



Dharmendra receives Padma Vibhushan posthumously, Hema Malini receives it

New Delhi(GNS): President Draupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Awards on 66 individuals. The late film star Dharmendra was the first to receive the Padma Vibhushan. His wife, actress-MP Hema Malini, received the honor.

Harmanpreet, the captain of the women's cricket team, was awarded the Padma Shri. Under her leadership, the team won the ODI World Cup earlier this year.

A total of 131 personalities are to be awarded the Padma Awards in the year 2026, 65 winners will be honoured in the next phase, the dates of which have not been revealed yet.

● **Social worker Techi Gubin awarded Padma Shri:** Techi Gubin, a renowned social worker from Arunachal Pradesh, was awarded the Padma Shri award for his contribution in the field of social service.

● **Senior journalist Kailash Chandra Pant awarded Padma Shri:** Senior journalist Kailash Chandra Pant was awarded the Padma Shri award by President Draupadi Murmu for his contribution in promoting the Hindi language across the country.

● **Solar Group Chairman Satyanarayan Nuwal awarded Padma Shri:** Solar Group Chairman Satyanarayan Nuwal was awarded the Padma Shri award by President Draupadi Murmu for his contribution to India's defence manufacturing



sector.

● **K. Pazhanivel touches PM Modi's feet after receiving the Padma Shri:** Puducherry's Silambam (martial arts) player K. Pazhanivel was honored with the Padma Shri award for his contributions to the traditional martial art. He touched PM Modi's

feet. ● **Former UGC Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar awarded Padma Shri:** Former UGC Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar received the Padma Shri award for his contribution in the field of literature and education.



● **Piyush Pandey was awarded the Padma Bhushan posthumously:** President Draupadi Murmu conferred the Padma Bhushan posthumously on late Piyush Pandey, a renowned personality in the advertising world.

● **Shibu Soren, Alka Yagnik**

and 13 others awarded Padma Bhushan: 13 personalities including famous singer Alka Yagnik, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari will be awarded the Padma Bhushan.

● **Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet**

and 113 others awarded Padma Shri: 113 personalities including actor R Madhavan (Madhavan Ranganathan), cricketer Rohit Sharma, para athlete Praveen Kumar, women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur, hockey player Savita Punia have been selected for Padmashree.

Cops at Abhishek Banerjee's Home Days After Property Notice

Kolkata (GNS): Trouble brewed for Trinamool leader and Diamond Harbour MP, Abhishek Banerjee, as Kolkata Police arrived at Shantiniketan, his official residence, located at 188A Harish Mukherjee Road on Monday.

The police intervention came a few days after the TMC-run Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) issued notices to 17



properties linked to Banerjee, including his official residence, over alleged unauthorised construction. The civic body had granted Banerjee a seven-day deadline to respond to the notices,

which expired today. While the exact reason for the police presence has not been officially confirmed, it is speculated that the action was prompted by Banerjee's failure to respond to the KMC notices within the stipulated timeframe. Other than Shantiniketan, properties linked to Abhishek's parents and Leaps and Bounce, his company, also received notice from the civic body.

After almost an hour of heavy deployment, the police finally left Banerjee's residence around 5 pm. Neither the officials nor Banerjee, or any TMC spokesperson, has issued any statement or the sudden visit to Shantiniketan. While leaving, the police took away a monitor that had been previously set up to track feeds from the nearby security cameras.



Marco Rubio, Wife Jeanette Visit Taj Mahal and Jaipur's Amber Fort

Agra(GNS): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his wife Jeanette Rubio visited the iconic Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh's Agra and the Amber Fort in Rajasthan's Jaipur, on Monday. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor also accompanied them during their visit to both places. Sharing pictures from their visit, Gor stated, "Wonderful to be back at the iconic Taj Mahal with Secretary Rubio, Jeanette Rubio and Robert Gabriel. A breathtaking symbol of India's extraordinary heritage and craftsmanship." Last year, US Vice President J D Vance, along with his wife and three children, also visited Taj Mahal during his official visit to India. Later, Rubio and his wife travelled to Jaipur as part their India visit. This was Rubio's first visit to Jaipur. Preparations for a ceremonial reception were being held at Jaleb Chowk inside the historic fort complex since early morning.



Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked Again for 4th Time

New Delhi, Agency: Petrol and diesel prices have been increased once again in India, with petrol becoming costlier by Rs 2.61 per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 per litre. This marked the fourth fuel price hike in the last two weeks with a cumulative increase of Rs 7.5, as state-run oil companies continue revisions to recover losses incurred after keeping rates unchanged despite global crude oil prices increasing. The reason for the increase is mainly attributed to the ongoing West Asian conflict between the US and Iran which has led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Following the latest increase, petrol in New Delhi is now priced at Rs 102.12 per litre, while diesel rates have risen to Rs 95.20

per litre. Speaking on the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict, Sushma Rawat, ONGC Director (Exploration), said crude oil prices have remained highly volatile due to uncertainty surrounding the situation. "Whenever there is an announcement of a peace accord, crude prices begin to fall. But when it becomes clear that there is no immediate resolution, prices rise again," Rawat told ANI.

She further stated that India has so far managed to protect consumers from the complete impact of rising global energy prices despite continued volatility in international crude markets.

"The government has

given relief to the people for 76 days, during which the price has not increased. The price has increased, because the oil marketing companies (OMCs) were taking a hit of almost Rs 1,000 crore a day. How long do you sustain that?" she asked.

Petrol and diesel prices were last revised on May 23, when OMCs increased petrol rates by Rs 0.87 per litre and diesel prices by Rs 0.91 per litre.

Meanwhile, global oil prices witnessed a sharp decline of more than five per cent amid hopes of a possible peace agreement to end the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iran, despite US President Donald Trump downplaying the possibility

of an immediate breakthrough.

