



### NDA proves majority in Bihar Assembly

vote of confidence passed by voice vote



**Patna, Agency:** The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government led by Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary proved its majority in the special session of the Bihar Assembly on Friday. The vote of confidence was passed by voice vote without voting in the House and the Samrat Chaudhary government won the vote of confidence. MLAs from all the NDA allies announced their support to the government one by one, after which the vote of confidence was passed easily.

Samrat Chaudhary was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar on April 15, replacing Nitish Kumar. Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav from the Janata Dal United (JDU) quota were sworn in along with him as Deputy Chief Ministers.

### NHRC issues notice to DM-SP in case of death of 4 children due to drowning in a deep pit

**New Delhi, Agency:** The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of the death of four children who drowned in a deep pit near a drain construction site in the Islampur area of Nanded district, Maharashtra. The Commission, considering the incident serious, has sought a detailed report from the local administration.

The NHRC has issued notices to the Nanded Municipal Commissioner, District Magistrate (DM), and Superintendent of Police (SP), directing them to submit a detailed report on the matter within two weeks. The Commission stated that if the media reports are found to be accurate, it constitutes administrative negligence and a serious violation of human rights.

### Panipat-Gang-Rape: Mother-Daughter-FIR-Filed-Fat

**Panipat, Agency:** A minor girl has filed a serious case of kidnapping, hostage taking and gang rape against her father, his business partner (father-son) and others. According to the victim, when she refused to marry him, the accused kidnapped her and her mother, held them hostage for 12 days and continuously tortured them. The 16-year-old minor girl alleges that her father, a cattle trader, wanted to marry her to Sunil, son of his business partner Surendra. Due to her being a minor, the daughter and mother refused the marriage. The mother said that marrying a minor daughter is a crime. Angered by this, the father conspired with his partner Surendra, his son Sunil and others. The accused lured the mother and daughter to Sanjay Chowk in Panipat and then took them to a rented room on Jatal Road (rented by a woman named Sapna).

Upon arriving, the accused held them hostage at knifepoint. According to the victim, Sunil raped her multiple times, while Surendra raped her mother.

## Abortion allowed for 7-month pregnant minor

### Supreme Court said – it is a question of the woman's choice, she cannot be forced to deliver

**New Delhi, Agency:** The Supreme Court on Friday granted medical termination of pregnancy (abortion) to a 15-year-old girl who was more than seven months pregnant. A bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjwal Bhuyan said:

It's not about the child being born. What matters is what the girl wants. If she doesn't want to give birth, she can't be forced to, even if the option of giving the child up for adoption is available after birth.



Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, citing medical reports, argued that abortion at this stage could be risky for both mother and child. He suggested giving the child up for adoption after delivery.

**The lawyer said that the minor was under stress due to pregnancy**

The petitioner's lawyer argued that the pregnancy had caused the minor severe mental distress and had affected her studies. The court was informed that the minor already exhibited signs of severe mental distress and had even attempted suicide. The Solicitor General had said that arrangements could be made for the child's adoption through the Central Adoption Resource Authority, while protecting the identity of the girl and her family. He also offered financial assistance to the minor. However, Justice Nagarathna questioned this argument, stating that the court cannot force women to rely on financial assistance or adoption as alternatives to abortion.

The court rejected his suggestion. The girl became pregnant after a consensual relationship with a minor. Termination of Pregnancy Act (MPT Act). The girl also stated that she did not want to continue the pregnancy. The minor's mother sought permission to abort her daughter beyond the time limit set by the Medical



### Raghav Chadha, 6 other Rajya Sabha MPs resign from Aam Aadmi Party, join BJP

**New Delhi, Agency:** Days after an open rift with the Aam Aadmi Party leadership, Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha resigned from the party. Chadha, along with six other Rajya members, including Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, on Friday announced that the three were breaking away from AAP and joining the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"The Aam Aadmi Party, which I nurtured with my blood and sweat and to which I gave 15 years of my youth, has now completely deviated from its principles, values, and core morals. The party is no longer working for the country or in the national interest, but for personal gain," Chadha said during the press conference.

#### Seven MPs who quit AAP are

- Raghav Chadha
- Swati Maliwal
- Harbhajan Singh
- Sandeep Pathak
- Ashok Mittal
- Rajinder Gupta
- Vikram Sahni

came days after Chadha was removed as the leader of the party in Rajya Sabha by AAP, which in turn, led to intense showdown of words between Chadha and AAP leaders.

"Many of you have been telling me this for the past few years, and I too have personally felt that I am the right man in the wrong party. I repeat, 'I am the right man in the wrong party.' Therefore, today I announce that I am distancing myself from the Aam Aadmi Party and going to the people," Chadha said.

### Naravane said : The government did not leave him alone in the China standoff:

● **Rahul claimed – the PM had told the former Army Chief to do whatever he deemed appropriate.**



**New Delhi, Agency:** Former Army Chief General MM Naravane said on Thursday that the government did not abandon the Army during the 2020 standoff with China. The government was fully supportive and gave full authority to respond to the situation on the ground.

In fact, Rahul Gandhi, citing Naravane's book "Four Stars of Destiny," raised the issue of Chinese incursions and the review of the Agniveer scheme in Parliament on February 2 and 3. He then claimed that the government had abandoned the army. He then brought the book with him to Parliament.

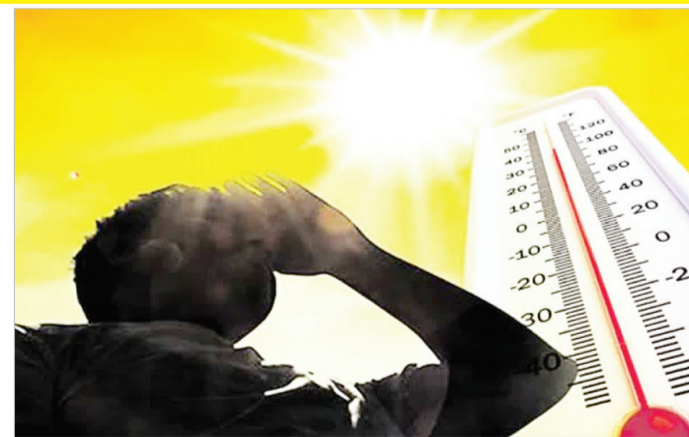
right' comment reflects the government's complete confidence in the armed forces and should not be politicized. The armed forces were given a free hand to respond to the situation on the ground.

