environmental Balance: CM

▶Continued from P1

File photo



Central Ridge, which stretches along both sides of Upper Ridge Road, is part of the 'green lungs' of the city

Home to a wide variety of bird species and animals such as jackals and blackbucks, the area falls under the western forest division of the forest department and is largely dominated by vilayati kikar vegetation.

Central Ridge, which stretches along both sides of Upper Ridge Road, is part of the 'green lungs' of the city due to its role in improving air quality, conserving biodiversity, strengthening groundwater levels and mitigating the impact of climate change and urban pollution.

Announcing the notification under Section 20 of Indian Forest Act, 1927, chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday, "The decision would prove to be a milestone in strengthening Delhi's natural heritage, biodiversity and ecological security. Providing legal protection to Delhi's ecologically sensitive ridge areas had remained pending for several decades."

Gupta added, "This decision reflects our commitment towards environmental conservation, expansion of green cover and securing a safe and balanced future for coming generations." Other ridge areas of Delhi will also soon be notified as reserved forests and the process is being expedited, she said.

Activities such as construction, tree felling, mining, encroachment and other non-forest uses are heavily restricted in a reserved forest area unless specifically permitted by govt. The objective is to ensure long-term conservation of ecologically significant forest land, protect biodiversity, prevent deforestation and encroachment, and maintain ecological balance.

"Despite the initial notification of ridge areas in 1994, they could not receive the final legal protection for a long period. Taking decisive steps in this direction, the current govt has achieved a historic milestone in environmental conservation," Gupta said.

CM said all ridge areas of Delhi were initially notified in 1994 under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act. Subsequently, around 4,080.8 hectares of Southern Ridge were declared reserved forest on Oct 24, 2025. With the latest notification, govt has granted the reserved forest status to 4,754.1 hectares of the ridge land.

A dry deciduous forestland, Delhi Ridge is divided into four major zones — Northern Ridge, Central Ridge, South-Central Ridge and Southern Ridge — which together form the extension of the Aravali range within Delhi. Its whole area houses various historical monuments, biodiversity parks and a wildlife sanctuary. A home to more than 100 avian species, the ridge is one of the best spots in Delhi for birdwatching. Its prominent role in protecting the city against the hot winds of the Rajasthan deserts has earned it the nickname, 'lungs of Delhi'.

Delhi govt has also decided to undertake large-scale plantation of native and environmentally suitable species, including neem, peepal, shisham, jamun, tamarind and mango, in vacant areas across the reserved forest regions.

Gupta said that the aim was not only to increase green cover, but also to strengthen the ecology of ridge areas, conserve biodiversity, maintain soil fertility and preserve ecological balance.

An official said the reserved forest status would provide stronger statutory protection to the region and help prevent encroachments, illegal activities and ecological degradation, while strengthening scientific conservation and forest management efforts.

"Our objective is not merely to increase greenery, but to permanently strengthen Delhi's environmental balance. The decision would prove to be a significant step towards ensuring clean air, a secure environment and better quality of life for future generations," CM said.

## Govt reshuffles 23 IAS, DANICS officers in city

Times News Network

**New Delhi:** In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, Delhi govt on Friday transferred and assigned new responsibilities to 23 senior IAS and DANICS officers across key departments.

According to an order issued by the Services Department, senior IAS officer Sandeep Kumar has been appointed principal secretary of the Public Works Department (PWD), replacing Navin Kumar Choudhary, who has been posted as additional chief secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD).

Vikas Anand, secretary to the chief minister, has been appointed director of the Union Territory Civil Services, replacing senior IAS officer Bipul Pathak. Anand will continue to hold additional charge of the Information and Publicity Department.

DANICS officer Prashant Kumar (2010 batch), who is additional secretary in the Public Grievances Commission in the chief minister's office, has been given additional charge as director of the Directorate of Information and Publicity.

Among other key changes, Dilraj Kaur has been appointed managing director of the Delhi Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation. Nandini Paliwal has been posted as secretary (Vigilance). Yashpal Garg has been appointed secretary (Planning). G Sudhakar, who was serving as district magistrate (Central Delhi), has been appointed director of the Women and Child Development Department. The order further stated that Cheemala Siva Gopal Reddy has been appointed special secretary to LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

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# DDA plans to rejuvenate 77 lakes and ponds in 90 days

AlokKNMishra
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has launched a time-bound restoration drive to revive 77 lakes and ponds across the capital following directions from lieutenant governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, amid growing concern over the steady decline of Delhi's water bodies due to encroachment, sewage inflow and prolonged neglect.

The decision followed a review meeting chaired by the LG on Friday, during which DDA officials made a presentation on the rejuvenation, restoration and long-term conservation of water bodies.

"The presentation was prepared following directions issued by the LG to the DDA about a week ago. The LG instructed officials to develop a concrete action plan for the long-term conservation of water bodies," a DDA official said.

Officials said restoration work on 77 identified water bodies would begin immediately, while other lakes and ponds under DDA control would be taken up in phases. Of these, six are to be revived within 30 days, 48 within 60 days and the remaining 23 within 90 days.

The restoration programme has been planned in two phases. The first will focus on reviving dead and dying water bodies through excavation, dredging and desilting.

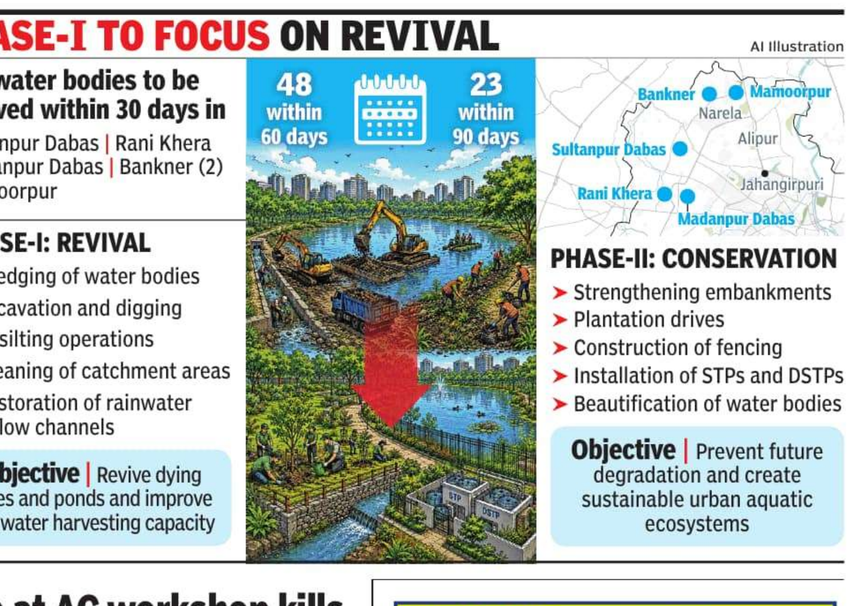
According to officials, many ponds and lakes in Delhi have lost their water-holding capacity over the years because of silt accumulation, debris dumping and blocked natural drainage channels. Initial work will therefore involve deepening the water bodies, removing sludge and clearing catchment areas to maximise rainwater harvesting during the upcoming monsoon.

"The priority is to restore the ecological functionality of these water bodies so they can naturally retain and recharge water again," the official said.

DDA will also restore natural inflow channels and remove encroachments or obstructions that prevent rainwater from reaching lakes and ponds. Officials said scientific surveys and mapping exercises have already been conducted at several sites to assess hydrology and site-specific restoration requirements.

Once revival is completed, the project will move into a second phase focused on long-term conservation and public use. This phase will include strengthening embankments, plantation drives, installation of fencing to curb dumping and encroachment, and beautification works.

The authority also plans to install sewage treatment plants and decentralised sewage treatment plants to prevent untreated wastewater from entering water bodies.




# A shared songbook, Runa Laila reassuring constant in delicate Indo-Bangla ties

The Bangladesh singer received the Minar-e-Dilli award in the capital last week, an apt recognition for the performer whose songs and shows electrified audiences and shook up the Hindi film music world five decades ago

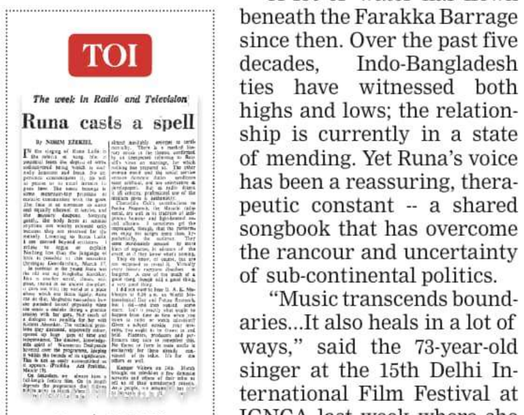
Avijit Ghosh

**New Delhi:** Exactly 50 years ago, Runa Laila arrived in Hindi films crooning the sizzling title track for 'Ek Se Badhkar Ek' (1976). Filmed in a nightclub, with Helen trying to tempt and tease a very hairy-chested Raaj Kumar, the song rode on the inviting hook line, "Kya programme hai aaj raat ka." In a voice as irresistible as smoked hilsa, Runa infused the number with the right degree of wantonness, subtly recalibrating her tone each time the words returned. The song, composed by Kalyanji-Anandji, climbed to 16th position in the wildly-popular Binaca Geetmala's annual rankings. It announced that the Sylhet-born singer, already a star on either side of the border, was ready to create her own space in the Hindi film music's playback world dominated by the Mangeshkar sisters. She was only 23.

A lot of water has flown beneath the Farakka Barrage since then. Over the past five decades, Indo-Bangladesh ties have witnessed both highs and lows; the relationship is currently in a state of mending. Yet Runa's voice has been a reassuring, therapeutic constant -- a shared songbook that has overcome the rancour and uncertainty of sub-continental politics.

"Music transcends boundaries...It also heals in a lot of ways," said the 73-year-old singer at the 15th Delhi International Film Festival at IGNCA last week where she received the Minar-e-Dilli award from noted filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan.

Runa first came to India in 1974 as part of a cultural exchange programme organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).


TOI
The week in Radio and Television
Runa casts a spell
By NISSIM EZEKIEL
March 25, 1978


Runa Laila receives the Minar-e-Dilli award from filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan



Runa Laila from Illustrated Weekly of India, 1976

"Her lilting voice and sprightly TV personality," took both Bombay and Delhi "by storm," The Illustrated Weekly of India (now defunct) noted in 1976.

Not many know that as a child, she was more interested in dancing. A profile published in the Weekly details how she took to singing. Her father worked as a customs officer in Multan and Karachi in the 1960s. When six, Runa substituted for her indisposed elder sister at a cultural show and stunned everyone with her flawless rendition of raag Basant Bahar which expresses the mood of spring. When 12, she won the first prize in an all-Pakistan school music competition in Karachi. Films followed. In 1965, she sang for 'Jugnu', a Pakistani film. In the next few years, Runa became a regular in Pakistani films, radio and TV singing in Punjabi, Bengali, Multani, Pashto, Sindhi and Urdu.

Bangladesh (earlier East Pakistan) was born as an independent nation in 1971 after the Indo-Pak war. "Even after coming to Bangladesh, I still go to Lahore to sing for their films. (Because) In Bangladesh, the film industry is still very new," she said in the Weekly interview.

A move to the Hindi film industry was apt under the circumstances. Initial prognosis was encouraging. In 1976, Runa Laila performed at the Filmfare Awards function in Bombay. The Times of India gushed how she "captivated the heart of her listeners with her hypnotic voice and magnetic stage personality." In 2012, actor Sarika, the female lead in Geet Gata Chal (1975), recalled how Runa's upbeat song, 'Dama Dam Mast Kalandar,' became a craze and how she ran from pillar to post trying to meet the singer without success.

The title track of 'Ek Se Badhkar Ek' took her voice via the airwaves, especially Vividh Bharati and Radio Sri Lanka, to a larger listenership in heartland India. Three songs from 'Gharaonda (music: Jaidev, 1977), a poignant look at love and home ownership, underlined her versatility. "Tumhe ho na ho (lyrics: Naqsh Lyallpuri)" brimmed with romantic effervescence, while the sadder version of the same song, "Mujhe pyaar tumse nahi hai," brought to fore the melancholic side of her voice. The perky duet with Bhupendra, "Do deewane shaher mein, (lyrics: Gulzar)," finished at a formidable No 6 in Binaca Geetmala's 1978 annual programme. Runa, it seemed, had come to stay.

But the future doesn't always follow the script. Contemporary reports suggest that the singer was flooded with offers, including film roles. But acting didn't interest Runa and few singing offers – the 'rasgulla' song in Jaan-e-Bahar (music: Bappi Lahiri, 1979) aside -- came to fruition.

### HOW SHE BECAME SUPERUNA

Barring Bappi, no other Bollywood composer recorded regularly with her. Runa enjoyed a second coming in the Eighties courtesy Bappi and the disco wave. The super success of composer Biddu's foot-tapping tunes -- Nazia Hassan's "Aap Jaisa Koi" in 'Qurbani' (1980) and later 'Disco Deewane' (1981) -- had set the trend for a mandatory rhythm-driven disco number in Hindi films. Bappi reintroduced her to a new generation of music lovers with the chartbusting album, Superuna (1982). Songs like "Disco Express," "Suno suno," "Hello hi" became dance-floor bangers. "De de pyar de" was repurposed in the Big B film, Sharabi (1984).

The same year, Runa also cut a private album with OP Nayyar, 'The Loves of Runa Laila.' One of her older hits, "Mera balma chhail chhabila" from the 1972 Pakistani movie, 'Man Ki Jeet', was used in the sleeper hit, 'Ghar Dwaar' (1985).

After watching her perform, editor-writer Khushwant Singh wrote in the Weekly (April 25, 1976) that "Runa's deep voice and lively exposition will make her the film singer of the next decade." After watching her on DD Srinagar in 1978, renowned poet Nissim Ezekiel swooned in The Times of India, "The voice belongs to some mountain-top priestess of ecstatic communion with the gods." Sadly, the singer didn't get enough opportunities to create the Bollywood tsunami she was expected to.

Yet Runa enthralled India whenever she came, notably in 2010 when she electrified Bandra Fort with "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar". Two years later, she was a judge for 'Sur Kshetra', a musical TV show lensed in Dubai, where she developed a fond relationship with fellow judge Asha Bhosle. Speaking to 'Prothom Alo English' newspaper following Asha's death last month, she said, "I don't think a talent like hers will be born again...The relationship we shared was truly incredible."

While receiving the Minar-e-Dilli award, Runa recalled how a fan wrote to her saying that listening to her songs helped him get out of depression. "This is the biggest prize an artiste can achieve. Music doesn't distinguish between caste, creed or religion," she said.

Music doesn't care for the barbed wires dividing nations either. The Minar-e-Dilli award, which went relatively underreported due to the hullabaloo over the state elections results, is a fitting recognition of her vital role in bringing India and Bangladesh closer through music.

## Fire at AC workshop kills 70-year-old worker

**Noida:** A massive fire that broke out at an air-conditioner service centre in Ghaziabad's Patel Nagar area during the early hours of Saturday claimed the life of a 70-year-old worker and caused a loss of nearly Rs 2.5 crore. A police officer said a short circuit is believed to have triggered the blaze but the exact cause has still not been confirmed. TNN

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# A new grip on life: Rare toe-to-finger transplant helps teen regain function

Kushagra.Dixit@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In a display of surgical precision and innovation, doctors at a Delhi hospital have restored hand function in an 18-year-old college student through a rare toe-to-finger transplant.

The patient, a tourism student, had a severe deformity in her left middle finger that gradually worsened, causing soft tissue contraction, restricted movement, and difficulty performing everyday tasks. Beyond the physical challenges, the deformity also took a toll on her confidence.

"Not having a finger affected my confidence for many years, and I often felt awkward in front of others. After this reconstruction surgery, I feel much more confident and positive. It has really helped me to carry out daily activities more comfortably," the patient said.

A multidisciplinary surgical team led by Dr Rahul Kapoor, head of department and consultant, onco-reconstructive and plastic surgery, Manipal Hospital, undertook the complex reconstruction. They harvested her second toe and transplanted it to her hand in an eight-hour operation.

"Routine microsurgery uses vessels over 1-1.5 mm, but here we worked with



Post-surgery, the patient has regained 80%-95% of hand function, with significant improvement in grip strength and mobility

0.5-1 mm ones, raising the complexity," Dr Kapoor explained.

They removed the damaged metacarpal bone from the hand and replaced it with a matching toe metatarsal segment. Microvascular anastomosis (connecting tiny blood vessels) was critical to ensure the survival of the transplanted tissue.

One of the most distinctive aspects of the case was the use of the patient's existing finger skin, which had become redundant due to the deformity. Instead of discarding it, surgeons repurposed this skin to cover the transplanted toe. "This gave us an advantage. We achieved both adequate bulk and preserved sensation, which typically takes six to eight months to develop after nerve repair," Kapoor said.

The case also presented unique anatomical challenges. Differences between toe and finger function required careful adaptation, while prior tissue changes in the hand meant surgeons had to reassess the recipient site in detail before proceeding.

"Understanding both donor and recipient anatomy at this level is crucial. Fingers have more strength than toes," Dr Kapoor said, adding that such procedures continue to evolve with each case.

Post-surgery, the patient has regained around 80%-95% of hand function, with significant improvement in grip strength and mobility. Doctors estimate that the strength of the replaced toe may stabilise around 60%-80% of a fingeras it adapts.

"Such surgeries can be life-changing, but they are often underused because of limited awareness and misconceptions. In this case, the impact was not only physical — the psychological recovery has been equally important," said Dr Kapoor while stressing the importance of expanding access to reconstructive options that can dramatically improve quality of life.

# *Parent, child not seeing eye to eye? Be gentle, but true to own values*

*To help readers cope with their anxieties in these stressful times, TOI's* ***Talk it Out*** *series brings expert counsellors to answer your mental health queries. This week's advice is from counselling psychologist* ***Janice James***

**I am a 15-year-old girl from Kolkata with an understanding, hardworking mother who always has my best interests at heart. I tell her most of my problems. But we also have differences. My strong beliefs often clash with her stoic and antiquated judgements. I have a tendency to mess up the verbal delivery of my thoughts, which makes it sound like I'm throwing a tantrum or being stubborn when I'm merely suggesting something. When that happens, she turns authoritative and starts lecturing me without taking into account my explanation. Being a writer and bibliophile, I spend most of my life in my mind — thinking, observing and writing. I am scared she will judge me and impose some kind of punishment if I accidentally overshare on my blog. I live in constant dread, waiting for the next screaming session or the next time she will make me feel I'll never be a mother like her to my own children. I make mistakes too, and feel remorse and regret. But I just want to be happy with who I am when I am around them. How should I make her understand that it's okay if she doesn't accept something about me, but that she can at least respect the fact that it's a part of me that will evolve? How should I tell her she can be a good friend to me without being a bad mother? Please advise.**

**— Anonymous**

It must be quite frustrating to not be able to express yourself to your mother without being misunderstood or facing a backlash. It's understandable that you now hold back from sharing your true feelings. It's a way to protect yourself even though it creates distance. Sometimes, parents operate from their own beliefs and ideologies that make it difficult for them to fully understand their children. Communication, however, is a two-way process that involves expressing yourself clearly but also being heard. In order to support your side of this, you can try writing your thoughts down before you speak to her. This can help you organise your thoughts and communicate them more calmly. At the same time, it's important to understand what is and isn't under your control. Your mother may still not understand or respond in the way you want. The more you try to make her understand and respect you, the more you will feel disappointed when she doesn't. Setting small, realistic expectations and gently asserting your boundaries might help you stay true to your own values. Over time, this may allow for a more respectful relationship even if it's not perfect.



Image: AI

**I am an 18-year-old B.Com 1st year student who recently went through a breakup. I loved my partner very much, but her father got to know about our relationship and brainwashed her into not talking to me, ultimately leading her to block me. I was desperate and didn't know what to do, so I went to her house one day to settle things. But that made matters worse. Now, she hates me and I'm going through a lot. I am very depressed and have lost my appetite. Please help.**

**— Anonymous**

Breakups can be very painful, especially when you still love that person and the circumstances are not in your control. Your experience of sadness, desperation, and even loss of appetite are natural responses to this emotional shock. You tried to make things right but that ended up making it worse. Sometimes, despite good intentions, these actions can be overwhelming for the other person, especially when emotions are already intense. Right now, trying harder may not bring the outcome you're hoping for. Maybe giving her space and respecting her decision might be helpful, even though it's difficult. You're feeling scared, lost and helpless. Take some time out for yourself to acknowledge the loss you're experiencing. Reach out to people you trust to get the support you need right now. Gently shift your focus back to daily routines like eating, resting, attending college. Taking care of yourself is not moving on; it's helping yourself cope. With time, as the intensity of these emotions settle down, you'll be able to make decisions with more clarity.

**I am a 27-year-old from Anantnag, the sole breadwinner for my mother and siblings, earning Rs 15,000 a month from a private job with no security. I desperately want to prepare for competitive exams to secure our future, but I am paralysed by doubt. I can only spare four hours daily for study, while others devote over nine hours. Is it realistic to compete under these constraints? I fear taking the first step and failing my family. Is it still possible for me to succeed with limited time? What should I do?**

**— Sheraz Yaqub Wani**

First of all, it takes a lot of courage to provide for your family by yourself. Take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate all that you do. Secondly, given your situation, it's only natural to have certain doubts. But just because you're having doubts doesn't mean you're incapable. You may have fewer hours in the day to prepare for your exam than others. But if you stay consistent with those hours, it can be more effective than having longer hours and distracted studying. More than comparison, what matters is strategy and persistence. Right now, you're equating "limited time" with "possible failure". However, there are more possibilities out there. What if you succeed even with limited time? You are not alone; there are many people who are able to clear these competitive exams while working. That's because they strategise and make clear, small and achievable goals for themselves. Start small and create a realistic plan for your 4 hours of study. The fear of failure will only increase if you stop trying. When you take a step, even imperfectly, it creates a possibility. Yes, your circumstances are difficult. But don't let that hold you back from the future that you want to create for yourself and your family.

TalkitOut

**WANT SOME ADVICE?**

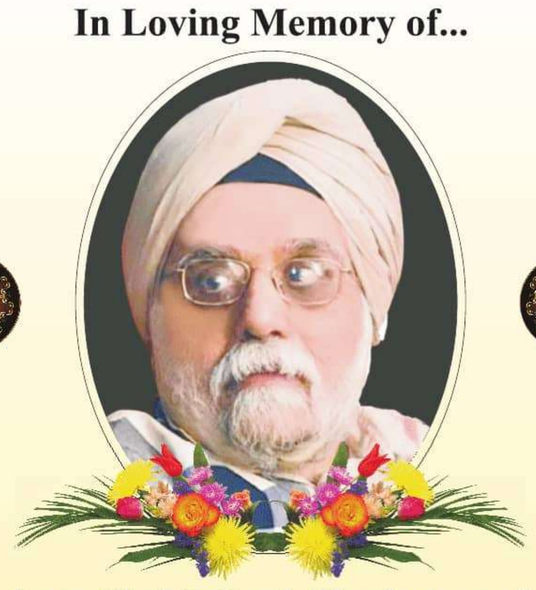
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In Loving Memory of...



Late Shri Pritpal Singh Anand
(19.08.1952 - 10.05.2021)
Vice Chairman - ALP Group

"Soul is eternal"
There is no beginning, no ending
Thank you for continually inspiring us to do our best
You help us strive toward excellence.
We found guidance, discipline and love, everything in one person
Your life was an inspiration not only to the family
but to every life you touched.

In Remembrance
Anand Family & ALP Group Employees


## Van to monitor water quality

**New Delhi:** After initiating the process of installing online continuous monitoring stations (OLMS) to check the real-time water quality status of Yamuna and drains, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has floated a tender to procure a mobile van for collecting data from any location. Currently, the water quality of the river and drains is monitored manually, with samples collected once a month. The decision to procure a mobile van was taken at DPCC's board meeting in Dec 2023. "However, we recently issued a tender for the supply, installation and commissioning of the mobile van," said an official. TNN

## Traffic may be hit on MB Road

**New Delhi:** Delhi Traffic Police issued an advisory on Saturday, warning commuters about heavy congestion on MB Road near Hamdard due to ongoing construction work on Ravidas Marg.

According to police, one carriageway on Ravidas Marg has been closed because of the construction work, which led to traffic snarls on Saturday. Traffic personnel have been deployed at the spot and vehicles are being regulated.

Commuters travelling from Khanpur towards Hamdard and Ravidas Marg have been advised to avoid the stretch and use alternative routes to prevent delays. TNN

## Tanker on wrong side hits bike head-on, kills man; FIR registered

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Gurgaon:** A 24-year-old man died after a tanker truck coming from the wrong side collided head-on with his motorcycle near Lemon Tree hotel in Sector 60. Priyanshu Yadav (24), who was riding home on his Yamaha R15, was hit when the tanker entered the wrong carriageway through a divider cut and crashed into him on Thursday afternoon.

Originally from Balrampur in UP's Azamgarh district, Prayanshu was living in a rented accommodation in Noida with his elder brother.

In his complaint lodged at Sector 65 police station, Priyanshu's father, Arjun Yadav, alleged the tanker was being driven rashly, negligently and at high speed when it struck his son's motorcycle. "The driver suddenly came from the wrong side through a gap in the divider and directly collided with my son's bike," he mentioned in the FIR.


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I. Rajeshwari Rao
Smita and Sanjiv Prakash
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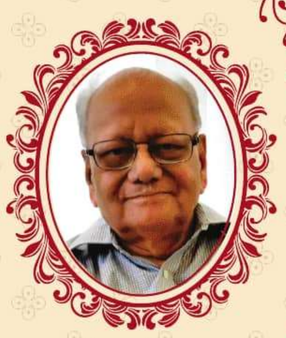
Shradhanjali

ॐ असतो मा सद् गमय।
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय।
मृत्योर्माऽमृतम् गमय।।

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of Shri Amal Kumar Mandal who left us for his heavenly abode on Thursday, 30th April, 2026.

We request your presence at the solemn occasion of 'Shraddha' ceremony for eternal peace of his departed soul on 12th May, 2026 (Tuesday) from 11:00 a.m. onwards at Dwarka Kali Bari, Sector 12, New Delhi-110075

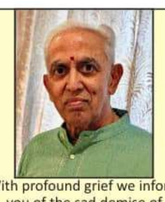
In remembrance:
Mrs. Anjali Mandal (Wife)
Dr. Amit Kumar Mandal, Tanusree, Anusri & Ritosri
Aparna Das, Prabal Das & Avighna
Dr. Archana Choudhury & Sindhushree
Dr. Jharna Sahai & Saurabh Sahai



Mr. Amal Kumar Mandal
(02.02.1939 - 30.04.2026)


OBITUARY

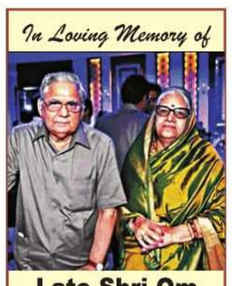
SAD DEMISE

With profound grief we inform you of the sad demise of
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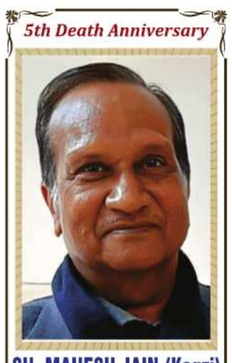

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Smt. Raj Rani Jindal
(20.08.1952 - 10.05.2015)
11th Death Anniversary
The Family values you set endure eternally, shaping generations ahead
Fondly remembered & Deeply missed by:
Jindal Family



5th Death Anniversary



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From: **Management, Staff & Students of Banasthali Public School, G-Block, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-18, Ph : 28543824.**



In Loving Memory of
Late Sh. S. P. Chowdhry

My Father, my Guru, my Mentor and an unwavering pillar of strength. In his presence, I found guidance, in his life, I found the truest example of integrity, resilience and grace. Though he may no longer walk beside me, his spirit remains etched in every step I take. A father's love never fades-it deepens in memory. Forever missed. Forever cherished. Paras Chowdhry



"HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY. Three words that you taught us. Three words that help us cope with your loss".

The silent joy of remembering a loved one.
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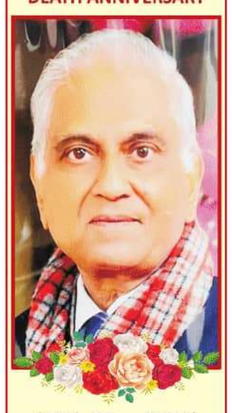
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In loving memory of Sh. ..... (dd/mm/yyyy-dd/mm/yyyy)
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(10th May. 2021)
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Forever in our hearts
Asha Saxena (Wife)
Daughters, Grandchildren, Sons in law


OBITUARY SERVICES




With profound grief and sorrow, our beloved mother
Smt. Mithlesh Lalli
(W/o Late Shri Raj Kumar)
left for her heavenly abode on 07 May 2026.
CREMATION
at Lodhi Crematorium, New Delhi
on 10 May 2026
at 11:30 AM.
- Remembered by Family -
Sandeep and Mamta Srivastava, Rajiv and Juhi Kumar. Shobhit, Komal, Aroosh
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# New Airport In Noida Has No Fare Edge Over IGIA

## IndiGo Warns It'll Affect Footfall, NIA Cites Value Offering

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesofindia.com

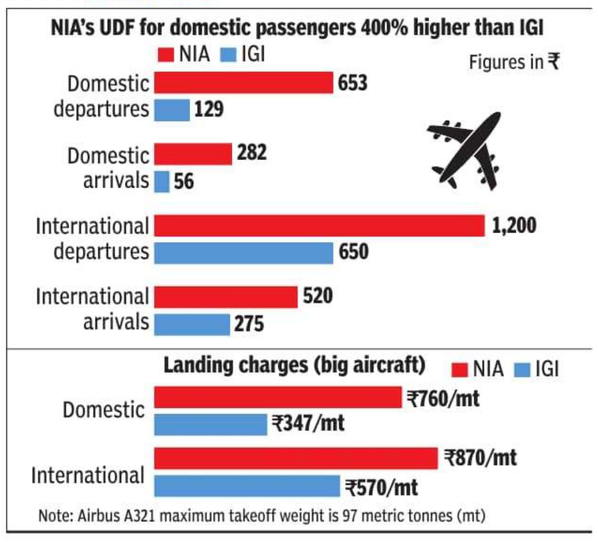
**New Delhi:** A month before it launches commercial flights, Noida International Airport (NIA) has flown into controversy for the charges it's levying on airlines and passengers, which are offsetting the operational cost advantage from a lower value added tax (VAT) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) than Delhi's IGI airport.

As a result, fares from the two airports are virtually the same, dashing any hope of the newbie offering a fare advantage to fliers who opt for it. Though UP has decided on a 1% VAT compared to Delhi's 25%, NIA's interim passenger user charges are several times higher than that IGI airport, cancelling out the advantage.

IndiGo, the first airline to announce flights from NIA, has pointed this out, warning it would make flying in and out of Noida costlier than Delhi and ultimately affect the new airport's footfall. The local BJP MLA in Jewar has also questioned Noida ticket-prices and asked the PM and CM to intervene.

IndiGo's one-way nonstop fare on June 24 to Bengaluru from both IGI airport and NIA is Rs 8,910; to Hyderabad Rs 6,129; to Jammu Rs 6,999 and to Amritsar Rs3,499. The NIA operator has defended the charges, pointing out that its "tariffs are in line with those at comparable greenfield and brownfield airports in the country". IndiGo informed Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) last month that NIA's higher tariffs and user development fees (UDF) will "make overall fares paid by passengers travelling to and from NIA higher than IGIA".

**AT A GLANCE**




"This will consequentially discourage passengers from shifting to using NIA. As a result, the project's vision of effectively catering (to) the NCR catchment is significantly diluted due to the proposed rates."

AERA had approved an interim aeronautical tariff order for NIA so it can start operations and is in the process of regular tariff determination. IndiGo wrote to AERA last month, pointing out that "aeronautical charges at DXN (NIA's IATA code) are considerably higher as compared to DEL (IGIA's code)". It has pointed out landing charges for big aircraft (the likes of Airbus A320 or Boeing 737) are 119% and 53% higher for domestic and international flights, respectively, at NIA compared to IGIA.

Similarly, UDF for departing and arriving domestic passengers is 406% and 404% higher, respectively, at NIA. UDF for international flyers, who will account for a small-percentage of NIA traffic, is 85%-89% higher, IndiGo has pointed out.

Considering one round trip operation (domestic) on an Airbus A321 aircraft assuming maximum takeoff weight of 97 metric tonnes, 232 seats and 85% load factor, this translates to Rs 1,88,000 additional cost as compared to IGIA.

If an airline was to operate a modest scale of about 15 daily round trips at NIA, the impact would be multiplicative and amount to about Rs 103 crore in additional costs as compared to IGIA annually. Also, the aeronautical charges for subsequent years keep getting higher for NIA resulting in further increase when compared to corresponding years for IGIA," IndiGo told AERA.

NIA's first phase was built at a cost of Rs 6,500 crore. "By designing the airport for quick, easy processing, we help airlines keep operating costs low, which ultimately benefits passengers," the NIA operator said. The new airport has to recover its capex, and its charges, therefore, are likely to be higher than existing ones.

"We have engaged with airline partners throughout the development of the airport and understand that tariff discussions are a normal part of the regulatory consultation process. Tariffs at NIA reflect the value were delivering — not just in terms of infrastructure, but also in terms of efficiency, connectivity, and passenger experience.

Our tariff model is designed to spread recovery over a longer horizon, which keeps costs sustainable," the NIA operator added.

IndiGo has, however, told AERA that "in our view, Indian carriers would need to keep all-inclusive airfares on par with IGIA if not lower to attract traffic to NIA" It warned that "with such high costs leading to reduced demand, NIA will become commercially unattractive for operations at any meaningful scale".

Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has for past two years been seeking a "level playing field" in terms of ATF taxation by Delhi govt to prevent an exodus by airlines to Noida. In terms of airfares of flights available for sale to and from NIA as of now, there is no incentive for passengers to opt for NIA apart from advantage of location— a big factor that has been proven in NCR by demand for commercial flights at the Hindon terminal in Ghaziabad.

## 40 farmers agree to give land for Hindon terminal expansion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ghaziabad:** Forty farmers in Sikandarpur village have consented to part with 6.8 acres of land for the expansion of the Hindon civil terminal, clearing a key hurdle for the long-pending project, a district administration official said.

"The administration, after conducting parleys with the owners, managed to convince them. The land rates were decided as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Act, 2013, according to which compensation will be twice the circle rate of the area. Based on that calculation, Rs 63 crore will go into acquiring the land parcel," the official said.

Terminal officials said work would begin after physical possession of the land. "Apart from expansion of the terminal building, we will also enhance the parking bay area, for which a DPR will be commissioned," an official said.

The expansion will add check-in counters beyond the existing eight, expand aircraft parking bays from the current two, enhance security and screening infrastructure, and improve road access and drop-off zones.

As an interim measure, the Airports Authority of India has already commenced expansion of the terminal building by about 700 sq metres within land already in its possession, which will raise passenger throughput to approximately 450 per hour. The terminal has also doubled its seating capacity.




**Man killed after drunken brawl:** A 36-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by fellow labourers after a brawl during a drinking session turned violent. Police are yet to make an arrest in the case. A relative rushed him to a hospital, where he died during the treatment. TNN

# IIT Delhi to engineer cleaner future, help MCD achieve 'zero waste to landfill' goal

Neha.Mishra@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Under mounting pressure over rising garbage heaps and overflowing landfills, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to overhaul the capital's waste management system through scientific planning, technology-driven solutions and greater citizen participation.

Under the collaboration, IIT Delhi will help prepare a comprehensive city-wide and ward-level solid waste management plan aligned with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, and the goal of 'zero waste to landfill'.

Delhi currently generates around 12,500 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, while existing waste processing infrastructure remains inadequate to handle the volume efficiently, officials said.

The initiative comes amid increased focus on implementing the SWM Rules, 2026, which mandate four-stream source segregation, scientific processing of waste, decentralised waste management systems, and stricter accountability for bulk waste generators (BWGs).

MCD commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar, speaking to **TOI**, said the city could no longer depend on landfills as its primary waste disposal solution.

**The project's estimated cost is ₹1.9 cr, covering survey work, stakeholder engagement, tech facilitation, training programmes and institutional overheads**

"We cannot continue to rely on landfills as Delhi's primary solution for waste disposal. This collaboration with IIT Delhi marks a significant shift towards scientific, technology-driven and sustainable waste management in the capital," he said.

"Our focus is to ensure segregation at source, decentralised processing and maximum reduction of waste reaching landfill sites. With IIT Delhi's technical expertise, we aim to build a transparent, accountable and future-ready waste management system that actively involves citizens, RWAs, bulk waste generators and sanitation workers," Khirwar added.

The project will initially run for six months, with monitoring and handholding activities continuing for up to a year. The estimated cost is Rs 1.9 crore, covering survey work, stakeholder engagement, technology facilitation, training programmes and institutional overheads.