At around 2300 GMT on Sunday, North Sea Brent Crude fell 5.1 per cent to USD 98.22 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped 5.2 per cent to USD 91.57 per barrel before recovering marginally later in trading.

The latest increase in fuel prices is expected to add to the financial burden on commuters, transport operators and businesses across sectors. On May 16, India, after months of stability in fuel prices, saw a hike of Rs 3 in fuel prices - both petrol and diesel. It sprung surprise for many as the fuel rates had remained more or less stable since April 2022.

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Declining foreign exchange reserves, increasing crisis on Indian economy

Sanat Jain

The reality behind the hype surrounding India's economy over the past few years as "the world's fastest-growing economy" is slowly beginning to emerge. Record-high stock markets, foreign investment, and rising foreign exchange reserves were touted as symbols of economic strength. Now, those same indicators point to a serious crisis.

Over the past ten years, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have invested heavily in the Indian stock market, driven by short-term profiteering rather than long-term industrial development. Whenever global

conditions have been favorable, foreign investors have reaped substantial profits from the Indian stock market. Foreign investors have profited substantially from the Indian stock market by exploiting it as a speculative market. As soon as the stock market experienced a crisis, massive withdrawals began. The nearly \$78 billion in withdrawals in the last two years alone proves that foreign investors were not considering India a partner in sustainable development, but rather a market for profit, and were instead moving Indian capital abroad. In contrast, Indian institutional investors—banks, insurance companies, and

mutual funds—continued to invest in the stock market to stabilize the market. This means that the stock market's true strength rests on domestic investment. However, foreign investors have withdrawn investments, exacerbating volatility.

The severity of the situation isn't limited to the stock market. India's imports have consistently exceeded exports for several years. Essential products like crude oil, gas, and fertilizers require India to spend significant amounts of dollars. International tensions, particularly the crisis in West Asia and the US-Iran confrontation, have driven up energy prices. Meanwhile, the rupee

is steadily weakening against the dollar. If the rupee reaches 100 per dollar, imported inflation will become even more severe. The biggest concern is foreign exchange reserves. The government has been touting the foreign exchange reserves as an economic safety net. Their actual status now appears to be under severe pressure. The Reserve Bank is selling dollars to shore up the rupee, increasing pressure on foreign exchange reserves. If this situation continues, India could face a balance of payments crisis. Memories of the 1991 economic crisis are being revived. At that time, import payments and foreign

exchange shortages were the biggest problems. Another serious issue is the flight of Indian capital abroad. In recent years, many industrialists and billionaires have increased their investments abroad. Millions of Indian citizens have even acquired foreign citizenship. This indicates that the country's elite is unsure about the long-term stability of the Indian economy. At a time when investment and job creation are needed within the country, the investment of billions of dollars by major industrial conglomerates in the US and other countries raises many questions about the Indian economy.

Editorial

Challenging Days

The increase in petrol and diesel prices for the fourth time in the last few days indicates that it is no longer possible for oil companies to maintain stable prices. Gas prices, along with petrol and diesel, are rising because the conflict between the US and Iran has blocked the Hormuz Sea route, which supplies one-fifth of the world's energy. Since India imports more than 85 percent of its fuel needs, it has no other option but to increase the prices of petrol, diesel, and gas. The same compulsion that India is facing is also facing other countries in the world.

It should not be overlooked that India raised petroleum prices much later than other countries. Amid rising petrol, diesel, and gas prices, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's assertion that a close watch is needed on oil, fertilizers, and foreign exchange is a matter for the government to address. The public can and should certainly pay attention to the austerity measures suggested by the government, and especially by the Prime Minister.

People should be as cautious as possible to ensure their actions do not increase the foreign exchange burden. They cannot ignore the fact that the Finance Minister has clearly stated that fuel and fertilizer prices are rising at unprecedented rates, and gold prices have also become challenging. This means that the coming days could be even more challenging.

This is further illustrated by the Finance Minister's statement that the impact of the West Asia crisis goes beyond geopolitics and could mean higher fuel prices, cargo delays, costlier shipping, higher input costs, and uncertainty about export orders for businesses and individuals. He also said, "Imagine what happens when all these things come together."

It will undoubtedly be unfavorable, but his assertion that some are trying to spread fear and that they should instead instill confidence in the people will have no effect on the opposition parties. When opposition leaders are already creating an atmosphere of deliberate inflationary measures, it is the government's responsibility to inform the public of the reality and instill confidence in them that despite all the external challenges, the Indian economy remains strong.

Census between technological revolution and democratic challenge

Dr. Satyavan Saurabh

India is set to conduct its first fully digital census in 2027. This is not just an administrative exercise, but marks a historic shift in India's governance, development policy, and democratic framework. Just as the first census of independent India provided the newly formed nation with a foundation to understand its population, resources, and social structure, the 2027 digital census will usher India into a new era of data-driven governance. This initiative is considered one of the most ambitious projects of the Digital India campaign, utilizing cutting-edge technologies such as mobile applications, self-enumeration portals, cloud-based real-time data uploads, geo-tagging, and digital dashboards.

The last census in India was conducted in 2011. Since then, the 2021 census has been postponed for various reasons, including the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the country has had to rely on outdated data for nearly 14 years. During this time, India has undergone significant changes in urbanization, migration, employment structure, digital use, education, health, and population distribution. Therefore, the 2027 census will not be merely a statistical exercise, but will provide a true picture of modern India. Significantly, this will be the first time such a large census will be conducted digitally in a country as vast and diverse as India.

The biggest advantage of a digital census lies in its speed and efficiency. Traditional paper censuses often took two years or more to collect, verify, code, enter, and analyze data. However, in a digital system, data will be uploaded directly to a server, allowing for automated verification and analysis. This could result in preliminary results within ten days, and a final detailed report within six to nine months. This change not only saves time but also significantly increases the

speed and accuracy of policymaking. If the government has access to timely, reliable data, schemes related to employment, health, education, food security, housing, and urban planning can be implemented more effectively.