In fact, Rahul Gandhi, citing Naravane's book "Four Stars of Destiny," raised the issue of Chinese incursions and the review of the Agniveer scheme in Parliament on February 2 and 3. He then claimed that the government had abandoned the army. He then brought the book with him to Parliament.

### Temperatures exceed 44°C in four cities in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra

Schools closed in four districts of Odisha; one person died due to heatstroke in Kerala

**New Delhi/ Bhopal/ Jaipur/ Lucknow, Agency:** The heat wave is intensifying in many parts of the country. The mercury has surpassed 44°C in four cities across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. On Thursday, Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan recorded the highest temperature of 44.5°C. Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh and Amravati in Maharashtra recorded 44.4°C, while Akola recorded 44.3°C.



Due to increasing heat, the school timings have been changed to 7.30 am. In Jaipur, Kota, Bikaner, Chittorgarh, Jaisalmer, Jhunjhunu, and Dausa of Rajasthan, work hours

for government projects have also been changed. Workers will now work only from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meanwhile, in Kerala, one person died due to heatstroke. This is the first heat-related death in Kannur district amid soaring temperatures. The heatwave continued to grip Odisha on Thursday. Jharsuguda and Talcher recorded temperatures of 44°C. Temperatures reached 40°C or above at 24 locations across the state.

### In Manipur, the women of Meira Paibi took to the streets

**Imphal, Agency:** On April 7th, two children were killed in a rocket attack in Manipur. Three more deaths were reported in the protests. Protests have been ongoing since then. A complete shutdown has been in effect since April 18th amid the unrest, bringing normal life to a standstill. Meanwhile, the women of the Meira Paibi group have taken to the streets. This group of thousands of women is not only protesting for peace on the streets but also mobilizing people on a social level. These women are blocking roads and staging sit-ins during the day. Neither the police nor anyone else can pass through. At night, they are also patrolling the area with torchlight rallies. One female protester said, "It's challenging to juggle the three things: managing the household, participating in the protests, and worrying about livelihoods."

## The wrath of the scorching heat: Scorching cities, changing routines and the public in search of relief

Kantilal Mandot

From North India to West and Central India, the heat has begun to show its fierce form these days. Temperatures are constantly rising towards new records, and normal life is being severely affected. It has become difficult to go out on the streets, the heat is mixed in the air, and the afternoon time seems like a fire. The situation is such that people are avoiding going out except for essential work. Those who do step out, cover themselves with an umbrella, towel, or cloth. Children, the elderly, and the working class are bearing the brunt of this intense heat.

The temperature in Lucknow has surpassed 41 degrees Celsius. According to the Meteorological Department, this is several degrees above normal, making the heat

even more intense. School timings have been changed to protect children from the intense afternoon sun. Schools now start early in the morning and close by 12:30 pm. Despite this, by the time children return home from school, the sun is still there in its full heat, and they have to endure discomfort. Many children are seen struggling with problems like fatigue, sweating, and dizziness.

Similar conditions are prevailing not only in Lucknow, but also in other parts of Uttar Pradesh. Meteorologists say that temperatures are unlikely to drop significantly for the next few days. Heat waves are expected in many areas of the state, which could prove even more dangerous for residents. The scorching heat is providing no respite, both day and night, affecting both people's sleep and health.

The heat wave is similar in other parts of the country. Temperatures in many cities in Rajasthan have reached above 40 degrees Celsius, and in some places, it is expected to reach 45 degrees. In cities like Kota, the mercury has reached 42 degrees Celsius, disrupting normal life. There is also a significant difference between day and night temperatures, which is not conducive to health.

Meanwhile, the heat has begun to take its toll in Gujarat. The state government and health department are on full alert. "Heat wards" have been created in hospitals to provide immediate treatment to heatstroke patients. In response to cases of dehydration, ORS corners have also been set up, providing free ORS to residents. This initiative indicates that the administration is anticipating the severity of

the heat and is preparing in advance.

However, the situation is different in some parts of the country. Pre-monsoon activity has intensified in Northeast India, and heavy rains have led to flood-like conditions in Guwahati. This situation highlights how weather patterns can vary across the country—some where people are grappling with scorching heat, while others are grappling with rain and floods.

This intense heat is affecting not only daily life but also religious and social activities. At Kashi Vishwanath Dham, the deity is being anointed with cold drinks and fruit juices to provide some relief and spiritual solace to devotees. This is a unique aspect of Indian culture, where traditions are adapted to suit natural conditions.

This heat wave can not only cause discomfort but also pose a serious health risk. Problems like heatstroke, dehydration, and heatstroke are increasing rapidly. This time is especially challenging for those who work in the sun for long periods of time—like laborers, rickshaw pullers, and delivery personnel. The situation for children and the elderly is also concerning, as their physical capacity to tolerate such heat is limited.

In such a situation, it is important to take some precautions to protect ourselves from this scorching heat. First and foremost, avoid going outside between 11 am and 4 pm. If absolutely necessary, go out with your head covered—use an umbrella, hat, or towel. Keeping the body hydrated is extremely important, so drink plenty of water throughout the day.

## Editorial

### Level of quality of education

It's true that a large number of private schools and higher education institutions have opened in the country recently, but the level of research in these institutions is not satisfactory. Private educational institutions are also not properly regulated.

Following the release of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 10th exam results, the UP Board's high school and intermediate exam results have also been announced. Results from several other board exams have also been released. The results so far reveal a large number of talented students. They are deserving of congratulations and praise, and are also becoming a source of inspiration for other students. This is natural, but it also merits consideration: is the country developing the kind of talent needed in today's era, which can contribute to the country's scientific and technological advancement?

We cannot ignore the fact that we are not providing the quality education that the times demand. Another problem is that a large number of students are going abroad to study. The trend of pursuing higher education in Western countries as well as developing countries has increased. Not only should we deeply consider why this is happening, but we must also address the reasons behind it. At the same time, we must also consider how to improve the quality of research and development in educational institutions.