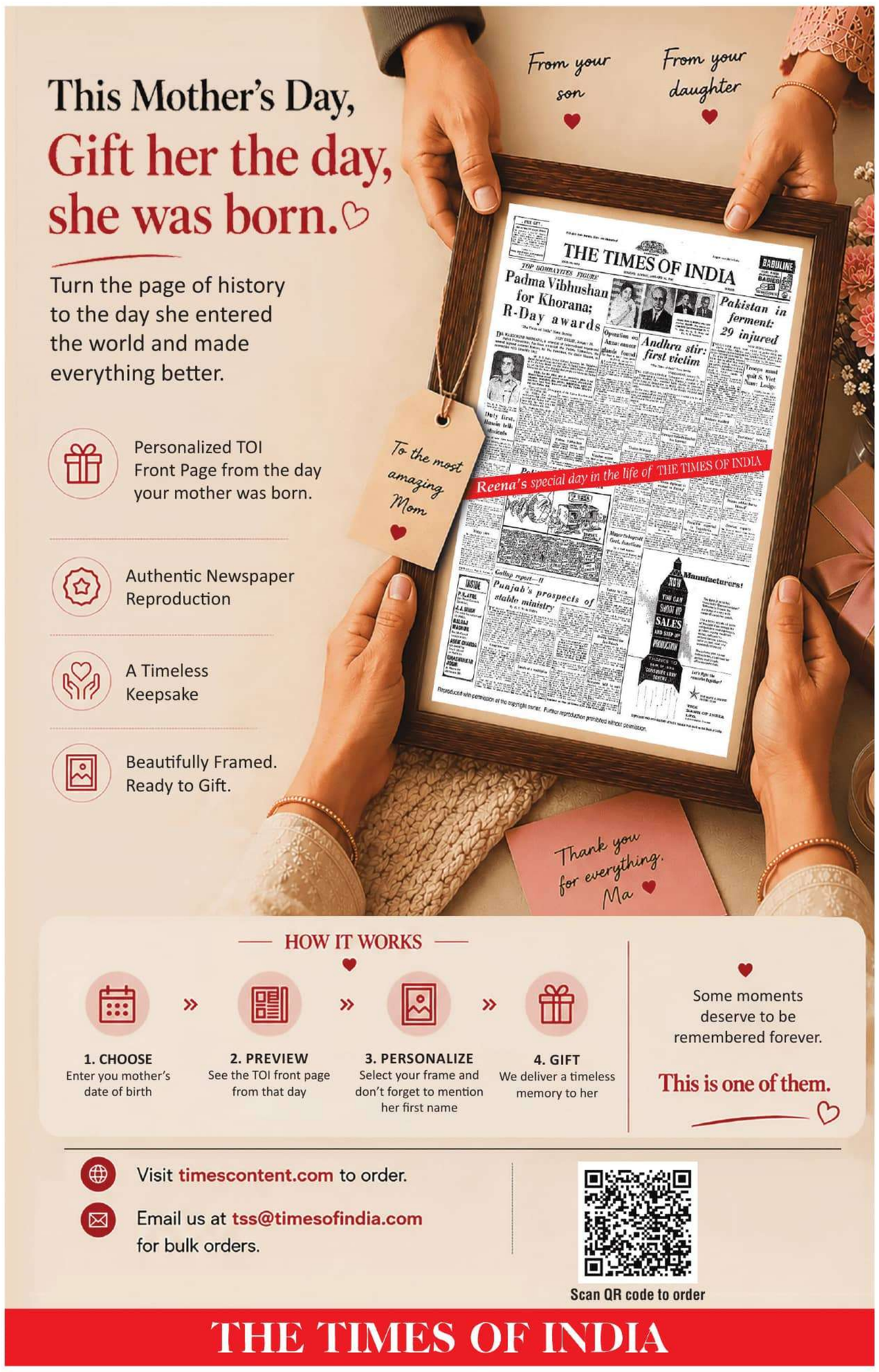
The collaboration seeks to address gaps across the waste management chain, including collection, segregation, transportation, scientific processing, landfill reduction and integration of the informal waste sector.

As part of the initiative, IIT Delhi will carry out GIS-based inventorisation and mapping of waste generation across the city, collect data on BWGs through surveys and secondary sources, assess infrastructure gaps, identify vulnerable garbage points and recommend suitable waste collection and processing systems.

In addition, IIT Delhi will help frame standard operating procedures (SOPs), develop digital monitoring systems and design frameworks for third-party audits of BWGs and decentralised processing facilities.

Officials estimate that nearly 30% of Delhi's municipal solid waste could eventually be processed at the source level under the proposed framework.

The project will also focus on stakeholder engagement and capacity building involving municipal officials, sanitation workers, RWAs, concessionaires, waste pickers, schools and colleges. Awareness campaigns, information, education and communication material, youth engagement programmes and innovation-led hackathons will be organised to promote sustainable waste management practices.




## Woman delivers baby after rare cancer diagnosis

**New Delhi:** On May 7, as doctors wheeled her into the operation theatre, Kalpana Gupta knew she was fighting two battles at once. Hours later, a baby girl weighing 1.2 kg was delivered and immediately shifted to specialised neonatal care, marking the end of a journey shaped by fear, endurance and medical precision.

For the 32-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, the moment carried deeper meaning. Kalpana had earlier lost a child to stillbirth. When she conceived again, hope returned — until she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia midway through her fifth month of pregnancy.

"Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia during pregnancy is a rare and high-risk condition," said Dr Dharma Choudhary, chairman, haemato-oncology, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital. "Through multidisciplinary care, we were able to safely prolong the pregnancy." At 32 weeks, led by Dr Alka Sinha, the team performed an emergency caesarean on May 7. "This was a highly sensitive pregnancy, medically and emotionally, given the patient's previous loss," she said. TNN

## Siddiqui sent to 3-day custody

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Saturday sent Al-Falah University's chairman, Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui, to three days' custody of the anti-terror special cell of Delhi Police after he was formally arrested in connection with a car blast near Red Fort.

The Saket court accepted the police request seeking permission to interrogate Siddiqui in custody and confront him with evidence related to a terror module of doctors that was active on the university campus. IANS

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**STATISTICS** A slice of life in numbers

## For movies, Eastern India goes mobile-first

Nearly 45% of active internet users* in Eastern Indian states watch movies on their mobile devices




*India has 91.5cr active internet users (aged above 2); Source: India Internet Report 2025

# Under courts' MTP scrutiny, doctors face a dilemma

## Experts: The Law Rests On A Flawed Structure That Prioritises Medical Approval Over Women's Autonomy

**Malathy.Iyer**@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** Discussions across medical forums in recent weeks have centred around "problems" with the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act after two court interventions put gynaecologists under scrutiny.

"Why are doctors being made scapegoats?" asked senior Mumbai gynaecologist Dr Sudhir Naik, reflecting the anger in medical circles.

In one case, an FIR was filed against a gynaecologist at Satara Civil Hospital after a "failed" MTP involving a 16-year-old rape survivor ended in the birth of a live baby who later died without medical attention. In another, SC warned AIIMS doctors of contempt proceedings if they did not terminate a 30-week pregnancy of a 15-year-old rape survivor.

Though India extended the upper limit for termination from 20 to 24 weeks in 2021, doctors and legal experts say the law still rests on a flawed structure that prioritises medical approval over women's autonomy. SC bench in the AIIMS matter, incidentally, flagged the need for amendments.

"There are two things to be done. Decriminalise abortion and allow complete autonomy to women and not their doctors in this matter," said Dipika Jain, professor at Jindal Global Law School, Delhi.

**NOT WOMEN-CENTRIC**

To understand this, a historical perspective on abortions in India is needed: miscarriages or abortion were criminalised under the Indian Penal Code, with both the woman and her doctor liable for it. "MTP is criminalised even under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, unless it falls within the narrow exception created by the MTP Act," said gynaecologist Dr Nikhil Datar, who has long campaigned for extending the legal time limit.

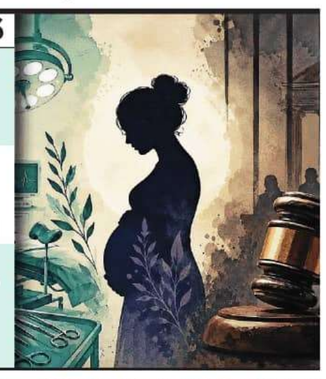
Then in 1971, the MTP Act came up mainly as an exception to protect doctors. "It was decided that doctor's discretion would help decide on MTP, thereby making MTP a medical model not an autonomy model for the woman," said Jain.

Mumbai lawyer Anubha Rastogi agreed, calling the law "service provider-centric". Under the Act, termination is allowed only for legally recognised reasons and only when doctors form the required opinion. "This effectively turns doctors into gatekeepers," said Rastogi.

She, however, said that "the law is, thankfully, not getting into how you terminate the pregnancy. There is a process where you are allowed to do a certain set of things, you should be doing them without any court having to tell you yes or not". The law allows for feticide (a process in which an ultrasound-guided potassium chloride injection is given to the fetus when still in the uterus to end life). "It is in the written guidelines but it's not very clear to me why doctors are asking for the court to permit the process," she added.

**WHAT MTP ACT SAYS**

- **24 weeks** is upper gestation limit for abortion under **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act**
- If **foetus found abnormal, abortion allowed beyond limit** of 24 weeks with approval of **state-appointed medical board**
- Board considers whether continuing the pregnancy **risks the woman's life** or **causes physical or mental harm to the woman or the foetus**



**WORSE FOR MINORS**

That gatekeeping becomes most visible in cases involving minor rape survivors. Under current law, termination beyond 24 weeks is restricted to situations involving immediate danger to the woman's life or severe fetal abnormalities. For many minors who discover pregnancies late, only practical route is to move courts.

"A young rape survivor may not be dying physically, but continuing the pregnancy can destroy her life mentally and emotionally," Dr Datar said. He said that courts, including the Supreme Court, have permitted late-term abortions in exceptional cases even when the statute itself does not clearly allow them. "Those repeated judicial interventions expose the gap between legal text and reality," he said.

Jain questioned what she described as "disability exceptionalism." Courts allowed terminations even at 33 weeks in cases of fetal anomaly, showing that late-term procedures are medically possible. "Why," she asked, "should similar access be denied to rape survivors, minors or women facing changed circumstances?"

**WHY MEDICAL BOARDS**

While the 2021 amendment expanded gestational limits, some experts say it deepened bureaucracy. "Abortions up to 20 weeks require one doctor's opinion; 20 to 24 weeks require two doctors for specified categories; beyond 24 weeks, cases often depend on foetal anomaly or risk to the woman's life, with medical boards playing a decisive role," said Jain.

Dr Datar said that medical boards typically include a gynaecologist along with specialists from other disciplines. "The gynaecologist is the only person legally authorised and clinically trained to perform or certify an MTP," Dr Datar said. "Yet specialists who may never have performed even one termination can collectively outvote the gynaecologist."

**CONFUSING NAME TOO**

Dr Datar also said the law remains confusing in its very language. "India borrowed ideas from Britain's Abortion Act of 1967 but avoided using the word 'abortion' in its own law. Instead, the law uses the term Medical Termination of Pregnancy without clearly explaining its purpose," he said. He argued that the definition is so incoherent it can technically cover removal of a dead embryo, surgery for ectopic pregnancy or even an emergency caesarean section, while leaving deliberate fetal reduction in multifetal pregnancies in an ambiguous zone.

# *Koli women chart new waters, set up seafood company*

**Joeanna.Fernandes**
@timesofindia.com

It's a Thursday morning, and three directors and several shareholders of a seafood company are gathered around a conference table, absorbed in a presentation on food packaging. "Good packaging adds value to a product; it can even fetch a higher price," says the instructor at the Indian Institute of Packaging, in Marathi.

As the directors nod, the silver tinsel in the pechak-che gajre in their hair and the gold naths in their noses gleam. The Koli women have never attended a workshop. Nor have they ever worked for a company — let alone run one. Yet they are directors of Daryavardi Producer Company Limited (DPCL), Mumbai's first fish farmer producer organisation: a community-owned enterprise led entirely by Koli women that aims to transform their fish-vending trade from a cottage industry to a corporate venture.

They already have 1,000 shareholders from the community. Besides delivering fish, masalas and snacks, they are diversifying into running live food counters and selling online. A community kitchen is up, a cloud kitchen is in the works, and exports are being explored.

April marked three years since company's formation. "We didn't realise packaging affects shelf life; we always sold fish in polythene bags," says Pratibha Patil, a director from Juhu Koliwada. "We've now learnt that packaging that is leakproof and attractive is not only more hygienic but can also help us sell more."

For 600 years, Koli women have plied their trade as they learnt it: moving in a straight line from landing centres and wholesale markets to independent sales counters. Even as markets evolved and competition cut into profits, their model remained largely unchanged. But new currents are now coursing through the community, altering the way its women do business.



SELF-RELIANT

And better packaging is only part of the shift. The larger picture includes streamlined operations, centralised logistics, product development, digital payments, soft-skills training, branding and marketing — all the functions of a modern business reshaping Koli commerce.

"We decided to follow the Amul model, bringing together Koli women to collectively produce and market fish and fish-based products. And because we wanted complete autonomy, we chose to run the enterprise not as a cooperative, but as a company," says Ujjwala Patil, a community leader who founded the fishers' rights organisation Daryavardi Mahila Sangh in 2018 — company's ideological forerunner. "What Amul did for the White Revolution, DPCL will do for the Blue Economy."

The company is an agglomeration of over 50 self-help groups anchored in koliwadas across the city, each carrying out specialised work that supports the larger business.

# Will be CM for all, Suvendu says, shuts up Ram chants

## 'It's The Time To Rebuild Bengal, Not To Bicker'

**Tamaghna Banerjee, Sudipto Das & Dipawali Mitra** | TNN

**Kolkata:** West Bengal chief minister Suvendu Adhikari Saturday asked supporters to stop raising "Jai Shri Ram" slogans at Jorasanko Thakurbari, saying that as CM he now "belongs to everyone".

"Eta political kochkochir somoy na (this is not the time for political bickering)," Adhikari said at the ancestral home of Rabindranath Tagore, which he visited minutes after being sworn in as Bengal's ninth CM to pay homage to the poet on his 166th birth anniversary. "There are huge responsibilities ahead. Those who want to do that (political bickering) may continue; we will move forward."

The CM went to Jorasanko straight from the swearing-in venue at Brigade Grounds. He went down on his knees and touched his forehead to the ground in front of a Tagore bust. "We assumed office by paying respects to Gurudev. Bengal & Bengali culture must be guided by Gurudev's consciousness and ideals. Today marks that auspicious beginning. There is only one mantra from Swami Vivekananda — 'Charaibeti, Charaibeti' (keep moving forward)," he said.

While he was speaking, chants of "Jai Shri Ram" rose from the crowd in the Thakurbari compound. Adhikari immediately asked the gathering not to raise such slogans on the campus. "This is not the place to say 'Jai Shri Ram', here only 'Kabiguru'," he said.

"I will not make controversial remarks now. I am the CM, I belong to everyone now. Bengal has already suffered immense damage. Education and culture have been destroyed. Let's rebuild Bengal," he said.

The CM then spent time talking to Rabindra Bharati University vice-chancellor Sonali Chakravarti and others from the varsity, which shares a campus with Thakurbari. An RBU official said Adhikari, a former student, accepted the university's request to have tea on campus, interacted with the VC at Bichitra Bhavan and ate nimki with black tea.



Suvendu Adhikari greets PM after taking oath as CM on Saturday

DANCE of DEMOCRACY: PAGES 20 & 22

## Unite with TMC, take on BJP: Didi to Left, others

**Sarthak.G**@timesofindia.com

**Kolkata:** Trinamool chairperson and former Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee Saturday urged all non-BJP parties in Bengal, including the Left, to join ranks with her against the saffron party, saying she was "personally willing" to talk to all interested parties.

Mamata targeted BJP repeatedly while celebrating Rabindra Jayanti at her Kalighat home Saturday afternoon. "A storm of terror prevails all around. I urge all political parties, student-youth organisations and NGOs to unite. We want to create a platform against BJP. Left and ultra-Left, any national party, wherever you are, let's unite. Anyone who wants can talk to me. I will be in the office. Our first enemy is BJP," she said.

In response, CPM state secretary Mohammad Salim quoted Rabindranath Tagore: "When life dries up, come with a stream of compassion."

Mamata said they had sought permission to celebrate Rabindra Jayanti at three places, but it was denied.

# ADMK on brink of split as 36 MLAs revolt against EPS

**C Shanmugha Sundaram & Julie Mariappan** | TNN

**Chennai:** AIADMK plunged into fresh turmoil on Sunday after former minister C Ve Shanmugam rallied 36 newly elected MLAs against party general secretary **Edappadi K Palaniswami**, triggering a rebellion that threatened to split the party after another electoral setback.



Dissidents accused Palaniswami, or EPS, of taking "unilateral decisions" and pursuing "self-interest" over AIADMK's survival. AIADMK contested polls as part of NDA and secured 47 seats, while the alliance won 53 seats, with BJP contributing one seat.

Rebel functionaries have planned a presser Monday to announce their next move. "EPS is not taking decisions for welfare of AIADMK but for his self-interest," a neta in the Shanmugam camp said.

Crisis unfolded as Tamil Nadu grappled with a fractured mandate. According to party sources, Shanmugam and former minister SP Velumani had explored a post-poll tie-up with Vijay's TVK as the latter appeared short of a majority. EPS was simultaneously pursuing support from DMK, sources said.

Palaniswami held a closed-door meeting with AIADMK MLAs after their return from a Puducherry resort, then posted a cryptic message on X congratulating "a party that will form the govt", fuelling speculation that attempts to secure DMK backing had collapsed.

Hours later, Shanmugam and 35 MLAs assembled at his residence for strategy talks. Sources said rebel legislators were preparing to support Vijay during a confidence vote and stake claim as the "real AIADMK" inside the assembly. Shanmugam is eyeing the post of AIADMK legislature party leader. Senior netas failed to broker peace between rival camps.

Another source said Shanmugam accused EPS of "betraying voters" by attempting to seek DMK support through Udhayanidhi Stalin after AIADMK slipped to third place in the election. Sources said DMK chief MK Stalin had floated possibility of supporting an AIADMK-led govt during consultations with allies, including CPI, CPM and VCK.


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I Simran Shah w/o Arun Koul R/o Flat no 186. pocket 1 Phase 2 sec 13 Dwarka have changed my name from Simran Shah Koul to Simran Shah for all future purposes.

"I, Balbir S/o Chandi Ram, R/o Village Nidana, District Jind (Haryana), declare that my name is wrongly recorded as 'Balbir Singh' in service records of my child Kapil Dev. My correct name is 'Balbir'."

I, RAJINDER KUMAR S/0 SH. TULSI RAM R/O RZ 139, T/F, L/S, SHIV BLOCK, PANKHA ROAD, RAGHU NAGAR, SOUTH WEST DELHI,DELHI-110045, have changed the name of my minor son from DAKSH (Old Name) to DAKSH KUMAR (New Name) for all future purposes. That in future my minor son name should be known as DAKSH KUMAR (New Name).

I Vanshika D/o Pawan Kumar Saraf R/o 3, Kohat Enclave Pitampura Delhi -110034 have changed my name from Vanshika Saraf to Vanshika for all future purpose

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# For 'lavish' Haj, rich get to stay in 5-stars, eat multi-cuisine buffet

**Mohammed.Wajihuddin**
@timesofindia.com

As the Haj pilgrims clad in ihram — men in two-piece, unstitched white fabric and women in loose-fitting, modest clothing — exit from Haj terminals in Jeddah or Medina, waiting luxury cars transfer them to the five-star hotels facing the Haram Sharif.

Located at almost a whispering distance from the sacred sanctuaries in the two cities, the high-end opulent hotel rooms provide vantage view of the holy sites. The pilgrims seek divine blessings and send salams to the holy Prophet as they gaze at the sacred sites.

This year's Haj is in the last week of May.

This is about the pilgrims who have used "lavish Haj packages" to perform Haj in comfort. The comforts on the pilgrimage come with a price tag. Many super rich among the Muslims opt to utilize the convenience at almost every step during the holy trip. The comforts are reflected in the accommodation, both at the hotels and in the tent city of Mina and the plains of Arafat, in the vehicles they use, and in the food and beverages they are offered.



HOLY LUXURY: A lounge inside an AC tent in the tent city of Mina

The cost of accommodation also depends on how far or near to these holy sites the pilgrims are put up.

And if premier class of accommodation and travel is offered to these affluent pilgrims (out of around 1,75,000 India's Haj quota this year, around 1,25,000 are going through the Haj Committee of India while the rest are choosing private tour organisers), food cannot be ignored. Kherada says he carries cooks from India to prepare dishes for multi-cuisine buffet while Alvi maintains his caterer has employed Indian cooks. From daal makhni to kebabs, mutton korma, paya, Mughlai and continental, the guests have a wide choice. "Food is not just about filling the stomach. It is about getting a feeling that we are at home even if we are away from home," says govt contractor Shahid Shaikh.

# Doc sacked as heads roll for Kota deaths

**Jaipur/Kota:** After two patients died in the post-operative gynaecology ward at New Medical College and Hospital in Kota, Rajasthan medical education department Saturday dismissed a doctor and suspended three healthcare staff members. A preliminary inquiry found serious lapses in patient-care protocols during caesarean deliveries.

On Friday, two more women developed infection in the hospital's gynaecology ward. A similar post-C-section complication was reported from J K Lon Hospital in Kota. Assistant professor Dr Shraddha Upadhyay, serving on urgent temporary basis, was dismissed from service. Operation theatre in-charge Dr Navneet Kumar was also suspended. Senior nursing officer Gurjot Kaur and labour room in-charge nurse Nimesh Verma were suspended and transferred to Jaipur. TNN


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# BSF fires 'in self-defence', kills 2 Bangladeshis on Tripura border

**Agartala:** Two suspected Bangladeshi smugglers were killed when BSF jawans fired at them in self-defence along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura's Sepahijala Friday night, reports **Biswendu Bhattacharjee**.

The incident took place near Kamalasagar border outpost, an area known for smuggling activities allegedly aided by villagers on both sides of the border.

According to sources, a BSF patrol spotted a group of 10-15 people transferring goods across the border fence to their Indian counterparts under cover of darkness. When challenged, the smugglers allegedly began pelting stones at the troops, who opened fire. The two men were injured and fell to the ground.

They were identified as Nabin Hussain (20) and Md Moorsalin (40). They were taken to a hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival. Cops said the injured had admitted to being from Bangladesh and confessed to involvement in smuggling. After autopsy, their bodies were handed over to BGB, police said.

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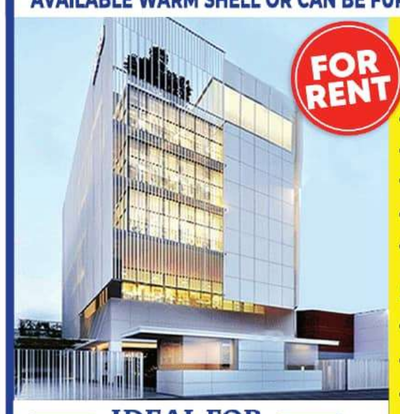
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# Araghchi may visit India for Brics meet next week

## But Another Iran-US Flare-Up Could Hit Plan

Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com



AFP

Araghchi's visit will give India an opportunity to engage on issues of concern like LPG supply disruption

**New Delhi:** Iran's foreign minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi is likely to visit India for the May 14-15 Brics foreign ministers' meeting that will look to help address the situation in the West Asia region. Amid uncertainty over his participation, Iran is learnt to have communicated to India that the visit is on the foreign minister's agenda at this stage.

While Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov has already confirmed his participation, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi will likely skip the event as his presence is required at the critical Donald Trump-Xi Jinping summit, dates for which are clashing with the Brics meeting.

Araghchi's participation could be contingent on whether the fragile US-Iran ceasefire holds, as another military flare-up may alter the situation. Tehran is currently studying a 14-point US peace proposal which seeks an end to Iran's uranium enrichment programme for at least 12 years in exchange for the gradual lifting of US sanctions.

Iran, however, attaches great importance to Brics, which it joined in 2024 along with Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and both Araghchi and President Masoud Pezeshkian have urged India to work towards a consensus within the grouping for a joint statement against US-Israel actions in the West Asia conflict.

India maintains though that differences between opposing parties in the conflict, mainly Iran and the UAE, have blocked all attempts to generate a consensus document. This was the reason the meeting of Brics special envoys last month ended only with a chair's statement, and not a joint declaration.

Araghchi's visit will give India an opportunity to comprehensively engage with Iran on issues of concern like the LPG supply disruption.

## India may ramp up development aid for Africa

**New Delhi:** India's economic and development cooperation with Africa — including in key areas like agriculture, health, defence, technology and people-to-people connect — is set to get a major boost with govt hosting the 4th India-Africa summit later this month, after a gap of 11 years. While the summit was delayed because of the pandemic, official sources said there has been no dearth of engagements between India and Africa during the past 10 years, with around 50 high-level visits to Africa from India and almost 100 from the continent to India during this period.

Sources said govt is expected to announce major initiatives to ramp up development assistance for Africa at the summit which is likely to see participation by over 40 heads of state. The last summit saw India announcing a concessional $10 billion line of credit for Africa, where China continues to expand its economic and strategic footprint. PM Modi had also announced a $600 million grant assistance. About the LOC, $4.5 billion-worth projects have been completed, sources said. TNN

# DRDO: Test of Agni missile with multiple warheads a success

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com



DRDO successfully test-fired the advanced Agni missile with MIRV system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast

**New Delhi:** The defence ministry on Saturday confirmed that India had successfully conducted flight-trial of an advanced Agni missile with multiple independently targeted re-entry vehicle (MIRV) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast on Friday.

MIRV technology allows a single ballistic missile to evade defences and deliver multiple nuclear warheads to different targets, significantly increasing its firepower. The Agni missile was flight-tested with multiple payloads, aimed at different targets spatially distributed over a large geographical area in the Indian Ocean Region, the ministry said in a statement. With this successful trial, India had once again demonstrated the capability to target multiple strategic targets using a single missile system, it said.

**TOI** had reported on the test-launch of an Agni variant on Friday.

This was the second known test of the advanced Agni-5, also referred to as 'Mission Divyastra' — an MIRV-capable iteration of Agni-5 — which was first tested in March 2024. The nuclear-capable Agni-5 has an officially declared strike range of over 5,000km, placing targets deep in Asia, including China, parts of Europe and Africa within its strike range.

Lauding DRDO, the Army and the industry on the successful flight-test, defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "This will add an incredible capability to the country's defence preparedness against growing threat perceptions."

The telemetry and tracking of flight-trial was carried out by multiple ground and ship-based stations. These systems tracked the entire missile trajectory from lift-off to the impact of all payloads. Flight data confirmed that all mission objectives were met, the ministry statement said.

# ADAG case: CBI finds multiple intermediary cos at same address

▸ Continued from P 1

CBI investigators also found that multiple intermediary companies were allegedly operating from the same address. The agency said it had registered seven cases against the Anil Ambanied Reliance Group in recent months based on complaints filed by various public sector banks and LIC in connection with alleged frauds involving thousands of crores of rupees. The total alleged loss in these cases is Rs 27,337 crore, according to the central probe agency.

CBI had earlier conducted searches at 14 locations after registering these cases. Two senior executives of Reliance Communications D Vishwanath, joint president, and Anil Kalya, vice president were arrested on April 20 in connection with the probe. Both are currently in judicial custody. CBI said the investigation into the cases is being monitored by SC.

# Union minister's son claims honeytrap, girl's family files Pocso case

Mahesh.Buddi
@timesofindia.com

**Hyderabad:** Police lodged cross-cases against Union minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son and a 17-year-old girl's family after allegations of sexual harassment, extortion and intimidation surfaced late Friday.

Bandi Bageerath, 23, was accused of harassing the girl for over six months and misbehaving with her at a farmhouse in Moinabad, about 35km from Hyderabad.

The complaint was filed at Pet Basheerabad police station in Hyderabad by the girl's mother, who alleged Bageerath became close to her daughter through common friends and falsely promised marriage before becoming intimate with her.

Police have yet to summon Bageerath. Officers said the girl's statement would be recorded and she could be sent for a medical exam.

**Police are yet to summon the minister's son. Officers said the 17-year-old girl's statement would be recorded and she could be sent for a medical exam**

Hours earlier, Bageerath approached Karimnagar II Town police — about 160km northeast of Hyderabad — accusing the girl and her parents of attempting to honeytrap him and extort money. He claimed he met the girl several months ago and was invited to family gatherings and pilgrimages as a friend.

"Later, her parents threatened me to marry her, but I refused," Bageerath said. He alleged they threatened to file a criminal case accusing him of harassment and having a relationship with a minor and demaded Rs 5 crore.


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**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for **"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220 kV Hybrid bay for 220 kV Piran Kaliyar-Puhana ckt-III at 220 kV Substation PiranKaliyar (Imlikhera)" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-01/2026-27".** The last date of bid submission of e-bid is **11.06.2026 upto 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website **www.uktenders.gov.in** (Tender id no. 2026_PTCU1_95164_1) and for e-tender notice our website **www.ptcul.org**.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

Letter No.: 789/HQPU/PTCUL Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)
Dated : 07-05-2026 " Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."

## Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Act of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi)

Dated: 04.05.2026

**14th ANNUAL CONVOCATION**

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi will be holding its 14th Annual Convocation on Thursday, 14th May 2026 from 11:00 AM at Multipurpose Hall, Sports Complex, University of Delhi, Delhi – 110007. Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Delhi and Chancellor of the University, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu shall preside over the Convocation.

**Note:** For further updates in this regard please visit the University website **https://aud.delhi.gov.in/**

Registrar

Directorate of Higher Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0044/26-27

## अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, देवघर
## ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES DEOGHAR
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार/Government of India
Website-www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in

No.-AIIMS/DEO/RECT.CELL/2026-27/206 Date- 29.04.2026

**9th Rolling Phase 1 Faculty Recruitment Advertisement**

Advt. No.:- AIIMS/DEO/RECT.CELL/2026-27/205/Phase 1, Dated: 29.04.2026

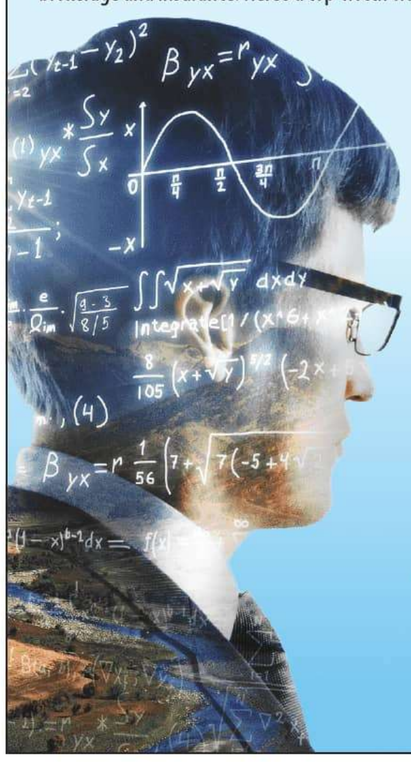
Online applications are invited for the medical faculty posts on **direct recruitment/ deputation** basis in various departments at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Deoghar, Jharkhand.
Cut-off date for receiving soft copy of application is **28.05.2026**.
For further information candidates are requested to visit the website of institute- **www.aiimsdeoghar.edu.in** on regular basis.

Recruitment Cell
AIIMS Deoghar

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

**Development of Integrated Residential Township at Airoli, Navi Mumbai**

The City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (the "Authority" or "CIDCO") invites **Request For Proposal (RFP)** from reputed Developers/Companies to undertake the Development of Integrated Residential Township at Airoli, Navi Mumbai (the "Project") based on State Government approved policy of 'Theme-Based and Iconic City Development' to facilitate the development of bulk land parcels in a holistic manner through Construction & Development Operator (CDO) Agreement and achieving an iconic, unified and integrated development.

1. **Name of Project: Development of Integrated Residential Township, Plot No. 20, Sector-10A, Airoli, Navi Mumbai**.
2. **Plot Area:** 68.8 Acres (Approx.)
3. **C.A. No.:** 02/CIDCO/Airoli/2025-26
4. **Construction & Development Period:** 20 Years
5. **Method of Selection:** H1 Selection. Bidder who is offering the Highest Revenue Share Percentage (in present value terms) shall be the Selected Bidder.
6. **Tender Cost Fee:** INR 200,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs only) excluding 18% GST.

**RFP Schedule :**

1. Publishing Date on **11.05.2026** at **11.00 Hrs**.
2. Document Download / Sale Start Date on **11.05.2026** at **11.00 Hrs**.
3. Document Sale End Date on **22.06.2026** at **17.00 Hrs**.
4. RFP Submission Start Date on **11.05.2026** at **17.00 Hrs**.
5. RFP Submission End Date on **22.06.2026** at **17.00 Hrs**.
6. Submission of Original Documents on **27.06.2026** at **16.00 Hrs**.
7. Last Date to submit Pre-Bid Queries on **18.05.2026** at **17.00 Hrs**.
8. Pre-Bid Meeting on **25.05.2026** at **15.00 Hrs**.
9. RFP Opening Date on **23.06.2026** at **15.00 Hrs**.
10. Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated further.

**Important Instructions:**

1. The detailed RFP document can be downloaded from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal: www.mahatenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
2. Applicants shall submit their RFPs online through the above portal only.
3. Queries, if any, may be sent via email to mm.commercial@cidcoindia.com from 11.05.2026 to 18.05.2026.
4. Replies to queries shall be published online as Corrigendum latest by 01.06.2026.
5. CIDCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all RFPs without assigning any reason thereof.

Marketing Manager (Commercial)
CIDCO/PR/063/2026-27

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in

## अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
## All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
( स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय )
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)

**Last date of online Receipt of Application: 08/06/2026** **Dated: 09/05/2026**

## FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

**Professor/Additional Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor**

Offline applications from eligible Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/Rules are invited to fill up following faculty posts in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

| Sr. No | Subject | Professor | Additional Professor | Associate Professor | Assistant Professor |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anaesthesia | 01 (OBC) | 01 (OBC) | - | 02 (01-SC, 01-OBC) |
| 2. | Biochemistry | 01 (ST) | - | - | - |
| 3. | Cardiology | 01 (UR) | - | 01 (OBC) | - |
| 4. | Cardiothoracic Surgery | - | - | 02 (UR) | 01 (SC) |
| 5. | Dermatology | - | 01 (OBC) | - | 01 (OBC) |
| 6. | ENT | 01 (SC) | 01 (SC) | 01 (ST) | - |
| 7. | Forensic Medicine and Toxiocology | 01 (OBC) | - | - | - |
| 8. | Gastroenterology (Medical) | 01 (EWS) | - | 02 (01-OBC, 01-UR) | 01 (OBC) |
| 9. | General Medicine | 01 (UR) | - | 02 (01-UR, 01-SC) | 04 (03-EWS, 01-OBC) |
| 10. | General Surgery | 01 (01-SC) | - | - | - |
| 11. | Hospital Administration | 01 (UR) | - | 02 (01-OBC, 01-UR) | - |
| 12. | Medical Oncology | - | - | - | 01 (OBC) |
| 13. | Microbiology | 01 (ST) | 01 (OBC) | - | - |
| 14. | Neonatology | - | - | - | 01 (ST) |
| 15. | Nephrology | - | 01 (UR) | 02 (01-SC, 01-EWS) | 01 (UR) |
| 16. | Neurology | - | - | 02 (01-OBC, 01-UR) | 01 (SC) |
| 17. | Neurosurgery | - | - | 01 (01-ST) | - |
| 18. | Nuclear Medicine | 01 (OBC) | 01 (OBC) | 01 (UR) | 01 (OBC) |
| 19. | Obstetrics and Gynaecology | - | - | 01 (01-ST) | - |
| 20. | Ophthalmology | 01 (EWS) | 01 (UR) | - | - |
| 21. | Orthopaedics | - | - | 01 (UR) | - |
| 22. | Paediatrics | - | 01 (OBC) | - | - |
| 23. | Pathology | 01 (SC) | 01 (SC) | - | - |
| 24. | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | 01 (UR) | - | - | - |
| 25. | Physiology | - | - | 01 (OBC) | - |
| 26. | Psychiatry | 01 (OBC) | 01 (UR) | - | - |
| 27. | Pulmonary Medicine | - | - | 01 (SC) | 01 (UR) |
| 28. | Radiology | - | 01 (OBC) | 02 (01-UR, 01-OBC) | 04 (02-OBC, 01-SC, 01-ST) |
| 29. | Radiotherapy | 01 (SC) | 01 (UR) | 01 (UR) | - |
| 30. | Surgical Gastroenterology | - | - | 02 (01-ST, 01-EWS) | 01 (OBC) |
| 31. | Surgical Oncology | - | - | - | 01 (UR) |
| 32. | Transfusion Medicine and Blood Bank | 01 (OBC) | - | 01 (UR) | 01 (OBC) |
| 33. | Trauma and Emergency Medicine | - | - | - | 03 (01-UR, 01-SC,01-ST) |
| 34. | Urology | 01 (EWS) | - | 02 (01-UR, 01-SC) | - |
| **Total** | | **18** | **12** | **28** | **25** |
| **Grand Total** | | **83** | | | |

**Note:** 7 Seats (1-Professor, 1- Additional Professor, 2- Associate Professor & 3- Assistant Professor) are Horizontally reserved for PwBD Candidates.

The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to change the number of the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/ circulars. **Application form along with department wise details of seats, reservation, terms and conditions etc. of the various posts are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**

All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on regular basis for any further updates.

**SD/-**
**Executive Director**
**AIIMS, Gorakhpur**

## IIT Patna student electrocuted on campus while playing cricket

**Patna:** A 21-year-old IIT student was electrocuted after he came in contact with an electric pole at the institute's playground here Saturday morning, reports **Faryal Rumi**. Sadasivuni Harshith Patnaik, from Hyderabad, was a fourth-year B Tech student who was also pursuing a dual degree course at IIM Bombay. He had travelled from Mumbai to Patna to attend his batchmates' farewell party.

The accident occurred around 6am when a group of students was playing cricket on the campus ground. Harshith touched the pole when he went to collect the ball that had rolled near it.

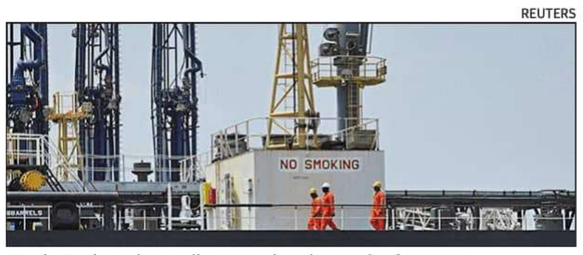
"Harshith was rushed to Netaji Subhas Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead," SHO Roshan Raj Kumar said.

In a statement, IIT Patna said, "We are shocked and heartbroken. The exact cause is under probe."

# 20k Indian seafarers caught in Gulf turmoil: Mariners' body flags worry

### Urges Urgent Evacuation Steps By Govt

**Ismat.Ara** @timesofindia.com



REUTERS

Workers aboard an Indian vessel at the Strait of Hormuz

**New Delhi:** Over 20,000 Indian seafarers are staring at a humanitarian nightmare in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz amid escalating tensions, with fears of conflict spillover trapping vessels and leaving crews stranded without food, medicine or escape routes, said National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), one of the country's oldest maritime unions. The body has urged the govt to treat the crisis as a "national priority and activate urgent evacuation protocols".

The 20,000-plus Indian seafarers—drawn from the massive scale of Indian manpower in the region—remains fluid, as crews rotate daily based on vessel schedules, port curbs, flag states, and security alerts.

