



Road accident in Udhampur Jammu, 21 killed

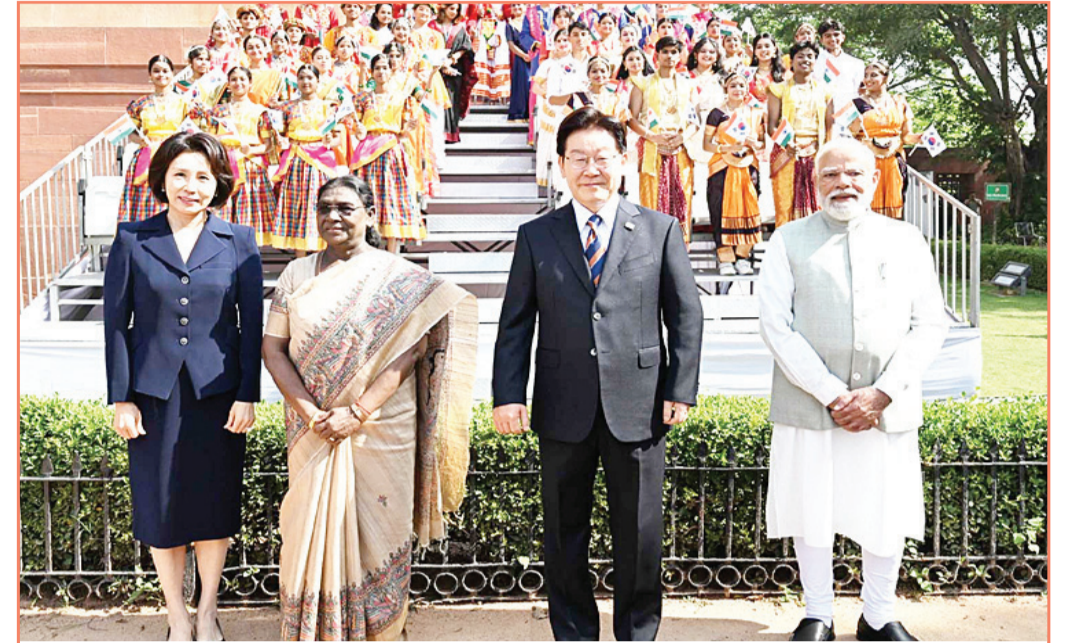


Udhampur(GNS): A bus was involved in an accident in Udhampur, Jammu, on Monday morning. The bus, coming from Ramnagar, fell about 100 meters off the road near Kagot and overturned. According to news agency, 21 people were killed and more than 29 passengers were injured in the accident. The accident occurred around 10 a.m. The bus was carrying 50 passengers, most of whom were traveling from Ramnagar to their daily work in Udhampur. Fifteen passengers

died on the spot, while the remaining six succumbed to their injuries during treatment. According to the injured, the bus was overloaded and traveling at a high speed. Near the Kagot drain, a tire suddenly burst, causing the driver to lose control and the bus to fall off the road. The upper portion of the bus was completely destroyed in the accident. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh stated in a social media post that the bus involved in the accident was a public transport vehicle. The injured are being

treated at GMC Udhampur. Here, PM Modi expressed condolences for the people who died in the accident and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the deceased and Rs 50 thousand to the injured. Passengers said the bus was moving at high speed and lost control due to a tyre burst. People at the scene of the accident said the accident was caused by the bus being overloaded and speeding. Injured passengers were questioned, saying the driver was driving too fast. A tire burst

prevented him from controlling the speed, causing the bus to fall from a height of approximately 100 meters. An auto also came under the impact of the bus. The bus crushed an auto-rickshaw before falling upside down onto the road below. Officials said the occupants of the auto-rickshaw were injured but survived. An army convoy passing by the scene of the accident took charge of the rescue operation. The vehicle was later straightened with the help of a hydraulic crane.



India-Korea talks at Hyderabad House emphasis on strengthening ties

● **PM Modi and Lee Jae-myung meet, discusses expanding cooperation in several areas, including defense and trade**
New Delhi(GNS): Visiting South Korean President Lee Jae-myung

held a key bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House in the capital on Monday. The meeting focused on further strengthening the special strategic partnership between the two countries. During this special meeting, discus-

sions focused on enhancing cooperation in key areas such as trade, defense, technology, semiconductor, battery manufacturing, and cybersecurity. A common strategy for maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region was also discussed.

Attacker shoots 10 people in America, 8 children among the dead



Police chased and killed the attacker in an encounter; officers are working to solve the mystery.

Louisiana(GNS): A heartbreaking incident has come to light from Shreveport city of Louisiana state of America. 10 people were shot dead in a domestic violence incident that took place at around 6 am on Sunday morning, out of which eight innocent children are included. The age of the children killed is only between 1 to 14 years. According to the local police, the crime scene of this horrific incident was spread across three different places. After the incident, when the police chased the suspected attacker, he was killed in a police encounter in a vehicle encounter. Local officials are busy solving the mystery of this mass murder. This incident has shocked the entire area.

The main reason domestic disputes in America quickly escalate into mass murders is the easy availability of weapons. If the attacker hadn't possessed a lethal weapon, the number of casualties might not have been so high. The murder of eight children at such a young age reflects a deranged mentality. This incident indicates that society is severely lacking in monitoring deep-seated family tensions and mental health. The occurrence of the crime at three locations suggests that the attacker targeted victims while fleeing or in different rooms and homes. This poses the challenge of a multi-site investigation for the police.

Customs and fuel disputes escalate tensions at the Indo-Nepal border

New regulations and a fuel crisis in Nepal have deepened the economic-administrative conflict along the border.



New Delhi(GNS): Tensions are rising these days in the border areas between India and Nepal over fuel and tax policies. Rising petrol and diesel prices in Nepal are driving large numbers of drivers to the Indian border areas, especially Bihar, to buy cheaper fuel. Due to this increasing pressure has

increased on local petrol pumps and Indian consumers are also facing problems. To control the situation, the administration has taken strict measures and has limited the supply of fuel to Nepali vehicles. Due to the rising prices of petrol and diesel in Nepal as compared to India, Nepali drivers are turning to Bihar to fill cheaper fuel.