India ranks third in the number of research papers, but lags far behind in terms of their quality. A major reason for this is that India spends less than one percent of its GDP on research, while many developing countries spend 4-5 percent. The lack of advanced laboratories and training in educational institutions also hinders quality research.

It's true that a large number of private schools and higher education institutions have opened in the country recently, but the level of research in these institutions is not satisfactory. Private educational institutions are also not properly regulated. A case in point is the National Human Rights Commission's cognizance of the high-handedness of private schools.

## The mosquito of death, the danger of negligence: Time for a decisive attack on malaria

Shweta Goyal



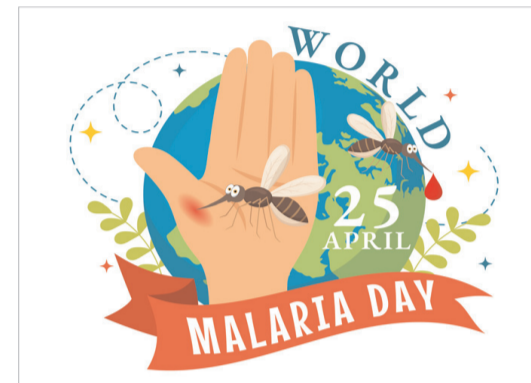
**Malaria remains one of the most chronic and dangerous diseases, claiming millions of lives each year and plunging countless families into grief. Despite being completely preventable, it remains a global health crisis. The most worrying factor is that most malaria deaths occur among young children, especially those under five years of age, who are most vulnerable. Malaria is caused by a microscopic but deadly parasite that enters the human body through an infected female Anopheles mosquito.**



When this mosquito bites a person, the parasite, called Plasmodium, enters the bloodstream, first attacking the liver and then destroying red blood cells. This is why malaria is not just a simple fever but a disease that severely impacts the body's internal structures.

The global malaria situation remains alarming. Recent data shows that millions of people contract the disease each year, and millions lose their lives. The estimated 610,000 deaths from malaria in 2024 demonstrate that the disease could still spiral out of control if even the slightest negligence is shown. This is not only a health issue but also a social and economic development issue, as malaria reduces productivity in affected areas, burdens the health system, and deepens the cycle of poverty. The most dangerous characteristic of malaria is its complexity and diversity. There are several strains of Plasmodium, of which falciparum is considered the most lethal. If left untreated, it can cause severe anemia, kidney failure, neurological complications, and ultimately, death. This is why delaying or neglecting malaria treatment poses a direct threat to life. People often ignore the initial symptoms, mistaking them for a simple fever, which can lead to serious consequences.

However, a ray of hope is equally strong. Science has made significant achievements in the fight against malaria. The development of new vaccines, advanced drugs, insecticide-treated bed nets, and digital surveillance systems indicate significant progress. Some malaria vaccines have proven that controlling malaria is no longer a dream but a reality. These vaccines are being successfully used in many countries, protecting millions of children. Additionally, artificial intelligence and data analytics are being used to identify malaria-prone areas, enabling timely preventive measures. Research is also underway on



genetically modified mosquitoes, exploring the potential for controlling the spread of malaria. All these efforts indicate that eradicating malaria is possible if the global community works together.

Despite this, the challenges remain. Climate change, urbanization, and the increasing resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides are making this fight even more difficult. Shifts in temperature and rainfall patterns are driving mosquitoes' spread to new areas, increasing the risk of malaria. Furthermore, in many developing countries, lack of healthcare facilities, lack of awareness, and limited financial resources hinder the control of the disease. This is why the theme for World Malaria Day 2026, "Committed to End Malaria: Now We Can, Now We Must," is extremely relevant. This theme is not just a slogan but a reminder that there is no room for further delay. We have the resources, the technology, and the experience; all that is needed is strong will and coordinated effort.

Malaria symptoms include high fever, chills, excessive sweating, headache, vomiting, and weakness. In many cases, the disease worsens so quickly that patients don't even have a chance to recover. Malaria prevention measures are simple yet effective. Maintaining cleanliness, avoiding waterlogging in and around the home, using mosquito nets, wearing long-sleeved clothing, and regularly spraying insecticides play a vital role in preventing this disease. Extra caution is especially necessary during the rainy and summer seasons, as these are the times when mosquito popula-

tions increase rapidly. Any type of fever should not be taken lightly. If high fever, chills, or other symptoms appear, seek immediate medical attention and begin treatment as advised by a doctor. Proper treatment at an early stage can completely control malaria and prevent serious complications.

The role of governments and health institutions is also crucial in this direction. Strengthening primary health services, providing testing and treatment facilities in remote areas, launching awareness campaigns, and ensuring adequate budgets for malaria control programs are essential. Community participation is equally important, as no health campaign can be successful without public support. Global successes demonstrate that malaria control is possible with sustained efforts. Many countries have completely eliminated it, and many more are rapidly progressing in this direction. These achievements inspire us to take concrete steps in this direction and move towards a malaria-free future. This fight against malaria is not just about medicine or science, but about awareness, responsibility, and collective resolve. If we take timely precautions, don't ignore symptoms, and avoid negligence in treatment, thousands and millions of lives can be saved. Now is the time to stop treating this disease as a common problem, but instead embrace it as a serious challenge and unite to eradicate it. Eradicating malaria is possible, but to do so, we must change our habits, policies, and priorities. Only when every citizen is aware, every community is active, and every government is committed will this dream become a reality. This is not just a question of health, but of the future of humanity. Now we must decide whether we will succumb to this challenge or defeat it and build a healthy, safe, and malaria-free world. (The author is an academician active in the field of education for more than a decade and a half)

## Didi is going to leave, BJP is coming?

Sanat Jain

For the first time since independence, India has set a record for voter turnout, unprecedented in the past and future. After the first phase of voting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah claimed that the BJP is winning 120 of the 154 constituencies that voted in the first phase. The BJP contested the West Bengal and Tamil Nadu elections based on the Women's Reservation Bill as its narrative. During the elections, a special session of Parliament was convened to introduce an amendment bill on the issue of delimitation and census. The bill was promoted by linking it to women's reservation. The