Seafarers operating in and around the Gulf now face missile and drone threats, operational restrictions and security advisories that have turned routine voyages through the technically open Strait of Hormuz into high-risk journeys marked by constant anxiety, heightened bridge alerts, disrupted sleep and mounting mental fatigue. "There is growing panic among seafarers and their families. We are constantly receiving calls from worried relatives asking if their family members will safely return home," Milind Kandalgaonkar, general secretary-cum-treasurer of NUSI, told **TOI** on Saturday. Across regions that contribute significantly to India's maritime workforce, families are tracking news alerts, ship movements and conflict updates.

Many Indian seafarers work aboard foreign-flagged vessels where responsibility is fragmented between shipowners, insurers, flag states and local authorities, according to Kandalgaonkar.

Unlike military personnel, merchant navy crews are civilian workers keeping global trade functional despite limited protection. "These seafarers serve global trade and India's economic security under extremely difficult conditions and deserve urgent protection," said Kandalgaonkar, who spent nearly two decades at sea. "Today's threats—missiles, drones, cyber disruptions, sanctions, insurance complications and operational restrictions—are all interacting simultaneously." NUSI has activated its emergency support initiative, 'NUSI Sahara', to respond to distress calls on safety, mental stress, repatriation, wages, abandonment and communication with authorities.

India has already stepped up naval deployment with Operation Urja Suraksha, aimed at monitoring and protecting Indian maritime interests in high-risk waters.

## Court orders blocking of Tharoor deepfakes

**New Delhi:** The Delhi HC Saturday granted interim relief to Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on his plea seeking protection of personality rights, and ordered removal of AI generated deepfakes, including fabricated videos maliciously showing him praising Pakistan, reports **Abhinav Garg**. Being a "respected and recognised public figure", Tharoor holds enforceable personality and publicity rights over all identifiable aspects of his persona, Justice Mini Pushkarna ruled.

The court barred anyone from reproducing, misappropriating or imitating his name, image or visual likeness, distinct voice, signature oratorical cadence, manner of speaking, and highly refined vocabulary. Justice Pushkarna said the MP's "reputation, goodwill, name, physical appearance/image/likeness, voice, mannerisms, styles, and signature oratorical style are uniquely identifiable with him".

## INDIA DIGEST

### HC denies bail to PFI's Anis to meet family before Haj

Delhi high court has refused to grant interim bail to Popular Front of India (PFI) senior functionary Anis Ahmed — jailed in terrorism-related cases — who had sought six days' relief to meet family members and others and seek their blessings before they leave for Haj.

### Madrassa demolished in Moradabad after 44-year land dispute

Following a court order, a joint team of Moradabad Development Authority (MDA) and district administration on Saturday demolished portions of Jamia Arabia Hayatul Uloom madrassa built on about three acres of land along a highway in Moradabad's Mangupura area. At least six payloaders along with heavy earthmoving equipment were used in the presence of tight security.

### Man, 40, held for sexual assault on 6-yr-old girl on train

Railway police Saturday arrested a 40-year-old man for sexually assaulting a six-year-old girl travelling in the general compartment of Palaruvi Express from Kerala to Tamil Nadu. The accused, Sanish, son of Abdul Azeez from Ayathil in Kollam, was produced before a magistrate and remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

### Headmistress of govt school suspended over 'religious row'

A govt primary school headmistress in Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa was suspended after villagers alleged religious prayers were held during assembly instead of national anthem and students were influenced against Hindu deities.


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2. *Professor Schedule Caste - 01
Academic Matrix Level-14 (Rs.1,44,200 - Rs.2,18,200)
(This position may also be filled as Associate Professor at Academic Pay Matrix Level-13A (Rs.1,31,400-2,17,100) as per the note given below)
* Application is being invited from the eligible candidate for the post of Professor & Associate Professor for SC Category separately. Application for the post of Associate Professor (SC) will be considered only when no one is found suitable / eligible for the post of Professor either at the stage of Screening or at the time of interview.
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Director

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Last Date for submission of application is **20th May 2026**

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- PRT (ALL SUBJECTS)
- ASSISTANT TEACHER

Desired candidates should have 3-5 yrs. of relevant experience.
Interested candidates are requested to either drop their detailed resume at the school reception or send it to the provided email ID
hr@nipsnoida.com
within 7 days

DAV COLLEGE MANAGING COMMITTEE
CHITRA GUPTA ROAD, NEW DELHI-55
Tel.: 011-35651400
Requires
PRINCIPAL
FOR DARBARI LAL DAV MODEL SCHOOL, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088
Applications are invited by 20th May 2026 on the prescribed form. Application forms can be downloaded from the website www.davcmc.net.in which will be submitted along with demand draft of Rs. 250/- in favour of "Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee, New Delhi".
**Pay Level 12:** As per 7th Pay Commission
**Age:** Not more than 50 years (for external candidates)
**Eligibility:** Master's Degree with at least 50% marks and B.Ed. from any UGC recognized University. Preference: Knowledge of Computer aided education and administration will be given preference.
**Experience:** At least 10 years of experience in teaching Secondary / Senior Secondary classes in Public Schools including 05 years of relevant educational administrative experience.
**Submission of Application Forms:** Complete Application Form along with attested copies of testimonials, No Objection Certificate from the present employer, be sent to **The Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee, Chitra Gupta Road, New Delhi.**
General Secretary

**REQUIRE** Young Professional (Accounts) for Govt.approved Sports Org.,Graduate.Visit: aiscd.org/applform.php

#### ACCOUNTS & FINANCE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LABOUR ECONOMICS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Sector A-7, Institutional Area, Narela, Delhi-110040
VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT
National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development invites applications from dynamic, result oriented and experienced professionals for engagement of One Consultant (Finance & Accounts) on purely Contract basis with consolidated emoluments as per following details:
**Name of Post :** Consultant (Finance & Accounts)
**Consolidated Monthly emoluments:** Rs. 80,000 Per month
**Age :** Upto 45 years
**Minimum Post Qualification on experience in years:** 08 to 15 years
**Period of Contract :** Initially for a period of one year and further extendable depending on requirement and performance on year to years basis but not beyond five years in any case.
For more details, please visit: www.nilerd.ac.in

#### TEACHER

**PRE-SCHOOL** in Punjabi Bagh (West Delhi) & Gurgaon (DLF Phase -4) Reqd. PRINCIPAL/Coordinator/ Pre/ KG Teachers Cont: 9873730654

#### ACCOUNTS

#### ACCOUNTANT

**REQ** Audit Assts, Articles, Acctt,A/c trainee,optr.Vinay Jain & Co. CA'S A-14/3 Jamna bhwn Asaf Ali Rd.9312972404 vinay_jain_ca@yahoo.co.in

#### IT RELATED

#### COMPUTER OPERATORS

**REQ.** M/F Computer Optr, Mkt Exe, Age below 35, Walk-in: 11am - 5pm Dtd 06 To 20 May, Slry15k-25k Perfect Info Solutions Pvt. Ltd. 9, 1st Flr Avtar Enclave Paschim Vihar ND # 7827682831, 8851788836.

#### MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

#### SALES

KESHAV SEHKARI BANK LTD.
Delhi Branches : KAROL BAGH, SHAKARPUR, ROHINI, SEWAK PARK, BALI NAGAR
REQUIREMENT
Branch Managers/ Sales Officers
Sales officers must have relevant exp. of 1-2 years in sales of financial products.
Branch manager must have experience of 10 years in sales & exposure in loans & advances. Maximum age limit 55 years.
Apply with latest photo and biodata
Email: dgm@keshavbank.com

#### SALES MANAGER

**SALES:** Exp. Sales Manager Req. for a Pvt. Ltd. Ayurvedic Mfg. Company in Ghaziabad. Attractive Salary & incentives. Cont: 9811300399 (WhatsApp)

#### MEDICAL

#### MEDICAL

**REQD.** Qualified Doctors, Nursing Staff & Pharmacist for Hayat Medical Centre, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, ND # Call / W'app: 9891104799

#### OTHER PROFESSIONALS

#### ARCHITECTS

**REQD.** Architects (4+ yrs exp) & 3D Visualizer (3+ yrs exp). Sapras Architects, Nizamuddin East, Delhi, 011-41826027, Whatsapp: 7827915710, Em: architects.sapras@gmail.com

#### OTHER VACANCIES

#### MULTIPLE VACANCIES

**URGENT** REQD Reputed co. (Pan India & Overseas Operations) hiring: B.Sc /Diploma / ITI Candidates Walk-in 11-15 May 2026, B-917 KLJ Noida One, Sector 62 Noida, 10 AM - 5PM. Freshers & Experienced both can apply.

**WANTED** Engineer (Civil/ Electrical) preferably CPWD retired person, for Compiling/ Editing Civil/ Electrical Engineering Books. Apply with CV W'App: 9810945410 or Email: editornabhipublications@gmail.com

**GTB** SURGICAL Industries require 1) Accountant 2) Electronics Engineer 3) Computer Assistant (F) 4) Field Boy 5) Medical Representative. Walk in with resume and photo at 3/1/20 Site 4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Gzb. send resume with photo email - ruchi@gtbgroup.in For location w'app on 9891691552

**ROLE** Operation Coordinator (Male) Required Salary: 12,000 to 18,000 per month. Interested candidates can call or WhatsApp on: +91 9891410700.

**INTERIOR** Co.Req Civil Engg, Site Supervisor, Field boy, Accountant, HR, Interior Dsgnr & Purchase Officer Min 5yrs Exp secpl.01@gmail.com

**REQD:** Civil Staff & Accountant - Delhi NCR Genesis Infratech hiring Diploma Civil Engg & Site Supervisor (Male), Accountant & Office Engineer (Female). Freshers can apply. Ph: 9311282848, Send CV: shalini@genesisinfrastructure.co.in

#### PART TIME JOBS

**REQ** part/full time candidate for MNC Noida. Age 30-65yrs. edu:12th+ pref-rtd,VRS,CA,HW self empl earn 50k-1L fix+vari+ frgn trip 9212002006; 9582848400

**REQ** P/F time for Delhi NCR Pref Exp/ Rtrd/ Profsnl M/F 40-65yrs Income-Fix+Variables 50k-1lac pm wid foreign trips #9999773487, 8130806586

**REPTD** MNC reqd leadership Profile for Rtrd / VRS / Banker / PSU / Self Emp/ H.wife Age 35 to 75 Part/Full time. Fxd+ Inc. # 9999504449 / 8800565251

**REPUTED** Bank hiring Part/ full time Age 25-70, 10th-P.G. Retd/h'wife/vrs/self employed /bankers/pensioners Fix slry/ inctv/ frgn trip Call 9560741809

**OPP.** in leading corporate for Retired-PSU/Banker/VRS/ Fin.Distributor/B'man/h'wife /CA/age 35-70. Slry+ Incentive WFH. # Rituka 9716762036

#### SECURITY

**REQ.** Operation manager (ex-servicemen) & field officer Delhi & ncr ( ex- servicemen/ civilian) Exp 2-3 yrs.in reputed security co. at Gtcs pvt Ltd vikaspuri ND-18 # 9810689733.

#### MANAGERS

**MANAGER** Reqd. for Petrol Pump, East Delhi, exp. profsnl, pref. retd bankers/ex-service man, to manage 40 staff. Role includes sales, administration, and daily operations. Ideal candidates are purpose-driven, organized, & computer-savvy. Email: cnick781@gmail.com

**EHF** Learning Media Pvt Ltd. publishers needs TeleSales Manager & Exe in Eng/Hindi/Regional languages for sale of books/olympiads. Walk in: EHF house, Nr Bhikaji metro stn. Delhi - 66. Good salary + incentives. Whatsapp: 93542 99038

#### SECRETARIES

**URG.** Reqd Edu Smart Female Personal Secretary Married / Unmarried Age 20-40 yrs, Open Minded Salary 20000-40000 pm. Call & W'app 7838014986

#### DELIVERY BOYS

**DELIVERY** Boy's Reqd. for Mayur Vihar-I Extn. Prefd. Exp. in Medicine, Hospital, Courier. Own Bike / Scooty. Cont: 9953294449, 9818473937

#### BY SALARY

#### SALARY UPTO 25000 P.M.

**REQUIREMENT** FOR FEMALE QUALIFIED CAREGIVER FOR 10 YR AUTISTIC BOY IN NEW DELHI. CALL: 9748114824

#### SERVICES

#### HOTEL INDUSTRY

**EXP** Hotel F&B & Banquet Mngr, Chef, Recp, Acntnt, Waiters,Elec. Civil,Foremen, Driver, Baghpat & Delhi Airport 54jaspal@gmail.com # 9810454586, 9810040131, 54 (W) Ave Sainik Farm, ND-62

**A** Reputed Restaurants Chain at Noida, urgently requires exp. Restaurant Manager (Sales & Operations). Send CV to: ebp.hrm@gmail.com

#### RESTAURANTS

REQUIRED
Central Delhi - Italian Restaurant
Executive Chef cum Manager
Exp. 5-10 Years
Baker cum Pastry chef
Exp. 5 -7 Years
Barista
Exp. 3-4 Years
Service Crew (M/F)
Exp. 5-10 Years
Sales Executive
(Boys & Girls) Graduate
divineventures85@gmail.com
9311129078

#### TECHNICAL

#### ENGINEERS

**WE** ARE HIRING URGENTLY for Delhi NCR Projects: Civil Site Engineers, Project Managers, Billing/ Planning Engineers, Quality Engineers, Lab. Technicians, Safety Engineers, Safety Supervisors required for infrastructure projects. Experience: 4 Years and above Send CV to: arvindkuriyal.asco@gmail.com

**BIG** Electrical Contracting Co. Req. - 12 years exp. Apply only who worked with Contracting Co. for Internal Electrification Project - 1.Electrical Engineers, 2.Electrical Supervisor, 3.Forman. Beam Engrs Ltd. New Delhi. Whats App CV- M- 08595523323. Email: mep.inbeam@gmail.com

**ENGINEER** (Mech./Elect.) for Project Engg Co. having own Convey. residing near West Delhi & good Liasioner with Govt. Deptt. Email CV: admin@mohinildtd.com or Call at Mobile# 9718265079

#### PROFESSIONAL JOB SEEKERS

**KRISHNA** Eco E-Waste Recyclers, Open Requirements For Noida & Meerut ·Manager ( Sales and Purchase of E-waste and Metals) · Plant Head Accountant · Data Admin Office Assistant etc. Interested Candidates share the resume on Info@keewr.in 92864-05944

## business

### BUSINESS OFFERS

FOR SALE – ESTD.
Pharma Distributor:
Suresh Kumar
9810038248

**30 +** yrs legacy, 80+company Distributors incl 20+ of Top-25 Co's. Turnover Rs 40+ Cr. Strong goodwill. capacity rs 100+cr on same infra. Genuine buyers.

**EARN,** 20,000 Invest 75000 Auto, Bulb Plant Labour, MKT facility with Agreement. Contact : 9910492487, 9354339631

WANT TO BUY
Electronics Manufacturing Industry
Delhi/NCR Preferred
We are serious buyers looking to acquire an established Electronics Manufacturing Industry / Any Related Industrial Unit located in Delhi/NCR or nearby industrial areas.
9250925704, 9810647475
kantcjain@yahoo.co.in

### BUSINESS PROPOSALS

**EOI** are invited from Interested Parties/Investors/Agencies for the our right purchase of 36 mw solar power plants in Rajasthan, well established & maintained, high CUF Branded materials used. Cont. whatsapp: 9958584055

### FINANCE

**NEED** Money? Pvt. Finance Avail. Property, GPA, Registry, NPA Loan Fast Approval Resi. & Comm. Property Loan Upto 60% Fund Available 9582127126.

### FOR SALE

**GOLDEN** Opportunity for very high returns. Clear Title Agri land in Khurja, 32 kms from Jewar airport is on sale. (10cr.) Mob: 740 938 44 68

### MACHINERY & TOOLS

**CNC** MACHINE FOR SALE Double Spindle CNC Turning Center · Siemens Control System Near Chandigarh Contact: 9988414497

TIMES interact
Connecting People, Connecting Needs.
TO ADVERTISE IN THE CLASSIFIEDS SECTION, FOR ANY OF THE BELOW MENTIONED CATEGORIES




Please call us at the below mentioned nos.

| Area / Zone | Contact Person | Mobile No. |
|---|---|---|
| Central Delhi1 + North Delhi | Amit Ghosh | 98117 90649 |
| Central Delhi2 + Ghaziabad | Sunil Srivastava | 99994 99496 |
| South Delhi + Faridabad | Raghav Arora | 99999 95460 |
| West Delhi + Dwarka + Gurgaon | Aman Pasricha | 93126 33518 |
| East Delhi + Noida | Sumit Negi | 98992 68321 |

## North Eastern Railway

**Corrigendum-I**

**Sub:-** Design, Programming, Installation, Supply, Testing and Commissioning of Electronic Interlocking (EI) System Conforming to RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/ 192/2019 or Latest (With Latest Amendment if any) as per SIP along with Indoor & Outdoor Work Including Part Supply of Materials at (SANR, CC, GB, BALR, DEOS, NRA, BHTR, BTK, MW, ZRDE, PCK, DDA, CW, EM, DDP, and KPS) (Centralized Type) Stations and Siwan Jn, & CHPG Station (Distributed 1+2 Type) in between GKC-CHPG Sections, Automatic Block Signalling work in CPR Jn-CI-CHPG Block Section and work for OFC cables GKC-BTT and CPR Jn-CI-CHPG Sections in Varanasi Division of N.E.Railway **Ref:** Tender No. NER_SnT_Proj_BSB_01_2026, Dt.: 10.04.2026 at 16:54 Hrs. In reference to the subject tender the following corrigendum 1 is issued herewith The last date of submission of bids against the above tender is extended from 26.05.2026 to 02.06.2026 up to 12:00 Tender will be open on 02.06.2026 at 12:30 All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

**Dy.CSTE/Project/ Varanasi**

**CPRO/Signal-28**

DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

On Line Single based open E-Tenders are invited by Sr. D.M.E./EnHM. Frt. & DM/LJN, North Eastern Railway/ Lucknow for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works.

**S.No.-1,** Tender Notice No.: 01-2026-Mech-FRT-DM, Description of works: Repair, Maintenance and Housekeeping activity at Gonda Sickline & Freight Yard for two year." Approx Value (in Rs.): ₹ 7,06,84,393.41 Including GST, E.M.D. Money (in Rs.): ₹14,13,700/-, Contract period: 24 Months.

• E-Tender can be uploaded by tenderer, up to 15:00 hrs. on 01-06-2026 and will be opened after 15:00 hrs. on 01-06-2026

• Detailed information, minimum eligibility criteria, Terms and conditions regarding this e-tender are available at website ***www.ireps.gov.in*** • Tenderer should check any correction/corrigendum related to this e-tender notice on website before uploading their offer.

**Sr. D.M.E./EnHM,Frt & DM/LJN, Lucknow**

CPRO/Yantrik-17

*Never travel on roof and foot boards.*

## झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
सर्कुलर रोड, राँची–834001

### प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

**झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा (बैकलॉग) प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा–2025 (विज्ञापन संख्या–05/2026) के संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना।**

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि झारखण्ड संयुक्त असैनिक सेवा (बैकलॉग) प्रारंभिक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा–2025 (विज्ञापन संख्या–05/2026) दिनांक–17.05.2026 (रविवार) को राँची जिला में दो पालियों में निम्न कार्यक्रमानुसार निर्धारित है :–

| दिनांक | प्रथम पाली (पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से मध्याह्न 12:00 बजे तक) | द्वितीय पाली (अपराह्न 03:00 बजे से अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक) |
|---|---|---|
| 17.05.2026 (रविवार) | सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रथम पत्र) | सामान्य अध्ययन (द्वितीय पत्र) |

2. अभ्यर्थियों के लिए अनुदेश, प्रवेश–पत्र एवं उपस्थिति पत्रक से संबंधित महत्वपूर्ण सूचनाएँ आयोग के वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध है।
3. यह प्रेस विज्ञप्ति आयोग के वेबसाइट **www.jpsc.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध है।

ह0/– परीक्षा नियंत्रक (प्रभारी),
झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, राँची।

PR NO : 379433(Jharkhand Public Service Commission)/26-27

## कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

क.रा.बी.नि. ESIC

सत्यमेव जयते

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, रोहिणी, सैक्टर-15, दिल्ली-110089
ESIC Hospital, Rohini, Sector-15, Delhi-110089 Phone: 011-27861033
Email: ms-rohinidelhi@esic.nic.in
Website: www.esic.gov.in

**DM (RH)-115-D/30/1/2021/रिकॉर्ड का रख–रखाव–सामान्य शाखा**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public and all concerned including IPs/Patients and their legal representatives that ESI Hospital, Sector-15, Rohini, New Delhi intends to destroy its old medical records as part of its weeding out policy. The list of records to be weeded out is available for viewing on the website of ESIC i.e. **www.esic.gov.in** Notify that in case all concerned including any member of the public, officers/ employees and IPs/patients and their legal representatives and any party/parties or any authority concerned in any manner

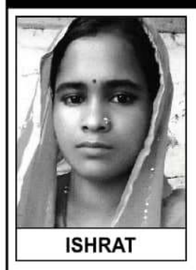
- Desires a copy of any of these records or
- Need any information contained therein or
- Has any stake/interest whatsoever in the contents of these records in question or
- Any information from the above list is in any way involved in any legal proceedings or any government or non-government matter or judicial matters etc.

May can contact the Medical Superintendent's office within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the notice.

**In case no objection is received within the aforesaid mentioned period of 30 days, the above mentation records will be weeded out/destroyed forth with, on any date as deemed appropriate/ suitable by the undersigned. No correspondence will be entertained regarding the matter after the period of 30 days' publication of this notice.**

Sd/-
**Medical Superintendent**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



ISHRAT

General public is hereby informed that this Women (depicted in the photo) namely **Ishrat W/o Ishak** with two child **(1) Asif, age 1 year six months and (2) Rani, age 3 years R/o H. No. 80/412, Rajeev Camp Jhil Mil Colony, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from **H. No. D-78, Vivek Vihar, Delhi** since **22.04.2026** at Approx **11:00 AM.** In this regard a **FIR No./DD No. 112A, Dated 22.04.2026, PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this Women but no clue has come to light so far. His physical description is as under:-

**Sex:** Female, **Age:** 32 years, **Height:** 5'1" ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wear:** Suit & Salwar and Sleeper in her feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing Women may kindly inform to the following:-

**SHO**
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** **PS: Vivek Vihar, Delhi**
**E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in** **Ph.: 011-22150370**
**Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641** **Mobile: 9311787921, 9319547081**
**Fax No.: 011-24368639** **DP/5840/SHD/2026**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male namely **Pawan S/o Lakhan R/o Vegabond, Dwarka Mor Metro Station, Delhi Age:** 33 Years., **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion**: Wheatish, **ID Mark:** Tattoo on both hands, was wearing Blue colour Jeans and Red and Black Checkdar Shirt and bare feet, was got admitted to RML Hospital vide MLC No. 107865/26 dated 01.05.2026 during the treatment he was declared dead by the doctor on 06.05.2026. In this regard a case **DD No. 07A dated 07.05.2026 has been lodged at P.S. North Avenue, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO**
**P.S. North Avenue, Delhi**
**DP/6122/NDD/2026** **Ph.: 011-23093040, 7835987717**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Runa Kumari & Nitya kumari

General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) Namely: **Runa Kumari, W/o : Saroj Kumar, R/o: 12/2, Gali No.8, Vikash Enclave, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, New Delhi (Mob. No. 9971737134)** along with her **5 years old Daughter Nitya Kumari** have been Missing from their house since **07.04.2026** at **11.00 A.M.** In this regard a missing report case vide **DD No.121A dated 09.04.2026** has been lodged at **P.S. Najafgarh, Dwarka District, New Delhi.**

**Their Physical descriptions are as under:-**

**1.RUNA KUMARI: Sex:** Female, **Age:** 33 Years, **Height:** 5' 3", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Black Color Lining Saree & Black Slippers in her feet.

**2.NITYA KUMARI: Sex:** Female, **Age:** 5 Years, **Height:** 3' , **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Round.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female with her Child but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this female and her child please inform to the following.

**Phone No.** : 011-24368638, 011-24368641 | **Fax no. :** 011-24368639
**Email id :** cic@cbi.nic.in | **Website :** http://cbi.nic.in

**SHO**
**P.S – Najafgarh, New Delhi**
**DP/6107/DW/2026** **Phone : 8750871027, 9013432081**

## UNIDENTIFIED BOY FOUND



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Mahir, S/o Arjun, R/o Unknown has found on 03.05.2026 at 01:30 AM from Azad Market Chowk, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 36 A, dated 03.05.2026** has been lodged at Police Station Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi. Details of the found boy are as under:

**Name: Mahir, Age: Approx 05 Years, Height: Unknown, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt, Shorts and White Colour Slipper.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this found boy the same may kindly be inform to the undersigned.

**SHO**
**P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**
**DP/6063/N/2026** **Ph.: 8750870125, 9311925639**

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown has found dead on 28.04.2026 at Patri near Railway Hospital, SPM Marg, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 40 A, dated 28.04.2026** has been lodged at Police Station Lahori Gate, Delhi. Identification of unidentified male is as under:

**Name: Unknown, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Grey Colour Checkdar Shirt and Grey Colour Pant.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this male may kindly be inform undersigned.

**SHO**
**P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**
**DP/6111/N/2026** **Ph.: 9318430923, 9968099756**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



Srishti

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Srishti **D/o** Sh. Ramchandra **R/o** H.No.9744, Gali No.10, Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi **Aged**- 17 Years has been reported missing since 05.05.2026 at 11 AM from her residence vide **FIR No.214/2026 Dated 06.05.2026, u/s 137(2) Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita** registered at Police Station Paharganj, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Heavy, **Wearing:** Specs.

If anyone gets any information or clue about the missing girl, please contact the below mentioned :-

SHO, Paharganj, Delhi
**E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in** Tel.: 011-23524746, 23520787
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** 8750870427
**Fax: 24368639**
**Tel.: 24368638/24368641** DP/6076/CD/2026

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



Fiza

General Public is hereby informed that one female namely **Fiza D/o Md. Sabir, R/o** H.No.C-4/110 LNJP Colony Ranjit Singh Marg Gurunank Hospital Delhi has been missing is since 05.05.2026 from her house. In the area of P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 96A** dated **05.05.2026** has been registered at PS. I.P. Estate, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under :

**Name** : Fiza, **Father's Name** : Md. Sabir, **Age** : 24 yrs., **Height** : 5'4", **Built:** Thin, **Face** : Oval, **Complexion** : Fair, **Wearing** : Purple Colour Suit and Salwar

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
DP/6083/CD/2026 **P.S., I.P. Estate, Delhi**
**Ph : 011-23274683, 8750870426**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



**NIHAL SINGH**

General public is hereby informed that this person namely **Nihal Singh** S/o Laxman Singh R/o H. No. C-84, Raghubir Enclave, Near DC Convent School, New Delhi, **Age:** 25 years, **Height :** 5.2 feet, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, wearing black colour shirt and pant. In this regard a DD No. 59A dated 08.05.2026 has been registered at P.S. Baba Haridas Nagar, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.

**E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in** **SHO:**
**Website: http://cbi.nic.in** **P.S. Baba Haridas Nagar, New Delhi**
**Fax: 24368639,** **Ph. : 011-25315311, 8076516195**
**Tel.: 24368638/24368641** **DP/6116/DW/2026**

## State Election Commission, Haryana

# Cast Your Vote

**Date - 10.05.2026 (08:00 AM to 06:00 PM )**

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ELECTIONS :** Panchkula, Ambala & Sonipat
**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ELECTIONS :** Rewari, Dharuhera, Sampla & Uklana

The electors who have not obtained their Elector's Photo Identity card (EPIC) as yet but their names are entered in the present voter list of concerned Corporation/Council/Committee shall have to produce any one of the following as an alternative document for establishing their identity at the polling station:

I. Aadhar Card issued by UIDAI
II. Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)
III. Passport
IV. Driving License
V. Income Tax Identity (PAN) Card
VI. Service Identity Card issued to employees by Central/State Government Offices, Public Sector Undertakings, Local Bodies or other public Limited Company
VII. Passbook of an account, having photograph, opened in a scheduled Bank or Post Office
VIII. Freedom Fighter Identity Card having photograph
IX. SC/ST/OBC certificate having photograph, issued by competent authority
X. Certificate of Physical disability having photograph issued by the Competent Authority
XI. Arms License having photograph
XII Job Cards with photograph issued under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, MGNREGA etc.
XIII. Property documents with photographs such as Pattas, Registered Deeds etc.
XIV. Pension Documents such as Ex-Servicemen Pension Book/Pension Payment Order, Ex-Servicemen's Widow/Dependent Certificate, Old Age Pension Order, Widow Pension Order, with photograph
XV. Health Insurance Scheme Smart Cards with Photograph
XVI. Ration Cards or any other similar documents establishing the identity of the electors to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer, having photograph

#CastYourVote #SECHARYANA

**Be a responsible citizen. Participate in the upcoming Municipal Elections and contribute to the democratic process by casting your vote.**

/secharyana www.secharyana.gov.in

## North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC)
Garchuk, Guwahati, Assam

**EOI Notice No.: NEHHDC/PURVI/2026/27/251/7169** **Dated: 10-05-2026**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC) under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible entities for selection of franchise partners to operate "PURVI" showrooms for sale of North East India's finest Handicrafts, Handlooms and cultural products on PPP mode.

The detailed EOI document containing eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and submission procedure is available on CPP Portal (**https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**) and website **www.nehhdc.com**.

**Date of Issue of EOI: 08-05-2026**

**Last Date for Submission of EOI: 28-05-2026**

EOI shall be submitted as per the instructions provided in the EOI document.

*Sd/-* **Managing Director**
NEHHDC Ltd., Garchuk, Guwahati, Assam

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D. CIRCLE BANSWARA (RAJ.)

Address - Near Circuit House, Jaipur Road, Banswara (Raj.) 327001
Phone - 02962-241808, E-Mail - piu_banswara@rediffmail.com, sebanswara.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक:– डी–174 दिनांक:– 06.05.2026
**NIB - PWD2627A0345**

**Notice Inviting Bid (06/2026-27)**

Bids for Remaining Work of Permanent Restoration Work of Flood Damaged in Banswara District, Remaining Work of Rehabilitation of various damaged BT Road & Construction of various Missing Link Road in Banswara District and Remaining Works of Approach Road Amariya Pada under UC PHQ P.S. Bagidora (Risk and Cost) are invited from interested bidders from Dated 11-05-2026 9.30 am. to 01-06-2026 6.00 pm. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement in Rs. 717.48 Lacs.

**UBN- 1- PWD2627WSOB01519, 2- PWD2627WSOB01520 3- PWD2627WSOB01521, 4- PWD2627WSOB01523 5- PWD2627WSOB01525**

**Sd/-**
**(Mathura Lal Meena)**
**Superintending Engineer**
**P.W.D. Circle Banswara**

**DIPR/C/8105/2026**

## UJVN Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O. "UJJAWAL" Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax: 0135 - 2763508
CIN No U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं0: 392 **Short Term e-Tender Notice** दिनांक: 08/05/2026

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVNL, Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Tender No.:** 09/2026-27/EE (Civil)/UJVNL/Pashulok Barrage.
**Name of work : Downstream water Level Depletion Works at Virbhadra Barrage, Rishikesh.**
**Estimated cost : Rs. 49,96,253.00 Only (GST Extra)**
**Date of availability of bid document on website:** From 17:00 hrs of 08.05.2026
**Last date for submission of bids on website:** Upto 17:00 hrs of 14.05.2026

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **"https://uktenders.gov.in"**

**Executive Engineer (Civil)**
**Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh.**

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

## FORM A- PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

*(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)*

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of Corporate Person | **INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)** |
| 2. | Date of Incorporation of Corporate Person | 12.04.2012 |
| 3. | Authority under which Corporate Person is Incorporated / Registered | Registrar of Companies, Delhi II |
| 4. | Corporate Identity Number / ~~Limited Liability Identity Number~~ of Corporate Person | U45204DL2012GOI234292 |
| 5. | Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Person | **Registered Office:** 7th floor, Tower 1, Konnectus building Bhavbhuti Marg, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110002 |
| 6. | Liquidation Commencement Date of Corporate Person | 05th May, 2026 |
| 7. | Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number and the Registration Number of the Liquidator | Monika Agarwal **IBBI Registration Number:** IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01137/2018-19/11866 **Address:** 205, Chopra Complex, 8, Preet Vihar, Community Centre, New Delhi-110092 **Telephone number:** +91-9873924087 **Email Address (process specific):** liquidator.irsdc@gmail.com **Email Address (registered with IBBI):** cacsmonika.agarwal@gmail.com |
| 8. | Last Date for Submission of Claims | 04th June, 2026 |

Notice is hereby given that **INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES) has commenced its voluntary liquidation on 05th May, 2026.

The stakeholders of **INDIAN RAILWAY STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED** (A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES) are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 04th June, 2026, to the Liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.

The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

**CA Monika Agarwal**
**Liquidator in the matter of**
**Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation)**
**(A JV of Rail Land Development Authority, IRCON & RITES)**
IBBI Registration No.:IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01137/2018-19/11866
AFA valid upto: 30.06.2027
IBBI Registered Address: 205, Chopra Complex, 8, Preet Vihar, Community Centre, New Delhi
liquidator.irsdc@gmail.com (process specific)
cacsmonika.agarwal@gmail.com (registered with IBBI)
Mob. No. 9873924087

**Date: 10.05.2026**
**Place: New Delhi**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT
**Office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police,**
No-2, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru 560 001,

**No: 04/STS-1/2026-27(Part-2)** **Dated : 07.05.2026**

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

The e-tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for Supply of below Kit Articles for all the Police Personnel of Karnataka State.

| Sl. No | Item Name | Tender No. | Total Qty | Estimated Value (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Khaki PV Cloth (DPO & Other Units) | KSP/2026-27/IND0603 | 2,37,854 | 4,22,69,034.34 |
| 2 | Khaki PV Cloth (COP & Other Units) | KSP/2026-27/IND0604 | 2,37,853 | 4,22,68,856.63 |
| 3 | White PV Cloth | KSP/2026-27/IND0605 | 24,618 | 43,87,912.32 |
| 4 | Ankle Shoes with PU Rubber Sole (DPO & Other Units) | KSP/2026-27/IND0606 | 34,832 | 3,02,46,018.88 |
| 5 | Ankle Shoes with PU Rubber Sole (COP & Other Units) | KSP/2026-27/IND0607 | 34,832 | 3,02,46,018.88 |
| 6 | Brown Oxford Shoes | KSP/2026-27/IND0608 | 13,667 | 1,38,86,492.02 |
| 7 | Ladies Shoes | KSP/2026-27/IND0609 | 7,997 | 75,55,885.48 |
| 8 | Navy Blue Peak Cap | KSP/2026-27/IND0610 | 78,500 | 1,86,28,050.00 |
| 9 | Khaki Peak Cap | KSP/2026-27/IND0611 | 13,784 | 26,24,887.12 |
| 10 | Khaki Socks | KSP/2026-27/IND0612 | 1,52,284 | 88,32,472.00 |

Published Date : **06.05.2026 through e-portal 2.0,** Last Date and Time for Bid Submission : **05.06.2026 @ 17:30 Hrs.**

In order to participate in e-Procurement 2.0 platform all the intended tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. A training program in e-Procurement is organized by e-Procurement cell. The tenderers can take assistance with e-Procurement help desk at +91 80 46010000 & +91 80 68948777 to participate in the above tenders. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in e-Procurement 2.0 platform.

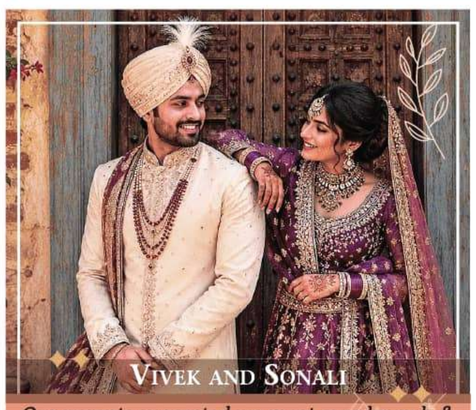
**Sd/-**
**For Director General and Inspector General of Police**

**DIPR/CP/568/NR/2026-27**

# TIMES Soulmate

Love finds its match.

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*Our parents suggested we meet over brunch & see how we gel. Between shared plates & endless stories, our awkwardness disappeared & comfort quietly took its place. We knew we had to explore that feeling more.*

## WANTED BRIDES

### BY CASTE

### AGARWAL-BISA

**29/5'10** B.Tech-IIT MS wkg with google 1Cr +well establd B'ness Fmly. Caste No Bar .No dowry Rich Fmly #9826502693 Email: bdmatj@gmail.com

**JAISWAL** Boy B.Tech - IIT (K),IAS (Jharkhand)/26/5'10" Gora / Edu. Fmly. Pref - Prof-Edu Girl. Caste no Bar. Send BHP # rpc.ncr5@gmail.com

**GUPTA** boy, smart, Dehradun based business family, Jan'87/5'7, looks much younger. Seeks educated girl. Contact 9717722445

**UP** bsd Agwl boy Dec.84/5'8" B.Tech MBA, I'less Div Wrkg MNC Gurgaon 28 LPA Stld in Delhi Seeks bride # 9871032142 E: agarwaldelhi07@gmail.com

**IAS,** IRS, IFS, IIT, IIM,CA,MD, MS Profiles, 27-40 yrs Ht 5'5" to 6 / 20-80 LPA seeks profsnly qlfd brides from reputed family Caste no bar # 9 4 1 5 5 8 0 8 9 3

**PQSM4** 33,5'8",Agrawal,BE, MBA from premier institute 1.25 Cr PA + benefits, aflunt Del Ncr bsd CNB # 9811066165 E:- rsagrawal53@gmail.com

**B.TECH** MBA FBD based, reputed Garg family. 07.11.95, 5'7.5". Seeks PQM preferably Bania girl. 9560818383

**PQM** 4 Garg boy 1-3-94/FBD /5'6.5"/B.Tech MBA (IMT Gbd) 50Lpa/Blr pref B.Tech MBA/ CA rptd Univ. pref rptd fmly # 9811117183, 9899970426

### BRAHMIN

**HANDSOME** Srswt Brahmin 31 yrs/6'/ High income, MBA (USA), Settled in India, From High status family, Caste no bar. Call 9115551721, 9464513311

**H'SOME** 44/5'11" kkj B.Tech(c.s.) M.B.A. (London). Properties in Del. N.C.R. Lko. Worked in M.N.C.Gurgaon now work from home. Director Glint India Technologies Noida. 40 L.P.A. # 9415142535

**SUITABLE** Match for Boy, sept 91, 5'10", Never Married, BBA, Gaur Brahmin, Own Transport Business, Mumbai, 9820101342

**B.TECH** Brahmn boy 91/6' wkg MNC Noida from Lko based fmly, tech qualified, like minded working girl preferred #9453012981

**SB** anshik mglk Btech (Thapar), 11.09.1993/00.40/ Patiala/5'11", MNC Ggn, 55 lakhs, Parents retired officers # 9814665450

**SARYUPARIN** Madhya Nadi Kashyap 30/5'11" MS Ortho fair, h'some, well settled, r'putd veg. fmly. Seeks Dr. (PG) b'ful Br. girl. 6386599490

**SUITABLE** Match for H'some highly qualified Brahmin boy, 5'10", Nov. 1992, vegetarian n teetotaller, working in London, UK. Presently in India. Looking well-educated, beautiful, veg girl, willing to relocate to UK. Mob. 9560455460

**GAUR** Brahmin Manglik Boy 12/05/1993 5'6"BE BITS Pilani working IT company at Bangalore 70 LPA Father Doctor mother Gazetted officer FAMILY Based in Bhopal seeking Educated & Suitable Girl 9425301716 ; 9826023716

**BRAHMIN** family seeks sanskari bride for son, 30/5'-8", veg, teetotaler, Advocate (Jalandhar), B.A. (Eco), LL.B. (Hons). Father Retd. Civil Services Officer, Mother Retd. HOD (Central School). Khatri/Vaishya & allied castes shall also be considered: Mobile: 9814049916.