Kharge said, "Modi is the leader of liars; he has different teeth for eating and showing"

Himanta said, "Babri Masjid builders, Bengal is not your father's"

New Delhi(GNS): Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said in Cooch Behar, Bengal, that Narendra Modi is the "chief of liars." He lies to win elections. Kharge said, "If the government wanted to implement women's reservations, it should have called an all-party meeting and asked everyone how to implement it. But the Modi government called a session of Parliament to show that it cares about women's reservations. The truth is, Modi has different teeth for eating and showing." Assam



Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in Medinipur, Bengal, some Humayun Kabir is saying he will build the Babri Masjid here. Is this your father's place?"

Donald Trump spoke to the Pakistani Army Chief

Munir said: if the blockade on Hormuz continues talks will be difficult, Trump said - I will think about it

Washington DC, (GNS): US President Trump spoke by phone with Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir. According to a Pakistani security source, Trump said he would consider concerns raised about the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to the source, the two discussed the issue in detail. Asim Munir told Trump that if the Strait of Hormuz continues, negotiations with Iran will not be able to proceed. Trump responded by saying he would consider it. The US has imposed a



sea blockade near Iran, which angered Iran by closing the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday. The escalation of tensions between the US and Iran stems from Trump's threats to Iran and the seizure of the Iranian ship "Tuska." Iran

expressed outrage, calling it piracy and vowing to respond soon. **Suspense over US-Iran talks** Amid rising tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, suspense remains over whether a second round of talks between the two

countries will take place in Pakistan. Iran has stated that the US naval blockade violates the ceasefire agreement and that America's threatening language is worsening the situation. Under these circumstances, there is little hope for talks. Meanwhile, Al Jazeera's report, citing sources, states that the talks could last several days, not just one. The aim is to sign a temporary agreement, or MoU, that would extend the ceasefire and provide approximately 60 days to craft a comprehensive peace agreement.

Two pilgrims died on the first day of the Chardham Yatra

► **An elderly man died of breathlessness while climbing Yamunotri, and a woman fell from her horse**



Uttarkashi, (GNS): Two pilgrims died on the first day of the Chardham Yatra in Uttarakhand. Both incidents occurred on the Yamunotri Dham route in Uttarkashi district. A woman traveling with her husband from Madhya Pradesh died after falling from a horse. The fall reportedly

caused serious head injuries. She was immediately rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared her "brought dead." Meanwhile, an elderly devotee from Maharashtra suddenly became ill while hiking. He experienced severe

breathing problems. With the help of his family and the administration, he was immediately rushed to the hospital in Jankichatti, but doctors were unable to save him. According to hospital doctor Dr. Hardev Singh, preliminary investigation suggests that the cause of death of the elderly man was respiratory illness and lack of oxygen at high altitude. The elderly man's companions from Nashik set out on the Yamunotri Yatra.

Woman murdered for dancing at ladies sangeet : Brother-in-law enraged after seeing neighbors' house in Rohtak, cut face, chest and hands with a saw

Rohtak(GNS): In Rohtak, a brother-in-law killed his younger brother's wife by hacking her with a sickle. The woman had gone to a ladies' sangeet party at a neighbor's house. Seeing her dancing, her brother-in-law became enraged. As soon as she returned home, he attacked her with a sickle, inflicting injuries on her head,

mouth, chest, and hands. The brother-in-law fled after the attack. Upon receiving information, police arrived at the scene, took custody of the body and sent it for a postmortem. A complaint has been filed with the police by the woman's parents. The deceased's brother alleges that her in-laws were supposed to attend a

wedding reception last month. Her brother-in-law threatened her with death if she went there. Despite this, she went. Her in-laws murdered her due to this grudge. Went to the ladies sangeet at the neighbors house. Sukhbir Phogat, a resident of Rithal village in Rohtak, was attending a wedding at his neighbor's

house. The ladies' sangeet was on Sunday night. Sukhbir's wife, Pravesh (39), had gone there at his invitation. She danced with other women. As soon as Pravesh returned home, her brother-in-law, Jasbir Phogat, started arguing with her for dancing. Attacked on the mouth, stomach and



hands. According to the family, Jasbir then grabbed a sickle from the

house and attacked Pravesh. He stabbed her in the face, stomach, and hands and fled. Pravesh's three children were sleeping at the time. Her husband, Sukhbir, and her mother were not home. Jasbir fled, leaving Pravesh covered in blood. When the son woke up, the mother was lying on the ground. According to the family, when

Pravesh's son woke up, his mother was lying on the ground. The son immediately called his maternal uncle and informed him. Pravesh's family arrived at the scene shortly after and took him to PGI, where he died during treatment. The Sadar police station was subsequently informed of the incident. Married 16 years ago,

has 3 children. Somdas, a resident of Gaddi Khedi village, said, "My sister Pravesh was married 16 years ago to Sukhbir of Rithal village. Her husband is a farmer. Pravesh has three children: Shanaya (15), Hitesh (14), and Shreya (10). All three are in school. Jasbir is Pravesh's brother-in-law and runs a steel factory."

The politics of raids in Bengal before the elections

Sanat Jain

Only three days remain for the first phase of polling in West Bengal. For the past six months, West Bengal has been in the news due to SIR and ED raids. From the High Court to the Supreme Court, the TMC and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have been battling it out. Mamata Banerjee herself appeared in the Supreme Court to represent her case, but even then, she received no relief. Instead, the pressure on her continued, one after another. Recently, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided two locations of Kolkata Police Deputy Commissioner Shantanu Sinha, who is deployed for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's security. He was not found at home. In connection with the same case, a raid was

conducted at the residence of businessman Jay Kamdar and he was arrested. He is being linked to Deputy Commissioner Shantanu Sinha. A few days ago, the ED arrested the founder of I-Pack, a media company that handled the TMC's election strategy. News emerged that the company had ceased operations. Mamata Banerjee denied the news, saying, "The company is doing its job. The opposition party has deliberately spread this false news to influence the election. Central agencies are certainly constantly disrupting the TMC's election campaign; this cannot be denied." The SIR case in Bengal is being heard in a tribunal on the orders of the Supreme Court. Millions of voters have been excluded from voting. As per the Supreme Court's order, voters whose names are being validated