Women's Reservation Bill exists. Even after the bill failed to pass Parliament with a two-thirds majority, the BJP made it a national movement issue. Campaigning in Bengal and Tamil Nadu in the name of women's reservation, the BJP claims that women voted overwhelmingly in favor of the BJP in West Bengal. A record 86 percent voter turnout was recorded in all 234 assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu. The BJP also claims that women voted in favor of the NDA in Tamil Nadu. In the past few years, the BJP has been winning elections unexpectedly by creating a similar narrative before elections. This time, the BJP is confident that it will form the government

in West Bengal with an absolute majority for the first time. Mamata Banerjee claims the opposite. This time, women have protested the way millions of voters' names have been deleted from the electoral rolls in the name of SIR. Approximately 6.4 million voters have been removed from the electoral rolls due to logical discrepancies. For the past three months, voters in Bengal have been struggling to get their names added to the electoral rolls, with no hearing at any level. Millions of West Bengal voters were deeply troubled by this process. Ultimately, over 3.4 million voters were denied the right to vote in West Bengal. This has led to a strong reaction in Bengal. The diffi-

culties faced by voters in defending their citizenship and the harassment faced by Bengalis have led to angry voters voting in favor of the TMC this time. To protect Bengali dignity and civil rights, even communist-minded voters have voted for the TMC. Mamata Banerjee claims that the massive turnout is in protest against the SIR and to preserve Bengali identity. Mamata Banerjee claims that she will form her government for the fourth time with a landslide majority. Political analysts closely monitoring the Bengal elections believe that this time's assembly election results will be surprising. Looking at the election results of the past 15 years, it's clear

that communist voters have been voting for the BJP in every election. This was primarily due to the weakening of the communist ideology and the BJP's systematic strengthening of its hold in Bengal. The BJP has benefited from the increasing conflict between the Communist Party and the TMC in the last two Lok Sabha and assembly elections. This cannot be denied. This time, the situation seems to be reversed. The rising unemployment and inflation, and the way Bengalis have been targeted in the name of corruption in the country, have led West Bengal voters to vote overwhelmingly in protest against Bengali identity and the SIR.

# Delhi Cantt gets robotic orthopaedic system

**New Delhi(GNS):** Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh today inaugurated the Robotic Orthopaedic System and Maternity Operation Theatre at Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi Cantt.

The facilities will provide advanced healthcare services for the residents of the cantonment and neighbouring municipal areas. Speaking on the occasion, the Defence Secretary emphasised the importance of modernising healthcare infrastructure in cantonments and highlighted the government continued commitment to ensuring high-quality medical services for residents.

The newly launched Robotic Orthopaedic System represents a major technological upgrade, enabling precision-driven surgical procedures, reduced recovery times and improved patient out-



comes. Equipped with a cutting-edge robotic system, the unit is expected to enhance the hospital's capability in handling complex orthopaedic cases with greater accuracy and efficiency. Also, the Maternity Operation Theatre has been designed to provide compre-

hensive and safe surgical care for expectant mothers.

The Ministry of Defence said among the planned upgradations at Cantonment General Hospital are a dialysis centre, central sterile services department (CSSD), ICU upgrades, and laboratory expansion over the next three

months. Further, over the next year, facilities such as a Paediatric ICU, Neonatal ICU, CT Scan, MRI, Cancer Screening Unit, High Dependency Unit, Multispecialty Ward and Surgical ICU are also planned to be developed to enhance healthcare services.

# CM flags lapses during surprise inspection of Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital

**New Delhi(GNS):**

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday conducted a surprise inspection of Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital, where she found shortages of medicines, long patient queues and poor sanitation. The CM directed immediate corrective measures in this regard.

During the unannounced visit, the Chief Minister toured OPD areas, wards, pharmacy counters and other facilities, interacting with patients and attendants to gather feedback. Several elderly patients complained of waiting for hours without treatment, prompting Gupta to pull up hospital authorities and order better seating arrangements and a streamlined token system. She also flagged gaps in doctor availability, overcrowding in OPDs and inefficiencies in the online appointment system, directing officials to better integrate digital and on-ground processes to reduce waiting times.

A major concern raised during the



inspection was the unavailability of medicines, with patients forced to purchase drugs from outside. Taking serious note, Gupta ordered immediate audit of stock registers and directed the authorities to ensure uninterrupted supply. "If a medicine is needed today, it must be provided today," she said, warning of strict action in case of lapses.

Complaints regarding poor sanitation, water supply issues and unhygienic conditions also drew sharp criticism from the Chief Minister, who termed the situation "unacceptable" and stressed accountability. She directed officials to improve cleanliness, repair basic facilities and maintain hygiene standards across the hospital. To address systemic issues, Gupta ordered biometric attendance for staff, mandatory display of nameplates and stricter monitoring of services. She also sought inputs from doctors on rising hepatitis cases and called for preventive measures.

# Ashram-Mukarba Chowk identified as Phase I for elevated Ring Road project

**New Delhi(GNS):** Delhi govt has moved a step closer to easing congestion on one of the capital's busiest corridors, identifying a nearly 22km priority stretch between Ashram and Mukarba Chowk as the "most viable starting point" for Phase I of the 57.5km elevated Ring Road project.

PWD minister Parvesh Verma said the detailed project report noted the section offers a relatively clearer obstruction-free alignment, allowing faster execution with fewer logistical hurdles compared to densely built-up stretches. "It has fewer encroachments and simpler engineering requirements, so construction can proceed with



minimal disruption and faster timelines," an official said. The corridor, referred to as the 'Urban Ring Expressway' by PWD, will run above Mahatma Gandhi Marg, commonly known as Inner Ring Road, a 55-km arterial loop serving as the backbone of Delhi's transport network. The project is expected to significantly reduce travel time across key routes, said Verma. The project has been divided into phases, covering critical junctions like Majnu Ka

Tila, Salimgarh Fort, Moti Bagh, Rajouri Garden and Azadpur. The Mukarba Chowk-Ashram stretch has been further divided into three segments: from Mukarba Chowk near Azadpur to Metcalf House, Majnu Ka Tila to Salimgarh Fort, and from Salimgarh Fort to DND flyover.