**WELL** established GGN bsd Gaur Brahmin handsome boy. August 1991 born. Earning handsome income. Req. a beautiful Gaur Brahmin Girl Doctor/Teacher/Lecturer/-Professor. Mob..9810600233, EM: rsvenus99@gmail.com

**PQ** B'ful, tall slim girl for 6'4", Aug 97/ B.Tech+ M.Tech+ PGDBM Gaur Brahmin Bhardwaj boy wkg MNC GGM 30 LPA own house. # 7838984053

**DELHI** bsd saryupari brahmin boy June 96/5'7" central govt officer , grandfather retd district judge, parents IITians girl working non working no bar 9582577283

**SM4** Aug 94/5'9", fair, B.Tech (DTU) & MS (MI, USA), Brhmn wkg in USA (VA), Fthr Retd Sr Official in Navy. Upper Caste, wkg girl in US pref. 9582913037

**V.H'SOME,** v.fair,6'0"/Feb '91. IIT-KGP(CS). CEO Global GenAI Co(Delhi/SF/Indore). Ex-Silicon valley. High-status family.9131267139/9993873300

**SUITABLE** matche for KKB Garg Gotra, 5'6" Fair, Nadi Madhya, Feb 1989 born, Animator and 5'6" Nadi Madhya, Well settled Businessman in Kanpur. All upper castes welcomed. Parent: Call/WA: 9235815355

**ELITE,** cultured Jaipur family invites alliance for son (Nov 1996), B.Tech, MS (USA), Business Analyst (Gurugram, reputed NBFC). Father Sr. Engineer (Govt), Seeking Prof. Qual. Girl. 9929977702

**PQM4** Fair Veg. Gour Brahmin CS Engg March '96 born 6' boy, wrkg in Bangalore, salary 1cr+, Gurgaon based family. Contact -9050737267

**KKB** Madhy nadi, Bhardwaj Gotra H'Some Veg. boy Oct' 97/ 6 ft/ B.Tech (CS) from DTU/ Wrkg (B'lore) Seeks B'Ful. Edu. Girl # 8447408677

**SM** & GB BOY 30 NM MAITREYA B.TECH WRKG IN ACCENTURE @ GURUGRAM WELL OFF EDUCATED FAMILY 9672526390 8955880244

**HANDSOME,** Smart, 32/ 5'11",Veg, BSc,MBA, Lecturer and Business, Highly educated, 27 LPA, Gaur Brahmin boy. Ph./W'App: 7895672266

**H'SOME** Fair 96 Born/5'8" BR MBA (Real Estate) wkg MNC 21 lpa, South Del bsd status fmly Seeks B'ful, fair, Edu, homely/ wkg girl. WAp BHP 9810066612

**SM** 4 Manager MNC in Mumbai 35/ 5'5"/ 34LPA, MBBS perusing MBA finance ISB Hyd'bad, No Marriage Beuro. Contact 9981641502

**SM** 4 Brahmin boy 9-10-84 /5'11'' never married wrkg AVP MNC, Mumbai 30LPA, Pref. wrkg girl, Madhya Nadi, All Brahmin Mob.: 7379984586

**BRAHMIN** Boy Bhardwaj Gotra 32, 5'8",MBA, working in MNC. Seeking educated, cultured, traditional values Brahmin girl.#M:9450588785

**29/5'10"** B.Tech IIT,M.S.(Eng) GOOGLE wkg,1Cr+ Tetotaller Boy, Father Defenc Oficer,Elite family, Caste no bar, No dowry. 9226324317 rasrm68@gmail.com

**WANTED BRIDE**
1992 Born
Brahmin Boy
Engineering Graduate & MBA from London Business School
Affluent Renowned Business Family from Mahakoshal
Mob.: 9131052862
sssk36014@gmail.com

### JATAV

**SM4** Jatav Boy, 24/5'-8" B.Tech, Working as Software Engineer in TCS, 8 LPA . Seeks Edu. Suitable Girl from Delhi # 9990816345, 7011715999

**H'SOME** Dubai-based MS USA Jatav boy 1991/5'7"/$150K Delhi NCR family seeks beautiful well-educated girl. Cast no bar#9650408495

### KAYASTHA

**SRIVASTAVA** Jan 90 / 5'8" B.Tech ,MBA self employed investment pro,upper middle class Own flat noida only son parents in Kanpur Seeks wkg girl 9415178289,9336845255

**KAYASTH** H'ome 32/ 5'11", 6 LPA & family income 15 LPA, wrkg INADEV India pvt. Ltd. Early descent marriage, no dowry # 9559870375, 9140449484

**B.TECH** Graduate Boy Software Developer working in MNC, Noida 5"8/78, Seeking professionally qualified bride. Call on : 7007865761

**SHRIVASTAVA** 32/5'-10" B.Tech (Amity), Own Business in Kanpur, 14 LPA, Seeks Beautiful & Qualified Bride. # 9336219817, 8299763659

**GROOM** Dec '86 BTech E&C 6'3 Sr Specialist Telecom Netw Engg MNC. Nvr Marrd CTC 27LPA, well setteld seeks Prof. qual bride # 9532478634

**KAYASTH** mnglk boy1991/ 5'10" MS wrkg in USA in H1B Visa, Sr. Data Scientist seek suitable match preferably wrkg in USA. Caste no bar 8962000406

**SRIVASTAVA** H'some boy Dec'93/5'6", B.Tech, MS, working in Dublin Ireland. Seeks b'ful, prof. qlfd, wrkg girl. Contact: 9792279076

**SM4** Kay. Divorcee i'less NRI boy 37/5'7" A.Manglik B.Tech (CS) wkg MNC at UK seeks wkg girl, ready to move UK family based Lko. 9455507593

**SM4** Delhi NCR based Saxena Boy June 85/6'0 M.Tech IIT Delhi Wkg in IT company, 28 LPA,seeks prof qlfd wkg girl. Mob : 9958572716

**SRIVASTAVA** 34 / 5'7"/ Anshik Mglk/ AVP Data Analytics in Mumbai/ 32 LPA. Seeks B'ful Wkg girl ready to settle in Mumbai #9869481060

**SM** for 29/5'8", Master's from Aachen Univ & wrkg as Simulation Engr in Germany. Younger son of edu. Kyastha fmly from UP; Father retired Class-I Railway Officer and Mother a leading Psychologist, Seeks Professionally Qlfd girl from cultured fmly #9147746262

**SRIVASTAV** 33/5'7" Ansh Manglik B.Tech (NIT Allaha bad) Mngr MNC, Gurgaon, 43 LPA + Fthr UP Govt CI-II (Ret) seeks b'ful edu. wkg girl. Caste no bar. # 9415756685.

**SRIV** 83/5.11/ BTech, MBA, IIM, MS(USA), wkg Hyderabad S/o Rtd PCS seeks N/Mglk B'ful, prof.qlfd, Nvr Mrd match. Erly mrg Cst-No Bar 9794920200 9793237632 sjn.ddp@gmail.com

**37YRS** Bhatnagar Manglik MBA boy 5'11" noida based 15 LPA. Consultant in MNC. 9412084272 , mrraj4@gmail.com

**H'SOME** Srivastava boy 1991/5'11" Time 11.30 pm Sr Al Engg Accenture 28 LPA Seeks Prof., Non Prof. Girl Mb: 9451404397, 6393098842

**SAXENA** jan 94 ht.5'8" fair,slimB.TechM.S.(D.S.)wkg. MNC in Dublin Ireland.Seek slim,fair wkg.S.W. girl CastNoBar 9412736483.

**PQ** Wkg Girl for Saxena Boy 5'11" Oct 95 BTech MBA 45Lac MNC Noida Owns flat in NCR Upper Caste no bar Ph 9305859795

**SRIVASTAVA** H'some boy 33/5'10", 58+LPA B.Tech,MBA Fin Dir MNC GGN Fthr C-1 UP govt.seeks PQ d'cent fmly wkg tall b'ful girl #7460011350

**5'10",** July '83, Gurgaon-based IT profnl., Sr role MNC,indepe-ndent,modern outlook, enjoys travel.Values compatibility & mutual respect,seeks edu,partner. Caste no bar. 9560068828

### KHATRI

**SM4** PB khatri boy B.A Hons.LLB 31/6'4"/15LPA Wkg as law Associate in rptd Delhi Law firm, Pref Qlfd Wkg Girl, Status Family. # 9310251952. sanjeev210564@gmail.com

**PUNJABI** H'some, Fair 38/5'6" Engineer MBA own Real Estate fmly Business, South Delhi bsd, Seeks B'ful, Cultured girl from Middle Class fmly. # 9811141614

**49/5.9** TALL divorcee belongs to high status family prefer middle and upper cast and beautiful very fair bride contact 9554222279

**SM for tall Handsome PB Khatri Well Educated Boy**
**MBA (DTU) 5'10"**
**29 yrs. (20.03.1996)**
is overseeing family business and is managing new enterprise of a resort. Family is Delhi based. Financially well off with a good net worth.
All close relatives well settled, seeks tall, beautiful, educated girl from a respectable family.
Send profile with photo at Whatsapp No.
**9868593404**

### KUSHWAHA

**KUSHWAHA** H'some Boy 28/5'7" MCA Engr Google Banglr 25LPA seeks B'ful wkg girl Mob:7294809376, 9973433805 vill.dumari manjhi 841313

### VAISH

**PQM** for Mittal MS (CS) NUS boy 37/ 5'9"/ MS + Jobs in Singapore, Now working in Noida. Well-settled, educated NCR family Cont: 9312635129 mail: kvikas62@hotmail.com

### YADAV

**28** Years/5-11" Yadav from Haryana BTech(Comp) working in MNC seeks professional qualified girl yadavs99@yahoo.com

## BY COMMUNITY

### AGARWAL

**JAIN** Boy 35/5'10"/B.Tech , MBA IIM Calcutta, GM - MNC Gurgaon ,75 LPA, Divorcee, seeks prof qlfd wkg girl willing to stle gurgaon 8586020288

**HIGH** Profile never married 22.02.1979 Bansal 5'7", Famous Legacy Celebrity Architect, Heritage of Lutyens Delhi Own office opp PVR Plaza Conn.Plc, St.Columba's,ND-1 Global MBA coveted SRCC -DU, Parents no more, stay own South Del Farm Seeks 25-35yr 5'1-5'4 Convented PQ premier MBA, High status elite fmly from Del.# 9560866265

**HMLY** Girl 4,Agg.boy,32/ 5'7"/65kg, B.A., jewellery shop, income 2LPM, reputed fmly of Bahadurgarh (Haryana),20 min drive from Delhi: 9312788220.

**AGARWAL** Boy 32/170cms/ 70 kg/ B.Tech IIT/ PHD USA/ research scientist UK / Girl in UK or willing to live in UK W/C 9897057620

**H'SOME** Jain/Goel 5'7"/68kg, BE (E&C) Engg Director / 1 Cr. PA US MNC, Lives in Noida, 21.5.74/4pm/Pnp W: 9958606647, Email: jain1974s@gmail.com

**GOEL** Boy 5'9" 26.04.86, Del, 1.50am, Anshk Mglk, B.Tech. ,Wkg MNC Ggn.40LPA, legally dvrcd,I'less Seeks only Del-NCR Teacher girl. Cont 9810641971

**SM4** Agarwal Garg Mglk only son 5'7"/34 MCA Own Hotel b'ness from H'edu. repd fmly of Udaipur. All vaishya invited. 9828077724

**SM** for 33 Yrs, 5'7", Aggarwal, B.Tech. MBA, H'some, Fair, Wrkg with an MNC in Delhi, Earning 16 LPA. Seeking an Educated, Beautiful, Working girl. Caste No Bar. Contact / WhatsApp: 9811216458

**SM4** Tall, Handsome, Fair Agarwal boy, 33/6'0", MBA, working in Global MNC, CTC 46 L, Jaipur based family. Contact : 9829189311

**AGRAWAL** 1988 5'4"BTech MBA Wkg 50LPA Dy VP HDFC M'bai I'less Div seeks PQ Pref wkg unmarried/ I'less Div/ widow Parent Lko 7737638155

### AGRAWAL

**SM4** NM Garg Boy, Never Married, Nov.'84, 5'-7", BE, MBA (USA), Software IT Prof. , CA-USA, H1B, Seeks US based working Girl- 9099978143

### JAT

**PROPOSAL** invited for South Delhi based handsome and cultured Jat boy MBA 30/5'10" working in a MNC in Gurgaon. Looking for a family oriented girl with strong values and positive outlook. Contact 9811811835

**SM4** S.Delhi bsd boy 39/ 5'10" MBA(Symb) working as VP in Int'l Bank in Canada seek wkg professional of rptd/edu fmly. Avoid Panwar, Kadyan, Dalal. Whatsapp: 9810280462

**Wanted tall beautiful well educated girl for 28, 6' handsome Mumbai based commercial pilot Contact 7045360293**

### RAJPUT

**PQM** for Tall, H'some Non-Mnglk Rajput boy 30/6 ft/ B.Tech MBA frm IIFT (Delhi), Wrkg MNC(B'lore). Fthr Retd. Civil srvnt. W/A 9355475996

**SM** for Khandayat C. govt official 33/5.6/20 LPA / Seeks family oriented bride from rptd. fmlys -pref. Delhi/ NCR/ BBSR/ caste no bar # 9810158296

**SOLANKI** Rajput H'sm NM. boy 97/183cm BLR MNC 36LPA G.noida Seeks b'ful cultured &virtuous equivalent Wkg girl 9873250498(F)

**RAJPUT** Garhwali boy Apr85/5'9" B.E. MBA Wkg US MNC Gurgaon seeks never married qual girl upper caste no bar whatsapp #9627692374

**RAJPUT** Engr. H'some boy 35, 5'10" Samsung (semi conductor) B'lore, 60Lpa, Father retd. PSU, Stld Noida, Seeks B'ful wkg PQ girl.Upr cast no bar. 9650998891.

**DELHI** based himachali H'some Rajput boy 33/5'9"/BCA MBA wrkg in corporate salary 7 figure pref wrkg girl.9899065569

**RAJPUT** 96 /5'9" H'some boy B.Tech M.Tech Engr Wrkg in Germany, Elite reputed Mumbai based family, Seeks non-mglk b'ful, PQM girl BHP Email: latvas1212@gmail.com

## BY PROFESSION

### DOCTORS

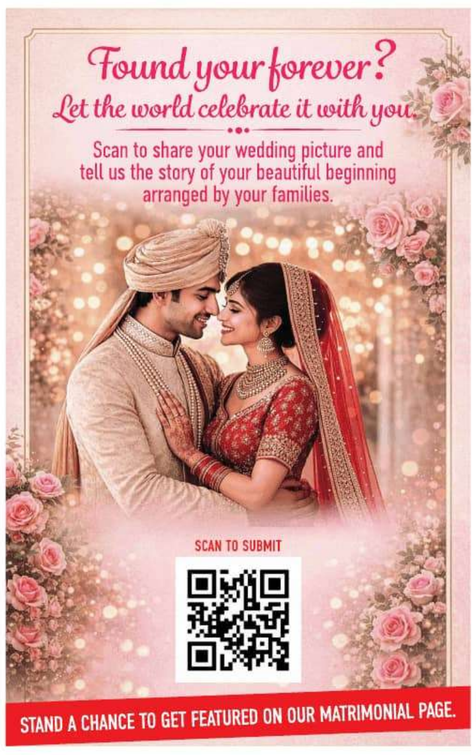
**37/5'8"** N.Mglk MBBS MD psychiatrist,pvt. job haryana seeks medico match (MBBS, MD,MS,DM,MCH) or non medico 8571031017, 8168013021

**SUITABLE** PG Medico M4 for Agarwal boy, H'some, 5'7"/37 Eye Spl. Vitreo Retinal Surgeon, NCR Based family # 9871728674.

**MEDICO** bride for extremely handsome medico 29 5'10" MD from premier national institute Affluent doctors punjabi family from Chandigarh Boy is having hypogonadism but physically fully fit Caste no bar Girl with some internal organ issue preferred Contact with full confidentiality gkvdelhi123@gmail.com Marriage bureau excuse

**ADVICE**

Readers are advised to make appropriate / thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to claims and representations made by advertisers regarding particulars of status, age income of bride/groom.




**WELL** stld upto 43 yrs M 4 Panchkula based never mrd PG doctor 1974/5'4" Contact 7973070110, anandkundanlal33 @gmail.com

### IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES

**IAS,** Bisa Agarwal Boy, 26 yrs, 5'10", Fair, Non-Manglik , Vegetarian, Non-Smoker, Teetotaler from affluent Agra family. Seeking exceptionally beautiful, educated, family-oriented girl. Email - shubham512@gmail.com

### MBA/CA

**SEEKING** Professionally qualified girl for Canada based PR holder Nov 90 born/180 cms handsome smart Punjabi boy MBA & Masters in Finance Works in top bank in Toronto. Presently in Delhi. Email : ss_ns_21@yahoo.com Mobile : 8076271606

## BY RELIGION

### CHRISTIAN

**WANTED** Christian God fearing girl preferably PG in medical for 5ft 7" MDS handsome boy 29 yr reputed family in Jabalpur Con : sandeep_2011@rediffmail.com 7692800306

### HINDU

**SM4** H'sm Rajput boy, 29 yrs/6ft/well-edu, managing fmly bs'nss. #7827742658

**BENGALI** BTech Br boy Debari gon SW Engg 34 yrs/5'11 Pune Wkg MNC seeks Wkg Qual girl from Br,Kayastha and Baidya.9705163285

**SM4** handsome cultured 28/5"8 MBA from reputed institute working in Mumbai with MNC, from affluent professional family, looking for smart educated girl from a good family background Contact: 7738384326

### MUSLIM

**MUSLIM** Sunni 34/5.8 H"some, BE Comp, Staffordshire University, Running Own Company, Delhi frm gud fmly bkgrnd seeks, b'ful & edu. bride wrkng/ Ntwrkng 9711410630

**WANTED** beautiful tall, religious girl for H'some 27 yrs, 6'ft Sunni Businessman, office in Mumbai & Dubai from reputed family. Ph: 9867503350

### SIKH

**MBA** (ISB,Hyd)+BE cln shaven, nvr mrd, handsome 38/6'4", 70 LPA Bangalore based. Seek Sikh/Pb girl, caste no bar Ph 9035408600

**MATCH** for cleanshaven Bhatia Sikh 32,5'6",only child ,pilot with international airline,50lacs pa. family owns properties of over 25cr.Call 9650777199

**MONA** Sikh Pb Boy 1990/5'7" Serving in Bangalore 13 Lpa, Owns Properties, Assets. Seeks Edu Wkg/Non- Wkg bride from Status Family # 9258-62-1070

## GENERAL

### CASTE NO BAR

**PATEL** boy, 33yr/5'7" MS (Electronics), Software Engineer Germany, PR Status, Caste No Bar, Call 919993013290

**PQM4** B.TECH IIT K MBA IIM C Yadav boy Aug 95/5'11 Wkg rmtly fm Lko 4 SG bsd Co. 5 0 L P A . V e g , N S , TT.,CNB.Mob.9101002756

**SM4** Hindu Kayastha divorced boy, 38/6'/70LPA,MBA,well-stld profnl bsd Ggn,cultured,reputed fmly from Bhopal, seeks PQ bride. Caste no bar. 9685548050.

**PQM4** MBA Feb91/5'6" Wkg MNC Delhi 60LPA+ Affluent Khatri NOIDA family, Caste/diet no bar.whats app 9899456795

**PQM** for Pb Khatri NM boy Dec91/5'6" 7.5LPA MBA Working Admin Gurgaon. Caste no bar. #9899242416, lakshayahuja05@gmail.com

**G U P T A** boys MBA(UK)/33y/5'10"/working in Real Estate AND BTech/MS (US) /27y/5'11"/ working at US, seeks PQG # 9909908937.

**SWARNKAR** 32/60 Lpa IIT BHU MS London Wkg. Engineer in London Only beautiful and Educated Girl required Cast no bar # 9621843796.

**MBA** 5'9" Boy well settled Business Family at Sainik Farms, Delhi, seeks English speaking, pretty, homely girl, 35 yrs, upper middle class family, no demands (Brokers Excuse). Send BHP: rohitgoyal8901@gmail.com

**SUITABLE** match for 28 yrs, 5'6" Kanyakubj Vaish handsome, fair research scholar from IIT Bombay seeking an educated working girl. Upper cast no bar. Contact 9340826657

**RAMDASIA** sikh, 1995 born, 5'6 , govt. job, seeking working well qualified punjabi girl, for enquiry call 9779586438

**6'2",** 1995-born, Male, Delhi-based professional. MS in Finance (New York), currently Deputy Manager at a reputed MNC with a strong career trajectory. Looking for a well-educated, charming partner with good values 9899114943

**YADAV,** 43/6'1", Grad., settled businessman, Lucknow, 15 LPA+. Seeks educated, graceful, family-oriented bride. Caste No Bar. Contact: 7275553391

**WANTED,** Homely, Below 28 Years Girl, For Bisa Agrawal Engineer Boy From Affluent Family, 65 Lpa,Whatsapp : 9868890328.

**S/M** for Kayasth Male 45 . Own business, 6 figure income, caste no bar. Looking for Educated , social , beautiful girl . Ph: 9918101139

**UPPER** caste girl 4 brahmin boy (Delhi based) 39 yrs 5'8" Dip Mech construction business & investments pls contact 9971190439, 9315137177

**REPUTED** Hindu business family from Hyd Alliance for son 40 looking for homely girl from Hindu business family&HNI family only 9885008270

**ALLIANCE** invited for NCR based, handsome boy, Kashyap Rajput, 28, 5'3" B.Tech (Computers). Well settled own family business. Looking for well-educated cultured girl from decent family. Caste No Bar. Mob./ What'sapp : 9810123075

**PQM4** H'some Brahmin Boy ,BTech, MBA ISB, 31Yr, 5'10", Teetotaler Non Smoking,CTC 40 LPA, w'king Gurugram. 7060884999.7060761485.

**LOOKING** for a suitable bride for a Jaat boy 42 age divorce height 6.2 Income 50 to 1cr. Live in Gurgaon cast no bar cont.9250915556

**ALLIANCE** invited for 5'8" MS Electrical Engineering, VLSI from USA. Non-smoking person, 46Y. Genuinely caring, open-minded and trusted individual with a level-headed, grounded approach. Values ethics, creativity, elegance & simplicity. Grew up in Mumbai. Visit nashineys.wordpress.com or search Facebook for Siddharth Nashiney. Creative posts on his blog/Facebook may shed light on the sincere, thoughtful essence inherent in his nature. Whatsapp Father T.R Nashiney +919769733721. Marriage bureaus - please excuse. Caste No Bar.

**SM** for Rajput boy.Dec 88, 5'7".PG Eco/Fin.Edn from elite institutions. Proprietary investor.Excellent income. Army family. 8860656476

**FAIR** , sweet natured, beautiful educated girl for an Excellent Natured handsome MBA punjabi boy, 29yrs, 5ft 9in. Working in Los Angeles, USA. Call/Email 9910336355 Kusumw@gmail.com

**SOUTH** Delhi Kayastha boy, LLM (Ivy League). Lawyer working in Delhi. Nov 91 born (6'2.5") seeking a well Qualified girl. Caste no bar. 9811996787

**34** US Army Arora Sikh fit 5'11" Male looking for bride. Whatsapp: +15597222721. +919780492212. Marriage Bureau please excuse.

**MBA** from IIM Indore, working in Mumbai on handsome package, smart 5' 8" DOB 26/5/ 92 Lucknow, seeks bride working in Mumbai or willing to settle in Mumbai. Contact: 9454412594

**MDS,DENTIST** wkg Dental Coll, Lko. 12-15LPA, Parents Retd proffesors. Seeks qualified working girl. 9335903547, akshah3457@gmail.com

**SM4** NCR-Based Khatri boy Aug-87/5'6, B.Tech, WKG MNC Noida, 46 LPA, Father Retd from IAF & BEL, Seeks Qual. Girl (UC ONLY)- 9873725005

**KAYASTHA** 30/5'-7"/MBA From Top U.S. Business School WKG. as Country Head - India of U.S. MNC/ 50-60LPA Seeks C.A. Slim Girl from Reputed Family # 7007790074, 8960533533

**LOOKING** for fair, Good Looking, Tall 5'4" To 5'7" Unmarried, Post Graduate Girl. For Handsome Chaurasia boy 40/6'1" Chief Manager SBI, 50LPA, Posted Mumbai Call- 9451401921

**SM4** Del NCR based Nov 87/5'7", BA, LLB, LLM In-house Counsel in top MNC 25 plus lpa seeks b'ful well educated.W'app profile with pics 7838416665

**SM4** Jat Handsome Boy 5'11" Nov' 1981/ BIT, MBA, Issueless Divorcee, Own Business Good Income,Upper Caste No Bar. Call: 7011910923

**HINDU** 5'7"/57year Divorcee, Company Director, BE + MBA, based at Moscow, Russia, seeks suitable bride, caste / religion NO BAR. Ph: 9004528568 / shagan.russia@mail.ru

**SUITABLE MATCH FOR**
Arora Boy, Non Manglik, 5'11", 21.01.1981 1.42 P.M Delhi. Never Married, South Delhi - Based Professional (BTech + MBA). High Package. Looking For a Working Girl, High Status, Well Settled and Cultured Family.
whatsapp.
**9818311788**

Seeking professionally qualified tall girl from cultured family for 36/6'3", Baniya boy, M.Tech (USA), working in Top MNC in Bangalore. Both Parents doctors in Lucknow.
Please call/whatsapp
9415026358
9415518399

## COSMOPOLITAN

Elite Punjabi boy, 27 yrs/ 6 Ft Only child from a well-established, affluent South Delhi family. B.Tech+MBA, working with a reputed MNC. Family of high standing with parents in CXO positions.
Seeking a graceful, well-educated, and family oriented girl from a cultured & reputed family background.
No marriage bureaus, please.
Contact: 9711180916
(WhatsApp only)

**DM** doctor ( Dec-91/185 cm/ Tamil- Hindi) seeks a virtuous, tall, v.fair, PG Dr/ well edu bride( 29-31 yrs) @ Bangalore. Parents: 9342529547/9072118800

### SC/ST

**EDUCATED** beautiful match for handsome Ramdasia Sikh cleanshaven boy, 5'11", Aug 2000, B.Tech, IIM MBA, MNC Delhi, 25 LPA. Father Senior Class-I Govt. Officer in Punjab. Well connected family settled in Mohali. 9915595553.

### SECOND MARRIAGE

**GURUGRAM** based Yadav boy, 36 yrs, 5'8", Govt. Banker, I'less divorcee (brief marriage), seeks educated, family oriented divorcee/widow. # 9990618599

**SUITABLE** Match for Handsome Brahmin boy, 1987 born/ 6 Ft, B.Tech, MBA, Package 60L, Issueless divorcee Caste No Bar. # 9818358912

**SM4** Dubai-based, Well-Settled 41/5'9"/ SVP (MNC). I'less divorce, Seeks Edu, Fair bride <=36 yrs, willing to settled to Dubai.9717881157

**WANTED** Bride for Divorcee Punjabi Brahmin Boy, 41, 6 Feet, MBA, Working MNC - 11 LPA, Delhi, Caste NO BAR. Contact: 9999789970

**SM4** pbi ramgarhia sikh cl shvn 5'10" Jan 88 MCA/MBA Sr. QA engr MNC NOIDA 34.7 lpa. I'less div (short mrrg) Sec 28 Fbd Send bd WA 9873078070

**PB** khatri 79 born widower boy CA MBA working in Amazon as director finance PKG 95 L/A seeks good life partner caste no bar. Cont:- 9958559553

Seeking a suitable bride for a well-settled, family-oriented gentleman born on 12th July 1988, American national, divorcee, blessed with a 7-year-old daughter. Height 5'6", fair/whitish complexion, Gotra: Bharadwaj. B.Tech in Computer Science from North Dakota State University, USA, currently working as Senior Director Information Technology & AI with a reputed US based healthcare and pharmacy company. Looking for a family-oriented, understanding girl with strong values and a positive outlook towards life.
Please call: 9837061261/ 9719513330

Nagpur based very well established Agarwal business family seeks alliance for their Son/ 45 yrs/ 5ft 9"/ Div/LLB,MBA/ into family business and also running Law firm. Looking for a compatible match, Caste no bar/status no bar/but without child
9999599564
Or Mail Us At
Vpss999@gmail.com

### RELIGION NO BAR

**39/5'9"** unmarried Boy Caste no bar Btech-MBA IIM, Wrkg MNC 50 LPA Bn'ess family Accept Divorcee & Widow 9407932961,7587736854

## BY LANGUAGE

### BENGALI

**SEEKING** Fair, B'ful, Bengali Wkg girl from Delhi NCR for I'less, Div, Fair, H'some, Brhmn boy (40+/6'), BE, MBA (UK), 16 LPA, Caste no bar # 9560036718

**ASST** PROF. IN REPUTED UNIVERSITY 30, 5'-6" SEEKING FOR EDUCATED GOODLOOKING BENGALI GIRL M:9208318881

**CPA** USA, Vice president MNC in Delhi.Own villa in dehradun. Unmarried, 46 yrs 5 feet 5". Wanted bengali bride with in 36 yrs. 7042723399

### PUNJABI

**SEEKING** caring bride for issueless divorced MBA smart clean-shaven handsome Sikh gentleman 55 yrs and 5'10" residing in Mumbai suburb. Pls call/whatsapp 9820054157 or 9820054507.

**PUNJABI** Boy B.Tech (IIT Delhi) Gold medalist, October 1995/ H-5'7" Working with MNC in NCR, 80 LPA, Father Retd. Officer Central Govt 9870518197

**SM** for 1982 born/5'-5"/ BA,, h'some boy, Rental Income, Own house in Delhi seeks b'ful girl. Army Background family. Caste no bar. Phone: 9654927372

**B'FUL** Wrkg /Non Working Punjabi/Sikh match for 1998 born 5'2" Handsome industrialists, affluent Sikh family of Agra,only son # 9873637717

**PNJBI** khatri, US-born well-settled boys ages 31, 30 & 28 seek edu. girls from respectable families. Send cv +photo E:- sunnybedi80@gmail.com

**NM,** PQM for H'Som Veg, NM, Bahl Boy, Mar'97/ 5'9", B.Tech, Del, MBA (NMIMS-Bom), Wrkg Tata Grp, Blr, 33 LPA # 9899112611/9811765551

**SM4** 1995 Arora, NonMglik 5'10" Never Married. L1A visa wrkg in Big 4 Consulting in New York City. Seek wrkg girl pref living in USA.high st'tus & cltrd fmly. +919837144269

**SUITABLE** Match for Smart & H'some, well settled, Manglik Punjabi Khatri Boy, 28/5'10", B.Tech(CS) wrkg in reputed Co. frm well-edu. family. 9810647574

**B'FUL** well edu girl 4 nvr mrd Pbi h'some boy 9.3.78,5'6" MBA, Pkg 1Cr, wkg Mumbai, upp-mid cl edu Fbd bsd fmly, 8178423326 Send BP: matrisud@gmail.com

**PUNJABI** Khatri boy 5'10"Feb 1992 B. Tech(E.C). App/Data analytics Engr. Work Amazon Bengaluru. Seeks well edu Work girl Cont- 7007847499.

**HINDU** pjbi boy 44/5'9" with U.K. B'ness intrst. previously V'short mrg. Seeks W'edu.girl from a decent fmly 9716612904 prashant_dps@ yahoo.co.uk

**EDU.** Wrkg Veg. Girl req. for Punjabi brahmin veg.29/5'10" MBA Boy, 63K P.M, Own House In Ggn No Dahej Bandhan. # 9810714066-8527271166.

**PUNJABI** boy 5.7 /Feb 1991 /Veg./ Grad. Spare Parts Business 12+(LPA) Req Working Girl Ph-9953120969

**SM** 4 For BTech intelligent fair smart Verma Punjabi boy Dec 90, 5'11" Dehradun. Own Jewellery Business. Marriage Bureau Excuse. 9837245400

**SM4** Punjabi H'some Non Mglk never married Boy Res. Ghaziabad Feb'80, 5'6" BA (DU) wkg. in Ltd. Bank 12 LPA, seeks wkg girl. # 9810186020

**BRIDE WANTED**
South Delhi Based affluent business Sikh family seeking alliance for their non manglik cleanseven son Jan 90 born, 168 cm graducate cultured smart boy. Looking for educated girl from same background
Whatsapp:9910777364

**BRIDE WANTED**
Suitable match for Punjabi Khatri High Status, Well Established Computer Engg. (MIT), MBA (XLRI, Jamshedpur), very Handsome, very Fair, Clean Shaven, Convent Educated, Non Manglik Boy 35/6'0" having own Real Estates and Power Generation business **(High rental income)** in Jamshedpur. Looking for Punjabi girl of reputed family. No Dowry will be Accepted.
CONTACT :
**6207121650**
88jamshedpur@gmail.com

### SINDHI

**HOMELY** Bride Required (Caste No Bar) For A Fair Complexion 35 Year Sindhi Businessman In Kolkata. Call: 92305 06579

## BY NATIONALITY

### NRI/ GREEN CARD

**INDIAN** groom 35/5'6", PhD, Scientist, Hong Kong, seeks educated, family-oriented bride. India/NRI. WhatsApp: 8950171930.

**WELL** Educated M4 Punjabi Brahmin boy May 1996 / 5'11"/BTech+Master in CS Software Engineer at MNC Toronto Citizen 919167997810

**MATCH** for Hindu Prajapati Boy 5'.10" 28.09.1994, BA, LLB, LLM Adv. and Notary Toronto (Canada) PR having USA Visa. (M) 9416138213

**B.TECH** Delhi MS Canada Garg Boy v.fair 30/5'10"/80 Lac job & own house in Canada parents lives in Delhi 9311255225 muditmatri2025@gmail.com

**PUNJABI** Arora boy Feb'91 /5'7.5"B.Tech MS USA emplyd in USA (H1B), seeks Edu. emplyd bride. Parents residing in Delhi # 9899696058

**PQM4** smart Agrwl boy, UK citizen, M.tech July 1989 /5'8" with top consulting organisation in UK. family stld in karnal # 9096040129

**SM4** Brhmn Boy 30/6'2" MS (Engg), USA H1-B Visa, Wrkg New York. Seeks B'ful, Tall PQ USA-bsd Wrkg H1-B/ Grn card/US Citizen # 9312648450

**MATHUR** Boy, Canadian Citizen in Toronto Jan86/ 5'11" IT Prof. wkg MNC seeks edu. girl, decent background, Parents in Delhi # 9958486195

**LOOKING** for a PQ Girl (can be a Divorcee / Widow w/o issues) for my Toronto based Son, 86 born, 173 cm, Canadian Citizen, Widower (w/o issue), stable job, Own house. Family Delhi based. Contact No. 9810616866.

Suitable Match for
**US citizen, Sikh Boy from New York 5'8" / 1996 born Handsome, Fair, MBA Earning 6 figures in USD. Businesses New Delhi, New York & Miami.**
Seeks beautiful and educated Sikh girl from

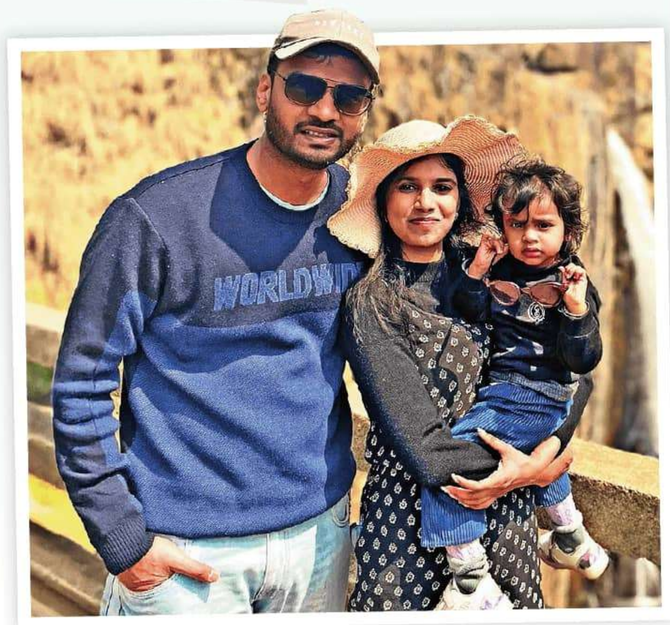


Gaurav with Rutwika & Ruhanika



# Mini jet-setters: Meet the couples who travel the world with kids

*A vacation with kids is nothing but parenting in a new location. All parents have heard this witty one-liner and also know how accurate it is. That's why most couples cut down on travelling or choose all-inclusive resorts that are a short drive or flight away after they have kids. But some manage to travel extensively even with their bubs in tow. With the summer vacay round the corner,* ***Neha Bhayana*** *spoke to three globe-trotting families to know their stories, and their secrets to making it work*



## 'We don't bother looking for kid-friendly destinations. We make the places fun'

**Neefa, Charles and Evita**
**17 countries, 13 Indian states**

Evita was just three when she went snorkelling along The Great Barrier Reef and the Ningaloo Reef in Australia. At six, she visited the Danakil Depression (one of the hottest places on Earth) in Ethiopia. She walked on hardened lava and hot magma to see the Erta Ale, an active volcano. During the same trip, she also undertook a one-hour-long hike followed by a 15-minute near-vertical barefoot climb (with a safety harness) and traversed a narrow ledge with a sharp drop-off to reach the world's most dangerous church, the Abuna Yemata Guh.