by the tribunal until the day before the election will be eligible to vote. The first phase of voting in Bengal is scheduled for April 23rd. Given the chaos that has occurred during the elections in West Bengal, the law and order situation in West Bengal may deteriorate after the voting and the election results are announced. The raid and attempt to arrest the Chief Minister's security in-charge during the elections is impacting the TMC's election campaign. Mamata Banerjee's statement that she may even be assassinated during the elections is a matter of great concern. It doesn't appear that all political parties will receive equal and fair opportunities to contest the West Bengal Assembly elections. If the Central Election Commission remains silent on these controversies when the elections are in their final

stages, it is bound to have a profound impact on the public and the election. Elections are underway in West Bengal. ED officials are summoning election officials to Delhi to investigate the matter. The way the Delimitation Bill was presented as a Women's Reservation Bill by convening a special session of Parliament during the elections is being seen as linked to the elections. The BJP's protests and demonstrations in West Bengal and across the country, accusing the TMC and the opposition of being opposed to women's reservations, are bound to impact the elections in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The situation unfolding in the West Bengal elections is significant. Following this, concerns are being felt in political and administrative circles. This time, in the West Bengal elections, even judges

from the judiciary have been deployed to scrutinize voter lists and hear appeals from tribunals. The Supreme Court has ordered that voter names be added to the electoral rolls until the day before polling. The kind of election being conducted in West Bengal is a first in India and the world. The widespread involvement of central agencies in the West Bengal elections will undoubtedly have adverse consequences in Bengal, both during and after the results are announced. This can easily be anticipated. The opposition is becoming increasingly aggressive both inside and outside Parliament. As a reaction to action, opposition MPs are preparing to once again introduce an impeachment motion in Parliament against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Editorial

Defeat of the opposition in the call for women's respect and belief in victory even in struggle

In the current political landscape of India, the issue of women's reservation and delimitation has become more than just a legislative process, but a reflection of public sentiment and political perspective. This entire development has made it clear who truly stands for women's empowerment and who is merely exploiting this issue for political gain. What transpired in Parliament and the subsequent rhetoric and strategies exposed both the maturity of democracy and the intentions of the parties. The anguish and commitment with which Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation was not merely a statement by a leader but a sign of responsible leadership. He acknowledged his regret over the failure to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, but also made it clear that the struggle would not end there but would continue with even greater determination. This approach instills confidence in the public that the efforts are genuine and the direction is clear. The meetings and press conferences of opposition leaders like Meera Hule, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Mallikarjun Kharge have demonstrated that they view this issue more as a political opportunity than a public interest. Instead of offering clear and firm support on a sensitive issue like women's reservation, they have weakened their stance by talking about conditions and amendments. This exposes their priorities to the public. It is also significant that the opposition is now demanding that the old bill be implemented for the current seats, yet why did they not support the same bill when they had the opportunity? This question remains unanswered. The public is well aware of this contradiction, and this situation weakens the opposition's credibility. The attempts to spread confusion on the delimitation issue also do not justify the democratic process; it is a constitutional system intended to balance representation. However, portraying it as a regional imbalance and political loss appears to be merely an attempt to mislead the public. In his statement, Prime Minister Modi attempted to dispel this confusion, clarifying that this process applies equally to all states.

Women's reservation should not be considered a women's issue alone, but a democracy issue - when half the population does not get equal opportunities, democracy remains incomplete

Lok Sabha: Reservation in Assembly seats versus reservation in political organizations – the question of women's reservation is no longer a question of seat sharing, but of the organizational structure of power – a decisive debate in the new phase of Indian democracy – a comprehensive global analysis

The debate on women's reservation is no longer limited to Panchayats, Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha, but has reached the structure of political parties, distribution of power and the quality of democracy.

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani

Globally, in India's democratic history, the parliamentary events of April 2026 have sparked a debate that is no longer limited to the legislature, but has also reached the internal structure of political parties, the distribution of power, and the very essence of democracy. What transpired in the Lok Sabha between April 16 and 17, 2026, made it clear that the question of women's reservation is no longer merely a question of seat allocation, but rather a question of the structure of power. In this context, the question raised by a Shiv Sena leader on April 19, as to why a separate bill was not passed unanimously when all parties were in favor of 33.33 percent women's reservation, has now become a topic of widespread public discussion. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhavani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that this debate is not merely procedural or legislative, but challenges the fundamental principle of democracy, which clearly distinguishes between representation and empowerment. While presenting women's reservation in Parliament in conjunction with complex issues like delimitation may be part of a political strategy, according to many analysts, it raises an important question: is the desire to give women real political power as strong as the desire to provide symbolic representation? Indeed, the debate over women's reservation in India is not new. The Nari Shakti Vandan Act, passed in 2023, certainly took a historic step in this direction, but its implementation remains tied to conditions such as delimitation and census. This is why, when the issue came up again in Parliament in April 2026 and was defeated by 54 votes after being combined with other bills, it raised public doubts. Is this truly an effort to empower women, or a complex game of political equations? In this context, several opposition leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, argued that women's reservation could have been passed separately. The ruling party, however, presented it as part of a package of comprehensive reforms. But this entire incident

has given rise to a new debate, if women can get reservation in Parliament and Assemblies, then why not within political parties?

Friends, if we consider that Indian democracy stands at a historic juncture, the question of women's representation is no longer limited to seat reservations, but has become linked to the restructuring of the actual structure of power, the decision-making process, and the political culture. The Nari Shakti Vandan Act, defeated by 54 votes in Parliament, blocked the path to 33 percent reservation in Lok Sabha and Assembly seats, but it also intensified the debate about whether reservation of legislative seats alone can truly empower women, or whether equal opportunities and participation must also be ensured within political parties and organizations. This is why today the issue has moved beyond seat allocation to a question of power distribution and rebalancing political power. The fundamental objective of reservations in the Lok Sabha and Assembly is to increase the numerical presence of women, allowing them to have a voice in lawmaking. This approach is consistent with the principle of democratic representation, where all sections of society should have equal opportunities. However, international experience shows that simply reserving seats is insufficient. In many countries, it has been observed that women are elected, but real power remains concentrated in party leadership, policy-making committees, and organizational structures, where their participation is limited. In this context, the example of Rwanda is significant, where women's participation in parliament exceeds 60 percent. This success was made possible not only by constitutional reservations, but also by women's active participation in the internal structures of political parties.