There are several challenges, among them the integration of the elevated road with existing infrastructure, including a grade separator and the Red Line near Kashmere Gate. Officials said careful planning will be required to ensure seamless connectivity without disrupting existing systems.

Another sensitive aspect

involves heritage conservation. The alignment passes close to three protected monuments, including Salimgarh Fort, which falls under ASI jurisdiction. Authorities have assured construction activities will strictly adhere to ASI guidelines to safeguard the historical structures.

The corridor also cuts through some of Delhi's most densely populated neighbourhoods, including South Extension, Punjabi Bagh, Lajpat Nagar and Ashram, raising concerns about traffic diversions during execution.

Financial viability remains another major hurdle. The project's estimated cost ranges between Rs 5,500 crore and Rs 8,000, said a senior offi-

cial. Inner Ring Road begins at Shalimar Bagh in north Delhi and extends to Azadpur. Once a relatively efficient arterial corridor designed to facilitate cross-city travel, Ring Road now faces chronic congestion and is buckling under mounting pressure, unlike Outer Ring Road, developed later to redirect peripheral traffic. From urban sprawl and flawed planning to infrastructure saturation and enforcement gaps, several factors have forced the once-speedy corridor into a glacial pace. Originally planned in the 1950s and completed in the following decades, Ring Road has witnessed a very different city - both in terms of population and traffic volume.



## Amid row over renaming Delhi's Dyal Singh College, Principal calls meet on April 28

**New Delhi(GNS):** The simmering issue of proposed renaming of Dyal Singh Evening College in New Delhi after Sikh general Banda Singh Bahadur came to a head today with college staff council members holding a protest outside the principal's office. He protest led by college staff council president Mithilesh Kumar Singh and secretary Jagbir Singh was joined by senior leaders of the Delhi University Teachers' Association. After the agitation, Mithilesh Singh told The Tribune that the principal had agreed to discuss the issue with the stakeholders on April 28.

"If the authorities still do not call us despite an assurance, we will escalate the matter further. Any renaming of the college or its relocation has to be first discussed with the staff council, which is the primary legal body of the college. In the instant matter, the principal bypassed all procedures and the governing body took the decision to rename the college. We came to know of the move only when Delhi University Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh in his address on Veer Bal Diwas last year claimed that DU was going to rename Dyal Singh College. We will not allow the legacy of Majithia to be diluted," Singh said today.

The renaming move was recently opposed by a cross-section of people, including former Shiromani Akali Dal MP Naresh Gujral, who had in 2017 thwarted the attempt to call the college "Vande Matram" College.

Gujral had flagged the issue in Parliament and obtained an assurance against renaming from then education minister Prakash Javadekar. Several renowned academics had also opposed the renaming plan.

## 'Paise ke liye

# Man accused of killing IRS officer's daughter tells court

**New Delhi(GNS):** "Mujhse apraadh ho gaya ma'am... galti ho gayi (I have committed a crime, ma'am... I made a mistake)," the man accused of raping and murdering the 22-year-old daughter of an Indian Revenue Service officer at her southeast Delhi residence on Wednesday told a judicial magistrate on Thursday.

The 23-year-old native of Alwar, a former domestic help of the family, also told the court that he committed the crime for money and that he dragged the bleeding and unconscious victim downstairs to obtain her fingerprints so that he could open a biometric cash locker, which reportedly could be accessed only through the fingerprints of either the officer, his wife, or the daughter. The court sent



the accused to four-day police custody after the prosecution said the probe was at an initial stage and cops needed to conduct a detailed investigation.

During the hearing, Deepika Thakran, judicial magistrate first class at Saket Court where he was produced, took note of his injuries as reflected in his medico-legal case (MLC). When asked about them, the accused, who was wearing a black shirt and white track pants and had his

face covered with a white cloth, said he suffered the injuries while getting off the terrace. "Which terrace?" the magistrate asked, following which he said that he had committed a mistake.

Asked about the motive behind such a "mistake", the accused replied, "Paise ke liye kiya (I did it for money)." The judicial magistrate clarified, "So you're admitting the offence... I am not treating this as a confession."

## Man killed, wife and two children injured after car hits motorcycle on Vikas Marg

**New Delhi(GNS):** A 35-year-old man was killed and three members of his family were injured after a car collided with their motorcycle on Vikas Marg in east Delhi early Thursday morning. The driver of the car was apprehended at the spot by passers-by, police said.

According to police, a PCR call was received at Shakarpur police station around 1.50 am regarding the accident on the ITO-Laxmi Nagar stretch of Vikas Marg. The caller informed that the injured - wife Sonam (35), son (10) and daughter (8) - had already been shifted to a hospital. The injured are undergoing treatment and the driver of the offending vehicle had been caught, police said.

"The incident occurred

around 1.30 am near the Geeta Colony cut on Vikas Marg when a car rammed into a motorcycle. At the time of the accident, four persons - a couple and their two children - were returning home from Connaught Place when the accident took place," a senior police officer said. During medical examination, Neeraj (35), a resident of NSA Colony in Vishwas Nagar, was declared brought dead. The body of the deceased was sent to the mortuary for post-mortem examination.

The accused driver has been identified as Sachin Gulati (45), a resident of Sector 31 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He was apprehended at the spot by bystanders and later handed over to the police.

# Delhi resident among 2 arrested by UP ATS for links with Pakistani criminals, ISI

**New Delhi(GNS):** Two men have been arrested in Noida for allegedly working with Pakistani handlers, including from the ISI, as well as some gangsters and "radical YouTubers" of the neighbouring country.

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) investigating the presence of Pakistani sleeper cells created through social media found that two men, one from Meerut and another from Delhi, were allegedly in direct contact with Pakistani operatives and "planning a major disruptive act".

ADGP (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash said the ATS had initiated a probe following intelligence inputs regarding sleeper cells created through Instagram and other social media platforms. During the investigation, it emerged that Pakistani gangster Shahzad Bhatti, Abid Jatt and radical Pakistani YouTubers, allegedly acting on instructions from the



ISI, were attempting to radicalise Indian youths and entice them with financial incentives to disturb internal peace and communal harmony, he said in a statement.