These adventures may seem remarkable to most, but they are a regular affair for eight-year-old Evita who has been to 17 countries and 13 Indian states with her parents. Goa-based couple Charles and Neefa had always been travel enthusiasts. They met during a friends' trip to Hampi, got engaged when Charles proposed to Neefa on top of Sigiriya, a rock fortress in Sri Lanka, and decided to become parents when they were in Argentina. They were looking at the Evita Peron statue in Buenos Aires when Neefa declared that if they had a baby girl, they would name her after the actor and former first lady. Their wish came true when Evita was born in 2017.



**PRO TIP**
Take it slow. Plan one outing a day of not more than 3-4 hours. Let the child chill in the pool or read/play rest of the time

The little one took her first flight from Bangalore to their family home in Goa when she was just 40 days old. At seven months, her parents took her to Ooty by road. Neefa was so stressed about Evita's meals she carried the whole kitchen in a suitcase. "From utensils to groceries and a hot plate, I carried it all, but it was a disaster. I wasted so much time preparing meals and felt disappointed when she barely ate. I realised it was not practical," she admits. After returning, Neefa started teaching Evita to self-feed solids and introduced normal family food based on the principles of baby-led weaning. For their next trip — they went to Israel when she was 18 months old — they had to carry nothing as Evita ate everything her parents ate. The flight to Israel was about seven hours. Most parents would dread staying in a seat with an infant for that long but Neefa considers this "a short one" considering they have done 24-hour flights too.

Extended breastfeeding and baby-wearing were among the top secrets of managing Evita during trips when she was a toddler, the couple says. Whenever she was cranky, they would just put her in the carrier on Neefa so she could fall asleep while they continued the tour. These days, they carry books and one favourite toy to keep her engaged. The mother-daughter duo recently went on a month-long road trip across Tamil Nadu. "I actually wanted to do a solo road trip, but family members were hesitant about letting a girl travel alone. So I said, okay, I'll take Evie along and then there will be two girls travelling together," she winks, adding that they share their stories on their Instagram handle @adventures.of.antaos.

Ask Charles and Neefa which is the most kid-friendly destination and they look blank. "We don't bother looking for kid-friendly places. We just go to offbeat places and make the experience fun for our daughter," says Neefa. When they went to Cambodia, for instance, they made a Bingo game for Evita where they marked all the temples on the page and she had to pick the ones she had visited.

## 'We don't use screens on trips. We savour the sights and sounds'

**Mounika, Charan and Myra**
**3 countries, 10 Indian states**

The rear seat of Mounika and Charan Chakilam's SUV is like a second home for their three-year-old daughter Myra. There are ample toys, books and a car seat which serves as her bed for long journeys. Myra has spent a significant portion of her life in the car as her parents love exploring the country by road. They have driven to 15 Indian states, including 10 with Myra. The travel buffs have also flown to three countries with Myra and four before her birth.

The Chakilams got Myra used to being outdoors by taking her out almost daily when she was a baby. "I started taking her to malls, exhibitions and parks when she was just two months old even though people would warn me against taking a little baby to crowded places," says Mounika.

**PRO TIP**
Pack three sets of clothes per day for your child. Also, carry small packs of munchies like makhana or mix nuts to feed on

When Myra was six months old, they drove from their home (in a town located 200 kms from Guwahati) to Tawang district in Arunachal Pradesh via the Sela pass, perched at an altitude of 13,000 feet above sea level. The journey is often described as a "drive through the clouds" and Mounika says she is glad they decided to go for it despite all the concerns. "It was a breathtaking experience; a drive to remember," says Mounika. "We were prepared with all kinds of medicines and supplies as Myra was a little baby, but fortunately she did fine."

Initially, Mounika and Charan used to take Myra's nani or dadi along to help look after her, but after her first birthday they managed by themselves. They went for a five-day cruise from Mumbai to Lakshadweep and back when Myra was a year old and found it to be the perfect choice for families with small kids.

Little Myra is as adventurous as her parents, says Mounika. She was squealing with delight when she sat between them on a jet ski in Malaysia and also tried every single ride meant for little ones when they went to Disney World Resort in Florida when she was 2.5 years old. "She also wanted to try rides and roller coasters meant for older kids and adults. She cried when we told her that wasn't allowed," laughs Mounika.

What's also remarkable is that all their trips have been screen free. Mounika has never shown Myra a phone or iPad to keep her entertained during long journeys. "I do not look at my own phone either. I savour the sights and sounds of the places we visit rather than scrolling," says Mounika.

She and Charan are from Hyderabad but have been living in Assam for a few years now as the latter, a public sector employee, has been posted there. They have seen almost the entire northeast and hope to explore western India next as Charan will take up a new post in Gujarat soon. Their mission is to "measure the length and breadth of the globe" with their little one and they share their journey via their Instagram handle @minitravelsquad.

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## 'We travel without a to-do-list now, and we love it'

**Monika, Shivanshu and Shivik**
**8 countries, 9 Indian states**

From exploring the Pyramids of Giza during their honeymoon to chilling on the beaches of Philippines and exploring the hidden villages of Nagaland, software professionals Monika Jain and Shivanshu Gupta had been on a travel spree after their marriage. When Shivik was born in 2023, they thought their adventures had come to an end. Neither of them had ever even held an infant in their arms, so they had to learn everything from scratch. But within a few months, their baby's routine was set and they started itching to travel again.

Monika didn't want to risk planning a trip straightaway, so they decided to take baby steps with their baby. They started visiting local cafes and restaurants, gradually increasing the duration of the outings. When Shivik was seven months old, they took him for his first trip to Goa. "This was the best decision ever. It is a super convenient place. If you have already been to Goa, then take your baby to Goa for sure. That way there will not be much pressure to explore," says Monika. On most days during the trip, the Delhi couple used to simply spread a mat on the beach and relax with their little one.

Their second trip (to Kerala) was more challenging. Shivik was nine months old and used to eating semi-solids like dal and fruit purees by then. Monika thought she would get these made at the hotel. But Shivik found the flavours different and rejected all meals. "He survived only on bananas," says Monika, who has carried an electric instant pot to make khichdi and porridge for all subsequent trips. She shares tips for travelling with babies via their Instagram page @twoitchyfeets.

**PRO TIP**
Start small. Take short flights or drive to nearby destinations first. Gradually, explore further as your confidence grows

The trio has covered nine Indian states and eight counties over the past two years. Which is the most baby-friendly destination? "Hong Kong," says Monika. "We had expected Hong Kong to be all about nightlife and skyscrapers. Instead, we found it to be a place with pleasant weather and families out and about with their babies in strollers. Their infrastructure is extremely stroller-friendly, even more than London's."

While the frequency of their trips remains the same, the pace has changed drastically. "Earlier, we didn't stop. We used to be out from 5am and would return to the hotel room to crash at 11pm. Now, we travel with no rush and no to-do list. We stick to one or two sights a day," says Monika. "We have grown to love this new, slow form of travelling."

Shivanshu agrees: "Travelling is a great way to connect with nature, explore new places and spend time with your child, especially if you are a full-time working couple. We make crazy memories."

# 'Bhajji is an involved dad. He knows we're equally responsible for kids'

*In 2008, British-born Bollywood actor* ***Geeta Basra*** *jokingly told her then boyfriend Harbhajan Singh that she would marry him only if he claimed 300 wickets in Test cricket. The acclaimed spinner attained this milestone within days, and she kept her promise. Basra, who took a break after embracing motherhood in 2016, recently returned to the silver screen with the Punjabi film 'Mehar'. She spoke to* ***Sidhi Kapoor*** *about mom-guilt and the challenges of raising two kids*

**What's the one thing that used to stress you out before kids that feels silly now?**
When you transition into certain chapters of your life, you become more prudent. Earlier, I was young, restless and ambitious. Even now, I am ambitious, but not in the rat race. I am more content and happier with what I have. When you are younger, you stress about small things. After having a family, priorities change. That's how we mothers learn to balance our home, professional and personal life.

**Did your parenting style change with your second child?**
You go by the book with the first child. You don't want to do anything wrong. Everything is documented. With the second child, you are at ease and just going with the flow. Besides, both children have such different personalities. You can't expect the way of raising the first to continue for the second one. I have to be a very different mother with both kids.

**Which of the two kids is more like you?**
Hinaya (9) is very calm, reserved and sensitive, like a 'girlie girl'. Jovan (4) is very affectionate like me. I also love to express and show affection. Jovan will kiss and hug all the time. Both kids have traits from both parents. At the same time, I want them to carve their own identity. I want Hinaya to be so fearless that she can express her opinion in front of anyone. I want Jovan to be chivalrous, kind and empathetic.

**You were raised in the UK and Harbhajan in Punjab. What's one tradition from your childhood that you consider non-negotiable for your kids?**
Jovan was born in Mumbai. Hinaya was born in the UK. We never lost touch with our culture. On my birthday, we hosted a Sukhmani Sahib paath. We follow the spiritual path and we are very much in touch with our Hindu roots. But we also celebrate Christmas in a big way. We believe in tooth fairies and all things magical that I was raised with. Our traditions and festivities should not be lost while raising children.

**What's the one piece of parenting advice you got that actually worked, and one that you threw out immediately?**
I believe a discipline chart is important. One needs to follow a routine to channelise the energy of children. Having said that, each mother has her own way of raising children. Like in north India, kids usually take bath in the morning, but my children bathe in the evening after a massage. People used to keep asking why I do this and I had to explain that this helps them sleep peacefully. So, there are certain things I follow as per my belief and understanding.

**Screen time is every parent's biggest struggle. How are you navigating it?**
I am quite a strict parent. I don't give them screen time at all during weekdays. On weekends, they are allowed screens for a short while to watch a movie or something. They don't get gadgets during meal time either. My kids know rules are rules and they have to follow them, no matter what.

**So, screen time is sorted in your case. So, what's your toughest parenting battle right now?**
The age gap is a challenge. They have different interests and they fight a lot. Both are very attached to me and want my attention. Even in a flight, both want me to sit next to them. At bedtime, both want extra time with me. It is very hard as a parent to deal with this. Sometimes, I feel I should cut myself in two halves (laughs). But then you love those moments too. It's all about balancing during such times.

> "I am strict, Bhajji is softer. We may be different as individuals, but when it comes to kids we are a team. It should not be if mum says no, they can go to papa

**Tell us about your most difficult 'mom-guilt' moment and how you talked yourself out of it?**



For five years, I never left my daughter alone. She used to accompany me for shoots. Once, I had to leave her for a month. It was very hard and emotional. When I am working, Bhajji is at home with the kids. I feel relieved that one parent is with them. It's also his time to bond with them. I want the kids to see that their mom is following her dreams and wants to achieve them. Moms should not let their passion or drive diminish. Obviously, I choose and pick what's important in terms of work.

**Bhajji's been a rockstar on the field. What's his most underrated dad skill?**
He is very good with the kids. I know some fathers don't spend quality time with their kids, but Bhaji is very involved. He likes to bathe the kids, play with them and spend quality time. We both have equal responsibility as parents, and he understands it so well. Kids understand that we both bring different things to the table. Both parents have to be present in the parenting journey to raise confident, secure children.

> "Both kids are very attached to me and want my attention. Even in a flight, both want me to sit next to them. Sometimes, I feel I should cut myself in two halves (laughs)

**Who's the stricter parent and who's soft?**
I am strict and Bhajji is softer. I feel our techniques are different.

**Do you both have differences when it comes to parenting decisions or are you mostly on the same page?**
I am stricter about routine and discipline. There's no right or wrong when it comes to parenting. The fact that we are on the same page is what matters. As individuals, we may be different people but when it comes to kids we are a team. Kids are very smart these days and they pick up on small things. It's important for them to understand that parents are 'one'. It gives them a perspective. It should not be that if mum says no, they can go to papa. It doesn't work like that.

**What does a typical Sunday look like in your home?**
We do nothing! We don't step out unless there is something very important. I oil the kids' hair. We watch a movie, play games and relish aloo parathas. We are typical Punjabis and big foodies.

**Paps, fan requests, stadiums — your kids are growing up around fame. What boundaries have you set to give them a normal childhood?**
We make it a point to not over-pamper our children or give them extra luxuries. I know kids who go to school with bodyguards, but I don't feel the need for that. Our kids lead a normal life and do their own chores. When we go to the UK, they do things themselves as we don't have a fleet of nannies there and the kids realise that. I want them to be humble, not spoilt. I don't want them to get everything easily and served on a platter. Wherever we go, there are protocols to follow and the kids are aware of them.

**Moms have to juggle many roles. Who is your support system?**
Without Bhajji's support, I couldn't have done movies or travelled. Then there's my sister Ruby. When Bhajji and I have to travel together, then Ruby Maasi is there. My kids are very attached to her. My mom and sister-in-law are also very supportive. It takes a whole family to raise children. Kids also learn to respect elders. Family values are best instilled in a supportive setup.

**If the kids have to describe you in one word or one sentence 20 years from now, what are you hoping for?**
I want them to feel that mom is their best friend. They should be able to count on me for everything. Of course, the respect should be there. But at the end of the day, I want them to be comfortable with me so that they have my back and I have theirs.

# BJP using central agencies for political gains: Kejriwal

▶Continued from P 1

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal accused BJP of using central agencies for political purposes alleging repeated ED action in Punjab was aimed at intimidating state leadership. Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar accused Mann's govt of shielding corruption.

ED has been active in Punjab for well over a month, during which seven AAP Rajya Sabha MPs switched to BJP, including two who had been searched by the agency.

Sources said ED searched other addresses in Delhi, Gurgaon and Chandigarh, including the premises of Hampton Sky Realty Ltd, promoted by Arora's family. The company issued a statement that it "reposes complete faith in its established facts, in the legal and constitutional framework of the country, and in the wisdom of the Hon'ble Judiciary". Its statement said when the "supplier-side" fraud came to its knowledge, "the company itself approached the police as the complainant" by lodging an FIR (on May 17, 2025) at a Ludhiana police station and that the company itself was a "victim". It added that there was no "current loss to the govt exchequer" on account of its transactions.

Arora's arrest followed an ED search of his official residence in Sector 2, Chandigarh.

This is the third time this year that Arora has faced ED action. It first raided Arora's premises in connection with a money laundering probe involving alleged misuse of industrial land for residential projects in Ludhiana. At the time, he was a Rajya Sabha MP. AAP fielded him in the Ludhiana West bypoll in June 2025 to retain the seat following the death of MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi.

Weeks ago the agency conducted searches under the Foreign Exchange Management Act , which led to provisional attachment of assets worth over Rs 157 crore linked to Arora and Hampton Sky. Sources said the latest probe involves a Rs 100 crore "fake" GST purchase of mobile phones and exports to "round-trip" alleged illegitimate funds from Dubai to India.

Reacting to Arora's arrest, CM Mann said, "BJP has a deep-seated hatred for Punjab ... BJP's polarisation tactics won't work here. ED and CBI are being used as weapons to intimidate leaders of rival parties to join BJP... "

Leader of Opposition in the assembly Partap Singh Bajwa said Arora's arrest have exposed serious corruption allegations against the ruling party in Punjab. He also questioned the BJP-led Union govt and central agencies regarding the timing of these actions.

# Gen Subramani commanded Army's premier strike formation 2 Corps

▶Continued from P 1

Prior to his present role, Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (retd) was vice-chief of army staff from July 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, and general officer commanding-in-chief, Central Command from March 2023 to June 2024. In a career spanning over 40 years, Lt Gen Subramani has served across a wide spectrum of conflict and terrain profiles and held a host of command, staff and instructional posts. He has had the distinction of commanding 2 Corps, the premier strike Corps of Army on the western front. He also commanded 16 Garhwal Rifles during counter-insurgency in Assam as part of Op Rhino, 168 Infantry Brigade in J&K and 17 Mountain Division in central sector.

Vice Admiral Swaminathan is currently serving as flag officer commanding-in-chief of Western Naval Command. As Navy chief, he is likely to focus on the ongoing modernisation of force.

Swaminathan has held several key operational, staff and training posts in his naval career, including the command of missile vessels INS Vidyut and Vinash, missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile destroyer INS Mysore and aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. He was also instrumental in raising Indian Naval Safety Team that oversees operational safety across all verticals of Navy.


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WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

KAYASTHA

**B.TECH** CS, B'ful Sriv. girl Feb 93/5'3" Wrkg MNC pune seek professional match with family values, Pref. Wrkg in Pune # 9415233458, 8081970878

**SRIV** Girl Nov/ 91 /5'5" Btech. IT, b'ful working pune, veg, Nodowry, Kayastha only call 9695985686/ 9158637378

**MATCH** for 23/5'2"fair B.tech(CS spl.AI &ML) wrk as Software engineer in MNC em: outlook1005a@gmail.com 9868103516/9968654396

**MA(ENGLISH),** wkg in Delhi govt (permanent) Mathur Manglik B'ful slim girl 19 84/5'4",seeks well settled boy, Delhi based family 9911115452

**B.TECH(CS)** MATHUR girl Feb 91/5'7" wrkg as Data Engineer in American MNC Ggn seeks well settled suitable prof.qlfd.boy. Whp:9958486195

**SM4** BEAUTIFUL SAXENA GIRL Nov2000/5'3" MBA req. well settled boy pref govt. service/MNC. PH: 9450659860/9450461164

**WANTED** Groom for beautiful Kayastha girl 5'3"/ 95/ non manglik/ non veg working as Consultant with GOI. Father senior Govt officer settled in Delhi. Seeks well settled boy preferably from Delhi/ NCR. Call- 9455634996

**B.TECH,** Class-II Govt Offr. b'ful, fair, Feb'88/5'1" Srivastava girl wkg in Lko. Father Cl-I Offr. seeks h'som, Veg. Gov/Pvt wkg boy. 9415044550

KHATRI

**MBA** B.tech Well Edu. Sept'86 Born 5"2' Punjabi Khatri wrkg girl at MNC in Bangalore having 80LPA seeks suitable match. M/W'app 9266242519

**FAIR** beautiful 5' 6" Dec' 95 PB Khatri Girl, B. Arch (Del) Masters in Urban Plng (UK), working as Sr. Urban Designer in an MNC in London. Well Edu NCR based family. Seeks PQ Boy working in UK #98101 63403

**SEEKING** a well-settled, smart, tall boy for a 5'.5", Dec 94 born, punjabi girl, working in BLR, but ready to relocate. call/ whatsApp 9849640921

KSHATRIYA

**KSHATRIYA** bais Manglik 1993/5'4" Gotra Bhardwaj, from Lucknow based family. Wkg as Manager HDFC Bank seeks s'ble match. 8953921093

**PQM4** Rajput girl 37 yrs/ 5'2" Btech Delhi based wrkng as Manager in Nationalised Bank 18 LPA ,contact 9810352715

**MATCH** for edu Hindu girl 30/5'5" MA BTC, fair b'ful well cultrd fmly oriented disability speaking and hearing (80%) seeks Professionally stld groom from reputed fmly 9415209202, 8957907374

KURMI

**MDS** final yr girl, Aug'98, 5'5",fair, father Sr. Professional, looking for MDS/ MD/ Engg. boy. Cont. 9177001933/ 9912951382

**KURMI** Kshatriya Girl 28/ 5'4" Wheatish Bhopal M.P. Based Working in Dubai (80Lpa+) Engr. (Gold) MBA IIM Ahmedabad # 7415139337

MAHESHWARI

**MAHESHWARI** girl 26/5'2", B.Tech, MBA. Working in MNC (Mumbai). Family in Jaipur, Seeking well-educated match 9867835502

VAISH

**GUPTA** 5'2" MBA DV girl wkg Mgr Gov Sec Mumbai 1989 born, fair girl seeks good status match. Pref wkg in Mumbai. kk28kt@gmail.com

**B.TECH,** M.S (Vancouver Canada) 1994 5'1" Gupta seeks well settled match. All general caste accepted send Bio & photos to 9837534445

**IIT** Bombay M.Tech , Gupta/-Kesharwani girl 29/5.3" currently wkg as Sr. Mngr in leading Org. Mumbai. Raipur (CG) bsd b'sn fmly 6261710043

YADAV

**YADAV** Girl 30/5'5" B.Tech (IT) MBA working in MNC Seeks Qualified Yadav working Match in IT/Govt. Sector. Mob : 9305372225, 9453083444

BY COMMUNITY

AGARWAL

Aggrawal B'ful Girl, 28 5"4, B.Tech, MBA working in MNC, rputed fmly of Delhi NCR seeks H'some Boy (Service class+ B'nessman) Prefd # 8755813474

**BTECH** BITS Pilani, bful 5'5 Dec82 wrkg Gurgaon, 35 LPA, Bzness/Service class acceptd Brahmin & Agarwal accepted early divorce, 9837073176

**PQM** for Goyal girl 5 ft / born April 1987/51 kgs MBA, MS working in USA. I-140 approved. Open to relocation in USA /India. Mobile 9823345267

**SM4** AGARWAL (GOEL) GIRL 2000/5'5.5", FAIR B'FUL VEG, B.TECH, PUR-SUING MS(GERMANY) SEEKING IAS/ IPS/ IRS/ UPSC GPA SERVICES. WITHIN CASTE. DELHI NCR BSD DR FMLY MO. 9719437800

JAT

**JAT** girl August 1995/5'3" MS (Obs-Gynae) Bijnor based family Groom required 7417116649, # 9412712650. Shankarbjr@gmail.com

KERALITE

**PHD,** SCIENCE Research Girl Jul'94 5'4 working UK.Seek Qual boy.Parents working Singapore #+6596660955. vsheba.oes@ gmail.com

RAJPUT

**SUITABLE** match for Hindu Rajput girl 1999. Una . Himachal Pradesh hight 5 feet 5 inch MBBS MD radiology father businessman mobile94645-66257

**RAJPUT** (Rathore) Girl 1991/5', Class I Gazetted officer CBI, (Hyderabad). Father Gazetted officer Retd. Cont. 9450862148,8279935278

BY PROFESSION

DOCTORS

**B'FUL** Brahmin MBBS MD (Path) Girl 27/5'3" From High status fmly Seeks Only well settled Doctor, Businessman match. Caste no bar#7380200029

**SM4** Jat b'ful Dr. girl 1988/ 5'6" (obs and gynae), wkg as conslt in central govt hospi. Delhi, Pref medico/civil srvc CNB. 8882440308, 9413150392

**SUITABLE** Match For Tayal Beautiful Girl July 1995 / 5'3" MD Medicine Prefered Delhi / NCR Contact Whatsapp : 9810474401

**MD,** Doctor Pediatrics Reglr medcl ofcr UPSC Govt Hosp D-el goel girl 5'5"/11am/21-10-93 pref Dr MD/MS/DM/Mch/M.Tech/MBA Del-NCR 9711567850

**MATCH** for Garhwali Rajput Doctor pursuing MD (Derma), 27 years, height 5'2" from educated, cultured family. Seeking doctor (MD/MS/DNB) from well-educated family. WhatsApp: 9820749630

**MD** RADIOLOGY 27 year Jain U.P Well Sattled family /Doctor/ Administrative Officer Groom required contact- 9415031714

**M4** medico PG (Dermatologist) fair pb Arora (Thukral) grl 33,5'3"MBBS, FCPS (Derma)qlfd & uppr midl fmly. 9415301951,thukral2@gmail.com

Smart Yadav Girl, MCh(Ped Surg) 5'5"/Dec 88, NM, AIIMS Alumna, Asst Prof, Gov Med Coll Delhi,
Seeks Delhi-NCR based Medico match
Mob: 9217257966

Pure Vegetarian Teetotaler, IAS, IPS, IIT`an, CA, Medico, Businessman, Industrialist Match for MD (PAEDS), Fellow Neonatology 1993/5'3", Fair Complexion Girl from Affluent well settled Sikh Kamboj Radha Soami Family. Upper Caste No Bar.
Contact : 98157-50988, 98960-17550

Bride Groom Wanted for DOCTOR
Hindu Nadar MBBS Doctor pursuing MS (OG) – Final Year 25 Years height 5'5", fair and Good Looking Native Thoothukudi District and settled in T. Nagar, Chennai. VIP Family and Rich background Looking for MBBS, MD, MS qualified Groom
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9487657423 / 9514777115

MBA/CA

**PQM4** Btech+MBA girl, working in MNC in Bangkok, 80 lakhs+ CTC Dob: 8-Oct-90,7:39 AM, Delhi; #9818839789

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

**1997,** 5'6", beautiful, fair, Stanford Master's. Multi-talented / compassionate, Seeks well-qualified groom from Top 15 US schools. (E) uzsh0214@gmail.com

BY RELIGION

HINDU

**SM4** 28Y 5'4" Fair Punjabi Girl MBA MNC Gurgaon Seek PQ boy 29 to 31Y in Corporate or Com. Pilot from Defence Offrs Family WA 7838706856

**SM** army officers daughter 1994/ht5.7/beautiful postgraduate.tall defence officers/ civil servent/ highly placed boys from decent family contact father 8601964072

**HINDU** Girl, 05-1997/5'2", B.Tech, Software Engr., MNC, Hyderabad, Punjab origin, Seeks well-settled, prof.qual. Boy mat246k@gmail.com

**SOUTH** Indian Bride, 1991 Born | 5'2", MBBS, MD Doctor, Very Beautiful | Affluent Family Father, Mother & Brother are Doctors Seeking a professionally qualified and well-settled groom. Caste no bar Neha. Call: 9972605001, 9686618001

**DOCTOR,** MS (O&G), DNB, MRCOG (London), FNB Bangalore. DOB 05.11.1990, Rohini star, Rishabh Rashi, No Dosham, Tamil Kshatriya girl. Both parents Doctor in Bhilai. Seeking PG Doctor Mob: 8103350889

MUSLIM

**SUNNI** Muslim B'ful Girl Fair 5'4", 1993 Born,Sr. Mgr. Govt. Bank,Family w.stld Gurgaon ,seeks H'sme Boy B'nss/ GovtJob/IT/MBBS#9818998723

**SUNNI** Muslim Reputed fmly of Patna seeks edu, family oriented groom (Syed, sheikh, Pathan)for good looking , tall girl 25, MBA (United Kingdom) M- 8294358123

**SUNNI** Muslim parents seek SM For daughter, 30/5'3", LL.M. (NLU), Adv, reputed law firm earning 20 LPA. Wapp. 8859567248

**SM** Fair Girl 27/5'3" B.Tech IIM RTK. 26LPA From Reputed DR. Family Match From Reputed Family # 9598705841, 8299655298

**LONDON** BTech/MSc. WNIT/UCL girl Nov93/5'2" Sr Engr. father Retd GM seeks prof qual boy pref wrkng in UK 7856838309

**SUNNI** beautiful smart girl 31 Div. (No Child) MS Comp. Science germany wrkg Germany PR holder seeks qlfd boy E.U./Germany. # 7275904751

**LKO** based Sunni Shaikh 39 5'4" beautiful MSc BEd, educator, respected family, seeks well settled boy. Contact 9411665549

**MD/MS** for Sunni Pathan, fair, slim, 27/5'6", religious girl, only child, MBBS, pursuing MD(Anaesth), Parents Class-I officers. WA/M-9540077883

**MASTERS** n Qualified Teacher Status Shia Syed B'ful girl 28yrs 168cms from UK. Teaching in London having Skilled Visa Bought up in India 9839413369, +447440774954

**WANTED** Well Settled Boy Pref. in Abroad for Sunni Muslim Girl 30/5'4", doing Ph.D. lucknow bsd educated pathan fmly. # 9839016892 WA

**SHEIKH/SIDDIQUI** girl 29/5'5'', persuing PhD (CS) from U.S. seeks qualified PQM from a respectable family. 9795835382, 7754899333

**MUSLIM** fair girl 32 yrs 5'2" B.Tech Central Govt. officer from well educated family seeks Central Govt. officer, PSU,MNC groom # 8160947574

SIKH

**JAIPUR** BASED BEAUTIFUL(SIKH) GIRL 2000BORN,5'5 WORKING AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN PHYSIOLOGY,FATHER - BUSINESSMAN , MOTHER-TEACHER , YOUNGER BROTHER- STUDYING. LOOKING FOR (SIKH)GROOM 7378273782

**H/STATUS** Sikh buss. fmly seeks PQM for convent edu b'ful girl nov 93/5'5½"MBA/ s-emplyd/high income / Canadian PR. 9876001157

**B'FUL** Fair, Charming,MBA B.Ed,35/5'4" girl frm rptd b'ns fmly seeks well stld Sikh Indlst /B'sman/Top Corp.Job SM frm well stld fmly. 9997844100

Sikh Arora girl, CA, Aug-91, 5'4", Working in MNC Gurgaon
Seeking Service class boy from India. Contact: 9833564454, 9650285649

GENERAL

CASTE NO BAR

**PASWAN** (SC) June 87 Born / 5'2" Phd, Assistant Professor (Adhoc)girl seeks Service Class suitable match preference Lucknow, Kanpur # 9450527608

**SUITABLE** Groom in Govt./PSU for a PSU Class-I Officer at Delhi, Kushwaha, 32 yrs, 5'4'', Caste no bar. Ph. 9482140646.

**LUCKNOW** based Girl 5.2"/1996 working as a Research Scientist U.C.L.A (USA). Call : 9319500861, 9650312918

**PUNJABI** girl (1982, 5'3"), working in MNC (NCR), ex-pgdm,seeks suitable match. Contact: 9811706578

**PQM4,** Feb 78/5'3" b'full Br girl, Dr. Owns Eye hosp in Noida. I'Less Div,high Status fmly in NCR Send BHP, W'tsup # 9560871111.

**MBA,** ICWAI Mngr in Noida, NM, fair slim saxena girl March 79/5'3" seeks Delhi NCR boy. Upper caste no bar. # 9811984361 / 9868235644

**PILOT** good looking South Delhi girl 1998/5'3" Seeks Professionally qualified/ Business boy from an affluent family 9810353925 9871793988

**PG** Medico (Clinical branch) boy for Girl SR (ENT) Delhi. 32, 153 cms. Highly Educated Family, Tonk-kshetriya /Rohilla, HR, NCR. M-9467153543

**SONI** family invites alliance for a 28-year-old, LLB, practising at Punjab & Haryana High Court & Supreme Court. Slim, well-educated and family-oriented. Caste no bar. Business families preferred. Cont.: 8130069417, 9416049417.

**SEEKS** Groom (govt./semi-govt.) for N.mglk. Kayastha. Wrkg. girl 30/5'2" M.B.A NET Qlfd. Ph.D. & skilled in housework. 7905324016, 9415323595

**BUREAUCRAT** Elite Kayastha Family Invite Alliance for Highly Educated daughter Dietician 1989/5'7" NCR Based WA:9568082727

**MBA/BTECH** B'ful fair smart(div-Iless)girl Sept 88/5'4" wrkg in MNC Mumbai 40LPA affluent Dr. fmly seeks well settle boy# 9118883321

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**KAYASTHA,** 30, 170 cms, Entrepreneur. Father is a retired Engineer. Mother is a Sr Director in top French IT Firm. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like match from Delhi/NCR. Contact: 6366448344

**KHATRI,** 33, 175 cms, B.Tech MBA, Senior consultant in Infosys Germany. Father is executive Vice President. Looking suitable match in Punjab, Delhi/NCR to relocate.

**BRAHMIN,** 32, 173 cms, Businessman, MBA, Masters. Lives in Gurgaon. Father is a Retired Sr class 1 officer. Belongs to affluent and rich family. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

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**BRAHMIN,** 32, 173 cms, Own Company, MBA, Master. Lives in Gurgaon. Father is a retired Sr class 1 officer. Belongs to affluent and rich family. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

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**DIVORCED** 39 yrs female working in Blr. Looking for well settled groom. If interested please contact 9977801445 , 9826294894

**JULY** 90, 5'4", V. B'ful, veg, CA 2013,B.Com(H) LSR ACCA UK, IIM, 30 LPA, AVP MNC Ggn, pref veg, mrg bureau kindly excuse, 9868562105

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Contact 9310160703

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**GROOM** 4 B.E. Comp, MS USA, 75/5'5", Mar/91 Agarwal girl wkg Amazon Canada, willing to relocate India. Father retired call 9987847118.

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**SUITABLE** Match for JAISWAR (SC) Beautiful Smart Girl 30/5'9" BBA LLB, Wkg MNC Hyderabad. 35 LPA caste no bar. Mb- 9936899315

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**B.COM** (Pursuing CA), slim, fair,Mglk Pb girl,short mrg,Div Iless,pure veg,87/5'3",wkg MNC 8LPA,well stld fmly,seeks Iless Family oriented. # 9212622850.

**SM4** Agg 1994/5'5" HYD Div Iless B'ful Slim Self Emplyd Fmly Orntd. Seeks well Sttld Iless Upr Caste Match North Ind prefd@9177681548

**SM4** PQ 48+/5'4",bful Rajput Divorcee looks younger,Advocate,Defence back ground,boy with no issue prefd. 8810289849, rathore1932@gmail.com

**MASTER** in Accounts & Finance from Malbourne, Wrkg in Royal Bank of Canada in Toronto, Canada PR, Nvr Mrd Kanpur born B'Ful Punjabi fair only daughter Aug'93 /5'3"/SC Caste/Non-Drinker/ Non smoker.Father(IRS), Mother in B'ness. seeks PQ well sttld elite match. # 7605807773

**BFUL,** 1997,5'6 Ft, 20 LPA, CFA, Delhi based. Seek Good Bznesman/Service class fmly Brahmin & Agarwal accepted 9837270704 call 11am-11pm

BY NATIONALITY

NRI/ GREEN CARD

**PQ** wkg NRI/wish to move UK/EU/IRE,4 Kay NRI Girl 34/5'2" BE MS Assc Dir KPMG, Dublin. UC no bar. 7008951701/9437015522 WA

Wanted educated groom for upper middle class, Bengali,Educated,working,divorcee girl 43 yrs, 5"5 contact 8527800871

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**BENGALI** Brahmin Girl 1992/5'5" Slim fair working in airlines (Grd. Crew) at Delhi, Non-Veg. Seeks well-settled, Educated Groom.:- 97698 85822

**PQM4** Bengali Kayastha, Gotra Alimman Girl, 26/5'4" MVSc Dr (Veterinary), Caste no bar Univ Gold Medalist in BVSc #9012700996, 7834877774

MALAYALI

**LONDON** PG girl, MNC BLR, Ezhava, 26 yrs, 155 cm. Native Thrissur, seeks Malayali Ezhava Hindu groom, PG, MNC, well settled. 9880220199.

PUNJABI

**MBBS** MD SM 4 B'ful Doctor Girl 5' /Oct 88, 12.35pm 75 Kg wkg. in UNICEF /NGO 45 LPA seeks Edu. well Settld Boy 35-38Yrs. Delhi/ NCR.9868001678

**MBA** (IIM) B.Tech Fair PB girl slim, Jul'95/5'2" Wrkg MNC Gurgaon, seek well stld edu boy. pref. Delhi-NCR/ Punjab/Gurgaon #9815717204

**HINDU** PUNJABI GIRL 5'1 april 86 NEVER MARRIED PACKAGE 10-5 LAC SERVICE IN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AS SR MANAGER 9416013960

**SM4** Sikh Arora NM Veg Slim MBA wkg girl. 4.7 Lpa/24-01-86/ 5'4"/Delhi.Fthr rtd Jt Dir. Seeks Del/Noida stld veg Pnjbi srvce Cls Boy. Call/W.Ap 9999439388

**PQM** 4 Bangalore bsd fair B'ful Punjabi girl 32/5'6" Sr. Sft. Eng. Pkg 34 L, Family Lucknow bsd seeks Prof. Qlfd. Well Settled groom: 9415469956, 9307609110

**CS** B.com qlfd self practising b'ful,slim,Oct 91/5'2" affluent Pbi fmly,fthr prac-CA &b'man seeking edu boy from b'ness fmly in Del/NCR #9811081137

**SM4** B'ful PBI Khatri Mutually Divorcee in 1Yr,MBA girl 1994/ 5'3" reputed MNC, 35Lacs+ Pref professional/b'ness in Delhi/ NCR, Bangalore # 9582155211

Alliance Invited for well educated, beautiful, fair & cultured Punjabi Arora Girl (D.O.B. 1993, Height 5'6") completed Masters from Top UK University. We seek a professionally qualified groom in business / service from a cultured and affluent family.
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**PQM4** Sindhi Girl 49/5'4" Never Married B.E. MBA Sr Director USA M:9820303313, E: Vivah77@gmail.com

**HINDU** Punjabi British citizen 35,5'8" fair and good looking working in UK MNC seeks professional UK settled boy. Whatsapp - 9312265430

**PQM4** Tall b'ful pjbi wkg cultrd girl frm Canada. 5'9"/1996, Prefrd US/Canada bsd tall h'sm punjabi boy frm well 2 do fmly #9811407785

**CANADA** Ctzn. Khatri B.ful girl 35/5' Divorce, Seeks SM in Canada/ wish to move there.Delhi bsd fmly.#9873146764 Em: jogimalik1@gmail.com

**SEATTLE** /metro area based boy for Microsoft s/w Engr girl Dec91 / 5'5" nonveg. Caste/lower age no bar WA 9845624616

**SUITABLE** match for Hindu Khatri girl, American citizen, fair, slim, 5'3"/ Dec/99, belongs to well-established family in USA & own business. Em: kumarajaydelhi27@gmail.com

**PQ** SM for Punjabi Khatri, Divorce Girl, 35/5'5"/Graduate/ Veg, US Citizen Pref. T.T., Veg, Indian / NRI Match. Contact: 9289060369.