The digital system also has immense potential to reduce errors. The mobile application will have features like pre-coded options, auto-fill, real-time validation, and geo-coding, reducing the likelihood of incorrect entries. Each building will be linked to a specific geographic coordinate, which will not only enable accurate counting of buildings but also facilitate location-based analysis for development plans. For example, the availability of schools, hospitals, or water sources in an area can be analyzed in conjunction with population density. This will help the government understand which areas are lacking resources and where investment is most needed.

Another important aspect of the digital census is transparency. Citizens will be able to enter and verify their information themselves through an online portal. This could increase public trust in government data. Monitoring progress at various levels will also be possible through a digital dashboard. This system could strengthen administrative accountability and make the data collection process more transparent. If implemented successfully, India could offer a new model of digital governance to the world.

However, these possibilities also come with serious challenges. The biggest challenge is India's digital divide. Even today, millions of people in the country lack equal access to the internet and digital devices. Internet connectivity is weak or unavailable in rural areas, mountainous regions, tribal areas, and many parts of the Northeast. If the census relies heavily on digital means, the poorest and most marginalized sections of society may be left out. This will not be merely a technical

problem, but could become a serious social issue, affecting democratic representation and the distribution of resources.

Digital literacy is also a major challenge in India. The elderly, illiterate people, rural women, and migrant workers are often not comfortable using smartphone applications or online forms. Relying solely on technology for data collection will increase the likelihood of inaccurate information, incomplete entries, and undercounting. Some digital census experiments in African countries have shown significantly higher error rates in areas with low literacy. This challenge may be even more complex in India, given its vast linguistic, social, and economic diversity. Therefore, simply being "digital" will not be enough; it must also be ensured that technology is inclusive and user-friendly.

This makes the need for an "offline-first" model crucial. Census applications should be able to collect data even when the internet is not available and then synchronize with the server when the network is available. This will enable seamless data collection even in remote areas. Furthermore, applications and voice-based assistance systems must be developed in local languages so that even those with less education can participate seamlessly in the process.

Another major challenge facing the digital census is the accurate enumeration of migrant populations and those in the unorganized sector. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the country witnessed the lack of reliable data on millions of migrant workers. This resulted in significant difficulties in relief and rehabilitation efforts. A large number of people in India work temporarily in cities and often live away from their permanent addresses. If they are not in their villages or places of origin during the census, they may be missed. The same problem can arise with homeless people, street

dwellers, and those living in informal settlements. Therefore, the digital system must be flexible enough to accurately assess the dynamic population.

The issue of caste-based data is also extremely sensitive and complex. India has thousands of castes and sub-castes, whose names and social identities vary by region. A lack of standardization in the digital coding system could lead to misclassification and data inconsistency. Caste data is directly linked to social justice, reservation policies, and political representation, so any errors could lead to serious controversy. The government will need to exercise extreme caution, expertise, and transparency in this matter.

Another critical issue is the training of enumerators. It is estimated that over 3 million enumerators will be required, a large number of whom will be school teachers. All of them will need extensive training on digital tools, application operation, data validation, cybersecurity, ethics, and privacy. Inadequate training can lead to technical errors and deterioration of data quality. Often, technology failures are not due to the machine itself, but rather due to inadequate understanding by its users. Therefore, robust human resources training will be key to the success of this entire project.

Cybersecurity and privacy concerns are also extremely serious. The census will collect citizens' personal information, such as family structure, education, employment, migration history, and possibly caste details. If this data is subject to cyberattacks, data theft, or political misuse, public trust could be severely compromised. Fears of political use or misuse of data, especially in an electoral context, will also persist. Therefore, the government must implement robust mechanisms such as data encryption, secure servers, access controls, and independent data security audits.

Income is eight annas, expenditure is one rupee: Inflation hits the common man

Dilip Kumar Pathak

These days, the first thing we fear upon waking up in the morning is what's become more expensive today. Like every other day, petrol and diesel prices have risen again. Petrol prices have risen by about ₹2.61 per liter and diesel by ₹2.71 per liter. This is the fourth such robbery in the last ten days. Following this increase, petrol in Delhi has reached ₹102.12 per liter and diesel ₹95.20 per liter. In Mumbai, petrol is selling for over ₹111. This has become a daily headache for the average person. Income remains the same, but expenses are rocketing.

When the Modi govern-

ment came to power in 2014, the buzz around inflation was that the days of inflation were finally over. Everyone remembers the slogan, "Enough of the burden of inflation." At that time, people thought that a government had come to power that would bring some relief to the common man by reducing the prices of cooking gas, pulses, oil, and petrol and diesel. But now, after so many years, when we look at our pockets, we feel that hoping for relief was futile. Forget about relief, even making ends meet is becoming increasingly difficult. Rising oil prices don't just mean expensive petrol in our vehicles. As diesel

becomes more expensive, so does the fares of trucks and vehicles. This directly impacts our household groceries and kitchens. The prices of vegetables, pulses, milk, and grains that come to our homes from the markets suddenly rise. According to the recent retail inflation data released by the government, the national inflation rate stands at 3.48%. But according to these same government figures, food inflation is running at over 4.20%. The government may use statistics on TV and in newspapers to claim that everything is under control, but when you go to the market and lose money, the real reality dawns. Goods

that cost just a few months ago are now not even available for half the price.

Instead of celebrating the joy of festivals, people are now fearing their monthly expenses. The problems aren't limited to food and beverages. Household gas cylinders have now exceeded the price of a thousand rupees. On top of this, children's school fees, electricity bills, and medical expenses during illness are a devastating burden. Whether in government or private hospitals, treatment and medicines are beyond the common man's budget. While salaried employees' salaries remain the same year after year,

everything in the market is becoming more expensive. By the 10th or 15th of the month, middle-class people start counting their money, wondering how they will make it through the remaining half of the month. Whenever this issue is discussed, the government simply says there's a global recession or rising crude oil prices. Okay, global concerns are one thing, but the public also understands that when crude oil prices are low abroad, why aren't petrol and diesel cheaper here? The government is busy filling its treasury by imposing heavy taxes and cess and its entire burden is falling directly on the public who are already

worried about every penny.