"They were encouraging Indian youths to conduct reconnaissance of sensitive locations and carry out terrorist attacks as per their directions. They were also instigating them to target certain individuals who had left Islam, using sophisticated weapons," he said. According to the probe, Meerut resident Tushar Chauhan alias Hizbullah Ali Khan and Delhi resident Sameer Khan had come under the influence of the network.

A team of the ATS arrested the duo from Noida on Thursday. A pistol, five cartridges and a knife were recovered from their possession, the officer said.

During preliminary interrogation, Chauhan allegedly confessed that he had come in contact with Pakistani gangster Shahzad Bhatti and Abid Jatt through Instagram, and later communicated with them via voice and video push-to-talk calls. To gain Bhatti's trust, Chauhan allegedly created Instagram accounts in his name, one of which was blocked, after which he made another account and obtained Bhatti's phone number to establish direct contact, Yash said.

He further said Bhatti had allegedly asked Chauhan to carry out grenade attacks on targeted individuals and assured him that sophisticated weapons would be provided. Chauhan was promised Rs 50,000 in advance and Rs 2.5

lakh after completing the task, along with an offer to facilitate travel to Pakistan via Dubai, the officer added. According to the ADG, Chauhan also claimed that Bhatti had mentioned that three ISI agents would assign targets. Police said that interrogation also revealed that Sameer Khan communicated with Bhatti through social media and had allegedly been tasked with writing "Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan" on walls and recruiting more individuals, police said.

Chauhan had contacted Sameer through Instagram, and both were allegedly preparing to carry out activities as directed by their handlers, including reconnaissance of targets, Yash said. The officer added that the accused had also issued death threats to certain individuals at the behest of Bhatti and Jatt, with Pakistani handlers joining some of the calls via conference.

# Over 57% desilting of major drains completed ahead of monsoon in Delhi

**New Delhi(GNS):** Ahead of the monsoon season, the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has completed over 57% of desilting work across Delhi's major drains, aiming to reduce waterlogging and urban flooding.

According to official data, desilting across 76 drains has reached 57.68% completion, with more than 16.48 lakh cubic metres of silt removed against the target of 28.57 lakh cubic metres. The work on 21 priority drains has crossed 76%, while the remaining 55 drains have achieved over 63% progress. The Najafgarh drain system, considered one of the most flood-prone areas, has recorded nearly 48% completion.

Officials said this year's strategy focuses on early and simultaneous execution across multiple

zones, instead of last-minute efforts. Vulnerable stretches identified from previous monsoons are being prioritised to ensure smoother water flow.

To strengthen operations, the department is also upgrading its mechanical capacity through a procurement plan worth over Rs 94 crore. This includes 38 specialised machines such as draglines, long-boom excavators, amphibious excavators and dredgers designed for deep and wide drains. So far, 12 machines have been procured, with orders placed for additional equipment.

Delhi minister Parvesh Verma, who reviewed the preparedness, said the focus is on execution and accountability. "Before the monsoon arrives, every criti-

cal drain must be cleaned and functional. This is about preparedness, not reaction," he said.

Officials have also been directed to ensure proper disposal of silt and prevent it from re-entering drains. With steady progress and increased deployment of machinery, authorities aim to complete the remaining work well before peak monsoon to minimise disruptions in the Capital.

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**RECONDITIONING / OVERHAULING OF TAMPING**  
 Chief Engineer, Western Railway, Churugate invites, E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: W641-22-25-11, dt. 17.04.2026. Description Tender: Reconditioning / Overhauling of Tamping units for UNI-4S and MPT (MFI Unimat) machines of WR Make - Plisser or equivalent. Total Tender Value: ₹ 7,77,91,062.31. Bid Security Money/EMD: Rs. 15,55,800/-. Completion period: 24 Month. Date of Closing of e-Tender: On 11.05.2026 at 11:00 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in 0020  
 Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

# AIIMS set to lead country's aesthetic surgery push

**New Delhi (GNS):** Experts at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi are all set to lead India's aesthetic surgery push as the market for the procedures expands exponentially. Led by Prof Dr Maneesh Singhal, Head of Department, Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgery, AIIMS, will, from tomorrow, host a three-day special session - Aesthetic Surgery Update - to train over 250 surgeons from all over India in the cutting-edge art of aesthetic surgery procedures. The most-sought-after aesthetic surgical procedures include liposuction, rhinoplasty (nose reshaping), breast augmentation/reduction, abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) and hair transplantation, with many consumers opting to go abroad for these jobs. Non-surgical procedures like Botox and fillers are also very com-



mon with prohibitive costs in private facilities. AIIMS, on the other hand, offers these procedures nearly free, says Singhal.

Speaking about the need for the special session, Singhal said while demand is rising, accessibility, training and awareness remain an issue. India today ranks sixth globally in aesthetic surgery, with numbers continuing to climb.

The aesthetic surgery market is projected to touch over \$11.5 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 15.6%.

Experts at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi are all set to lead India's aesthetic surgery push as the market for the procedures expands exponentially. Led by Prof Dr Maneesh Singhal, Head of Department, Plastic, Reconstructive and

Burns Surgery, AIIMS, will, from tomorrow, host a three-day special session - Aesthetic Surgery Update - to train over 250 surgeons from all over India in the cutting-edge art of aesthetic surgery procedures. The most-sought-after aesthetic surgical procedures include liposuction, rhinoplasty (nose reshaping), breast augmentation/reduction, abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) and hair transplantation, with many consumers opting to go abroad for these jobs. Non-surgical procedures like Botox and fillers are also very common with prohibitive costs in private facilities. AIIMS, on the other hand, offers these procedures nearly free, says Singhal. Speaking about the need for the special session, Singhal said while demand is rising, accessibility, training and awareness remain an issue. India today ranks sixth globally in aesthetic surgery,

with numbers continuing to climb. The aesthetic surgery market is projected to touch over \$11.5 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 15.6%. Acknowledging the rising demand, experts say the expansion of the field must be matched with restraint. Prof Dr Singhal said growth alone cannot define success. "The growth of aesthetic surgery can benefit patients, but over-commercialisation is a real challenge that needs careful regulation," he noted.