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# Talking death over coffee and cake

*From cafes and literacy festivals to doulas and yoga circles, people are finding newer, gentler spaces to tackle loss and end-of-life care*

**Himanshi.Dhawan**@timesofindia.com





CIRCLE OF LIFE: People leave notes for their loved ones on the memory tree at the Death Literacy Fest while (top) author Minakshi Dewan discusses rituals and stigma around death at a book cafe

Conversations about dying and death are often met with awkward silence, dark humour or exhortations to "be brave and move on". For 54-year-old Viresh Kumar Sharma, the sage advice people gave after his son died by suicide in Nov 2023 only seemed tone-deaf and insensitive. Sharma's son was suffering from bipolar disorder and had attempted self-harm before. But nothing prepared the Patna-based banker for the grief ahead.

"Initially, I was in shock and that turned to guilt and pain. He was 23 years old and as parents we had done everything we could, putting in all our money and resources for his treatment," Sharma says. Therapy helped little. "On the surface, I had gone back to everyday life.... but I had slipped into depression," he says. This worsened, he says, till he joined an online grief support group for parents who had lost their children. "For the first time, I felt understood. A child's death is not like any other relative or family member's death. Only another parent understands what it means."

Sharma's support group is part of an umbrella of services that includes one-on-one sessions and peer support offered by online platform SoulUp. Its co-founder Mahak Maheshwari says the platform was born after realising the need for people to speak openly about grief and loss with others who understood.

Like SoulUp, several online and offline support groups, death cafes and bereavement circles over meditation, yoga or even a cultural festival, are encouraging people to speak more openly about loss.

The Supreme Court's March ruling on withdrawing care to Harsh Rana, who had lived in a vegetative state for 13 years, has started a discourse on end-of-life care, living wills and grief. Says palliative care advocate Harmala Gupta, "We are in denial when it comes to dealing with loss and death. Death carries a stigma fortified by people's reactions, who often view it as a curse or as a punishment for having done something bad. It is necessary to demystify death by talking about it openly, and by emphasising its inevitability." Minakshi Dewan, a death studies expert and author of the book 'The Final Farewell' says, "People are curious, but mainstreaming conversations around loss is difficult."

## DEATH CAFES FOR CONVERSATIONS

"We are a death-denying culture," says Dr E Divakaran, director of the Thrissur-based Institute of Palliative Medicine. "If we understand that medicine can provide comfort in dying rather than think in binaries of 'treatment or no treatment', we can offer more appropriate care."

As part of the effort, the institute has hosted death cafes where people discuss death over coffee and cake. The concept began with Swiss anthropologist Bernard Crettaz's 'Cafe Mortel' in 1999 and was later popularised globally by London-based Jon Underwood in 2011 as an informal, agenda-free space to talk about death. While Indian cities have held death cafe meetings intermittently, Dr Divakaran plans to hold one every month starting April. Vinod Krishna, who earlier ran workplace support groups, hosted a death cafe this Jan. The structure involves one person taking the lead to share questions that the group can contemplate over in a compassionate, no-judgement space. In these free sessions, participants discuss death, near-death experiences and intangible loss over tea and coffee. Krishna hosted a second session in April and plans to eventually add caregiver support, and legal and psychological resources.

## BRINGING LEVITY TO LOSS

A five-year-old picked up a 'wind telephone' — where users can hold an imaginary conversation with a loved one who had passed on — to say 'Dadi, I miss your shahi paneer', while another used the 'memory tree' to pin notes for a departed loved one. These were some props and methods used by people to confront death at the Death Literacy Festival called 'Good to Go' in Bengaluru last year.

"We know how difficult it is to have the conversation. People don't have the vocabulary for it. We wanted to bring levity instead of morbidity to the space. Even with the name — 'Good to Go' — the thought was that if you can smile about it, you can engage with it," says Smriti Rana, Pallium India director-strategic communications. The festival organised by Pallium India and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy included music and theatre performances, poetry sessions, and workshops that discussed subjects ranging from pet loss to living wills and digital death.

The festival will travel to Mumbai this year.

> People are aching to have conversations around death, but often don't have the vocabulary for it. That's why we called our death literacy festival 'Good to Go'. The idea was that if you can smile about it, you can engage with it. We wanted to bring levity, not morbidity, to the space
>
> **Smriti Rana,** PALLIUM INDIA



Rana says, "We realised that people are aching to have this conversation and it allows for catharsis."

## REIMAGINING THE RITUALS

Krittika Sharma, founder of death literacy platform Maajhi, says, "I began to notice that while loss is universal, the way we approach it is often lacking presence, grace, and a sense of well-being." Her own experience at end-of-life caregiving and loss led to the platform that offers toolkits and workshops including grief coaching, grief yoga, and death meditation that help people build emotional capacity.

Krittika also introduced the idea of 'Death over Dinner' in India — bringing people together over a shared meal to have open conversations about death.

She says, "It shifts the conversation from something clinical or crisis-driven into something reflective and human, using the familiarity of food to soften a difficult topic."

Sharma says many participants initially fear talking about grief openly — "As though we are missing the right words, afraid of saying the wrong thing, or that speaking about it might somehow invite it into our lives" — but become more comfortable in the right environment.

## GRIEF CIRCLES

Dr Sangeetha Suresh, who is incharge of the pediatric palliative care division at Pallium India, says parents of terminally ill children often withdraw socially and struggle with guilt around end-of-life decisions. "Parents of such sick children do not have any support. We help them deal with the complexity of illness while also creating memories," she says. This could mean indulging in the cheat ice-cream that the child is craving or taking videos of the last few days so that parents have memories to live with.

The group also helps speak about death to siblings who are usually ignored. Dr Suresh says, "The parents are so burdened by caring for the sick child that the sibling is left with extended family and told to pray for their brother and sister to become better. Then, when the child dies, the sibling is told he has become a star or a rainbow. For a young child, this can be very disturbing. We have seen instances of the sibling self-harming to become a 'star'. It is important to be honest with children and address their feelings of fear and anxiety as truthfully as possible."

Mumbai-based Zavher Chowdhury, 60, lost her mother in her 20s and spent years caregiving for other family members. "People say you need to be strong. In the support group, we learn that there is no need to be strong all the time. There is compassion for each other," she says.

Now training to be a grief doula, she is part of support group Grief Relief Circle, whose members regularly check in on one another over WhatsApp and one-on-one conversations. "We do exercises like 'kintsugi' which is the Japanese art of repairing. As part of that, I am putting together a photo album of old photos and reliving the emotions of anger, resentment that I felt over the past," she adds.

But is it enough? "Earlier, communities carried people through grief. Now, everyone is wrapped up in their own lives," says Bhavana Issar, founder Caregiver Saathi that provides support for caregivers. "The newer ways of grieving may not always be enough."

## INQUIZITIVE

**JOY BHATTACHARJYA**

1 Talk show host Jimmy Fallon recently got his copy of the Pink Floyd album, Dark Side of the Moon, signed by four guests on his show — Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Jeremy Hansen. For what reason were these four people uniquely qualified for the request?

2 Where would you be visiting if you took a flight from Lima to Cusco, then the train to Aguas Calientes,



and then finished with a 25-min bus ride and a short walk?

3 Richard Attenborough, elder brother of naturalist David Attenborough, started trying to make which film in 1964 , and took 18 years to finally get it made, though it did win 8 Academy Awards?

4 Which popular South Indian dish, traditionally made with 13 vegetables was, according to legend, created by the warrior Bhima while serving as a cook in King Virat's kitchen?

5 The lyrics for the Paraguayan and Uruguayan national anthem are both written by poet Francisco Acuna de Figueroa. Which are the only two other countries that share a similar relationship?

6 Six of the 36 states or UTs of India have bicameral legislatures. Five of them are Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh,

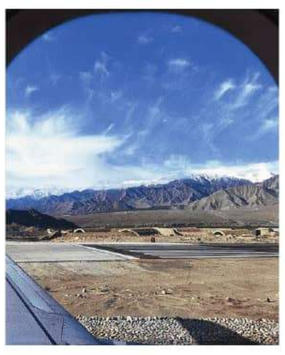



Telangana, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Which is the sixth?

7 Which large waterbird, first seen in Australia, shares its name with a 2010 film starring Natalie Portman, and a hugely impactful event which comes as a total surprise — a term popularised by Nassim Nicholas Taleb?

8 Three South American teams have won the World Cup. Two of them are Brazil and Argentina. Name the third.

9 The Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, named after a Buddhist monk who lived in a nearby monastry, serves which Indian city?



10 Which country has the world's largest population of bears, with over 200,000 bears of four distinct varieties, with the animal serving as it's unofficial symbol of the country for over three centuries?

### ANSWERS

1 | They had just travelled and photographed the Dark Side of the Moon on the Artemis 2 mission.
2 | Machu Picchu
3 | Gandhi
4 | Aviial
5 | India and
6 | Bihar
7 | Black Swan
8 | Urguguay(1930 and 1950)
9 | Leh, the capital of Ladakh
10 | Russia
Bangladesh (Rabindranath Tagore)

# The smart case for dumbphones

*The old-school handset, with no internet and no apps, is making a comeback as users tire of doomscrolling and constant pings, fear privacy breaches*

**Shruti.Sonal**@timesofindia.com




Image: AI

In times of grief, some people turn to community. Others withdraw from the endless stream of WhatsApp messages and phone calls. Vishal Agnihotri is of the second kind. After losing his mother to a rare neurological condition a few months ago, he knew some things: he didn't want to announce her death on social media, respond to exhausting family WhatsApp groups, or discard her SIM card.

Agnihotri found the solution in a Nokia 2660 flip phone with little beyond Snake and FM radio for entertainment. As the sole caregiver for his brother, who has Down Syndrome, the switch became a form of digital detox. "It really helped me take a step back from the emotional pressures around and the constant need for communication. It cut out a lot of noise, and the people who really wanted to connect with me did so via good old voice calls or SMS," says the 37-year-old freelance business consultant from Kanpur.

Agnihotri is part of a growing community of millennials and Gen Z users turning away from smartphones to find quieter communication, stripped of endless notifications and apps. Loosely referred to as 'dumbphones', these are older-style phones with non-touch displays, button keypads, limited internet access, and minimal apps. Once dismissed as outdated budget devices, they are being embraced by users looking to cut down on screen time, surveillance, and compulsive app use.

Even Blinkit has tied up with Nokia to sell dumbphones, many of which have sold out on the platform. Meanwhile, Reddit forums and Instagram reels are flooded with users seeking advice on how to move away from smartphones altogether.

The demand is such that an entire website called Dumb Phones India has sprung up, which calls itself part of "a growing movement for digital minimalism". While still niche, the revival is not limited to India. Driven partly by digital detox trends among younger users globally, the global feature phone (dumbphone) market was valued at $2.35 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow at a modest annual rate of 2.3% through 2031, according to Cognitive Market Research.

Vishnupriya Das, an anthropologist researching digital cultures, says a big part of the 'dumbphone movement' is about reclaiming agency: the power to pause and opt out of systems designed to keep us continuously performing, curating, maximising, engaging, and consuming.

There are both push and pull factors making this shift popular, she adds. "On one side, people are exhausted by doomscrolling, overstimulation, and the pressures of algorithmic life," Das points out. "On the other, there's a desire for presence, community, friendship, and being with others in a fuller way. So, this trend is not just about rejecting smartphones. It is also a yearning for connection," she says.

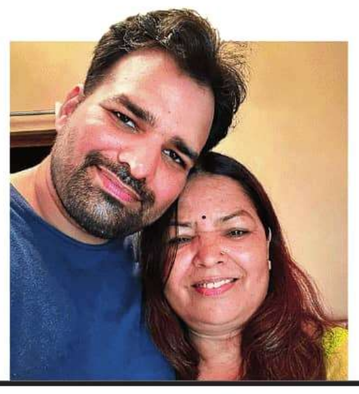
### Going Off Radar

While digital fatigue might be the overarching factor, another huge concern is safety. As digital arrest scams, online fraud, location tracking and app surveillance increase, many are opting for dumbphones as a privacy tool.

Santosh Sharma, a consultant in the non-profit sector, gave up on his smartphone usage a couple of years ago because of the 'surveillance' that comes with using multiple apps. "Every app that I use wants my location and my personal data. I am not comfortable with that.... I realised that sharing my personal information with insecure servers is too big a compromise for my safety," says Sharma.

Despite his concerns, the father of two sons could not completely give up smartphones because of work-related WhatsApp groups. He still keeps one for work and personal calls.

However, the phone has no quick commerce, food delivery or ride-hailing apps. Since he lives in a small town and works remotely, Sharma says he manages fine without them, even in metro cities. For banking, he uses a dumbphone linked to accounts whose number is not listed on any public platform to avoid any hacking risks. He does not use UPI. "I have worked very hard on building wealth for my family and me to let anything happen to it," he adds.



**TIME TO DISCONNECT:** Vishal Agnihotri switched to a dumbphone after his mother's (in pic) death to move away from social media noise

Like Sharma, 40-year-old Vinay Reddy also uses two phones to protect his finances. His salary account is linked to his smartphone number, while the number connected to his savings accounts is used only in a Nokia dumbphone.

"I don't want to keep all my eggs in one basket. The burner phone that I use cannot be broken into and this gives me a sense of security about my finances," he says. A software engineer, Reddy says he got the idea to do this from his father, a retired electrical engineer who has never used a smartphone in his life.

For Agnihotri, on the other hand, a break from UPI is a welcome one. Having moved back to his hometown in Kanpur from where he now works remotely, he recounts ordering from quick commerce apps "almost five times a day" while living in Noida. "These apps, along with UPI, were eating up my wallet."

Now, he prefers buying groceries and veggies from a local market nearby, and mostly pays in cash. "I might sound old school, but I think there's a unique charm to the human interaction in walking up to a shop in your neighbourhood and physically buying fresh produce," he shares.

However, not everyone opting for dumb phones needs to give up UPI transactions. The Reserve Bank of India's UPI 123Pay Service enables transactions for users who don't have access to smartphones but have a bank account linked to their mobile number.

### After The Smartphone Age

Despite the growing popularity of dumbphones, Das says the shift is only sustainable when the void smartphones have been filling are replaced by offline communities. "Social media and smartphones fulfil stimulation, novelty, connection. The human drive for this is important and should not be underestimated. If people step away from smartphones, the question becomes what will fill that space for them?"

Without replacement communities, she says, moving away from smartphones can become a cycle of withdrawal and return — much like deleting and reinstalling apps.

> Every app wants my location and personal data. Sharing that information with insecure servers was too big a compromise. I've worked too hard to build wealth for my family to risk anything. I manage fine without food delivery or ride-hailing apps, even in metro cities
>
> **Santosh Sharma,** NGO CONSULTANT AND DUMBPHONE USER FROM INDORE

Globally, phone-free parties, offline meetups, and back-to-analogue groups are making a push for this. Yet, the growing role of generative AI in workplaces and education complicates matters.

In the meantime, the rise in dumb phones alludes to a fracturing of the personal mobile device ecosystem itself, Das points out, with people using simpler phones for communication, laptops for AI-related work, separate devices for music, and smartphones only for needs like travel.

As Das sees it, perhaps the future of the phone is not about one device that does everything, everywhere, all at once. "We may be moving towards a more fragmented toolkit of devices with differing levels of connectivity."

— *With inputs by* ***Kritika Sharma***

# BJP banking on old icons to cast new narratives

BY INVITATION



RONOJOY SEN

It was unsurprising that BJP rushed the swearing-in of Bengal's new CM — even as Assam will have the same ceremony next week — and held it on Saturday on Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary. BJP's sweeping victory in West Bengal was built on several planks. One was a marked shift during election campaigning to combat the idea of the party being an outsider or bohiragoto and hostile to Bengali culture and ethos. This was partly to challenge TMC's narrative that it was a party of the soil and defender of Bengaliness and Bengali pride. While this might not have really mattered to the masses, it probably did for some elites and the so-called bhadralok class. Much of BJP's positioning also had to do with assuaging fears that the party, if elected, would interfere in Bengali lifestyle and food habits.

During the campaign we saw the stereotypical symbol of Bengaliness — fish — become a potent weapon. In response to Mamata Banerjee's allegation that BJP, if elected, would not allow fish, meat or eggs, the latter pushed back aggressively. A few BJP candidates resorted to campaigning, holding up fish in both hands, while one filed his nomination papers clutching one. Even PM Modi, who is avowedly vegetarian, got into the act by accusing TMC of not making Bengal self-reliant in fish despite being in office for 15 years. The symbolism did not stop at fish. The PM's brief halt at a roadside stall during campaigning to eat jhalmuri (spicy puffed rice), a favourite street food, became viral to the extent that BJP supporters across India celebrated the party's win by having the snack.

During his victory speech, Modi, who has a penchant for dressing up to suit the locale and occasion, wore a dhoti and kurta. He used a few Bengali words, as he had done throughout the election campaign. Unsurprisingly, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, the founder of the Jana Sangh, figured prominently in his speech as did a host of other Bengali icons such as Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Aurobindo Ghose and Subhas Bose. Tagore too found mention and Modi quoted from the poet's famous poem, 'Where the Mind is Without Fear,' to assert that a new era was being ushered in. Hence, holding the swearing-in ceremony on Tagore's birthday made political sense. One of the first things Mamata had done, after becoming CM, was to have Rabindra sangeet played from loudspeakers in Kolkata's streets.

However, just as Tagore lives on in the hearts and minds of many Bengalis, he is also someone whose ideas are at odds with Hindu nationalism. For instance, in the ongoing celebrations around the 150th anniversary of Bankim's Vande Mataram, Tagore's contribution in giving tune to the song and popularising it has been noted. At the same time, its shortening, done at the behest of the Congress, has been likened by many BJP leaders to a division of the nation.



**CONTESTING CLAIMS:** Holding the swearing-in on Tagore's anniversary takes on TMC's party of the soil pitch

However, Tagore's critical role in shortening the song has been elided. When the Muslim League was protesting against Vande Mataram in the 1930s, both Nehru and Bose had written separately to Tagore to resolve the controversy. Tagore was aware of the Muslim sentiments against Vande Mataram and Bankim's novel, 'Anandamath', where the song occupies a critical place. Tagore's solution, which he conveyed in a letter to Nehru, was to keep only the first two stanzas. He wrote that the "spirit of tenderness and devotion expressed in its first portion, the emphasis it gave to beautiful and beneficent aspects of our motherland," could be separated "from the rest of the poem and from those portions of the book of which it is a part." Tagore, a member of the reformist Brahmo Samaj, noted that the poem's second part and Bankim's novel militated against his "monotheistic ideals." He suggested an abridged version that would not "offend any sect or community."

Yet another instance of Tagore's disagreement with one of the central symbols of Hindu nationalism was his unease with identifying the nation with the mother goddess. This was powerfully articulated in his 1916 novel 'Ghare Baire' set against the backdrop of the Swadeshi movement. It was during the 1905 protests that he had led a procession in the streets of Kolkata during the rakhi festival, singing one of the emblematic songs of the period before going on to tie rakhis to Muslims, including those inside the city's Nakhoda Masjid. In the novel, speaking in the voice of the progressive zamindar Nikhil, Tagore is unable to "accept the spirit of Bande Mataram" and to "worship" his country "as a god."

Tagore also had public but civil disagreements with Bankim and other contemporary intellectuals like Chandranath Basu over their interpretations of Hinduism and history, usually coming down on the side of reasoned interpretation. Much of this is either not known or is brushed aside by those who seek to appropriate Tagore and also those for whom he is a demigod. ■

*Sen is a senior research fellow, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore*

# The award is going to help us to scale up, replicate the Chambal model

*Nearly a decade ago, conservationist* ***Parveen Shaikh*** *began working on protecting the flame-billed Indian skimmer, an endangered species of riverine bird found in the Chambal region which had dwindled to just 400. With the help of a community of 'nest guardians', Shaikh worked to increase the bird count, which has won her the Whitley Award or 'Green Oscars'. She speaks to* ***Shruti Sonal*** *about the efforts and the changing fate of rivers in the age of extreme heat*

FOR THE RECORD

**What got you interested in the conservation of Indian skimmers?**

When I joined the Bombay Natural History Society in 2012, I realised that I'd like to work on threatened bird species. I came across the Indian skimmer, and found it to be beautiful and unique, especially because of the shape of its bill. But when I dug deeper, I realised we know very little about it. There existed a lot of information gaps...why their population was declining, how the birds nested, and whether there was a problem in nest survival? That was one of the reasons I started work on skimmers, conducting my first survey on the Chambal River in Dec 2016. I realised that there was a loss of nests because of predation and trampling and there should be some intervention to stop this. That's when the idea of involving community members and experimenting with some protection or guarding scheme for the nests came up. Nest survival has nearly doubled since then, rising from 14% to 27% and bird count is over 1000, a direct result of community involvement and scientific monitoring.



**What were the challenges when you first tried to involve the community?**

Most community members that we worked with knew about ghariyals and magarmach, but they had little clue about the skimmer or what was special about it. However, they helped with patrolling of sites or just sharing their understanding of life around the river right from the start. Many of them also helped out as field assistants because it was a completely new territory for us. It was just before Covid hit that we thought of asking community members to form groups and protect the nesting colonies. The work could only begin in 2022. We convinced the community members that this would be a source of seasonal employment for them. The results weren't positive right from the start. It took patience and there was a lot of R&D that went in. In a couple of nesting colonies, more than 60% of the birds survived successfully by just guarding their nests and not letting any predator in. We then understood that this model has potential and could be scaled.

Other challenges included heavy boat traffic, fishing activity, religious practices along the riverbank, sand mining and urban pollution that increases pressure on nesting colonies. We have also recently installed predator-proof fencing and GPS mapping for real-time monitoring of nests.

**You now propose to replicate that model on other rivers, including the Ganga and the Yamuna. Will the award help in that pursuit?**

The results from Chambal are quite good. The population shows an increasing trend. More than 90% of skimmer's global population breeds in India. And Chambal has a very large, significant population in the country. But there are other rivers also where there are bird nests, and they also have problems. We want to support this bird by protecting the most vulnerable nesting colonies from predation. The Whitley Award is going to help us to scale up. We also have support from the National Mission for Clean Ganga, and are planning to replicate some principles of the Chambal model, tailoring it for Prayagraj or other sites on the Yamuna River. At Prayagraj, the project will cover sites where birds face pressures from human disturbance, boat traffic, fishing, and pollution. Local guardians will be given incentives for their conservation service to provide a vital source of income while fostering stewardship.

**How do extreme heat and climate change impact riverine ecosystems?**

As our population increases, so does the demand for water. That brings rivers under pressure, and every year, several schemes for water extraction are proposed on them. One thing that's very crucial for riverine ecosystems is a minimal flow rate in the river, so that it keeps the rivers alive in order to support not only skimmers, but also other species like gharials, crocodiles, and turtles. Heat waves further endanger their survival. For instance, these heat waves clash with the peak hatching season of the skimmers, making it very difficult for the birds to survive. There is a very hot sandbar where they nest, and they have to keep cooling their eggs and chicks. If they are not able to do it and the temperatures are too high, these eggs will break, and the chicks will not survive.

**There's concern about how massive AI data centers are going to exacerbate the water crisis. As a conservationist, do you propose any safeguards for riverine species?**

We need to find a balance between requirements of people and those of other species. It's very difficult to do, but we really need to pour more efforts into finding out what the required minimum flow rate of rivers is, not only for the survival of skimmers but also for other species, especially during the peak summer season.

# *Char Dham tourism, and the need to balance economy with ecology*

SWAMINOMICS



SWAMINATHAN S ANKLESARIA AIYAR

The Char Dham season has just begun. Religious tourism is exploding at the four Himalayan shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. Tourists to Badrinath increased between 2014 and 2024 from 1.8 lakh to 14.35 lakh, an eightfold increase. Tourists to Kedarnath rose from 40,800 to 16.52 lakh, a forty-fold increase, encouraged by PM Modi's highly publicised fondness for this Dham. But only slightly less explosive was the increase from 35,000 to 7.5 lakh for Gangotri and from 35,000 to 6.4 lakh for Yamunotri.

The Char Dham Pariyojana has facilitated this explosion. It is a Rs 12,000 crore project to widen roads and provide motorised access to pilgrimage sites. The state govt also plans ropeways to haul tourists over difficult stretches. Till now, tourists had to walk the final stretch from Gaurikund to Kedarnath. But a new ropeway will soon cut the nine-hour trek to a 36-minute ride. The huge rise in tourists is a great success for the state govt. India is a very religious country in which pilgrimage is a top spending priority of Hindu families as incomes rise. Uttarakhand gains financially from the boom, which is an important source of investment (in shops, hotels) and employment.

But enormous success inevitably has deleterious sideeffects. First, what used to be pilgrimage, with arduous uphill walking to seek salvation, has become mere tourism. Second, the environmental load on the four Dhams is becoming massive and poisonous. Something must give.

The Dhams are located on small alpine meadows near great glaciers. What used to be pilgrimage places have become massive picnic spots. The Himalayan heights are lovely to behold, a great tourist attraction. But other places are equally beautiful and have a much smaller human footprint, and so are better sites to develop from an ecological viewpoint.

Pilgrimage is encouraged by govt subsidies. The exponential growth of visitors to the Char Dhams suggests that in a few years each Dham may attract crores of visitors. Today, Vaishno Devi, the biggest Himalayan pilgrimage spot, attracts roughly one crore visitors per year. Access to Vaishno Devi is relatively easy — a train goes to Katra from where the pilgrimage begins. Access to Char Dham has historically been more difficult, and visitors correspondingly fewer. But new roads, ropeways, and helicopter flights threaten to increase visitors every year.

The limited space at each Dham is already covered with eating houses, tea houses, and lodgings. More visitors will mean an ugly overcrowded valley in place of the original beautiful Himalayan paradise. Solid waste disposal alone will become hugely difficult. Much human and food waste is currently dumped into the holy rivers. But a point will come when, to paraphrase a famous Bollywood song, "Ram teri Ganga maili ho gayi..."

Many global tourist spots are contemplating a ceiling on visitors per year. The most famous and successful is Bhutan, which not only sets an annual quota for foreign tourists but also levies a hefty fee for entry. We cannot levy a fee for entry into holy places but surely we can set a limit on the number of visitors. Since there will be an excess of applicants, we should have a lottery to determine the lucky ones who can enter.

In 1956, when I was just 13 years old, my mother took the family on a pilgrimage to Badrinath with a party of pilgrims from Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh. The bus journey ended at Pipalkoti, and we had to walk four days to reach Badrinath. This was not easy for elderly people like my mother. But for the entire party of pilgrims the whole point of the pilgrimage was to strive mightily and be rewarded after four days of walking with the sight of Badrinath.

Can Himalayan tourism be reconverted to pilgrimage? Yes, by abolishing motorised access for the last 15-20 kms, and insisting that this should be covered on foot. The elderly can be carried on palanquins as in the old days.

A ropeway once built cannot easily be demolished. But surely further ropeways should be banned, and a quota set for ropeway travel each year. Char Dham tourism is very profitable for the state, which seeks to maximise visitors. But dharma and ecology cry out for a limit to this. We need annual quotas and compulsory walking for the final stretches.

Who can lead such a movement? The Shankaracharya of Badrinath will be the best, most credible candidate. He should surely be dismayed by the conversion of pilgrimage to tourism and the destruction of the alpine meadows. May he take the first step. ■

# As voters become trolls, old friendships are poll-arised

BY INVITATION



SANDIP ROY

Ever since BJP ousted Trinamool Congress from office, social media has been up in arms.

A friend who opposed BJP is so upset, she is pruning her friends list of those rejoicing at the verdict. Friends who had never seemed political are suddenly posting mocking memes about Mamata Banerjee and posing in orange outfits. Everyone is reading between the lines of everyone else's status updates to see where they stand in the new order of things. Someone shared a picture of a Bengali television anchor and knowingly noted the colour of his tie. Someone accused someone of supporting bigotry because of what they posted. Someone accused someone of supporting bigotry because they posted nothing at all.

Retired civil servant Jawhar Sircar, who resigned after a brief tenure as a Rajya Sabha MP for Trinamool, said in an interview, "I have never seen such antagonism in an election before. There is so much hatred on each side." Bengal is famous for the tea shop adda, where everything from politics to football is discussed with furious passion but, at the end, all sides share cups of tea together. In the online world, there is furious passion but no shared cup of tea. "Voters and citizens have been acting like trolls," rued Sircar. "This trollisation of the voter is a new phenomenon."



**VIRTUAL WAR:** Politicians switch parties like jobs, but ordinary people have to bear the cost of social media outrage

I grew up on a street where three brothers who lived next door all vehemently supported different political parties. On Netaji's birthday, the brother who supported Subhas Bose's Forward Bloc always hung a giant portrait of Netaji from the balcony which belonged to another side of the family that supported the Congress. But CPI(M), CPI, Forward Bloc and Congress all seemed to live amiably enough in the same house. Now, we can barely co-exist on the same social media platform.

The difference is, these days we are fed an intravenous drip of 24x7 WhatsApp forwards, Facebook posts and Instagram reels. Social media algorithms keep delivering us the content it knows will feed into our sense of outrage and keep us hooked. It's like junk food for our ideological appetites.

This ideological polarisation gets more and more hard-baked in us, encouraged by the IT cells of political parties who keep feeding us information that will keep us in a state of perpetual ravenous frenzy while they practise business as usual.

So Raghav Chadha switches from Aam Aadmi Party to BJP as calmly as someone switching jobs, as if everything he once said about BJP is of no consequence anymore. Congress supports DMK but, once it loses, it seems happy to tie up with the winner, C Joseph Vijay's TVK. Mukul Roy, once regarded as the architect of Trinamool's victory in Bengal, switched over to arch-rival BJP in 2017 and took a parade of Trinamool office-bearers in his wake, all hoping their acche din was on hand. But Roy eventually returned home in 2021, and much of his retinue followed suit completely unembarrassed by the U-turns.

BJP's giant-killer in Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari, himself was at one time Mamata Banerjee's strongman. The ideologies of parties are supposed to be poles apart, but that doesn't stop them from poaching each other's top players as if they are rival football teams. The dust has not yet settled in Bengal but one can already sense some political leaders getting ready to change colour, so much so that Trinamool has set up a disciplinary committee to take action against leaders who speak against the party publicly.

Aaya Ram Gaya Ram has always been part and parcel of politics. The term itself dates back to Haryana in the 1960s, where one Gaya Lal changed his party allegiance thrice in rapid succession. It just shows that in the end, for many politicians, the real ideology they believe in is simply power.

The true loyalty to ideological beliefs is left to the citizens who put their faith in them. Old grand ideologies are supposed to be in decline in a post-Communist world, according to the famous essays by Daniel Bell which defined commitment to ideology as "the yearning for a 'cause' or the satisfaction of deep moral feelings."

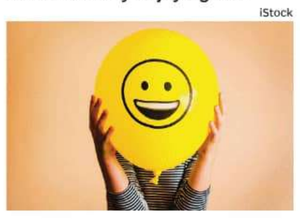
That commitment and yearning might now be the preserve of those of us fighting on social media in the aftermath of an election. But even then, the real cost will as always be borne not by those of us unfriending each other on social media, or even those switching parties in the halls of power, but ordinary people caught in the crossfire of the Rams who are gaya and the Rams who are newly aaya. They are the ones with the bullet wounds, broken bones and burned homes. ■

WORD DROP

## JOYSPAN

For a long time, tech bros and wellness coaches have focused on the importance of living a long life, with some like Bryan Johnson even pouring in billions to defy ageing. However, in the endless pursuit of productivity, longevity and self-optimisation, a new buzzword is asking a simple question: what's the point of living longer if you aren't actually enjoying life?

iStock



Enter joyspan, a trend that shifts the focus from lifespan and healthspan to the amount of joy, meaning and fulfilment one experiences over time. Coined by Kerry Burnight, it is viewed as an antidote to burnout culture. Unlike fleeting happiness driven by specific achievements and dopamine hits, it focuses on cultivating sustained emotional well-being through small, intentional acts such as nurturing friendships, embracing curiosity, and slowing down.

INBOX

## DON'T COMPARE

Apropos of 'A Chinese robot...'(ATM, May 3), in today's age of AI, the comparison between humans and humanoid is irrelevant in a marathon and in life. The former runs for purpose and emotions, while the victory of the latter marks the technical prowess of humans.

—**Madhulika Debnath,** Kolkata

Email your letters to the editor at *sunday.times@timesofindia.com* with 'Sunday Mailbox' in the subject line. Please mention your name and city

# BJP's Bengal win could pave the way for a Delhi-Dhaka reset

BY INVITATION



CONSTANTINO XAVIER

This week's historic BJP win in West Bengal brings a rare political alignment between New Delhi and Kolkata that could boost the connectivity agenda and help repair ties with Bangladesh. It offers opportunities for the state to emerge as an economic hub tied to Bangladesh, and to uplift the entire East South Asia region through new transportation and energy infrastructure linking Nepal and Bhutan, the northeast region, and the Bay of Bengal.

For years, the West Bengal govt remained largely absent as a policy driver to enhance India-Bangladesh economic interdependence. It remained either opposed or uninterested, claiming marginalisation. After vetoing the Teesta river deal in 2011 and only reluctantly supporting the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015, it became increasingly clear to New Delhi decision-makers that CM Mamata Banerjee was not willing to go out of her way to engage Dhaka. When Sheikh Hasina was in office, Kolkata could often be bypassed or ignored. But after her exit in 2024, this became unsustainable.

One example illustrates how Kolkata's political calculations hindered the bilateral connectivity agenda. In Oct 2024, home minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's largest and most modern passenger terminal at the Petrapole border with Bangladesh. This is South Asia's busiest land port and economic lifeline of bilateral trade, accounting for over 50% of total commerce. Coming just four months after Hasina's exit, the inauguration also sent an important signal to the Yunus-led regime: despite political differences, India would continue to build cross-border connectivity for mutual developmental benefits for the sub-region. Yet, aside from Shah and other dignitaries attending the ceremony, the state govt was conspicuously absent — no CM, no minister, not even a department head.

There will be many post-mortem narratives about the Delhi-Kolkata political tensions and partisan differences, but one thing is certain: in recent years, India's fourth-most populous state remained largely on the margins of the economic interdependence strategy being implemented with the world's eighth-largest country, right next door.

This week's political development is likely to alter that. It is particularly significant because it coincides with the change of guard in Dhaka, under a new BNP-led govt. Unlike Yunus, PM Tarique Rahman is both capable and willing to invest some of his political capital at home to normalise economic ties with India.

The state will also find new opportunities in Delhi, with PM Modi announcing a "new chapter" in bilateral ties. The appointment of Dinesh Trivedi as India's High Commissioner to Dhaka — with his vast experience in Kolkata — signals a clear commitment to repairing relations with Bangladesh, and giving the state a greater role through para-diplomacy. Assam exemplifies what can be achieved,



**BORDER BONHOMIE:** Easing visa, travel and trade curbs, and improving connectivity, can bear benefits for Bengal

as Guwahati has emerged as a sub-regional connectivity hub linking Bhutan, Bangladesh, and even Southeast Asia.

To normalise bilateral ties with Bangladesh, Kolkata's role will become increasingly significant and a few options stand out. The most important option is on water and joint river management, which would entail reviving the Teesta deal. Whether the Centre can deploy this as the mother of all confidence-building measures in Bangladesh will depend largely on how much political capital the new govt in Kolkata is willing to expend.

Second, India can unilaterally announce the lifting of trade restrictions and reinstitute the transshipment of export cargo from Bangladesh to third countries via ports such as Kolkata. This will benefit Bengal as an economic and maritime transit hub.

Third, India and Bangladesh must restart negotiations towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Success here will hinge on the willingness of the state govt and industries to drop protectionist measures, especially non-tariff barriers, to allow Bangladeshi exporters greater market access.

Fourth, recent visa and travel restrictions can be eased with significant returns for Bengal: before 2024, Kolkata was the main beneficiary of over two million visas issued annually to Bangladeshi citizens, generating revenue for the tourism, health and education sectors. This growth-oriented mobility agenda will require smart governance solutions and decoupling from the politically charged immigration issue. A final option relates to the state's potential as a hub for sub-regional energy and transportation connectivity between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal. After decades of delays, in 2024, India finally helped operationalise the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh. To sustain this momentum, the state will require massive investments to upgrade its road, rail, port, river, energy, and data links to form new multi-modal and economic growth corridors between Eastern India, Bangladesh, and the northeast states. The selection and sequencing of these measures will depend on cost-benefit assessments by all sides, though many obstacles remain. But the Bengal poll results offer the possibility of a double Delhi-Kolkata engine to accelerate India's connectivity strategy for Bangladesh. ■

*Xavier is senior fellow, Center for Social and Economic Progress. Views are personal.*

# US, Iran talks likely next week

## Tehran: Won't Pay Attention To Deadlines

US and Iran could resume negotiations as early as next week in Islamabad, according to a report by the Wall Street Journal citing people familiar with the matter. The report said both sides are working through mediators on the one-page, 14-point MoU intended to establish the framework for a month-long negotiating process aimed at ending the conflict. One of the main sticking points is the scope of potential sanctions relief for Tehran.

Meanwhile, a tenuous ceasefire appeared to be holding Saturday after US struck two Iranian oil tankers, while Bahrain, which hosts the US navy's regional headquarters, said it arrested 41 people it alleged were linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard. Bahrain is led by a Sunni monarchy but, like Iran, has a majority Shia population. Rights groups have said the kingdom has used the war as an excuse to crack down on dissent. Iran issued a warning to Bahrain. "Siding with the US-backed resolution will bring severe consequences. The Strait of Hormuz is a vital lifeline; do not risk closing it on yourselves FOREVER," Ebrahim Azizi, head of the national security commission of Iran's Parliament, said on social media.

Britain's defence ministry said it was deploying a warship to join a potential mission to protect commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz once hostilities end. The ministry said the HMS Dragon will "pre-position" in the region, ready to join a UK and French-led security plan. France announced this week it was moving its aircraft carrier strike group into the Red Sea.