Friends, if we consider this challenge emerging in India as well, if women's participation in ticket distribution, organizational positions, and decision-making committees within political parties is not ensured, then women elected to reserved seats often become proxy

representatives, where real control rests with their families or male allies. This situation is contrary to the spirit of democracy, as it undermines the true will of voters and the concept of representation. Therefore, there are now demands that political parties should also implement internal women's reservations to ensure women's participation at every level of leadership. Globally, different countries have addressed this issue in different ways. In Nordic countries like Norway and Sweden, instead of legal reservations, party quota systems have been adopted, where political parties themselves include 40-50 percent women among their candidates. This has not only increased the number of women but also ensured their quality, leadership potential, and independence. Meanwhile, France implemented a "parity law" that compels political parties to field an equal number of male and female candidates, failing which financial penalties are imposed. These examples illustrate the need for political culture and institutional reform, not just constitutional provisions.

Friends, if we deeply understand the political parties considered the backbone of democracy in India, the internal structure of these parties is often not democratic. In most parties, decision-making power is concentrated in the hands of a select few leaders, and women's participation is limited. In such a situation, it is natural to demand that if 33 percent reservation is being ensured in the legislature, then equal participation should also be ensured in party executives, state units, district committees, and ticket distribution. This debate brings the concept of internal party democracy to the fore. Many women's organizations and political analysts believe that unless political parties themselves become gender inclusive, the impact of reservation in the legislature will be limited. This is not just a matter of increasing the number of seats, but of ensuring women's actual participation in the decision-making process. In this context, experiences at the Panchayat level are extremely important.

Firing of Indian ship by Iran's IRGC forces is condemnable

Sanjay Goswami

According to top Indian government sources on Saturday 18 April 26, Iranian IRGC Navy gunboats fired warning shots near Indian-flagged tankers IRGC fired shots at two Indian tankers India summoned the Iranian ambassador to the country expressing serious concern over the firing incident on two Indian ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Although the Ministry of External Affairs statement did not use the word summons, it indicated that Iranian ambassador Fathali was asked to meet the foreign secretary at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan on Saturday evening. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri summoned Iranian ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali on Saturday (18 April) evening and expressed 'serious

concern' over the firing on two Indian ships by Iranian warships in the Strait of Hormuz.

These incidents come as Iran has retaliated by re-closing the vital strait. The closure comes in response to the US's continued blockade of traffic at Iranian ports, after Tehran decided earlier this week to reopen the route to commercial traffic. That tanker was for people of all religions. This is a very shameful incident, yet the people here support it, which is wrong. The nation is supreme. We should always stand for Mother India. The firing on two Indian-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, April 18, 26, has exposed growing fissures within Iran's power structure. The firing occurred amid confusion over whether the Strait of Hormuz was open on Saturday. While a senior

Iranian official said all ships could pass through the Strait of Hormuz, but only if they coordinated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, its Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, said the narrow passage in the Persian Gulf was open because a ceasefire deal had been agreed for the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon. India should send a Navy ship and give a befitting reply. India is a democratic country of 1.4 billion people and a country that knows how to respond to bullets with bullets. Wherever Indian people are, if an attack has taken place, it should be taken seriously. Whether it is a power struggle or anything else in Iran, this is a terrorist incident. The ship will have the Indian tricolor on it. If this is not dealt with firmly, it will embolden the terrorists and they will be made fun of in the world, which will tarnish India's image. When America can make America realize its strength by sending its Navy ship to Kochi to protect

the Iranian Navy from an American attack, then such an attack is not tolerable, no matter who it is. India should give a befitting reply to this. We are a peace-loving country living with honor and dignity, following the guidance of Lord Ram, and we have every right to protect our people. India should take this seriously and take retaliatory action. What America is doing or not doing is an internal matter between the two countries. India has no role in this. India is a peace-loving country and Mother India. This attack is absolutely unjustified. India should take a firm stand on this. Iran's population is 9 crore and India's population is 140 crore. If this is taken lightly, the enemy country can make fun of it because its ships are coming. We are self-reliant for our own defense. Terrorist attack is not tolerated. India is a nuclear-rich country and the Indian Army is the best in the world for the protection of Indians. The Indian

Armed Forces are under the management of the Ministry of Defense of the Government of India. With a strength of more than 14 lakh active personnel, it is the second largest military power in the world, hence India should give a strong reply to this, otherwise the borders of both Pakistan and Iran are close, terrorism keeps happening from there, now if Iran also follows this path in the name of religion, then terrorist incidents will increase in the times to come, but here politics is being done on a Nari Shakti Bill which was not passed in the Parliament, this is democracy, this happens, it should be respected, although I am also sad, but the court will consider the decision of the Parliament as right, if it is wrong then give it full majority in the next elections, but whatever decisions are taken in the national interest should be right, hence action should be taken on this issue.

Infra boost: Water pipeline ends 15-year wait in Prahlad Vihar

New Delhi, (GNS): In a major boost to basic infrastructure, Delhi's Minister for Social Welfare, SC/ST/OBC Welfare, Cooperatives and Elections, Ravinder Indraj Singh, on Sunday inaugurated a new water pipeline project in Prahlad Vihar, developed at an approximate cost of Rs 45 lakh.

The project brings long-awaited relief to residents, as a water pipeline has been laid in the area for the first time in nearly 15 years. The initiative aims to provide clean, regular and uninterrupted water supply, addressing a persistent shortage that had affected daily life in the locality.

Thousands of residents are expected to benefit from the improved access to drinking water. Women, elderly citizens and children, who were among the most affected by the scarcity, are likely to see the greatest impact from the development.



Officials said the project offers a permanent solution to the long-standing issue while also contributing to the broader development of the area.

Improved access to basic amenities is expected to enhance the overall quality of life and support the transformation of Prahlad Vihar into a more organised locality.

Local residents welcomed the move and expressed gratitude to the Delhi Government and the minister, noting that the resolution of the issue has significantly eased daily challenges.

Speaking at the event, Singh reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure in rural and semi-urban areas. He emphasised that ensuring equitable access to essential services, particularly water supply, remains a priority.

He also assured residents that more development projects would be undertaken in the near future, aligning with the government's broader vision of "Viksit Delhi, Harit Delhi."