Doctors panel also pushed back against the perception that plastic surgery is largely cosmetic.

Dr Nandini Singh, who is an AIIMS-trained plastic surgeon, explained that aesthetic work forms only a fraction of their practice. "Plastic surgery has a wide spectrum of specialties, from congenital hand anomalies to cancer reconstruction using free flaps

## Cops launch drive to make Outer Dist parks crime-free



**New Delhi (GNS):** The Outer District Police have launched a special initiative titled "Apradh-Mukt-Park: Ek Pahal" aimed at enhancing safety and preventing crime in public parks across the district, an official said on Thursday.

As part of the drive, police teams are conducting intensive foot patrolling in parks during the day and evening hours, extending late till night. The operations are being led by Station House Officers (SHOs) and Assistant Traffic Officers (ATOs), with senior officers, including the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Outer and Additional DCP, also participating in the patrols on a daily basis.

In a statement, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Vikram Singh said a total of 130 parks across Outer District are being covered under the initiative, with each park being checked four to five times a day. During these patrols, police personnel thoroughly inspect parks and surrounding areas to deter unlawful activities and ensure public safety.

## Bikaji bhuja baron Shiv Ratan Agarwal, in Chennai for wife's heart surgery, dies suddenly

**New Delhi (GNS):** Shiv Ratan Agarwal, who built a humble, family-run namkeen business into one of India's most recognisable packaged snack brands Bikaji, taking the gritty flavours of Bikaner to supermarket shelves across the country and beyond, died on Thursday.

The 75-year-old complained of uneasiness and was rushed to a private hospital in Chennai, where he breathed his last, family sources said. He was in Chennai after his wife recently underwent heart bypass surgery there.

Born into the famous Haldiram family, Agarwal, who studied only till class 8,



spread the bhuja empire from the bylanes of Bikaner to supermarket shelves across continents.

His rise tracked India's own consumption boom. He moved decisively from loose, unbranded snacks to packaged products, betting early on branding, scale and distribution at a time when much of

the sector remained fragmented. Under his watch, Bikaji expanded aggressively beyond its Rajasthan base, investing in factories, supply chains and exports - while fiercely protecting the taste profiles that made its bhuja and sweets staples in Indian households.

Known as a hands-on entrepreneur with a sharp instinct for both margins and mass appeal, Agarwal navigated intense competition from entrenched regional players and larger rivals, carving out a space in the fast-growing savoury snacks market. His playbook - standardise, package, scale - helped turn a tra-

ditional business into an institutional one, culminating in the company's rise.

Agarwal started his entrepreneurial journey in 1986 with Shivdeep Foods, named after combining his name and his son Deepak. Later in 1993, he incepted Bikaji brand, which was derived from Bika Rao, the founder of Bikaner and Ji, used as a mark of respect in India.

Under his leadership, Bikaji Foods International was listed on bourses in 2022 at an 8 per cent premium to its IPO price, which now has a market capitalisation of Rs 17,297.71 crore, nearly USD 2 billion. He also featured on the Forbes World's Billionaires list of

2024, which had put his wealth at USD 1.4 billion. Bikaji, now famous for its bhuja, namkeen, papad, packaged sweets, and more, with its six large manufacturing facilities spread across the country, has an annualised production capacity of 57,600 metric tonnes (MT) of Bhuja, 92,520 MT of namkeen and 60,480 MT of sweets. He was the grandson of Ganga Bhishe Agarwal (1908-1985), also known as Haldiram Ji, who joined his family business and mastered the art of bhuja-making under his grandfather's guidance. However, his aspirations soon outgrew the confines of his inherited enterprise.



## L-G attends SRCC's 100th annual day celebrations

**New Delhi (GNS):** Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday attended the 100th annual day celebrations of the Shri Ram College of Commerce, lauding the institution's legacy in shaping leaders across sectors and contributing to nation-building. Addressing the gathering, the L-G said the college has consistently nurtured individuals who have made meaningful contributions to society, underscoring its role as a premier educational institution. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, he stressed that education must go beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge to foster character, creativity and critical thinking.

"Institutions like SRCC play a vital role in shaping future-ready minds in a rapidly evolving economic landscape," Sandhu said, urging students to combine knowledge with innovation and remain open to continuous learning.

Founded in 1926 by Sir Shri Ram, the college marked a century of academic excellence, with the L-G describing the milestone as a testament to its resilience and commitment to quality education. He also recalled his association with the institution, noting his earlier visits to the campus.

In a post on social media platform X after the event, Sandhu congratulated the faculty, students and alumni on the historic occasion, expressing confidence that the institution would continue to bridge innovation and responsibility while contributing to the vision of a developed India and Delhi.

## 'Important cogs of the wheel': Delhi HC denies bail in Rs 22-crore digital arrest scam

**New Delhi (GNS):** Delhi High Court dismissed the bail pleas of four alleged scamsters accused of extorting over Rs 22 crore from a 78-year-old retired banker through a "digital arrest" scam, observing that each participant in such offences plays a crucial role in an organised crime with serious societal impact. Justice Manoj Jain rejected the regular bail applications of Ashok Kumar and Mohit, and anticipatory bail pleas of Vipul Rana and Himanshu Singh, in connection with an FIR registered by the Special Cell of Delhi Police under multiple provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The court underlined that the accused appeared to be "important cogs of the conspiratorial wheel" and that their roles could not be trivialised at this stage of the investigation. Rejecting the argument that some of the accused were merely account holders or minor participants, the court said, "The wheel would not have moved without their involvement."

Justice Jain also flagged the growing menace of digital arrest scams, particularly targeting vulnerable senior citizens. "Such incidents, where undue advantage is taken of the susceptible nature of senior citizens, who are coerced and duped through digital arrest, are on the rise," the court observed, describing such offences as organised crime with a massive societal impact. The high court noted that digital evidence in such cases is fragile and susceptible to manipulation, and that granting pre-arrest bail could seriously hamper the investigation.