Ultimately, the question remains: were those good days just promises to win elections? People voted with high hopes that their lives would become easier. But today, the truth is that inflation is weighing down everything from morning tea to dinner. People are now cutting back on basic necessities—some are buying less milk, others are putting off their children's tuition. The government should now abandon these paper figures and look at the ground reality, because until the common man's plate becomes cheaper, all talk of progress is meaningless.

Padma Awards Announcement: 5 individuals from Gujarat to be conferred with Padma Shri

The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian awards in the country, which are awarded in three categories, namely Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. These awards are given in various fields of subjects/activities, such as Arts, Social Work, Public Affairs, Science and Engineering, Trade and Industry, Medicine, Literature and Education, Sports, Civic Service etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is given for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' is given for distinguished service in any field. These awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day. In which 5 persons from Gujarat were awarded the Padma Shri Award. The details of whom are as follows:

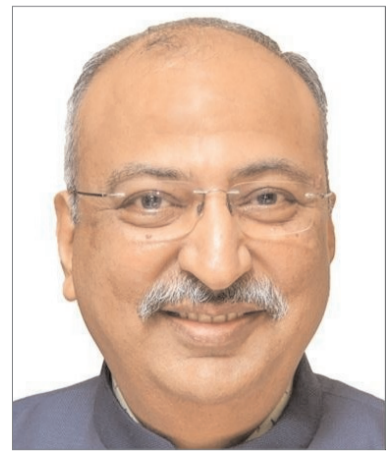


Shri Ratilal Borisagar
Shri Ratilal Mohanlal Borisagar is a famous Gujarati writer known for his humorous and sarcastic writing. Born on August 31, 1938 in a small town called Savarkundla in Amreli district of Gujarat, Shri Borisagar's educational qualifications are M.A. (MA), B.Ed. (B.Ed.), Ph.D. (Ph.D.). As a teacher, he taught at primary, secondary and college levels during 1957-1974 . After that, he joined Gujarat State School Textbook Board, Gandhinagar in 1974 as Educational Secretary. He retired from the same organization in 1998 as Deputy Director (Educational). Shri Borisagar started writing around 1955. He initially wrote short stories, but later he turned to writing essays in a light genre. After the publication of his first book 'Marak Marak' (1977), he continued to write only in a light genre. His light genre books are: 'Marak Marak' (1977); 'Anand Lok' (1983); 'Sambhavami Yuge Yuge' (1994); 'Enjoyography' (1997); 'Tilak Kaddi Tresath Huyu' (2002); 'GST-K' (2004); 'Bhaj Anandam' (2007); 'Amthun Amthun Kem Na Hasie' (2008); 'Om Hakkayam' (2010); 'Bhadrambhadr Amar Che' (2014); 'Moj-maan rahaha re' (2017); 'Vinod-na Vaikuntha-maan' (2017); 'Treen Padaiya Amerika-maan' (2019); 'Ek Nahin Leweyelo Intervue' (2022). He has also written a book of memoirs 'Kyaan Che Mari Nadi' (2021). He has published eleven books of compilations (1998-2021).

He has edited 33 books of old comic stories of Bakor Patel in terms of language (2012-2013). Bakor Patel's stories written by Hariprasad Vyas were published seventy years ago, so there was a need to revise them to make them readable for the young readers of the present day. This kind of work is the first of its kind in the Gujarati language. He has published two books for children: 'Mahabharata-naprasang' (2002); 'Shreshtha Bal Khumsin' (2007). He has published a book on child development, 'Baal Vandana' (1994). He has written a biographical book, 'Ramanbhai Neelkanth' (2017) and a book on criticism, 'Gujarati Pratikaviyo' (2003). He worked as the joint editor of the Gujarati monthly 'Akhand Anand' (1999-2005). Shri Borisagar's contribution in the field of education is also significant. He taught at primary, secondary and college levels at Savarkundla (Amreli-Gujarat) for sixteen years - from 1957-1974 . He left Savarkundla in 1974. After 36 years, his primary, secondary and higher education students established a foundation in 2011 for literary and educational activities in Savarkundla. In the year 2015, this foundation established 'Shri Lalubhai Seth Arogya Mandir' Hospital in Savarkundla. This is a unique hospital. It is a completely free hospital. No charge is taken here for all types of treatment including operations and medicines. Nowadays Shri Borisagar teaches the correct use of mother tongue - Gujarati at the 'Gujarat Vishwakosh' Ahmedabad Institute. They also help students and other interested individuals interpret and critically evaluate short stories and poems. Shri Borisagar has received many awards and honours such as Jyotindra Dave Comedy Award for 'Marak Marak' - (1976-1977) (Gujarati Sahitya Parishad); Second Award for 'Marak Marak' , 1977; First Award for 'Anand Lok' 1983; First Award for 'Angiography' by Gujarat Sahitya Akademi , Gandhinagar , Gujarat 1997; Ghanshyamas Saraf Best Literary Award for 'Angiography' (Marwadi Conference , Mumbai (1997); Dhanji Kanji Gandhi Gold Medal - 2002 (Gujarati Sahitya Sabha); First Prize for 'Tilak Kadhe Tresath Ho' by Gujarat Sahitya Akademi , Gandhinagar , Gujarat in 2002 and First Prize for 'GST-K' in 2004; Kavi Dalpatram Hakki Sahitya Ratna Gold Medal - 2011; Sachchidanand Samman - 2011 (Gujarati Sahitya Parishad); 'Anantrai Rawal Teacher Award - 2015 (Gujarat Vishwakosh Trust , Ahmedabad); 'Narmad Paritoshik' - 2017 (Maharashtra State Gujarati Sahitya Akademi , Mumbai); Delhi Sahitya Akademi Award 2019 for ' Mojma Rakha Re' (2019).