Man shot dead over parking dispute in east Delhi; accused on run

New Delhi, (GNS): A 34-year-old man was shot dead in east Delhi's Preet Vihar area in the early hours of Monday following a dispute over parking, police said. According to officials from Preet Vihar police station, two PCR calls were received at 2.22 am and 2.26 am reporting a quarrel and firing incident at A-144, Preet Vihar. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the altercation took place between Pankaj Nayyar (34) and his brother Paras (43) on one side, and a man identified as Gaurav Sharma on the other, reportedly over a parking issue.



During the quarrel, Gaurav Sharma allegedly opened fire, hitting Pankaj in the chest. He was rushed to Malik Radix Health Care Hospital in Nirman Vihar, where doctors declared him brought dead. Police said the accused, along with his accomplices, fled the spot immediately after the incident. An FIR has been registered at Preet Vihar police station under Sections 103(1), 115(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as well as Sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act, an official said. Efforts were under way to trace and apprehend the accused at the earliest, the cop added.

Man shot dead over parking dispute in Delhi's Preet Vihar; accused on run

New Delhi, (GNS): A 34-year-old man was shot dead following a late-night parking dispute in east Delhi's Preet Vihar, police said on Monday. According to police, two PCR calls were received around 2.22am and 2.26am reporting a quarrel and firing at a house in the area. The dispute allegedly broke out between Pankaj Nayyar and his brother Paras on one side, and a neighbour, Gaurav Sharma, on the other. During the altercation, Sharma allegedly opened fire, hitting Pankaj in the chest. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared brought dead. The accused and his associates fled the spot. An FIR has been registered at Preet Vihar police station under sections of the BNS and Arms Act, and efforts are underway to trace the accused.



Wedding boom, fuel fiasco: How caterers are trying to stay afloat amid LPG crunch

New Delhi, (GNS): An LPG supply crunch in the city during the wedding season has left catering services grappling with soaring costs, disrupted operations and declining business, with many forced to turn to firewood and coal for large-scale bookings. Several caterers Media spoke to said the crisis had significantly squeezed margins, especially as most bookings were made in advance and commitments must be honoured despite rising input costs. For large weddings, requiring seven-eight cylinders, the fuel expense alone has become "unsustainable".

"At times, a single cylinder is costing us as much as Rs 6,000 in the black market, and for a big event, we need at least seven-eight cylinders. We cannot deny services, so we are absorbing the cost and delivering on commitments, but margins have become extremely slim," said Rajesh, a manager at Get Your Menu catering services. "We have increased prices slightly to offset costs, but that is deterring customers. Overall, business has taken a hit. It's not that supply doesn't exist - middlemen are taking advantage of the situation to make money."

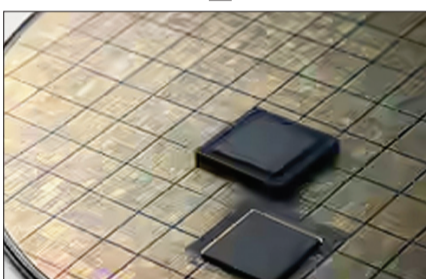
The uncertainty over cylinder supply has led several caterers to stop accepting fresh bookings, resulting in loss of business during the peak season. Manoj Mahendru, founder of Chaykala Caterers, said, "Due to the disruption in distribution, we have had to cancel or avoid taking up new bookings and are restricting ourselves to smaller events requiring less gas. We had to let go of at least two large catering assignments, each of which could have brought in Rs 3-4 lakh." Others said they had been compelled to increase service charges for new clients to offset rising costs, but higher prices are deterring customers. Some are even relying on household LPG cylinders to manage pre-booked events, raising concerns over safety and compliance. Priyanka, founder of Ena's Kitchen, said, "For bigger events, we are being forced to use firewood and coal because LPG is either unavailable or too expensive. The situation is especially tense during the wedding season. There is no regulatory or representative body for caterers to raise concerns, which makes it harder to deal with such crises." Industry players pointed out that restrictions on commercial LPG distribution, coupled with supply disruptions linked to global factors, have thrown many small and mid-scale catering businesses out of gear. While some have explored alternatives, they remain limited in scope. Damini Luthra, founder of Fossetta Catering, said, "We shifted to alternative arrangements like electric setups when the supply disruptions began, but a lot of cooking simply cannot be done that way."

Delhi to put its chips in semiconductor gambit, policy in making

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi govt is drafting a semiconductor policy to position the city as a hub for semiconductor design, research and job generation.

Officials said the Delhi Semiconductor Policy would provide a push that is aligned with India's larger move towards tech self-reliance.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said semiconductors have emerged as a critical pillar in the global economy. They are used in everything from consumer electronics and cars to defence systems and artificial intelligence. These microprocessors power systems that keep societies running. They enable manufacturing units,



hospitals, transport systems and satellites. "Delhi is working on a structured, forward-looking framework that promotes innovation, ease of doing business and a robust industry ecosystem," she said.

A reliable supply of semiconductors is essential for economic stability and continuity across sectors. The push comes amid growing global

recognition of the strategic importance of semiconductors. Semiconductors are the backbone of modern electronics, powering computers, mobile devices, telecommunications, automobiles, defence systems and artificial intelligence.

Recent global disruptions, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, exposed vulnerabilities in semiconductor supply chains, with shortages impacting nearly 170 industries worldwide. Heavy dependence on a few countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, China and the US has heightened concerns around supply security and geopolitical risks.

Against this backdrop, countries across the world are ramping up domestic semiconductor capabilities. India, through initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission, wants to emerge as a reliable partner in the global value chain. Officials said the policy will complement these efforts by strengthening capabilities in design, innovation and talent, where the capital already has a competitive edge.

According to govt officials, the policy will be built around five key pillars: semiconductor design and intellectual property development, research and innovation, manufacturing-enabling segments such as assembly, testing, marking

and packaging (ATMP) and outsourced semiconductor assembly and testing (OSAT), talent development, and a strengthened startup ecosystem. The move is expected to attract investments from fabless companies, startups, and global players looking to expand in India. Fabless companies design and market semiconductors, but do not manufacture them. That work is outsourced to semiconductor manufacturing specialists or companies.