In response to voices from US that they expected a response to their proposal soon, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said the country was not paying attention to "deadlines". A top Iranian official also said Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was in "complete health" and eventually would appear in public. AGENCIES

AFP



A responder stands by a body bag as colleagues search the rubble for victims at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon Saturday

## US sanctions firms in China, Hong Kong

US on Friday announced sanctions against 10 individuals and companies, including several in China and Hong Kong, over accusations they aided Iran's efforts to secure weapons and the raw materials needed to build its Shahed drones and ballistic missiles. The move comes days before Donald Trump's visit to China to meet Xi Jinping. REUTERS

## UAE slips hidden oil tankers through strait

With their location trackers shut off to avoid Iranian attacks, UAE and buyers have recently sailed several tankers loaded with crude through the Strait of Hormuz in a bid to move oil bottled up in the Gulf, according to industry sources and shipping data.

The volumes are a fraction of UAE's typical exports before the war on Iran but they demonstrate the risks the producer and buyers are willing to take to free up oil sales.

In April, UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Co managed to export at least 4 million barrels of its Upper Zakum crude and 2 million barrels of Das crude on four tankers from terminals inside the Gulf, according to three sources, shiptracking data from Kpler and an analysis of satellite data from SynMax.

The shipments were either unloaded by ship-to-ship transfer to a vessel that later carried the oil to Southeast Asia, unloaded into storage in Oman or sailed directly to South Korean refineries, according to the three sources. ADNOC declined to comment.

Kpler data showed the VLCC Hafeet loaded 2 million barrels of Upper Zakum inside the Gulf on April 7 and exited the strait on April 15. Outside the strait, the cargo was transferred to the Greek-flagged VLCC Olympic Luck on April 17-18 and shipped to the Pengerang refinery in Malaysia.

For Abu Dhabi's Das crude, the VLCC Aliakmon I loaded 2 million barrels on April 27 and exited the strait on May 2, discharging at Oman's Ras Markaz on May 3, Kpler data showed. Kpler and SynMax also found two Suezmax tankers carrying 1 million barrels each of Upper Zakum, headed to South Korea after exiting the strait. REUTERS

# Will use office to serve, not rule, says new Hungary PM

**Budapest:** Hungary's Peter Magyar, 45, took his oath of office on Saturday to become the country's new PM, ending Viktor Orban's 16 years of autocratic rule. Magyar's centre-right Tisza party defeated Orban's nationalist-populist Fidesz in a stunning blow last month, gaining more votes and seats in Parliament than any other party in Hungary's post-Communist history.

The win, which gave Tisza a two-thirds parliamentary majority, will allow it to roll back many of the policies that gave Orban a reputation among his critics as a far-right authoritarian.

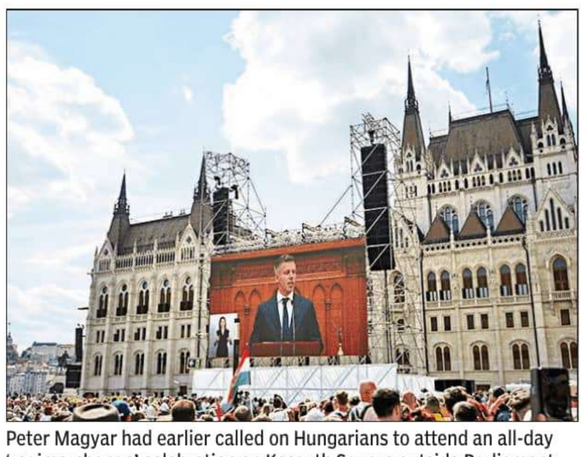
In a speech to lawmakers in Hungary's parliament after being sworn in, Magyar said he would not use his office to "rule" Hungary, "but to serve my homeland".

"I'm not standing here because I'm different from anyone else in the country," Magyar said. "I stand here because millions of Hungarians decided that they want change." Magyar has vowed to restore democratic institutions and governmental checks and balances that were heavily eroded during Orban's rule, and to clamp down on alleged corruption.

His govt is expected to transform political dynamics within EU, where the former PM had upended the bloc by frequently vetoing key decisions, most recently concerning support for Ukraine.

In his speech Saturday, Magyar referenced his intentions to hold former officials accountable for past abuses, saying voters had "given us a mandate to open a new chapter in Hungary's history".

"We must understand, however, that there can be no new beginning without reconciliation... no reconciliation without justice... no justice without confronting the past," he said. AP



Peter Magyar had earlier called on Hungarians to attend an all-day 'regime-change' celebration on Kossuth Square outside Parliament

## Nato countries brace for Trump to pull more troops

US allies in Europe anticipate that President Donald Trump will withdraw more forces from the continent after he announced he would pull 5,000 troops out of Germany, people familiar with the matter said.

Top diplomats from Nato allies forecast that Trump will announce more drawdowns, possibly including from Italy, and scrap a plan dating back to Joe Biden's presidency to station long-range missiles in Germany, said the sources.

Other scenarios include the US ending participation in some military exercises and diverting forces from countries it's unhappy with to others that are seen as more supportive, they said. The Pentagon declined to comment. BLOOMBERG

## No end-to-end encryption on Instagram now

US tech giant Meta has officially switched off end-to-end encrypted direct messages on Instagram, discontinuing the privacy-focused feature for users globally. The company said users with existing encrypted chats were being notified inside the app and urged to download any important media or messages they wished to keep.

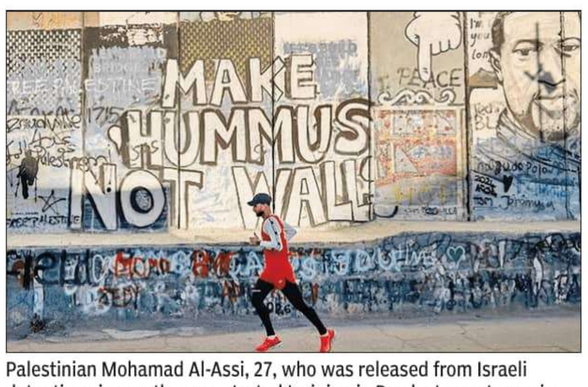
The move marks a reversal from Meta's plans to make encrypted messaging a standard feature across its apps. End-to-end encryption ensures only the sender and receiver can read messages. When the feature is removed, Meta will be able to access message content, including videos and voice notes, if required. IANS

# Israel widens Gaza control, plans more ops

Israel has expanded its control of Gazan territory and is considering more intense military action, further squeezing the war-torn enclave. The army advanced beyond the agreed temporary boundary and now controls 60% of Gaza, finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said this week. That figure was corroborated by another Israeli official and a foreign diplomat involved in monitoring the ceasefire. The original boundary gave Israel control of 53%.

"We are advancing and moving the yellow line and deepening the destruction of infrastructures," Smotrich said. It's been seven months since US President Donald Trump announced the Gaza ceasefire. The truce was to begin the area's rehabilitation following two years of Israeli strikes that killed tens of thousands of people and reduced vast sections to rubble. But with the wars in Iran and Lebanon shifting the focus away from Gaza, it's been sinking deeper into misery. Hamas isn't disarming, Israel is stepping up air strikes, and hundreds have been killed since the ceasefire went into effect.

Smotrich said Hamas's ability to re-arm is severely limited, but the group must be defeated. "We shall have to decide at what moment we'll go back to fighting in Gaza, and in what configuration," he said. Israel is weighing further air strikes to keep Hamas from rebuilding, a senior aide to Netanyahu said. That would likely entail district-by-district attacks. BLOOMBERG




Palestinian Mohamad Al-Assi, 27, who was released from Israeli detention six months ago, started training in Dec last year to run in the Palestine Marathon, held for the first time in three years on Friday

# Plane with 231 flyers runs over jaywalker, engine catches fire

**Washington/Denver:** A Frontier Airlines plane hit and killed a pedestrian on the Denver International Airport runway during takeoff, airport authorities said, sparking an engine fire and forcing passengers to evacuate.

"DEN can confirm that the pedestrian jumped the perimeter fence and was hit just two minutes later while crossing the runway," the statement said, adding, "The pedestrian is deceased, and is not believed to be an employee of the airport nor have they been identified."

The person "was at least partially consumed by one of the engines", ABC News reported citing an official.

The Airbus A321, bound for Los Angeles, was carrying 224 passengers and seven crew members, according to Frontier.

**The person 'was at least partially consumed by one of the engines', ABC News reported citing an official**

"We're stopping on the runway, we just hit somebody, we have an engine fire... There was an individual walking across the runway," the pilot of Frontier Airlines Flight 4345 told air traffic controllers at 11.19pm on Friday, according to audio from ATC.com.

The air traffic controller responded that they are "rolling the trucks now" before the pilot tells the tower they "have smoke in the aircraft. We are going to evacuate on the runway."

The plane was quickly evacuated and 12 passengers on the flight reported minor injuries. Five were transported to local hospitals, the airport said.

The Denver fire department said a brief engine fire was extinguished.

Transportation secretary Sean Duffy said local law enforcement was investigating the incident. "No one should EVER trespass on an airport," he wrote on X.

The airport authority said it had examined the fence line and found it to be intact. National Transportation Safety Board has been notified of the matter and the runway involved, 17L, will remain closed during the investigation. AGENCIES

## Peace in Ukraine still a very long way off: Russia

**Moscow:** The Kremlin on Saturday said the US was in a hurry to clinch a peace deal to end the Ukraine war but getting to any sort of agreement was a very long way off because the issues were so complicated.

Russia and Ukraine confirmed on Friday that they had agreed to a US-brokered three-day ceasefire that would run from May 9 to May 11, and US President Donald Trump said he hoped it would be extended.

"It is understandable that the American side is in a hurry," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told state television reporter Pavel Zarubin. "But the issue of a Ukrainian settlement is far too complex, and reaching a peace agreement is a very long way with complex details."

Russian troops have been fighting in Ukraine for well over four years. REUTERS

# Starmer appoints Brown as adviser after election flop

Naomi Canton

**London:** With Labour losing control of 36 councils and 1,436 councillors in the local polls and finishing second with Reform UK in the Scottish parliament, embattled PM Keir Starmer brought back former Labour PM **Gordon Brown** and appointed him as his "special envoy on global finance and cooperation" to "work with our international allies to build a stronger Britain".



Conservative MP Andrew Griffith tweeted a meme of Brown on a DeLorean outside No. 10 with the words "Back to the Past", saying: "As a 'Hail Mary pass' goes, bringing back Labour's biggest loser, who sold £40 billion of Britain's gold before leading Labour to a general election defeat, probably needs a bit of work..."

So far, 30 Labour MPs, including Barry Gardiner and Nadia Whittome, have called for Starmer to resign. But 80 Labour MPs would need to back anyone wanting to challenge his leadership under party rules. On TV, voters said they were fed up with the high cost of living, spiralling taxes, squeezed living standards and illegal immigration.

Reform UK by Saturday night, with just four councils left to declare, had gained 1,449 councillors and 14 councils, and the Greens gained 397 councillors and four councils. Labour MP Dan Carden wrote on X: "Britain's working and lower middle-class communities" see the Labour party "as run by and for progressive elites... the lanyard class".

Birmingham City council went from Labour-run to no overall control with a whole range of parties and 13 Independents, mostly Muslims on a Gaza ticket, winning. The alliance of Independent candidates was organised by activists Akhmed Yakoob and Shakeel Afsar. Afsar was part of the mob that descended on the Smethwick Hindu temple in Birmingham in 2022.

## Call for Scottish independence

Scotland's push for another independence referendum could be back in play after nationalists emerged to dominate the country's devolved parliament. The Scottish National Party won a fifth straight term, though failed to get a majority in the legislature. But record support for the Greens, who also want Scotland to secede from UK, means together they have more than half of the 129 seats. First Minister John Swinney Saturday called for Scotland to be given independence before the next general elections, warning the anti-immigrant Reform UK would win. AGENCIES

## Three PIOs found guilty of Canada couple's murder

**Abbotsford:** Three Indian-origin men have been found guilty of first-degree murder by a Canada court for the killing of a couple in Abbotsford, according to CBC News.

Arnold and Joanne De Jong were found dead in their residence in May 2022. British Columbia supreme court Justice Brenda Brown on Friday ruled that Gurkaran Singh, Abhijeet Singh and Khushveer Toor played an integral role in their murders. Prosecutors said the trio, who worked for a cleaning company, had jointly planned to rob and kill the couple. PTI

## China exports jump 14.1% from a year ago

**Hong Kong:** China's exports rose 14.1% in April from a year earlier, govt said Saturday, despite the Iran war and lingering impacts from higher US tariffs. The data was released days ahead of a meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing. This was a significant improvement from March's 2.5% year-on-year expansion. Exports to the US rose 11.3% from last year, up from a 26.5% drop in March. Imports climbed 25.3%, slower than the 27.8% growth in March. AP

## IMF board clears Pak's access to $1.3bn fresh funds

International Monetary Fund said Friday its board had completed reviews of some of its agreements with Pakistan, clearing the way for the nation to access about $1.3 billion in fresh funding. IMF said Pakistan would be able to draw around $1.1 billion under the extended fund facility and about $220 million under the resilience and sustainability facility, lifting total disbursements under the two programmes to about $4.8 billion. REUTERS

## Indonesian rescuers find hiker's body

**Jakarta:** Indonesian authorities Saturday located the position of two Singaporeans, although it was not known if they were alive, and recovered the body of an Indonesian female hiker after Mount Dukono erupted on Halmahera. "We have identified the coordinates. It's around the crater rim," rescue agency head Iwan Ramdani, said. "This is on drone surveillance and consistent with witness accounts." REUTERS

## DAILY PLANET

### Surfers in war-torn Gaza find relief and joy in waves

Despite the dire humanitarian crisis across the Gaza Strip, where a fragile ceasefire remains in place, a handful of Palestinian surfers are finding joy — and relief — riding the waves of the territory's Mediterranean coastal waters.

Only three or four men still surf due to a shortage of surfboards and the materials needed to fix damaged ones, said Tahseen Abu Assi, a surfer.

Assi carried his surfboard with him through every displacement he endured during the two-year war because, he said, he wouldn't be able to replace it. "If something happened to it I won't be able to get another one," he said, noting no boards have entered Palestinian territory since 2007.

Surfboards are among sports equipment banned by Israel. After the war began, the Israeli military heavily restricted sea activity in Gaza, with UN reporting some fishermen were attacked. Last year, Israel declared Gaza's waters a 'no-go zone', banning fishing, swimming and sea access. "There is fear of course, but we can't leave this sport," Assi said.

AP



'Affichage Libre' by artist Joachim Romain at Urban Art Biennale 2026 in Volklingen, Germany. Dozens of artists from 17 countries have converged on Volklingen Ironworks, one of Europe's most important industrial landmarks. The site is on Unesco's world heritage list

### Writing on released note matches one found after Epstein death: Experts

A note that a former cellmate said he discovered after Jeffrey Epstein's first suspected jail suicide attempt was all but certainly penned by the same person as a note that authorities found in the millionaire sex offender's cell after he killed himself, handwriting experts say. Three forensic document examiners who reviewed the notes concluded that they have or appear to have common authorship, with shared characteristics such as spacing, letter shapes, usage of capital letters and unique punctuation.

In the first note, made public this week, the writer states: "They investigated me for month — found nothing!!!" and talks about being able to choose the "time to say goodbye." The other note, which has been public for years, is a list of grievances about conditions at the jail, including the showers, food and "Giant Bugs".

While no one has definitively said Epstein wrote the notes, they point to his grim outlook before his death and echo some frustrations he conveyed to jail personnel about being confined in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan after living in luxury for decades. They also contain phrases he had used in the past.

### Parent company of Trump's Truth Social reports $400m loss

The parent company of Truth Social, President Donald Trump's social media platform, reported a net loss on Friday of more than $400 million in the first quarter, mostly from tumbling cryptocurrency valuations. Trump Media & Technology Group (TMTG) reported revenue of less than $1 million for the three months ending March 31, according to a company filing. The US president, who routinely uses Truth Social to make official announcements, controls about 41% of TMTG's shares, which are held in the trust established to manage his financial interests during his presidency.

# Hantavirus may've spread to remote island

**Amsterdam:** Health experts raced to contain a potential spread of hantavirus as two suspected cases emerged on Friday far from the luxury cruise liner where the outbreak started.

The latest reports involved a man who fell ill after leaving the ship and a woman who became sick after sitting near an infected cruise passenger on a plane.

The occurrences reported by health officials thousands of miles apart — one in Spain, the other on the remote South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha — are separate from WHO's tally of eight people who became ill aboard the Dutch-flagged ship, MV Hondius. Three of those people have died.

### Didn't cause outbreak: Argentine province

Officials in Argentina's Tierra del Fuego province are challenging the idea that the deadly hantavirus outbreak may have emerged from there, and pushing for investigations into the other Argentine provinces that passengers visited before boarding the ill-fated Atlantic cruise ship.

Current and former officials in the archipelago insist that the virus did not originate from the trash heap in Ushuaia that national health authorities named earlier this week as the most likely place two tourists contracted it while bird-watching. "I believe we are facing a smear campaign against this destination," Juan Facundo Petrina, the province's director of epidemiology, told reporters on Friday. Federal officials didn't contact local authorities initially — instead, they discovered the purported Ushuaia connection via media reports, he said. AP

Four patients remained hospitalised on Friday in South Africa, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The Hondius is en route to Tenerife in the Canary Islands, and expected to dock there early on Sunday.

The head of WHO sought on Saturday to reassure worried residents they were not in danger. WHO director general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, along with Spain health minister Monica Garcia and interior minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska will coordinate disembarkation on the island.

"I know you are worried. I know that when you hear the word 'outbreak' and watch a ship sail toward your shores, memories surface that none of us have fully put to rest. The pain of 2020 is still real, and I do not dismiss it for a single moment," Tedros said. "But I need you to hear me clearly: This is not another Covid. The current public health risk from hantavirus remains low."

Passengers and crew will be screened before disembarking under guidelines being finalised by WHO and other agencies. AGENCIES

# *Vatican softens towards LGBTQ+ Catholics*

**Vatican City:** The Vatican is sending new signals about how it intends to minister to LGBTQ+ Catholics in the Pope Leo XIV era, with signs of openness and limitations after Pope Francis ushered in a notable welcome during his 12-year pontificate.

Catholic LGBTQ+ advocates cheered this week when a Vatican working group released a report featuring the testimony of two gay, married Catholics who spoke about their sexuality, faith and how the church's negative teaching had hurt them.

Leo made clear during a recent news conference that he believed the church's teachings on social justice, equality and freedom were far more important than its teaching on sexual morality.

At that same conference, though, Leo indicated he would go no further than Francis on the contentious matter of same-sex blessings. The Vatican has recently renewed its opposition to any local efforts to deviate from the Holy See stance.

Rev James Martin, a Jesuit who has spearheaded the church's outreach to the LGBTQ+ community in the US, said, "If the Catholic Church has begun to listen to LGBTQ Catholics as part of its methodology, the church has already moved forward in a significant way."

But the signals have prompted criticism from conservatives, who have stressed official Catholic teaching says homosexuality is "intrinsically disordered".

The Vatican working group report summarised the work of experts studying controversial topics that emerged after Francis' year-long reform effort. The report has no binding value.

The testimony, contained in annexes published on the Vatican's synod website, featured accounts of how one man sometimes struggled with his faith because of insensitive remarks from a Catholic spiritual director and "conversion therapy". The other testimony, from an American, said, "My sexuality isn't a perversion, disorder, or cross; it's a gift from God." AP



Pope Leo has indicated he doesn't intend to prioritise the issue

## Lankan monk held for sexual abuse of minor

**Colombo:** One of Sri Lanka's most senior Buddhist monks was arrested on Friday for the sexual abuse of a minor, police said. Venerable Pallegama Hemarathana (71) is the chief priest of a prominent temple. He was taken into custody from a private hospital after a magistrate's court in Anuradhapura issued an arrest warrant against him, as well as the girl's mother for allegedly aiding and abetting the child abuse. PTI

# City keep the dream alive

## Pep's Men Cut Arsenal's Lead To Two Points With Brentford Win

**Manchester:** Manchester City kept the Premier League title race bubbling with a 3-0 win over Brentford on Saturday thanks to second-half goals by Jeremy Doku, Erling Haaland and Omar Marmoush as they cut the gap with leaders Arsenal to two points with three games left.

Pep Guardiola's City have 74 points from 35 games but their draw at Everton on Monday means they need Arsenal - who visit relegation-threatened West Ham United on Sunday - to squander points in one of their remaining games to have a chance at the title.

City dominated much of Saturday's game at The Etihad but Brentford held strong before Doku produced a moment of brilliance on the hour mark, cutting inside from the left and curling a right-foot shot into the top corner. Haaland gave City a two-goal cushion when he bundled the ball into the net after 75 minutes with a backheel from close range past goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

Marmoush then struck deep in injury time as City remained unbeaten in the league since January.

The boos rang as Liverpool failed to wrap up Champions League qualification as they were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors Chelsea, with Bournemouth moving into sixth place with a 1-0 victory at Fulham. Manchester United, who are already assured of a top-five finish, were held to a 0-0 draw at Sunderland.

Enzo Fernandez's free kick secured a point for Chelsea to end the club's six-game losing run in the Premier League. Liverpool had taken an early lead with a wonderful strike fby Ryan Gravenberch. AGENCIES

**EPL: HOW THEY STAND**

| | P | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|
| Arsenal | 35 | +41 | 76 |
| Man City | 35 | +40 | 74 |



AP

City's goalscorers Erling Haaland (left) and Jeremy Doku celebrate

## IRAN LAYS DOWN CONDITIONS FOR WC PARTICIPATION

**Tehran:** Iran's football federation said on Saturday that the men's national team will take part in the 2026 World Cup this summer, but demanded that joint hosts the US, Mexico and Canada agree to its conditions amid the war. "We will definitely participate in the 2026 World Cup, but the hosts must take our concerns into account," the Iranian federation said on its official website. Tehran has 10 conditions for attending the global spectacle, seeking assurances over the country's treatment.

**Messi backs Neymar's inclusion in Brazil squad:** Lionel Messi has backed Neymar to be included in Brazil's squad. "Neymar, no matter his form, will always be one of the best," Messi said.

# Arbeloa wants to 'turn the page'

## Tchouameni In Clasico Squad, Valverde Recovering After Scuffle As Real Need A Win To Delay Rivals Barcelona's Liga Celebrations

**Barcelona:** Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa has defended players Federico Valverde and Aurelien Tchouameni, saying their apologies for having scuffled were enough to settle the incident that led the club to fine both of them 500,000 euros.

"My players recognized their mistake, expressed their remorse and asked for forgiveness," Arbeloa told reporters in Madrid on Saturday in his first public appearance since the fight. "That is enough," he said. "What I am not going to do is burn them on a pyre in a town square, because they don't deserve that. It is time to turn the page."

And now a trip to Camp Nou with everything to lose. Madrid are facing a second straight season without a major trophy, despite having France star Kylian Mbappe on the squad. Tchouameni will be in Madrid's squad for the clasico, Arbeloa said, while Valverde is on medical leave. AP



Valverde (left) suffered a head wound in a tussle with Tchouameni

# Niemann pockets GCT Poland title

Hans Niemann, the 22-year-old American who is world No. 12 in classical chess, capitalised on his chances to win the GCT Super Rapid & Blitz Poland title ahead of a more celebrated field in Warsaw on Saturday. The wildcard pocketed the top prize of $50,000 with five wins, two defeats and two draws on the final day.

Niemann tallied 22.5 points and kept his nearest rivals in the 10-player field at bay.

World champion D Gukesh lost a second blitz game in as many days to his World Championship challenger, Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan. Gukesh and Sindarov finished sixth and tied seventh respectively. TNN

# De Jong eyes historic Clasico



Barcelona

**Moushumi.Bora**@timesofindia.com

**LA LIGA: HOW THEY STAND**

| | P | W | D | L | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona | 34 | 29 | 1 | 4 | 88 |
| Real Madrid | 34 | 24 | 5 | 5 | 77 |

**Frenkie de Jong** flashed his pearly whites as he sat in the interview room, dressed in Barcelona's training blue with bright yellow trims. It was an assured look of a player, aware that history is one match away.

This Sunday, Hansi Flick's Barcelona can clinch the league crown against their eternal rivals, Real Madrid, in a Clasico that means much more than bragging rights. Such an occasion has never arisen in La Liga's 97-year-old history.

The grand episode is set to unfold at the refurbished Camp Nou, which will stage its first Clasico in more than 1,000 days. In the October Bernabeu meeting between the clubs, Madrid's victory had opened a five-point gap at the top of the table. Now Barcelona lead by 11, needing only a draw to secure the championship with only 4 matches to play.

"The approach is the same because we always prepare to win," De Jong said. "But of course, the feeling is different. It's El Clasico, and now it's even more special because we can win La Liga."

Madrid enter the weekend amid turbulence with internal clashes, coaching uncertainty, and indifferent form, while Barca are bouncing on belief. "There are moments in a season where a team grows," De Jong said. "We are more reliable now. We've always had quality, but form, injuries and availability matter. Madrid has a great team, but maybe they are not in their best moment."

In matches of this magnitude, the midfield may determine the outcome, and Barcelona's lack of a defensive fulcrum in the nature of Sergio Busquets is a recurring point of discussion. Especially with exits in the semis and quarters of the Champions League in consecutive seasons. De Jong dismissed the notion that Barcelona lack balance in the centre. "We have a great midfield," he said. "Injuries always affect a team, but our strength is depth in that area."

However, he acknowledged the lingering frustration in Europe. "The Champions League was disappointing because we thought we could go further," he said. "But overall, we've had a good season. Winning the league requires more consistency."

At only 28, De Jong has quietly become Barcelona's longest-serving first-team player (318 matches) and the Dutchman with the most appearances in club history, extending a lineage deeply tied to the Netherlands and influential figures like Johan Cruyff.

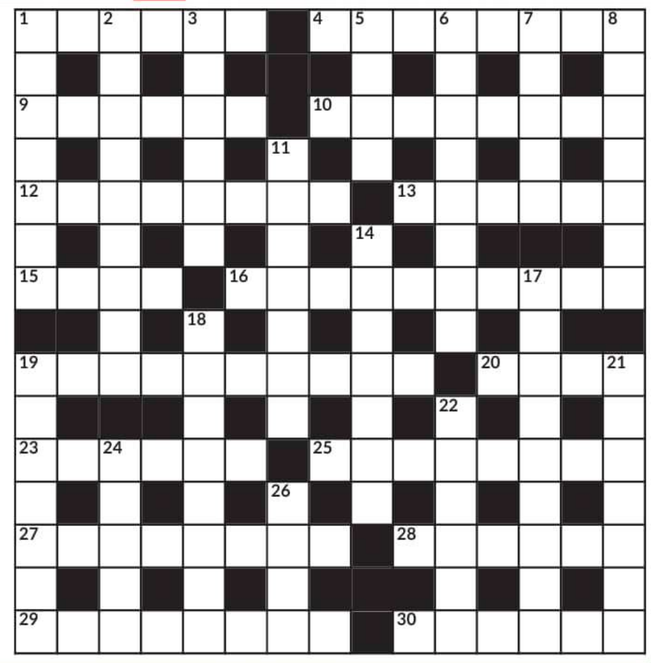
His own career has been interrupted at times by injury. And now he finds himself guiding a younger generation, particularly Lamine Yamal, whose rapid ascent has brought both acclaim and scrutiny off the field. A hamstrung Yamal will miss Sunday's match, and this season has been undermined by concerns over his ongoing 'pubalgia' condition despite his starry performances.

"He should continue exactly as he is," De Jong said. "He should enjoy football the way he always has. If he keeps doing that, I believe he will have a great career." (WATCH EL CLASICO LIVE AND EXCLUSIVELY ON FANCODE FROM 00:30 HRS ON MAY 11)

## THE TOI CROSSWORD

**CROSSWORD No. TCC#0271**

The **TOI Crossword contest** is on a short break, but the crossword itself will continue to be featured in The Sunday Times of India, so that you can continue to relish the challenge every week. **Stay tuned!**



The Times of India CROSSWORD EVERY SUNDAY

### CRYPTIC CLUES

**Across**

1 Times editor taken out (6)
4 Is inquisitive about the tank and soldiers (8)
9 Get out of bed (6)
10 Cut back solidified fish (8)
12 Note eye-catching gadget for pruning (8)
13 Stable form of electricity (6)
15 Wild rose - the symbol of love (4)
16 He has a habit of hoarding his wares (10)
19 Warmer in the main (4,6)
20 The expedition set off (4)
23 It may be carried on though bylaws forbid it (6)
25 Gave notice (8)
27 He may pass on what he knows (8)
28 Grubby residence (6)
29 Aggravates school head? That's not called for (8)
30 The significance of graven images out East (6)

**Down**

1 Be equal to change in uniform (7)
2 Occasional butt from goat following girl (5,4)
3 The eras of Cheops? (6)
5 One run scrambled for the overthrow (4)
6 Holiday with Virginia getting accountant into trouble (8)
7 Food and drink to someone (5)
8 I'd enter uphill races beside the motorcycle (7)
11 Doctor has to tell stories about dramatist (7)
14 Delighted when record rise took the pressure off (7)
17 Rejects tutors who spell badly (6,3)
18 Particular pieces muddled by a learner (8)
19 Coward and criminal come up in a sailing vessel (7)
21 They're too keen on minor details and burst into tantrums (7)
22 Lose a point at tennis and go for runs at cricket (3,3)
24 Record start of the event (5)
26 They may be placed but are best misplaced (4)

### QUICK CLUES

**Across**

1 Renowned (6) 4 Announce officially (8)
9 A gamebird (6) 10 A sovereign's daughter (8)
12 First-rate (3-5) 13 A card game (6)
15 Bankruptcy (4) 16 Having achieved one's aim (4,3,3) 19 Killjoy (3,7) 20 To barter (4) 23 Sanity (6)
25 Aggressively enterprising person (2-6)
27 In point of fact (8) 28 Saunter (6) 29 Amount of business done (8) 30 Lack of interest (6)

**Down**

1 Combat aircraft (7) 2 Debatable issue (4,5)
3 Outcome (6) 5 Underdone (4) 6 Face up to (8)
7 Correct errors in (5) 8 The upper hand (7)
11 Description (7) 14 Evolve (7) 17 Forgo (2,7)
18 Land of golden opportunity (2,6) 19 Justify (7)
21 A culinary herb (7) 22 Repressed (4-2)
24 In pursuit of (5) 26 Depressed (4)

### SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | E | R | B | E | T | ■ | C | O | C | K | P | I | T |
| E | ■ | Q | ■ | A | ■ | O | ■ | R | ■ | A | ■ | U | ■ | I |
| R | O | U | N | D | U | P | ■ | O | R | D | E | R | E | D |
| V | ■ | A | ■ | L | ■ | I | ■ | S | ■ | R | ■ | P | ■ | I |
| A | L | L | A | Y | ■ | C | A | S | S | E | R | O | L | E |
| N | ■ | L | ■ | M | ■ | ■ | ■ | B | ■ | ■ | ■ | S | ■ | S |
| T | R | Y | H | A | R | D | E | R | ■ | S | W | E | E | T |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | ■ | U | ■ | E | ■ | H | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | O | P | S | E | ■ | B | A | D | M | I | N | T | O | N |
| U | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | P | ■ | O | ■ | O | ■ |
| S | H | E | E | P | F | O | L | D | ■ | W | O | M | A | N |
| H | ■ | S | ■ | H | ■ | U | ■ | R | ■ | R | ■ | C | ■ | S |
| I | N | S | T | I | L | S | ■ | E | L | E | G | A | N | T |
| O | ■ | E | ■ | A | ■ | L | ■ | A | ■ | C | ■ | T | ■ | O |
| N | O | D | E | L | A | Y | ■ | M | A | K | E | S | U | P |

QUICK

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | L | O | S | S | O | M | ■ | C | O | M | M | E | N | D |
| U | ■ | V | ■ | T | ■ | E | ■ | O | ■ | I | ■ | N | ■ | R |
| I | N | E | X | A | C | T | ■ | M | E | D | I | A | T | E |
| L | ■ | R | ■ | L | ■ | E | ■ | E | ■ | A | ■ | B | ■ | S |
| D | R | A | K | E | ■ | R | O | C | K | S | O | L | I | D |
| U | ■ | L | ■ | M | ■ | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | E |
| P | U | L | L | A | F | A | C | E | ■ | S | U | D | A | N |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | ■ | T | A | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| D | O | D | G | E | ■ | A | D | N | A | U | S | E | A | M |
| R | ■ | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | G | ■ | ■ | ■ | W | ■ | M | ■ | A |
| E | M | B | A | T | T | L | E | D | ■ | E | L | A | N | D |
| S | ■ | I | ■ | A | ■ | R | ■ | S | ■ | N | ■ | N | ■ | N |
| S | H | O | T | G | U | N | ■ | O | U | T | R | A | G | E |
| E | ■ | U | ■ | E | ■ | C | ■ | L | ■ | E | ■ | T | ■ | S |
| R | E | S | E | R | V | E | ■ | L | A | R | G | E | S | S |



# Cong struggles for consensus as CM hopefuls push claims

## Party Warns Kerala Netas Over Protests

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Amid a strong claim of Kerala leader V D Satheesan to the CM's post, Congress brass Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi Saturday brainstormed the selection of the next leader in the state, while hearing out the three aspirants that include K C Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala.

Venugopal is a strong contender for the top job.

The party also lashed out at the protest marches and social media campaign taken out by factional supporters, widely viewed as a reference to the actions of the Satheesan camp targeting Venugopal. The crucial meeting included AICC observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik, and state president Sunny Joseph. AICC state incharge Deepa Dasmunshi said, "A decision will be taken in due course."

Though Congress-led UDF has won Kerala by a landslide, hard bargaining by Satheesan and Venugopal for the top post has created suspense over the last few days. Satheesan — who as the LoP was the face of the party for the last five years — has been vocal in his claim to the CM's post, and a general atmosphere in the state, too, exists in his favour.

Congress partners in UDF too are strongly backing Satheesan whom they credit for leading the battle against the Left front govt.

While AICC observers Maken and Wasnik, who met the state legislators Thursday, found that an overwhelming bloc of newly-elected MLAs support Rahul Gandhi confidant Venugopal, they are also said to have spoken about factoring in the "public sentiment". They briefed Kharge and Rahul first, before the top duo met the CM claimants separately.

Sources said the party does not want to displease any of the leaders who are left out, and is keen to evolve a consensus. "Else the decision would have been announced by now," a source said. Importantly, Sonia Gandhi was also consulted by Kharge and Rahul. The top duo is learnt to have pulled up the state leaders for taking out campaigns on the leadership in their favour.



ANI

Kerala chief minister aspirants V D Satheesan (L), K C Venugopal (2nd R) and Ramesh Chennithala (R) along with party's state chief Sunny Joseph (2nd L) in New Delhi on Saturday

## 6 new faces likely in Yogi cabinet today

**Lucknow:** A day after the grand swearing-in ceremony of the Suvendu Adhikari govt in Bengal, the Yogi Adityanath cabinet will see an expansion on Sunday.

With the next big electoral battle slated in Uttar Pradesh early next year, it will be a tightrope walk for BJP to ensure regional and caste balance in what's going to be the last expansion/reshuffle before the polls, report **Rajiv Srivastava and Pankaj Shah**.

In a house of 403 members, BJP and its allies have 54 ministers, with a scope for inducting six more. The ministry, therefore, is likely to have six new faces, while portfolios of some ministers are likely to change, depending on their performance.

The swearing-in ceremony for the new ministers is likely to take place at 3 pm.

This is the second expansion of the Yogi 2.0 ministry.

# Crime numbers & crime rates don't always tell the same story

▶Continued from P 1

A mathematical glitch ensures that crime rates in large Indian cities tend to fall sharply in a Census year.

Here's why: NCRB uses the same city population until the next Census because official city-wise projections are not available. A constant divisor makes the rate look progressively inflated. When the Census finally updates population, the rate can fall dramatically even if the actual number of crimes has not fallen.

Similar issues appear in other NCRB categories. Crime rates against children, and crimes committed by juveniles, use India's under-18 population from the 2011 Census — 44.4 crore. But with fertility rates falling, UN estimates suggest the under-18 population is now around 43.3 crore. That means juvenile crime rates and crimes against children may be slightly understated in NCRB's calculations.

The reverse may be true for senior citizens. NCRB uses the 2011 senior citizen population — 10.4 crore people aged 60 or above.

But India is ageing, and UN estimates put the 60-plus population in 2024 at 15.7 crore. If so, NCRB may be substantially overstating the rate of crime against senior citizens.

The lesson: crime numbers and crime rates do not always tell the same story. The number of crimes is an annual count.

The rate depends heavily on the population used in the denominator. In Census years, that denominator changes — and with it, the crime rate can appear to improve overnight.

**HOW CRIME RATES FELL WITH 2011 CENSUS**
Cities with steepest fall, continued from pg 1 table

| Cities | 2010 | | | 2011 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | IPC crimes | Pop* | Rate | IPC crimes | Pop* | Rate | +- |
| Bhopal | 11,974 | 15 | 823 | 12,570 | 19 | 668 | -155 |
| Lucknow | 10,316 | 23 | 455 | 8,891 | 29 | 307 | -149 |
| Rajkot | 4,024 | 10 | 402 | 3,939 | 14 | 283 | -118 |
| Hyderabad | 17,549 | 55 | 317 | 15,657 | 77 | 202 | -115 |
| Pune | 13,602 | 38 | 362 | 12,622 | 51 | 250 | -112 |
| Jaipur | 16,717 | 23 | 719 | 18,897 | 31 | 615 | -104 |
| Coimbatore | 4,180 | 14 | 289 | 4,030 | 22 | 187 | -102 |
| Nasik | 4,484 | 12 | 389 | 4,512 | 16 | 289 | -101 |
| Delhi (City) | 45,994 | 128 | 360 | 47,212 | 163 | 289 | -70 |
| Mumbai | 33,932 | 164 | 207 | 32,647 | 184 | 177 | -30 |

*Population in Lakh | Source : NCRB

## She beat me even when I was ill: Nanny

▶Continued from P 1

According to the complaint, the alleged harassment began in 2021. "Even when I was ill, she would beat me. I was assaulted several times. The last assault took place on April 15, after which I was locked inside the house," Nianghaunuam alleged in the FIR filed at Mico Layout police station.

The nanny further claimed she was denied food on May 4 this year, forcing her to seek help from neighbours.

Bengaluru police have registered a case under BNS Sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 127(4) (wrongful confinement).

IIM-B officials said they had extended assistance to the woman despite the fact that she was not employed through the institute's contractors. "We remain committed to following the law, due process and doing the right thing," IIM-B said in a statement.