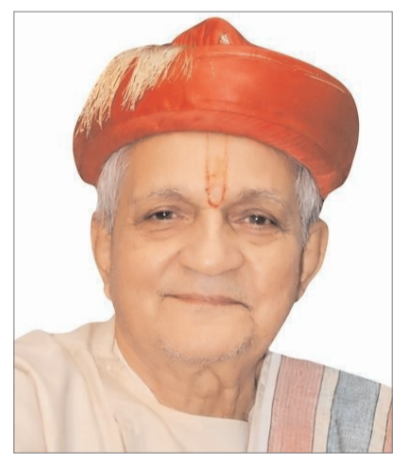


Shri Mir Haji Kasam
Shri Mir Haji Kasam, commonly known as 'Haji Ramkadu', is a legendary folk musician from Junagadh district of Gujarat, known for his lifelong dedication to Gujarati traditional music and his mastery on the dholak. With an artistic journey spanning over six decades, he has emerged as one of the most respected custodians of India's folk heritage. His performances in India and abroad have played a crucial role in keeping regional musical traditions alive, relevant and accessible to new generations. Born on 27 January 1951, Mr. Kasam began his musical journey at the tender age of just ten. Despite having no formal education, his innate talent and dedication made him an internationally recognized folk artist. Over the years, he has collaborated with multiple generations of artists, celebrities from the Gujarati film industry, and radio platforms to bring the rhythms of folk music to the masses. His unique style—where he becomes one with his instrument—has earned him the affectionate nickname "Ramakadu". Mr. Kasam has played a significant role in bringing Gujarati folk music to a global audience by performing in the USA, UK, South Africa, Canada, UAE, Oman and several other countries. Through thousands of stage performances and cultural programs, he has showcased India's intangible cultural heritage on international platforms. Equally significant is his mentorship of young musicians—many of whom now perform professionally—which has institutionalized the oral traditions of folk learning and transmission. He is revered for his humanitarian commitment. He has performed over 35,000 charity events for cow shelters and organized musical events for social causes, including supporting the marriages of underprivileged families in Junagadh. Even in his seventies, he continues to teach folk music to children and aspiring artists free of charge, a symbol of selfless service through art. Mr. Kasam has received numerous prestigious state-level honours including the Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Gujarat State Sangeet Natak Akademi Puraskar, Gujarat Lok Kala National Puraskar, Chief Minister's Honorary Letter and several cultural awards conferred by leading institutions and the Government of Gujarat. These awards, spanning over two decades, reflect consistent excellence rather than occasional achievement.



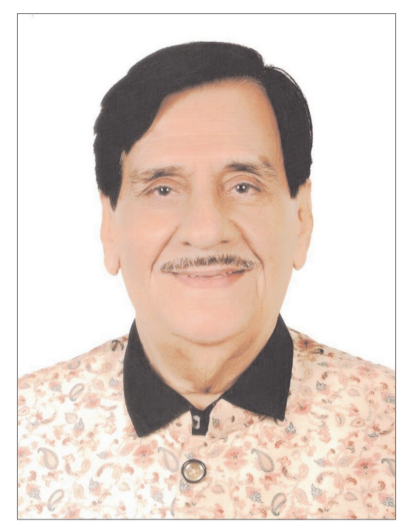
Mr. Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala
Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala, popularly known as India's 'Organ Man', is widely respected as one of the most committed and influential advocates of organ donation in the country. As the founder of 'Donate Life', he has played a significant role in increasing awareness and acceptance of cadaveric organ donation in Gujarat and across India. Born on April 19, 1965, Mr. Nilesh Mandlewala's association with this humanitarian mission began with a very personal experience that changed the direction of his life. His father was suffering from kidney failure and required dialysis twice a week. Seeing his father's physical discomfort and emotional struggle, he realized that thousands of families across India endured similar suffering every year due to the severe shortage of organs for transplantation. Instead of letting personal suffering remain a personal burden, he transformed it into a lifelong commitment dedicated to saving lives and supporting families facing similar crises. In the year 2005, at a time when awareness about organ donation in India was extremely limited and was surrounded by misconceptions, ignorance and fear, Shri Nilesh Mandlewala started the Organ Donation Awareness Movement. His work began in 2006 with promoting cadaveric kidney donation and gradually expanded to awareness about donation of liver, heart, lungs, pancreas, intestines, hands, bones and other tissues. His dedication and credibility have earned him recognition as a significant contributor to public health awareness, leading to his appointment as a member of the State Advisory Committee for Organ and Tissue Transplantation from 2019 to 2021. Shri Nilesh Mandlewala's long-term vision is that no citizen should lose their life due to unavailability of organs by 2047. To achieve this goal, he has travelled extensively across India for over two decades to spread awareness. He has used creative and emotional methods to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. He composed the song "Angadan

Karle Re Manav Tu Ishwar Ban Jayega" and produced the short film "Kaya - The Mission of Life", both of which have contributed significantly to public awareness and inspired individuals to take the pledge to donate their organs. Mr. Nilesh Mandlewala has played a key role in educating the community about brain death and helping families understand the importance of organ donation during emotionally challenging moments. He has personally counseled countless bereaved families and worked closely with doctors, hospitals, NGOs and volunteers to facilitate organ donation. His efforts have helped Surat gain recognition as an "Organ Donor City", setting an inspiring model for other regions of India. Despite facing social resistance, misconceptions, logistical challenges and infrastructural limitations, he has continued his mission with patience, compassion and extraordinary determination. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Nilesh Mandlewala continued to counsel families of brain-dead patients in hospitals, contributing to over 200 organ and tissue donations. Overall, his initiatives have helped facilitate 1371 successful organ and tissue donations, giving new life to 1263 recipients and hope to their families. Inspired by the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", his work has benefited patients in countries including the UAE, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Yemen and Bangladesh. Shri Nilesh Vinodchandra Mandlewala has been honored with more than 70 awards including the Gujarat Government's highest civilian award, "Gujarat Garima Award".



Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya
Shri Dharmiklal Chunilal Pandya is widely recognized as the leading guru of Gujarat's ancient Manbhata "Maan Akhyan" tradition, a unique oral storytelling art with roots in medieval Akhyan literature. Through the rhythmic narration of epics with classical music, poetic expression and the unique use of Maan (a copper vessel played with ringed fingers), this tradition has been a medium for centuries to convey moral and cultural values along with the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and

Puranas. Born on 11 August 1932 in Vadodra, Mr. Pandya inherited the art form from his father Chunilal Pandya and started performing in the early 1950s. For over seven decades, he has dedicated himself to reviving and sustaining this fading tradition when it was on the verge of extinction. He has taken this legacy to diverse audiences through extensive programs and long-term storytelling series across Gujarat and India, including at prestigious venues like Rashtrapati Bhavan. Shri Pandya has represented the Manbhata tradition internationally through cultural tours and spiritual lectures in the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Zambia, the United States, Canada, Nepal and Thailand, introducing this rare art form to a global audience and the Indian diaspora. His extensive recordings with All India Radio and Doordarshan include complete renditions of the Harivansh Purana (from the Uttar Mahabharata), the Shiva Mahapurana and all forty akhyanas of the medieval Gujarati poet Premananda. In recent years, his family's digital outreach initiatives have further expanded the reach of this tradition. Apart from preserving the classical repertoire, Shri Pandya has created new akhyanas on contemporary social themes like water conservation and environmental awareness. He institutionalized the training through the 'Shri Man Akhyan Kala Shikshan Kendra', mentoring students including his sons Pradyumna and Mayank Pandya who still perform the art form today, thus ensuring generational continuity. Shri Pandya has been honoured with many honours and awards for his contributions. He received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1983, making him the only Manbhata artist to receive this honour. Other honours include the Kirtan Kesari Award and Mankala Kaushal Certificate from Jagadguru Shankaracharya in 1980; Gaurav Award and several appreciation awards from Gujarat State Sangeet Natak Akademi in the 1980s; Honours from Vadodra Municipal Corporation (1984); Awards from Swaminarayan Vichar Trust, Amrita Institute (Mumbai), Gujarat Lokkala Kendra and Pandit Omkarnath Thakur Award (Gujarat Government, 1994-95); International honours from Gujarati Sahitya Akademi (USA, 1996) and Sanyas Sevashram (Kathmandu, 2008); And later honours and accolades from Sanskar Bharati (Vadodra, 2009), Triveni Institute (2012), 8th Delhi International Art Festival - Sangeet Natak Akademi (Delhi, 2014), 19th Bharat Rang Mahotsav - National School of Drama (Delhi, 2017), Gujarat State Government (2017), and Shajda Kala Kendra Trust (Bengaluru, 2017).



Shri Arvind Vaidya
Shri Arvind Vaidya is a distinguished artist who has made his presence felt in Gujarati theatre, Hindi television and films by playing characters for over six decades. Born on 3 May 1941, Shri Vaidya's journey began with formal studies—a Diploma in Drama from Gujarat University in 1966 at H K Arts College with first-class distinction. Soon after, he returned to the same institution as a lecturer, where he guided young minds while directing and acting in memorable Gujarati plays like 'Paritran' and 'Raigad Jhab Jagge Che'. This was followed by a chapter of service at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), where he contributed to meaningful programmes as a production assistant. During this time, he acted beautifully on screen in the widely acclaimed series 'Bhala Bhusana Bheed Bharam'. Shri Vaidya founded his own production company 'Natya Sampada', through which he produced, directed and acted in over seventy-five full-length plays. A deep sense of dedication was clearly visible in each of his creations, which earned him special recognition in the field. In the year 1993, Mumbai invited him to open wider horizons. Multilingual and always adaptable, he moved easily in Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi theatre, also venturing into Bhojपुरi films. He directed the Marathi television series 'Harya Narya', and expanded his art into new areas. Even at the age of 85, Shri Vaidya is an active presence on stage and screen—his enthusiasm is unwavering. He has directed or acted in over three hundred plays and contributed his art to over 100 television programmes. Some of his characters are still unforgettable in the minds of the audience, such as plays like 'Nokhi Mati Ne Nokha Maanvi', 'Entimi Adhyay', 'Paritran' and 'Ame Barf Na Pankhi'; popular shows include 'Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai', 'Baa Bahu Aur Baby', 'Khichdi', 'Saas Bina Sasural', 'Ladies Special' and 'Anupama'. Shri Vaidya is a recipient of the Gaurav Puraskar from the Government of Gujarat, the Best Actor and Director awards at the All India All Languages Drama Competition in Delhi, and a frequent recipient of honours from the Gujarat Sangeet Natak Akademi.

What makes Delhi Gymkhana Club so elite: Rs 200 crore in mutual funds, Rs 129 crore net worth and a powerful legacy

New Delhi, Agency: Delhi Gymkhana Club - which reported a 10-fold jump in surplus or profits to Rs 9.5 crore during 2023-24 from Rs 93 lakh in the previous year - had a net worth of nearly Rs 129 crore and liquid funds to deal with possible threats of land lease not being renewed by the Centre or because of the cases filed by the ministry of corporate affairs, its auditor had said.