Govt plans to offer a mix of financial and non-financial incentives, including capital subsidies, infrastructure support and measures to reduce operational costs.

MCD orders immediate implementation of revised toll rates

New Delhi, (GNS): Municipal Corporation of Delhi has asked its toll tax department to immediately implement the revised environment compensation charges (ECC) following a recent order of Supreme Court. The enhanced rates, which are for all commercial vehicles entering Delhi, are part of an ongoing effort to discourage polluting commercial vehicles from entering Delhi. Under the revised structure, the ECC for Category 2 vehicles (light-duty vehicles) and Category 3 vehicles (two-axle trucks) has been increased from Rs 1,400 to Rs 2,000. For heavier vehicles - Category 4 (three-axle trucks) and Category 5 (four-axle trucks and above) - the charge has been raised from Rs 2,600 to Rs 4,000.



The move follows the apex court's March 12 order in the long-running case of MC Mehta vs Union of India, which mandated a hike in ECC rates to curb vehicle pollution in the national capital.

The Supreme Court, while approving the proposal of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), directed that the revised ECC rates be implemented from April 1

and also allowed a 5 per cent annual increase from the same date. An official told Media that the civic body is implementing the Supreme Court's directions along with technological upgrades such as RFID integration.

The move is aimed at pushing diesel commercial vehicles to use peripheral expressways instead of entering Delhi. The court also directed MCD to rationalise its toll structure and undertake a comprehensive traffic study, while asking it to work in coordination with the National Highways Authority of India to ensure better compliance, including shifting of toll plazas where required. It emphasised that heavy vehicles not carrying essential goods should avoid entering the city.

Mumbai Man Detained in Delhi Golf Links Heist

Police Hunt 'Guddu' Gang for Breakthrough

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police are learnt to have detained a man in Mumbai in connection with the heist reported from the house of a liquor businessman in the Golf Links area of central Delhi last week.



The police are likely to get a breakthrough by Monday. "The Tughlaq Road police was informed on Saturday that a robber named Guddu Kamat could be involved in this case," a senior officer said.

A team conducted raids in Varsova and other areas of Mumbai after the suspect, nicknamed Guddu, contacted an informer in northwest Delhi, sources said.

The police were tightlipped and didn't confirm if the detained suspect was directly involved or was an associate. A source, however, said that the man gave crucial information about the accused involved in the crime and over 100 policemen were conducting raids to nab them.

He and his gang had committed a similar heist in Noida last year where they held a woman hostage in her home in sector 61 and looted cash and jewellery worth over Rs 50 lakh. In that case too, one of the accused had joined the household as a cook three days before the crime and helped others enter.

Delhi and Noida police had arrested Kamat along with his aides, Amit Kumar Rawat, Rahul and Raman Kamar, all from Bihar.

63-year-old retired RBI employee found murdered at his Mandir Marg home in Delhi

New Delhi, (GNS): An elderly man was murdered at his residence in central Delhi's Mandir Marg, a high-security area, on Sunday evening.

Madho Ram (63), who retired as a multi-tasking staffer of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was found with several stab injuries in a room on the first floor of his house, Sachin Sharma, deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi), said. The Mandir Marg police station was alerted about the incident at 5.30 pm, following which a team of cops rushed to the spot. Ram was immediately taken to Lady Hardinge Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. His body was sent for a post-mortem examination, the report of which is awaited.

Ram lived with his wife, son and two daughters, according to a preliminary investigation. They were reportedly not at home at that time.

An electrician is said to have visited the house and found Ram lying in a pool of blood. He alerted the neighbours, after which police were called. Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the vicinity, which reportedly shows an individual moving near Ram's house around the time of the crime. Initial findings suggest that a person

who lives in the same locality and is known to Ram visited him shortly before the murder. Based on statements from the deceased's family members and initial evidence, a case of murder was registered at Mandir Marg police station. Cops are trying to identify and trace the suspect, while also analysing forensic evidence and CCTV footage to establish the exact sequence of events.

Two held after gunfight with police in Dwarka

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Police have arrested two men wanted in an attempted murder case in southwest Delhi's Chhawla following an exchange of fire, officials said on Sunday. The arrested have been identified as Rocky (22) and Sumit alias Koki (24). They were apprehended near the Urban Extension Road (UER) around 5.35 am, police said. The case relates to a firing incident reported from Shyam Vihar Phase II on April 17, in which two assailants



on a motorcycle allegedly attempted to shoot a complainant at point-blank range, though the weapon failed to fire. A case was registered at Chhawla police station the following day, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Kushal Pal Singh said in a

statement. Acting on specific intelligence, a team of the Anti-Auto Theft Squad (AATS) of Dwarka district intercepted the accused. When asked to surrender, Rocky allegedly opened fire at the team, discharging three rounds. One of the bullets struck a head constable's bulletproof vest, the DCP said. He added that the team retaliated in self-defence, firing three rounds and injuring Rocky below the knee. He was apprehended after a brief scuffle, while

Sumit was overpowered at the spot. According to police, Rocky was riding pillion during the earlier incident and had attempted the firing, while Sumit was driving the motorcycle. A 7.65 mm pistol with two live cartridges and three empty shells was recovered from Rocky, while a country-made firearm with one live cartridge was seized from Sumit. The motorcycle used in the crime, a Yamaha bike bearing a Haryana registration number, has also been recovered.

WESTERN RAILWAY MAINTENANCE WORK
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(CO), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008, invites E-Tender No: SG-623-1827-WA Dtd. 17/04/2026. Name of Work : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of CCTV based Video Surveillance System provided in Churchgate-Vihar section and Surat Station of Mumbai Division for Five years. Cost of Work: ₹ 14,93,26,809.97. Bid Security: ₹ 29,86,500. Date & Time for Closure for Submission of E-Tender Documents: Till 11.05.2026, 15:00 hrs. Date & Time for Opening of E-Tender: After 15:30 hrs. on 11.05.2026. The tender can be viewed at website: <http://www.treps.gov.in> 0015
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Semiconductor policy to make Capital hub for research, investment, says Gupta

New Delhi, (GNS): The Delhi Government has initiated the drafting of a comprehensive semiconductor policy aimed at positioning the Capital as a hub for chip design, research and allied industries, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Sunday. The proposed 'Delhi Semiconductor Policy' will focus on strengthening high-value segments such as design, research and development and advanced packaging, while also promoting investment and skilling in the sector. Gupta said the initiative aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build an "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and strengthen India's



semiconductor ecosystem. She added that the policy would include both financial and non-financial incentives to support innovation, ease of doing business and industry growth. According to officials, the

policy framework will be built around five key pillars: semiconductor design and intellectual property development; research, development and innovation; manufacturing-enabling activities such as Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) and Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSAT); talent development and skilling; and strengthening of the start-up and industrial ecosystem.