## Why was Rahul so calm? Police plan killer's psychological evaluation after south Delhi rape-murder

**New Delhi (GNS):** In a case that has triggered widespread concern in the national capital, Delhi Police are likely to conduct a psychological analysis of the accused, Rahul Meena, in connection with the alleged rape and murder of a 22-year-old daughter of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer in South Delhi's Kailash Hills.

According to news agency Media, the victim was a young IIT Delhi graduate and a civil services aspirant preparing for her first attempt at the UPSC examination.

Police said she had been leading a disciplined and focused life, with her daily routine centred entirely around her goal of joining the civil services and serving the nation. Sources further said that Delhi Police is likely to



conduct a psychological analysis of the accused as part of the ongoing investigation. The proposed assessment is expected to help examine his mental state, behavioural patterns, and possible motive behind the alleged crime.

The development comes after the accused reportedly showed unusual calmness and a lack of remorse during interrogation.

Sources added that the assessment may involve clinical evaluation by experts to examine aggression levels, emotional responses, and behavioural traits associated

with conditions such as Antisocial Personality Disorder. Investigators are also probing whether the crime was pre-planned or impulsive, with psychological profiling expected to play a crucial role in reconstructing the sequence of events.

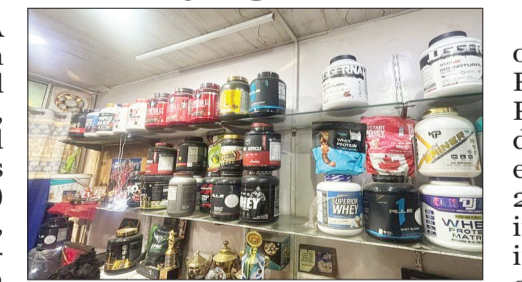
Meanwhile, on Thursday, Delhi Police secured four days of custodial interrogation of accused Rahul Meena after he was produced before the Saket Court in connection with the case. He was arrested from a hotel in Dwarka shortly after the incident and is currently in police custody.

Police sources said the custody remand was necessary to reconstruct the sequence of events, verify digital and forensic evidence, and establish the complete motive behind the crime.

## Illegal steroids, expired supplements seized in Delhi's Najafgarh

**New Delhi (GNS):** A joint enforcement team comprising Central Food Safety Officers (CFSOs), officials from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) Northern Regional Office, and local police has uncovered an illegal distribution hub dealing in banned performance-enhancing drugs and expired health supplements in southwest Delhi's Najafgarh area. The action followed a high-priority alert issued by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Acting on the input, authorities raided the premises of "M/s Gaurav Vats Nutrition," allegedly operated by Gaurav Vats, and found it functioning without mandatory licenses under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, an official said. During the raid, approximately 2,800 capsules and tablets along with 11 injectable units



of prohibited substances were seized. The recovered stock included anabolic steroids such as Methenolone Enanthate, Trenbolone, and Stanozolol, the official added.

The teams also confiscated 300 tablets of Methandienone and 850 tablets of Oxandrolone. In addition, around 1,500 capsules of Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMs) and injections labelled as Adenosine Monophosphate were found on the premises, the officer mentioned.

The seized drugs have been handed over to the State Drug Control Department, which has collected samples for further analysis and legal proceedings.

## No AAP show, BJP candidate likely to become mayor on April 29

**New Delhi (GNS):** BJP on Thursday nominated Rohini E ward councillor Pravesh Wahi as its candidate for the MCD mayoral election scheduled on April 29. Wahi is currently serving as leader of the House in Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

With BJP holding a majority in the House and AAP not contesting the mayor and deputy mayor elections, Wahi is expected to secure an easy victory.

A three-term councillor, Wahi's family migrated from Rawalpindi and belongs to the Khatri Punjabi community. He studied at an MCD primary school in Old Delhi and has been associated with RSS since his early teens. He served as an area representative of Vishva Hindu Parishad in 1990 and later as a district president in 1998.

Wahi joined BJP Yuva Morcha in 2002 and went on to hold various organisational positions in the party. He was



first elected councillor in 2007 from Rohini, then Naharpur. His second tenure was from 2012 to 2017. He also served as chairman of the Rohini zonal committee in 2010-12 and as chairman of the standing committee in the erstwhile North Corporation in 2016-17. Expressing gratitude towards chief minister Rekha Gupta and other Delhi govt ministers for nominating him, Wahi said MCD's financial crisis was no longer an issue. If elected, he said, he would focus on significantly improving sanitation services with the support of Delhi govt, which had been helping



## Bansuri files defamation case against AAP leaders

**New Delhi (GNS):** New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj has filed a defamation suit before a Delhi court against Saurabh Bharadwaj, MCD councillor Ankush Narang and the Aam Aadmi Party, alleging that a video circulated on social media misrepresented her actions during a recent protest and harmed her reputation.

The suit arises from an April 18 demonstration organised by the BJP during which Swaraj and Union Minister of State Raksha Khadse were detained by the police. According to the complaint, Swaraj was seen holding Khadse's hand while being escorted, an act described by her counsel as one of solidarity.

However, a video shared on April 19 by Bharadwaj on social media platforms allegedly portrayed the inci-

dent in a misleading manner, suggesting that Swaraj was holding the hand of a police officer and staging her detention. The clip reportedly used captions, graphic overlays and selective visuals to advance this claim. Swaraj further alleged that the narrative was repeated during a press conference on April 21 and amplified by co-defendants online. Hearing the matter, the Saket District Court observed that Swaraj had established a prima facie case and that the balance of convenience lay in her favour.

with funds. "We took over MCD a year ago and since then have been making all efforts to improve its functioning. I expect and request the opposition to help run the House smoothly and allow discussions on genuine issues," Wahi said.

He added that BJP would prioritise improvements in sanitation, parks, streetlighting and the time-bound management and flattening of landfills. "We will also focus on strict implementation of solid waste management rules. While agencies have been engaged to minimise waste transfer to landfills, residents must contribute through segregation at source. Delhi's roads will be made pothole-free in collaboration with Delhi govt."

BJP councillor Monika Pant from Anand Vihar has filed her nomination for the post of deputy mayor.