According to the latest period for which data is available on the ministry of corporate affairs website, for the high-profile club, a section 8 or a not-for-profit entity, the key source of revenue was the Rs 43 crore earned from restaurants, bar and banquet during the year. It had investments of Rs 162 crore at the end of March, 2024 and the market value of mutual funds added up to Rs 217 crore. The investment strategy

was clearly conservative with the largest holdings being in Aditya Birla Sun Life Corporate Bond Fund (Rs 18.7 crore face value), followed by Kotak Corporate Bond Fund (Rs 14.2 crore), ICICI Pru Corporate Bond Fund (Rs 13.5 crore) and ICICI Pru Banking and PSU Debt Fund (Rs 11 crore). Over Rs 24 crore was invested in bank fixed deposits with over 12-

month maturity, while bank balance on March 31, 2024 was over Rs 2 crore. In terms of liabilities, it had Rs 11.2 crore as security deposit from members and another Rs 24.5 crore as application money. The auditor pointed out that the urban development ministry's Land & Development Office (L&DO) had demanded an enhanced ground rent of Rs 24.7 crore, starting

April 2018. While the club had 5,018 permanent members and 27 life members, it had close to 3,000 UCP (user of club premises) members and over 5,000 green card holders - the two segments which became the main source of grievance for those waiting in queue to gain membership, which stretched to four decades in the case of private individuals. The grouse was that children of permanent members (provided they were below a prescribed age when the parents received membership) managed to sneak in as dependents and subsequently became green card holders before turning UCP holders. In addition, there were 93 eminent category members, 80 corporate members, 1,323 lady subscribers and one diplomat and a solitary temporary member, taking the total base to 14,547 at the end of March 2024.

GPS spoofing targets IGIA, hours after Rubio lands in Delhi

New Delhi, Agency: Barely hours after US secretary of state Marco Rubio landed in Delhi on Saturday, the capital's IGI Airport again became the target of GPS spoofing.



About 10 to 12 aircraft nearing the airport on Saturday evening and night reported the menace, seen on this scale after a few months. Govt agencies are probing the sudden recurrence of GPS spoofing - a cyberattack where counterfeit radio signals are transmitted to override genuine satellite signals - and that too at the time of a VVIP visit. Air traffic control immediately increased the spacing between incoming aircraft to allow more time for guiding them safely to the airport using radar vectors. This resulted in congestion and some flight delays. "When spoofing happens, we switch to pre-GPS days of flying, which means

flying from point to point instead of going straight for the destination. This means greater surveillance on the position of planes," said air traffic controllers. Below 14,000 feet, aircraft headed to Delhi normally have a separation of 3 nautical miles. On Saturday night, it was increased to 5 nm. "This affects capacity as Delhi can normally handle 42 arrivals in an hour. The number falls to about 30 or so when aircraft have to be flown in using radar vectors or without GPS," the air

traffic controllers said. Broadly speaking, airlines face two types of GPS issues - jamming done usually by militaries in war zones to avoid giving away location of military assets, including aircraft; and spoofing by troublemakers in conflict zones, starting from Pakistan to West Asia, Turkey and Ukraine, to confuse pilots. Spoofing leads to corrupting GPS signals, resulting in a pilot getting a wrong indication about his location: up to 2,500 km away from the actual spot.

Boy dies by suicide during video call

New Delhi(GNS): An 18-year-old boy died by suicide while on a video call with a female friend in northwest Delhi's Azadpuri in the early hours of Sunday.

The boy worked in a factory and is survived by his mother and sister. According to police, a PCR call went to Adarsh Nagar police station. The cops rushed the boy to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The mother of the boy told reporters, "He was on a video call when I thought he was asleep and went to the terrace and slept. I woke up to calls from the girl, who asked me to rush to his room."

36 homes in Harsh Vihar get electricity connections after wait of nearly 8 years

New Delhi(GNS): Electricity connections are being provided to 36 households in north-east Delhi's Harsh Vihar after a wait of nearly eight years after the intervention of chief minister Rekha Gupta, officials said on Sunday.

The families met the chief minister at her residence and thanked her for ending their long wait. North-East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari was present, the chief minister's office said in a statement.

During her interaction with the families, the chief minister acknowledged the years of waiting for electricity connections and emphasised that Delhi govt was fully committed to addressing citizens' concerns and ensuring that basic services reach every resident. The matter was raised by Harsh Vihar residents during a recent public grievance hearing by the chief minister. They informed her that many families had been waiting for regular power connections since 2018. The chief minister instructed all related agencies to coordinate with each other to resolve the issue quickly, the CMO said.

By 2018, 50 to 60 houses had been constructed in Harsh Vihar's A-3 block. However, regular electricity supply could not be established due to a lack of land for a sub-station.

That work is now complete, and electricity meters are being installed. All eligible families are expected to get regular connections soon, the statement added.

Chinese manjha godown busted in Uttam Nagar, 2 held

New Delhi(GNS): Police have busted an illegal Chinese manjha godown and arrested two men for allegedly selling the banned synthetic kite string. A total of 2,040 rolls of manjha have been seized from the godown in southwest Delhi's Uttam Nagar.

Police had received a tip-off about the illegal storage of manjha, after which a raid was conducted on the ground-floor premises. "Thirty-four cartons, each containing 60 rolls, were found and seized," said DCP (crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, adding that the owner of the premises was identified as Shanky Singhal, a 36-year-old resident of Uttam Nagar.

During questioning, Singhal told cops that to earn profit during the Independence Day season, he had illegally procured the strings through social media from a local kite trader, identified as Manmohan (52). Manmohan further admitted to managing his family's wholesale kite business after the demise of his father, police said.

Both have been arrested. Police found that both are involved in the seasonal trade of strings and have prior involvement. Singhal has a previous involvement in a 2018 pcoso case, criminal intimidation and outraging a woman's modesty, registered at Uttam Nagar police station.