The government expects the policy to attract investments from fabless semiconductor firms, start-ups and

ATMP/OSAT players, while also supporting ancillary industries linked to testing, packaging and semiconductor inputs.

Highlighting the employment potential, the Chief Minister said the initiative is expected to generate high-quality jobs in areas such as chip design and semiconductor research. It will also promote skill development through targeted training programmes, internships and industry-academia partnerships. The policy further proposes measures to improve the business environment, including capital subsidies, infrastructure support and alignment with national initiatives such as the India Semiconductor Mission.

Brace for worse as IMD issues heatwave alert from Wed

New Delhi, (GNS): After a brief rain relief, the mercury has started rising again, with the maximum temperature touching 40.1 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal, on Sunday at the city's base station, Safdarjung. For the first time this season, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for heatwave conditions in isolated areas from Wednesday to Friday, with the mercury likely to reach 43°C.

On Friday, Delhi witnessed the season's highest maximum temperature at 41°C, but the weather changed in the evening, with the city recording intense rain, lightning and gusty winds. The mercury dipped below 40°C on Saturday, but the respite didn't last long.

At 41.8°C, the Ridge observatory in north Delhi was the hottest station on Sunday, followed by Mungeshpur in northwest Delhi (41°C). The consistently hot north-westerly winds and maximum hours of sunshine are likely to push up the mercury in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and north



Rajasthan in the next few days, Met officials said. The maximum is predicted to be around 41 to 42°C on Monday and Tuesday, but may hover between 41 and 43°C from Wednesday to Friday.

"A western disturbance, which caused rain in the Himalayan region, passed on Sunday. Another one is expected to impact the Himalayas from April 23, but since it will be feeble, Delhi is unlikely to get any respite during the next seven days," said Krishna Mishra, scientist, IMD. He added that one of the stations in Delhi may witness heatwave conditions on Monday and isolated areas are likely to reel under heatwaves from April 22.

6 juveniles held for fatal stabbing of 19-year-old

New Delhi, (GNS): Six juveniles were apprehended in connection with the fatal stabbing of a 19-year-old tempo driver in north-west Delhi's Samaypur Badli area, the police said on Sunday.



The victim, identified as Rajeev, was attacked in the MCD Colony area on the evening of April 14 following a dispute that had escalated over the previous day. The police said a PCR call was received at 7.44 pm reporting the stabbing, after which the person was rushed to Max Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries. The incident stemmed from a heated argument on April 13, when a group of youths had gathered near the victim's residence.

Women's quota key to Viksit Bharat: Speaker

New Delhi, (GNS): Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Sunday emphasised the central role of women's leadership and youth participation in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, while addressing the closing ceremony of the 'Run for Mother Earth' event in the national capital. Highlighting recent parliamentary developments, Gupta referred to the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which aimed to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha through delimitation, and provide reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.

19-Year-Old Woman Found Dead in Anand Parbat, Husband Missing; Foul Play Suspected

New Delhi, (GNS): A 19-year-old woman was found dead under suspicious circumstances in central Delhi's Anand Parbat area on Sunday. Police are searching for her missing husband. Police said a PCR call was received at 12.02 pm from the house owner of the residence in Nai Basti. The call was made after a foul smell was noticed from the room. Police found the woman, who had been married for about three months, lying dead inside.

Questions to action: Delhi schools to take on pollution through the year

New Delhi, (GNS): On a typical day in the city, it is often children who voice the most unsettling questions. Why can't we see the sun clearly? Why does the air feel heavy to breathe? Their questions, simple yet piercing, reflect a reality that adults have gradually learned to overlook. It is this instinctive curiosity, coupled with a growing sense of urgency, that Delhi govt is seeking to harness through a year-long environmental awareness campaign.



All schools in Delhi have been instructed to implement the programme during the 2026-27 academic session, not just to inform students

about pollution but also to involve them in addressing it, officials said.

Under the plan, schools must conduct monthly activities on themes, such as plastic waste, air pollution, water conservation, dust control and noise pollution. Institutions have also been directed to

submit monthly action reports, along with photographs, documenting the activities.

According to officials, the idea is to move beyond textbook learning. "Students must become participants in change, not just observers," an official said, adding that schools are expected to integrate environmental responsibility into everyday behaviour.

The circular, issued by Directorate of Education's science branch, mandates participation from govt, aided and private schools alike. It outlines a structured calendar of activities spread across the academic year, beginning with

campaigns against single-use plastic and culminating in focused drives on air and noise pollution during winter.

Schools have been asked to take practical steps within campuses as well. These include setting up separate bins for wet and dry waste, promoting reuse of materials, reducing energy consumption and discouraging practices such as littering and burning waste. Morning assemblies, too, are expected to carry environmental messages, reinforcing awareness on a daily basis.

The programme combines awareness with engagement. Students will participate in poster-making, essay-writing,

debates, quizzes and street plays, alongside workshops on waste management and plantation drives. Key environmental days, such as Earth Day, World Environment Day and Ozone Day, will be observed to deepen understanding of global challenges.

The initiative also places emphasis on community participation, urging schools to extend these efforts beyond campus boundaries. Students are encouraged to carry these practices into their homes and neighbourhoods, whether by discouraging the use of single-use plastics, promoting waste segregation or spreading awareness about water and energy conservation.

Despite clean-up efforts, waste continues to plague Delhi's railway tracks

New Delhi, (GNS): Painting a grim picture of neglect, railway tracks across the national capital are lined by charred waste, discarded plastic and rotting debris line.

Recently, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), along with Indian Railways, had launched a special sanitation drive to remove garbage from railway tracks, focusing on clearing construction and demolition (C&D) debris, lifting legacy waste and improving overall cleanliness in vulnerable areas.