## Show-cause notices issued to 15 over pro-Satheesan marches

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**T'puram:** Congress leadership in Kerala has initiated disciplinary proceedings against party members who organised public demonstrations in support of V D Satheesan, amid escalating tensions over the issue of chief ministership.

The party has issued show-cause notices to around 15 functionaries, including KPCC member Chempazhanthy Anil and INTUC Thiruvananthapuram district president V R Prathapan, for allegedly defying the high command's directives.

The disciplinary action follows a public show of strength in Thiruvananthapuram Thursday by those backing Satheesan. The notice warned that action would be initiated if the explanations are found unsatisfactory.

Congress state president Sunny Joseph is also learnt to have submitted a report to AICC general secretary Deepa Dasmunshi, highlighting what the party described as serious indiscipline by a section of functionaries.

Despite the disciplinary action, the protest marches backing Satheesan continued across the state even on Saturday.

# Azim Premji Univ suspends student over Kashmir event row

**SruthySusan.Ullas**
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**REVOKE SUSPENSION: COLLEGEMATES**

- **Dispute centres on a discussion** organised by Spark APU on Feb 24, 2026, **on the Kunan Poshpora incident in Kashmir**
- **Outsiders allegedly belonging to ABVP** enter campus and **disrupt event even before it starts**
- The university suspends one student for 2 years and **issues warnings to two others**
- Over 40 students demand revocation of suspension, calling the **punishment 'equivalent to expulsion'**
- Students allege they were **being held responsible for violence carried out by outsiders**

**Bengaluru:** Azim Premji University (APU) has suspended a student for two years and issued written warnings to two others over a controversy surrounding a planned discussion this Feb on a contentious Kashmir issue that was cancelled after suspected ABVP activists stormed in and vandalised the venue.

The suspended student is likely to seek a review of the decision. More than 40 students gathered on the campus Friday, demanding revocation of the suspension.

A group called Spark APU reading circle — affiliated to All-India Students Association — had planned the discussion marking 35 years of the Kunan Poshpora case in which some soldiers were accused of atrocities against women in the twin villages of Kunan and Poshpora in Kupwara. An official probe had subsequently closed the case, terming the claims "baseless".

Before the APU event began, around 25 alleged members of ABVP barged into the campus, damaging properties, attacking security guards and raising slogans. Police later detained the members, all outsiders. The event was called off.

APU students criticised the constitution of a "Special Disciplinary Committee" by the university, asking they were being held responsible for violence allegedly carried out by outsiders. APU authorities stood by the decision. "Azim Premji University conducted a thorough inquiry," a university spokesperson said in a statement.

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| 1. | Operation and Watch and Ward of Fountains in various Green Belts/Parks at varoious locations under the jurisdictionof SDE MC PH Sub Divn.No.19,Chandigarh under Revenue Head. Amount : Rs. 98,41,104/- Time Limit : 12 Months Earnest Money : Rs. 1,96,822/- Tender Fee : Rs. 3000/- | 08.05.2026 at 5.30 P.M to 15.05.2026 at 3.00 P.M. | 15.05.2026 at 3.00 P.M. |

**CONDITIONS**
1. The tender documents will be downloaded by the contractors / bidders from the website Chandigarh.nic.in/Chandigarh.gov./tenders.gov.in

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TODAY'S FACE-OFF
RCB vs MI
TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 35
Won by RCB 16 (45.72%)
Won by MI 19 (54.28%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
RCB L L W W L
MI W L L L W
VENUE: RAIPUR
ODDS
RCB 8/10 | MI 11/10

# IPL 2026



"WE'VE BEEN PLAYING VERY GOOD CRICKET. I WANT TO GIVE CREDIT TO OUR BOWLING COACHES, TIM SOUTHEE AND DWAYNE BRAVO. THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD WITH OUR BOWLERS. IT'S BEEN FANTASTIC."
—Ajinkya Rahane | KKR Captain

# THE GILL & RASHID SHOW

## Opening Stand Powers GT to 229/4 Before Star Afghan Spinner & Holder Get Into The Act To Bowl Royals Out for 152

**Mandakini.Shalya**@timesofindia.com

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan Royals did not so much lose the chase as surrender it in instalments. Set 230 after Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan had laid waste to their attack, Royals folded for 152 in 16.3 overs at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Saturday, handing Gujarat Titans a 77-run win and a significant lift in the playoff race.

This was the same Royals side that had edged Titans by six runs in Ahmedabad earlier in the season. Here, under the squeeze of the business end, they looked a team with cold feet. There was a brief blaze from Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Dhruv Jurel, but once Rashid Khan entered the game, the chase unravelled quickly.

RR were not short of intent at the start. Sooryavanshi, brought in as 'impact player', smashed 36 off 16 balls to give the innings early life.

But Mohammed Siraj had him caught in the third over and Kagiso Rabada removed stand-in captain Yashasvi Jaiswal for three runs soon after. By the time Rabada also accounted for Shimron Hetmyer, the Royals were 68/3 in 5.4 overs despite the run-rate.

Jurel briefly changed the mood with 24 off 10 balls but Rashid found his range immediately. A googly breached Jurel in the eighth over and, two balls later, Donovan Ferreira was beaten by a leg-break. The Royals' Powerplay gallop of 78/3 had become 91/5 by the end of the eighth.

Ravindra Jadeja tried to stretch the contest with 38 off 25 balls but Rashid returned to bowl Shubham Dubey and trap Jadeja LBW, finishing with 4/33. Jason Holder then cleaned up the lower order with 3/12 as Royals collapsed with 21 balls unused.

Earlier, Titans openers made Royals pay for choosing to bowl first. Gill and Sudharsan stitched together 118 in 65 balls, their partnership headlined by an 82-run Powerplay. Gill's 84 off 44 balls was all timing and command. Sudharsan's 55 off 36 carried the same quiet efficiency that has made him one of Gujarat's most reliable run-makers.

Jofra Archer set the tone for RR's indiscipline. His opening over lasted 11 balls — equalling the longest-over mark in the IPL — and went for 18, full of wides, a no-ball and overthrows. Archer finished with a poor 0/46 from his three overs.

**462** Shubman Gill's run-aggregate at an average of 46.2, including four fifties in 10 innings, is his second highest as captain in an IPL season. For the third time, he has scored 400+ runs as captain for GT.

**3** Successive seasons in which Sai Sudharsan has scored 400+ runs — 527 runs (ave 47.9) in 2024; 759 (ave 54.21) in 2025 & 440 (ave 40) in 2026.

PTI



DYNAMIC DUO: Sai Sudharsan and Shubman Gill in Jaipur on Saturday

### SCOREBOARD

**GT:** S Sudharsan c Archer b Y Punja 55, S Gill c Deshpande b B Sharma 84, J Buttler c Ferreira b Jadeja 13, W Sundar not out 37, J Holder c Jaiswal b B Sharma 7, R Tewatia not out 14, **Extras: (b-1, lb-1, nb-1, w-16) 19; Total: (for 4 wkts) 229; FoW:** 1-118, 2-150, 3-185, 4-205; **Bowling:** J Archer 3-0-46-0, T Deshpande 4-0-52-0, B Sharma 4-0-47-2, Y Punja 4-0-37-1, R Jadeja 4-0-34-1, D Ferreira 1-0-11-0.

**RR:** Y Jaiswal c Sindhu b Rabada 3, V Sooryavanshi c Arshad b Siraj 36, D Jurel b Rashid 24, S Hetmyer c Holder b Rabada 6, R Jadeja lbw b Rashid 38, D Ferreira b Rashid 4, S Dubey b Rashid 15, D Shanaka c Gill b Holder 16, J Archer c Buttler b Holder 5, T Deshpande c Sundar b Holder 1, B Sharma not out 1; **Extras: (lb-1, w-2) 3; Total: (16.3 ovrs) 152; FoW:** 1-38, 2-40, 3-68, 4-87, 5-91, 6-115, 7-136, 8-141, 9-151, 10-152; **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-55-1, Rabada 3-0-33-2, Kishore 1-0-8-0, Rashid 4-0-33-4, Sundar 2-0-10-0, Holder 2.3-0-12-3.

**Result:** GT won by 77 runs

### MOST CENTURY STANDS IN THE IPL

| Pair | For | I | NO | Runs | HP | Ave | 100 | 50 | RR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AB de Villiers/Virat Kohli | RCB | 76 | 5 | 3123 | 229 | 43.98 | 10 | 11 | 9.34 |
| Chris Gayle/Virat Kohli | RCB | 59 | 6 | 2787 | 204* | 52.58 | 9 | 12 | 8.88 |
| Sai Sudharsan/Shubman Gill | GT | 43 | 1 | 2578 | 210 | 61.38 | 9 | 11 | 9.6 |

### HOW THEY STAND

| TEAM | M | W | L | NR | NRR | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SRH | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0.737 | 14 |
| GT | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0.228 | 14 |
| PBKS | 10 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0.571 | 13 |
| RCB | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 1.234 | 12 |
| RR | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 0.082 | 12 |
| CSK | 10 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0.151 | 10 |
| KKR | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | -0.169 | 9 |
| DC | 11 | 4 | 7 | 0 | -1.154 | 8 |
| MI | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | -0.649 | 6 |
| LSG | 10 | 3 | 7 | 0 | -0.934 | 6 |

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# RCB seek Raipur reset against MI

## Jitesh Slump Adds To Defending Champs' Worries

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**Raipur:** After a strong start to their title defence, Royal Challengers Bengaluru have hit turbulence at a delicate stage of the IPL. Four wins from their first five matches had put them in control. Three defeats in their next games have now raised questions about their momentum as the playoff race tightens.

With four league games left, Rajat Patidar's team will look to tidy up quickly when they take on Mumbai Indians at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium on Sunday night. RCB remain well placed but recent performances have exposed familiar cracks. The bowling has blown hot and cold. The bigger concern is Jitesh Sharma's slide.

The 32-year-old was one of the vital cogs in RCB's title-winning run last season, bringing composure and violence to the finisher's role. This year, that assurance has deserted him. Across 10 matches and eight innings, Jitesh has managed only 64 runs at an average of eight, with 23 being his highest score. The contrast with 2025 — 261 runs at 37.2 and a strike rate of 176.4 — is stark.

His failures under pressure have brought scrutiny on the game awareness that once made him such a trusted late-overs option. More worryingly for RCB, fast bowlers have found a clear route through him. Jitesh has fallen to pace seven times in eight innings while scoring just 28 runs. Even his old remark — "I always pray to God for the top order to collapse so I can bat and score" — has resurfaced awkwardly amid his poor run.

It is not Jitesh alone. RCB's batting has looked uncertain in recent outings, particularly in defeats to Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants. Phil Salt's finger injury has disturbed the top order and Jacob Bethell, used in his place, has not yet settled despite flashes of promise. That has increased the load on Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal and skipper Patidar.

Mumbai, ninth with six points from 10 matches, are still mathematically alive but have little room left.

Hardik Pandya will miss the game because of a back spasm, with Suryakumar Yadav set to lead again after rejoining the squad.

WEATHER 34°C

**29** Jasprit Bumrah, with 29 wickets at 21.24 in 21 matches is the leading wicket-taker for MI vs RCB.

**215** An unbroken match-winning partnership between AB de Villiers and Virat Kohli for the second wicket at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai on May 10, 2015 remains the highest partnership for RCB for any wicket vs MI.

—**Stats:** Rajesh Kumar

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
CSK vs LSG
TV TIME: 3.30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

HEAD TO HEAD
CSK 3 | LSG 3

LAST FIVE MATCHES
CSK W W L W L
LSG W L L L L

VENUE: CHENNAI
WEATHER 33°C

# Revived Super Kings look to press on

## Hosts Eye Third Straight Win As Super Giants Cling To Slim Playoff Hopes

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**Chennai:** CSK are riding the winds of change. After beginning the season with three straight defeats, they have stitched together back-to-back wins to pull themselves into playoff contention with 10 points from 10 games.

Even bottom-placed Lucknow Super Giants, on six points from 10, are not out of the race mathematically, improbable as it may look. They need to win their remaining four matches and hope other results fall their way.

When the teams meet at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday afternoon, the stakes will be unforgiving.

For CSK, victory can give their late push real weight. For LSG, another slip could leave their campaign at the exit door. The immediate question is whether Lucknow's newly-settled batting unit can withstand the heat of a CSK attack that has found rhythm at just the perfect time.

After weeks of playing musical chairs with their batting XI, LSG appear to have found some stability. Mitchell Marsh rediscovered his destructive touch with a spectacular hundred in their rain-hit win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru. Skipper Rishabh Pant and Nicholas Pooran, both searching for fluency, chipped in with brisk cameos too.

Their bigger test, though, will be against a disciplined CSK bowling unit. Anshul Kamboj, the season's joint-leading wicket-taker, has led the pace group with clarity while Jamie Overton, Mukesh Choudhary and Gurjapneet Singh have supplied energy and bite. In CSK's clinical win over Delhi Capitals in their previous outing, the bowlers restricted the hosts to 155/7 before Sanju Samson finished the chase with authority.

AP



SANJU SAMSON

ODDS
CSK 7/10 | LSG 5/4

Crompton Fans
SPIN IN STYLE
ACTIV BLDC
CROMPTON NITEO FAN

# Prince blossoms under coach Arun

Reuters



PRINCE YADAV

**Neha.Surana**@timesofindia.com

**Chennai:** During their game against RCB on Thursday, LSG's right-arm pacer Prince Yadav produced a 140.4kph delivery that nipped back sharply and went through the gate to crash Virat Kohli's off stump. It was Kohli's first IPL duck since 2023 and he was left visibly stunned.

LSG's bowling coach Bharat Arun said such a delivery is not a matter of chance but of persistence and craft. "We even spoke about it with Kohli, and he asked, 'how did he bowl that ball?'. It's not a very common delivery. I don't think any bowler can produce it at will but if you consistently work on your swing, it becomes possible. It was a dream delivery," Arun said.

This is the 24-year-old Delhi bowler's second IPL season. Last year, he played six games for LSG, picking up three wickets at an economy of 9.75. Arun said Prince had shown glimpses of what he could achieve in his debut season. "This year during the camps that we had, we discussed his strengths. Under pressure, sometimes a bowler goes blank, but the one who is confident of executing his strengths is going to be most successful in execution. So, we had a lot of one-on-one chats during the pre-season camps, understood what their strengths are, and went about working on them. We challenged them every single session on execution," he added.

Arun said his role was to help the youngsters build confidence and tell them where they need to improve. "It would be unfair to say I spotted Prince. But identifying what he could do by looking at him and placing him in the right role within the team was my challenge," Arun said.

# Finn Allen unveils beast mode with a 'changed perspective'

**Prasanth.Menon**@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Finn Allen carries the reputation of being the most destructive batter to have come out of New Zealand after Brendon McCullum. Franchise leagues covet him. A six-hitting machine, he holds the men's T20 record for most sixes in an innings — 19 for San Francisco Unicorns in Major League Cricket.

Despite earning his maiden IPL contract with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2021, the 27-year-old waited five years for his league debut. Even in Kolkata Knight Riders' purple and gold this season, it took until his seventh innings to be his attacking best.

At the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday night, Delhi Capitals had little answer. KKR restricted the hosts to 142/8 despite Pathum Nissanka's 50 and Ashutosh Sharma's 39. Allen then made light of the chase, his 100 not out off 47 balls carrying KKR to 147/2 in 14.2 overs and an eight-wicket win.

Jatin Kumar



FINN ALLEN

Studded with ten sixes and five fours, it was a clinical display of power hitting. It resembled Allen's unbeaten 33-ball century against South Africa at the Eden Gardens in the T20 World Cup semifinal just a couple of months ago.

He had failed to kick on from that high, though, warming the bench after three successive single-digit scores midway through this IPL. Introduced here as KKR's 'impact sub', Allen admitted the break helped him reassess. "Sometimes, being left out changes your perspective. It allows time for mental refresh. I was putting on too much pressure on myself at the start," said Allen.

The ease of his knock might suggest a batting paradise. It was not. Most batters struggled with the tacky surface, and KKR were 31/2 in the Powerplay. Allen showed he can stay aggressive on challenging tracks, reaching out to fuller deliveries and sending them straight over the ropes while the shorter balls were pulled towards mid-wicket and wide long-on with ease.

"I wanted to keep my intent. We lost a couple early. I knew that I had to take a bit of responsibility and bat a bit deeper. It helped me get into better positions," added Allen.

"Finn was exceptional today. He's got off to amazing starts. He's one of the best in the world at doing that and putting pressure back on," said Cameron Green, with whom Allen put on an unbroken 116-run third-wicket stand.

As Knight Riders make a late charge towards the playoffs, Allen sounded a warning to their rivals. "I've been working on having more strings in my bow," he said.

## GALLERY

### Jaiswal, Shafali get NADA notice

**New Delhi:** Indian cricketers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shafali Verma have been issued notices by the National Anti-Doping Agency for not being available for their scheduled dope tests last year.

**Goa hold Bagan in ISL:** Mohun Bagan Super Giants were held to a 1-1 draw by FC Goa in the ISL at the Nehru Stadium, Fatorda. Jamie Maclaren gave Bagan the lead in the 55th minute while Ronney Kharbudon's attempted cross landed in the Bagan goal in the 67th minute for the equaliser. Meanwhile, Jamshedpur FC lost 0-1 to Bengaluru FC as Ryan Williams scored the winning goal.

**Indian U-15 girls in finals at Asian Boxing:** India's U-15 girls delivered commanding performances at the Asian Boxing U-15 and U-17 championships, with nine boxers advancing to the finals across weight categories in Tashkent on Saturday.

**Ramit, Velavan bow out in squash Worlds:** Ramit Tandon and Velavan Senthilkumar bowed out of the World Squash Championships in Giza, Egypt on Saturday. World No. 40 Tandon lost to Egyptian world no 21 Kareem El Torkey 6-11, 11-7, 6-11, 0-11 while world number 50 Senthilkumar went down to world No. 5 Frenchman Victor Crouin, 11-8, 11-8, 11-3. AGENCIES

### ACTION TODAY

**ARCHERY:** Archery World Cup, 7.30 am & 11.30 am (Sony); **CRICKET:** IPL, CSK vs LSG, 3.30 pm; RCB vs MI, 7.30 pm (JioHotstar, Star); B'desh vs Pakistan, 1st Test, Day 3, 9.30 am (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** AFC U17 Asian Cup, India vs Uzbekistan, 10.30 pm (Fancode); ISL, 5 pm; 7.30 pm (Sony, Fancode); IFL, 6.30 pm (Sony); EPL, West Ham Utd vs Arsenal, 9 pm (JioHotstar, Star)

# Maiden World Cup medal for Jadhav

**Archiman.Bhaduri**@timesofindia.com



**Kolkata:** Unheralded **Sahil Jadhav** fetched the first medal for India in the Archery World Cup Stage II in Shanghai by bagging a bronze in the men's compound event on Saturday. The 25-year-old Maharashtra archer finished on the podium in his third international tournament by beating Denmark's veteran Martin Damsbo 147-144 in the bronze medal playoff match. Reigning World University Games champion Jadhav, who recorded his personal best of 711 in the ranking round to be seeded eighth, put up good challenge against his higher-ranked archers.

However, he missed a final berth by falling short by just one point (146-147) against world No. 3 Nicolas Girard of France in the last-four clash. However, he made amends against 40-year-old Damsbo in his next match. Jadhav trailed by one point after the opening end.

However, the youngster pulled things back in the second end, shooting a perfect 30 to gain a three-point advantage. He managed to hold on to that dropping just two points from his final nine arrows to seal a memorable victory.

# Vinesh mulls legal route after show-cause notice

▶Continued from P1

Star wrestler Vinesh Phoghat has been asked by WFI to explain within 14 days from May 9, 2026 why disciplinary action should not be initiated against her. Vinesh's husband and former freestyle wrestler Somvir Rathi told **TOI** they are exploring legal options. "We have received the show-cause notice, and are consulting our lawyers. We will soon decide our future action," he said. It's been learnt that Vinesh has arrived in Delhi to consult her lawyers after receiving the notice.

Referring to a missed dope test dated Dec 18, 2025, which was notified by the International Testing Agency (ITA), WFI accused the two-time World Championships medallist and three-time Olympian of several breaches, including violation of whereabouts submission requirements under UWW Anti-Doping Rules 2015, acts of indiscipline and conduct "prejudicial to the interest of the sport of wrestling and the WFI."

"Please take notice that should you fail to submit your written reply in the stipulated period of fourteen days or fail to avail the opportunity of personal hearing if and when offered, the federation shall be constrained to proceed ex-parte and pass such order as it may deem fit and proper on the basis of material on record," the notice added.

Among the allegations levelled against Vinesh were her failure to make weight at the Paris Olympics, which led to her disqualification, alleged violations of the WFI constitution, anti-doping rule breaches arising from whereabouts failures, and participation in two weight categories — 50kg and 53kg — during the selection trials held on March 11, 2024 at NIS Patiala, allegedly in violation of UWW rules. In its exhaustive notice, the federation noted: "By virtue of your registration as a wrestler with WFI and your participation under the Indian flag in international competitions, including the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad held at Paris in 2024, you are subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of WFI and are bound by the rules and regulations framed by WFI and UWW from time to time."

### 'ITA has recorded that Phogat's conduct did not go beyond negligence'

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court-based lawyer Saurabh Mishra, who specialises in sports law and represents Indian athletes in dope-related matters in NADA and CAS, offered a point-by-point explanation of charges brought up against Vinesh Phoghat by the federation.

**On the whereabouts charge:** "The ITA has recorded that Ms. Phogat's conduct did not go beyond negligence. Under Article 2.4 of the WADA Code, a whereabouts failure requires establishment of fault and the degree of fault directly determines the sanction. A finding of mere negligence, as opposed to significant fault or intentional conduct, substantially limits the sanctioning range available to the adjudicating body. This finding by the ITA is not merely mitigating — it is definitionally significant."

**On charge concerning retirement and return to competition:** "This is a strict, non-delegable personal obligation. However, the critical legal question is whether Ms. Phogat ever formally retired within the meaning of Article 5.7 in the first place."

**On the dual weight category charge arising from the March 2024 selection trials:** "This charge raises a significant due process question — namely, whether an athlete can be held solely responsible for a procedural irregularity that was permitted and facilitated by the officiating officials and the ad-hoc Committee itself on the day."

**On the Paris 2024 disqualification charge:** The CAS ad hoc division has already rendered a final reasoned Award in CAS OG 24/17. The extent to which a national federation can impose additional disciplinary consequences for conduct already adjudicated with finality by the highest sports tribunal is a legally contested question." TNN

# VCK will extend outside support to Vijay govt, continue in DMK alliance

## 'Bid To Prevent Central Rule, Not Validation Of Ideology'

Shanmughasundaram.J
@timesofindia.com



Vijay meets Tamil Nadu governor Rajendra Arlekar at Chennai's Lok Bhavan on Saturday to stake claim to form govt

**Chennai:** VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan threw, on Saturday, his party's weight behind actor-politician Vijay's govt, calling it "unconditional support" aimed at ensuring political stability and preventing President's rule in Tamil Nadu.

"We are extending support to TVK for two reasons. VCK should not be a factor hindering Vijay from becoming CM, and TN should not come under President's rule," Thirumavalavan said after handing over a support letter to TVK general secretary Aadhav Arjuna at VCK headquarters in Chennai.

VCK also said it would continue in the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, underlining a delicate balancing act by Thirumavalavan, once among Vijay's sharpest campaign critics.

Thirumavalavan also disclosed he had informed DMK chief MK Stalin before extending support. "He appreciated the decision. From the beginning, he made it clear he would not be an obstacle to Vijay becoming CM," he said.

Formed in Feb 2024, TVK made a dramatic electoral debut and emerged as a central force in TN's fractured mandate, pushing state politics into coalition arithmetic after decades of Dravidian bipolarity. VCK's decision gives Vijay crucial breathing room as TVK attempts to convert electoral momentum into stable governance in a state entering unfamiliar coalition terrain.

"While DMK worked for our candidates' victories, VCK brass has made a calculated, albeit difficult, decision to provide outside support while strictly opting out of the cabinet," VCK general secretary D Ravikumar said.

Ravikumar rejected criticism over delay in decision-making. "A choice with such a long-lasting impact on the state's political landscape needed deliberate thought," he said.

Party members said strong voices within VCK favoured joining the govt, but Thirumavalavan resisted, arguing cabinet berths should not come at the cost of political credibility. "For the sake of a cabinet berth, we should not lose credibility built over 30 years of hard work," a member quoted him as saying.

Ravikumar drew ideological red lines as well. "Our support is a functional necessity to prevent a constitutional vacuum, not a validation of ideology," he said.

## What if Vijay had joined in 2009, Cong wonders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** As TVK chief Vijay moves to govern Tamil Nadu after upending the state's politics in the assembly polls, questions are being asked if Congress' fortunes in the state would have taken a giant leap had the superstar's interaction with Rahul Gandhi during UPA's tenure materialised into something concrete.

The questions have acquired salience after the surfacing of an old photograph of Vijay with then NSUI office-bearers — now MP Hibi Eden, AICC spokesperson Ragini Nayak, AICC secretary Gopinath Palaniyappan and Ashok Basoya. Vijay had then met Rahul, who, fresh from Congress' victory in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, was aiming at a generational makeover of the party.

By his own admission in a viral video, Vijay had taken a day off from his shoot schedule to meet Rahul with his father. He was thrilled by the interaction but denied any move to join Congress.

Some in Congress say Vijay was asked by Rahul to go through the drill of contesting Youth Congress elections, which the former was reluctant to do. The lingering regret in Congress ranks seems to be that if Vijay had joined the party, Congress could have been at the core of Tamil Nadu politics today.

If not then, now. The partnership is happening 17 years later. Since their first meeting, Rahul and Vijay have been in touch — the reason there was such a push to ally with TVK in the run-up to state polls, which was nixed by Congress leadership and the state unit.

But after the polls threw up a hung assembly and DMK was left without the possibility of forming govt, Congress decided to join hands with TVK. Congress' outreach with CPM, CPI and VCK is said to have played a role in the three parties following suit.

When Rahul attends Vijay's oath-taking ceremony in Chennai on Sunday, it would mark the culmination of what was initiated years ago.




# Informed Stalin of move, says VCK's Thirumavalavan

▶ Continued from P 1

Congress, CPI and CPM had already backed TVK, taking the Vijay-led party's tally from 107 to 116 by Friday night. With VCK and IUML joining in, the tally rose to 120.

TVK functionary Aadhav Arjuna received VCK's support letter from Thol Thirumavalavan on Saturday evening following uncertainty through the day.

IUML national president Khader Mohideen handed over his party's letter to TVK's K A Sengottaiyan and Arunraj.

Thirumavalavan said the decision was conveyed to DMK chief M K Stalin, who responded positively.

TVK earlier made two unsuccessful attempts to secure IUML's support, with the party initially refusing because of its long-standing ties with DMK. A final push on Saturday brought IUML on board. The party's high-level committee resolved that helping establish a democratic govt is a vital democratic duty to prevent political instability in the state.

"The expectations of the general public, and particularly the Muslim community, are for the establishment of a democratic govt. This decision is taken to preserve the traditions of Tamil Nadu and avoid the unwelcome prospect of President's Rule," the party said. IUML emphasised that it has been a long-standing partner of DMK and would continue its alliance with the DMK-headed bloc.

### Priority was to avoid political instability: Stalin



Outgoing Tamil Nadu CM **MK Stalin** said that his priority following a fractured poll verdict was to ensure a stable govt and avoid re-election. In a post on X, the DMK chief said that several political alternatives were discussed but it was decided that stability was more important than political manoeuvring. "There should not be a situation leading to another election, and a stable govt should be formed." He further added that DMK would function as a constructive opposition and would not create hurdles in govt formation. TNN

## DMK publication hits out at Rahul for his 'lack of gratitude'

**Chennai:** DMK mouthpiece Murasoli on Saturday attacked Congress and criticised leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's "lack of gratitude" after his party moved out of the DMK-led alliance and teamed up with TVK in Tamil Nadu.

In its editorial, Murasoli recalled the relationship between DMK and Congress since 2018, when former CM M K Stalin announced Rahul as the prime ministerial candidate for the first time. "Does Rahul have any gratitude for the gesture?" DMK asked.

"The seeds for the INDIA bloc were sown in Tamil Nadu. It was Stalin who initiated efforts to build a national opposition alliance against BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It was due to the INDIA bloc that BJP couldn't reach 370 or 400 seats," DMK said. "Even when former CMs such as K Chandrashekar Rao and Mamata Banerjee didn't want Congress in the INDIA bloc, Stalin stayed strong that Congress should be part of the INDIA bloc," said the editorial.

Congress members, including Praveen Chakravarty, who were close to Rahul, repeatedly targeted the DMK govt and its "Dravidian model" of governance, the editorial alleged. "The DMK govt was not allowed to function peacefully, and all this happened with Rahul's knowledge," it said. TNN

## Bengal govt removes 16 officers posted at CM's office

▶ Continued from P 1

The order came within hours of Suvendu Adhikari's swearing-in, signalling the new BJP govt's intent to lean on bureaucrats seen as efficient and politically neutral during the fiercely fought assembly polls. The notification said Subrata Gupta's appointment was made "in interest of public service" and would remain effective until further orders.

He was brought in by EC as a special observer during the SIR exercise and later elevated as a special observer for Bengal elections after the poll panel expressed satisfaction over his performance. Election officials and administrative circles credited monitoring and coordination between Bengal CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal and Gupta for the smooth conduct of polling.

Sources said Adhikari held extensive discussions with Gupta after completion of the electoral process and personally offered him the advisory role. The appointment underlines the BJP govt's bid to recast Bengal's bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, the Bengal govt removed 16 officers posted in the chief minister's office and directed them to report to the personnel and administrative reforms department. It also ordered 46 officers attached to ministers as private secretaries or OSDs to report to the PAR department.

# PM's tribute to 97-year-old Sangh veteran steals show



Modi with Makhanlal Sarkar at Brigade Parade Ground

Tamaghna Banerjee & Roshan Gupta | TNN

**Kolkata/Siliguri:** For decades, Makhanlal Sarkar would leave his modest home in Siliguri's Surya Sen Park Colony at the crack of dawn in *khadi* shorts, RSS belt and boots for organisational work.

At 97, the lifelong swayamsevak and grassroots political worker received on Saturday the "recognition of a lifetime" — an honour from PM Narendra Modi. Sarkar, once an aide to Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, said so after the PM touched his feet and hugged him at the oath-taking ceremony of Suvendu Adhikari as Bengal CM at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground. "Sarkar had accompanied Mookerjee during his last trip (to Kashmir)," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said. He added the veteran was arrested in Kashmir for singing patriotic songs. "He had never bowed down before the atrocities of the Congress govt."

Sarkar has been a Sangh member since age 16. After BJP was formed in 1980, he served as coordinator for north Bengal, including Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri. In 1984, when BJP's presence in the region was still weak, he became district secretary with only a handful of supporters. He is credited with bringing nearly 10,000 members to the party within a year during its initial period of expansion.

Recalling the 1990 Rath Yatra when LK Advani was arrested in Bihar's Samastipur, Sarkar said attempts were made to take him into custody, too. "I was in Bihar's Purnea, near the Bengal border, to welcome Advaniji. Cops threatened to arrest me. When I showed them permission from then CM Jyoti Basu to host the Rath Yatra in the state, they released me," Sarkar said.

## Decades after Syama Prasad's death, a day of pride for family

**Kolkata:** Pride and happiness defined the day for the kin of Syama Prasad Mookerjee as PM Narendra Modi and all other senior BJP leaders recalled his sacrifices and paid rich tributes to the founder of Bharatiya Jan Sangh. After the swearing-in ceremony, newly elected CM Suvendu Adhikari visited Mukherjee's home and paid tribute to the party icon.

For Mookerjee's granddaughter Sarmeela Marquis, it was a great day as the name of her "Dadu" echoed through the voices of all politicians on Saturday. "To keep his memory alive, the newly elected govt must work to turn his dreams into reality," she said.

Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee, former chief justice of Bombay high court and nephew of Syama Prasad, said: "It's good to see Mejka's (my uncle's) photograph on the front page of newspapers decades after his death in a Srinagar jail in 1953. His mother Jogmaya Devi had appealed to the then PM Jawaharlal Nehru for an independent inquiry, but it was not accepted." TNN

## Didi updates social media bio, but avoids saying 'ex-CM'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** Soon after Suvendu Adhikari was sworn in as the ninth chief minister of West Bengal on Saturday — also the first BJP chief minister in the state — the change was officially updated in his social media bio. The words "chief minister" debuted in his bio on his official Facebook and X pages.



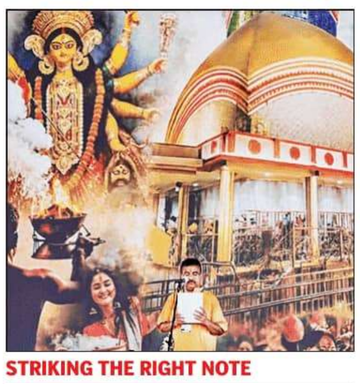
**Mamata Banerjee**, who has refused to resign as the chief minister while alleging irregularities in the assembly elections held last month, has also changed her social media bio, describing herself as the founder chairperson of the All India Trinamool Congress and "chief minister of West Bengal (15th, 16th and 17th Vidhan Sabha)". The words "former chief minister" were carefully avoided in line with her ongoing protest.

BJP swept the Bengal assembly elections, winning 207 seats in the 294-member assembly, bringing curtains on the 15-year-long Trinamool Congress rule in the state.

Banerjee, who came to office in 2011, has not formally tendered resignation from her post. Rather, she alleged irregularities in the electoral process, claiming that discrepancies in nearly 100 constituencies led to the defeat of her party.

# Cultural symbolism marks milestone moment in history

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STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE

**New Delhi:** PM Modi touching the feet of a nonagenarian BJP member and then kneeling down in gratitude to the surging crowd at Brigade Ground, an image of Goddess Durga as the backdrop on the dais, and CM Suvendu Adhikari dressed in a gerua (saffron) kurta — the oath-taking of BJP's first govt in West Bengal was marked by a medley of symbolism.

If the Bengal assembly polls wrote history, BJP went to great lengths to acknowledge the ingredients which went into the making of this history as its maiden govt was sworn in. The emotional weight of the moment showed. After taking oath, Suvendu bowed to Modi, who has a dislike to people touching his feet, and lingered in the bent pose for a while as the PM clasped his folded hands with one hand and smilingly patted his back with another. He then held him tightly as the crowd roared.

Suvendu reserved a similar gesture, though for a briefer while amid the row of dignitaries, for home minister Amit Shah, the lynchpin of BJP's winning strategy. Since he quit TMC to join BJP in Shah's presence in 2020, the home minister backed him for leading BJP's ground resistance against the Mamata Banerjee govt despite the occasional grumblings from the organisation's old guard. A faith that paid off.

But the milestone event was also an occasion to acknowledge the long toil of veterans. Dilip Ghosh, a former RSS pracharak and ex-state BJP chief who at times felt hard done by as a new crop of netas emerged, was the first minister to take oath after Suvendu, a nod to his decades-long dedication to the saffron cause. Modi also met family members of a few of the BJP members who were killed in alleged political violence over the decades.

BJP's choice of five ministers attested to the party's diverse social and regional support in the polls. While Suvendu is a Brahmin, Ghosh is an OBC, Ashok Kirtania, Kshudiram Tudu and Nishit Pramanik come from Matua, tribal and Rajbonshi communities. The lone woman member, Agnimitra Paul, is a Kayastha.

With BJP having no Muslim MLA and the state having no legislative council, any Muslim representation in govt appears remote in what could be the first instance of the community finding no berth in a Bengal govt. Assailed by TMC as outsiders indifferent to the Bengali ethos, BJP made it a point to organise the event on Tagore's birth anniversary and a picture of the Bengali polymath adorned the dais.

# The era of Sonar Bangla officially begins: Suvendu

▶ Continued from P 1

After the oath ceremony, a visibly emotional PM knelt before the crowd and touched his forehead to the ground. "I bow to West Bengal's Jana Shakti! The people's blessings are the truest strength of democracy and the noblest source of public resolve," Modi later posted on X. He posted a second message congratulating the new CM. "Congratulations to Shri Suvendu Adhikari Ji on taking oath as West Bengal's CM. He has made a mark as a leader who has remained deeply connected to the people and understood their aspirations from close quarters," he wrote. Sharing the post, Adhikari wrote, "Your blessings and guidance will illuminate my path and inspire me to contribute towards Viksit Bharat by creating a Viksit Bengal."

Proceedings began at 11.30pm as governor Ravi issued Adhikari's "order of appointment" as the new CM. Adhikari took oath in Bengali. Following the ceremony, Adhikari went to Jorasanko Thakurbari to pay his homage to Tagore on his 166th birth anniversary. Later he reached the PWD tent at the Maidan where he discussed the state's law and order with the DGP and Kolkata police commissioner over a 45-minute luncheon. In the evening, Adhikari visited Mookerjee's residence in Bhowanipore, the Bharat Sevashram Sangha headquarters in Ballygunge and Kalighat temple. Speaking to reporters, the CM outlined his govt's plans. Moving swiftly from symbolism to signalling, he warned extortionists and "syndicate members". "Now is the time to wind up your business and get lost. You have done enough damage. We won't tolerate it anymore."

He also announced plans to declare June 20, 1947, as Bengal Foundation Day and promised restoration of religious and heritage structures. "History can't be changed. I will discuss it in the cabinet and assembly. It is one of our main agendas," he said, adding restoration of religious and heritage structures will be among the top priorities of his govt. "The era of 'Sonar Bangla' officially begins," Adhikari wrote earlier in day.

### Kissa kursi ka: Chair shift shows tectonic move in Bengal politics

The hallowed halls of Bengal assembly witnessed a symbolic 'power' shift on Saturday — the furniture that once defined the previous administration was unceremoniously dumped to make way for the 'new order'. The most striking change occurred in the CM's chamber.

The chair used for over a decade by Mamata Banerjee was replaced by the one used by Suvendu Adhikari during his tenure as leader of opposition in the 17th assembly. For observers, the shift was more than just a logistical update; it was a profound statement on the change of guard. "A chair is not just a piece of furniture, it is a symbol of power and a matter of personal preference," an assembly official said while overseeing the transition. TNN





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