However, dumping of garbage continues unabated in most areas, undermining the clean-up efforts. An inspection of the railway tracks presented a mixed picture, with several stretches found in a deplorable condition - strewn with garbage and debris -- and others rela-



tively cleaner and better maintained.

A spot visit by Media on Thursday afternoon to areas near railway tracks in Kishanganj, Azadpur, Sabzi Mandi and Daya Basti revealed heaps of waste. At Kishanganj, burnt clothes, plastic and debris were scattered across the tracks. Concrete sleepers and overgrown vegetation stood amid charred remains, indicating instances of open burning. The tracks run parallel to unauthorised houses, and sev-

eral residents could be seen hanging clothes close to the area. A 54-year-old railway maintenance staff member highlighted the challenges faced while carrying out his duties, saying garbage from nearby clusters invariably accumulates along the tracks. "I have to maintain the tracks and check that no nut or bolt is loose for the smooth running of trains. Due to the garbage, I first have to remove the waste with my hands... It feels very dirty, but it is my job."

Man wanted in rape-murder case of 4-year-old niece killed in police encounter in Ghaziabad

New Delhi, (GNS): A 55-year-old criminal wanted in the case of rape and murder of his four-year-old niece was killed in a police encounter on Sunday night in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad district, a police official said on Monday.

In the joint operation carried out by the police and Crime Branch, Jeeshan, carrying a cash reward of Rs 50,000, allegedly opened fire to evade arrest, resulting in injuries to two personnel, the police said.

According to the police, at around noon on April 11, Jeeshan allegedly lured the child from outside her

home on the pretext of buying her toffees. He took her to his room, where he allegedly raped her and subsequently strangled her to death. Following the crime, the accused carried the body on his shoulders and dumped it under a car on an 80-foot road in the Shalimar Garden police station area before fleeing.

Two days ago, his presence was captured on CCTV footage at Delhi railway station when he was trying to flee out of Delhi. The police received a tip-off that the accused was scheduled to meet someone near the Banthla canal in Loni, the police said.

Requiem for a dream: 2 families, 2 funerals & what passes for care

New Delhi, (GNS): Sixty-one-year-old Tejpal, a resident of Rewari in Haryana, was deeply troubled by his son Rishipal's growing alcohol dependence. A small-time shop owner with limited means but strong resolve, he was desperate to find a solution that could save his 28-year-old son from the grip of addiction.

Tejpal was frantically exploring options when he came across a message scribbled on a wall, promising help in quitting addiction. Believing it to be the lifeline he was desperately looking for, Tejpal dialled the number.

The person on the other end assured him of proper care and recovery, filling him with hope that Rishipal could finally overcome his struggle. A trusting Tejpal admitted his son to the facility - a private de-addiction centre in south-west Delhi's Dichaon Kalan - on Dec 3, 2025.



After five days, Rishipal was dead. "I thought my son would recover, but the people at the centre took his life," Tejpal tells Media.

He had met the centre's owner in person before sending over Rishipal. The owner convinced him of the facility's credibility, showing him videos and photographs on his phone that painted the picture of a well-maintained centre, where doctors regularly visited and inmates participated in

activities. Everything appeared professional and reassuring. In reality, though, all of it existed only on paper.

Rishipal's uncle, Vijay, says the family was charged Rs 8,000 per month. We paid Rs 3,000 in advance apart from a Rs 1,000 registration fee at the time of admission. "I used to call up the centre for the next four days to ask after him, but the person who answered the call never let me speak to my son, saying he was fine," Tejpal says. On Dec 8, the family

received a phone call informing them that "Rishipal's condition has deteriorated". Shortly after, another call confirmed his death. Tejpal alleged that his son had been assaulted by people at the centre. Rishipal is survived by his widow and three young children. The family lives in Garhi Alawalpur village in Haryana. Police arrested the owner of the centre, and a case under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) was registered. A case is on; the next hearing is on April 23, the bereaved family says. The centre is still operational.

Life Snuffed Out At 22: The story of 22-year-old Arun Kumar is equally tragic. Last year, his family admitted him to a de-addiction centre at Hiranki Village, Alipur, hoping it would help him mend his ways and start a new life. What his relatives didn't anticipate was that he would never return home.

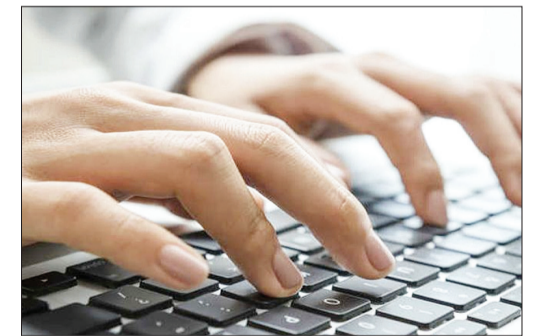
Swipe, chat, trust, lose: Online dating matchmaking turn costly for many

New Delhi, (GNS): For 30-year-old Shweta (name changed), creating a profile on a matrimonial platform ended in financial and emotional distress. She lost over Rs 7 lakh to a man she met online and intended to marry. What began as a promise of companionship turned into a rude awakening when the accused cut off all contact and blocked her across platforms.

Following her complaint, the police arrested Anand Kumar (35), a resident of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Investigators said he allegedly duped nearly 500 women of around Rs 2 crore by posing as a doctor, businessman, lawyer and film producer across dating and matrimonial platforms.

Cops say such cases are no longer isolated. With the rapid shift from traditional matchmaking through families and community networks to digital platforms, fraudsters are exploiting anonymity and access to a wider pool of potential victims.

As the use of dating and matrimonial platforms grows, so does the scale of fraud. A 2026 report by McAfee found that one in seven Indians has fallen victim to romance



scams, with average losses of around Rs 2.8 lakh. The Ministry of Home Affairs has warned that fraudsters often pose as well-settled professionals or NRIs to build credibility before seeking money. Data from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre indicates a steady rise in complaints, many linked to organised networks using emotional manipulation for financial gain.

Modus operandi Investigators broadly classify these frauds into two patterns. On matrimonial platforms, scammers create fake profiles and quickly build emotional trust. Conversations are then shifted to private messaging apps such as WhatsApp or Telegram, where monitoring is limited.