30-year membership wait, 'green-card' system: Inside Delhi's elite Gymkhana Club, Lutyens' most 'exclusive' address

New Delhi(GNS): The historic Delhi Gymkhana Club, long regarded as one of the country's most exclusive institutions frequented by bureaucrats, defence officers, politicians and business elites, is staring at an uncertain future after the Centre ordered it to hand over its sprawling 27.3-acre premises in Lutyens' Delhi by June 5.

The move, initiated through a "re-entry" order issued by the Land and Development Office (L&DO) under the Union housing and urban affairs ministry, has triggered shock among members, criticism from opposition leaders, and fresh debate over the future of elite colonial-era clubs occupying prime government land in the national capital. The Centre said the land parcel at 2, Safdarjung Road, adjacent to the Prime Minister's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg, falls within a "highly sensitive and strategic area" and is now urgently required for strengthening defence infrastruc-



ture, governance facilities and other public security purposes.

The order directed the club to hand over "peaceful possession" of the property by June 5, warning that in case of non-compliance, possession would be taken over "in accordance with law".

Officials indicated that the land, along with adjoining government properties around the high-security zone, could be redeveloped for strategic and institutional use, including secure residences and establishments for top government functionaries.

CBSE announces refunds for students charged extra during reevaluation

New Delhi(GNS): Amid mounting complaints of technical glitches in the Class XII post-result process, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Sunday assured students that any excess fee deducted while applying for scanned copies of evaluated answer sheets would be refunded automatically. The board acknowledged in a circular that "certain technical issues led to incorrect fee deductions" on May 21 and 22 during the online application process. "In some instances, excess payment was deducted, while in others, lesser amounts were charged,"

it said. The board clarified that "in all cases of excess payment, the exact excess amounts shall be refunded to the same payment method which was used." Candidates who paid less than the prescribed fee would be informed separately and may be asked to pay the balance amount, if required.

CBSE added that "scanned copies of the evaluated answer books shall be provided in all such cases, without candidates being required to submit fresh requests". Sunday was the last day for students to obtain scanned copies of their answer sheets under the revised schedule



announced by the board. The deadline has already been extended twice after students and parents reported portal crashes, payment failures and delays in accessing scanned copies. The development

comes amid complaints from students who have raised doubts about the functioning of the online examination and re-evaluation system, pointing to multiple technical and administrative glitches that disrupted the application

process. Among the most alarming issues was an unusual spike in fee displays, where several candidates reported seeing incorrect charges. In some cases, the portal allegedly demanded as much as Rs 69,420 per subject for re-evaluation, far higher than the expected nominal fee, leaving students confused and worried about possible billing errors.

There were also payment-related failures during registration. Many users said their accounts were debited successfully, yet the system continued to show the transaction as unsuccessful, forcing appli-

cants to wonder if their forms were actually submitted.

Students also flagged problems with the quality of the uploaded answer sheets provided for verification. The scanned copies made available for download were blurry, poorly rendered or completely unreadable, undermining the entire purpose of the re-evaluation. Compounding these issues, repeated server crashes and "site under maintenance" messages were reported, especially during peak hours and near to the deadline, making it difficult for students to complete their applications.

'600 employees may lose jobs':

Anxiety grips Delhi Gymkhana Club staff after Centre orders eviction by June 5

New Delhi(GNS): Anxiety and uncertainty have gripped employees of the historic Delhi Gymkhana Club after the Centre directed the elite institution to vacate its premises by June 5, triggering fears of job losses among staff who have served the club for decades.

Several employees said they are now unsure about their future as the government move to reclaim the prime



Lutyens' Delhi property has put nearly 600 workers on edge.

Nandan Singh Negi, president of the Gymkhana Employee

Welfare Association, said staff were informed about the development on Saturday.

"We were told about the development yester-

day. Staff members have been calling me throughout the night, asking what will happen to them and where they will go," he said. Rameshwar, a staff member who has worked at the club for over 35 years, said the sudden order has left employees deeply concerned about how they will support their families. "Many of us have spent over three decades here, while others have worked for 10 to 15 years.

We do not know how we will sustain our families now," he said, adding that finding alternative employment at this stage of life would be extremely difficult. Several employees gathered at the club on Sunday seeking clarity on their future and demanding assurances regarding their livelihoods. A housekeeping staff member broke down while describing her situation, saying she had spent her entire working

life at the club and was now facing the possibility of losing both her job and housing.

"I am old now and have dedicated my entire life to this work. Our jhuggi is also set to be demolished on May 26. First our home, and now our job - how will we survive?" she said. She added that workers should be willing to relocate wherever the club is shifted in future, if such an arrangement is made.

Rs 1 Crore Burglary in GK-I Cracked Gardener-Turned-Robber arrested

New Delhi(GNS): A 28-year-old gardener, who appeared unassuming and blended seamlessly into South Delhi's upscale residential colonies, allegedly led a covert double life as a serial housebreaker, quietly conducting reces of locked homes before striking with housebreaking tools.

His alleged crime trail came to light after a burglary on May 20 at the residence of a lawyer couple in Pamposh Enclave in Greater Kailash-I, where gold, diamond and silver jewellery worth nearly Rs 1 crore, along with Rs 6.5 lakh in cash, were stolen.

A case was registered under sections 305 (theft in a dwelling house) and 331 (house trespass) of the BNS.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid on Friday and arrested the accused, identified as Sanwara Gujjar, a



native of Rajasthan who was residing in Madanpur Khadar in southeast Delhi.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to the crime and revealed that he would roam through affluent neighbourhoods during the day posing as a worker, identify houses that appeared locked or unattended, and later return to break in and steal

valuables. After committing the thefts, he would change hideouts and allegedly dispose of the stolen jewellery through local contacts to evade arrest. Investigators further found that Sanwara was previously involved in a similar theft case of 2020, registered at the New Friends Colony police station. He had allegedly been absconding in that case and a non-bailable warrant had also been issued against him. Police are also probing his involvement in several other similar burglaries. Police have recovered a diamond watch worth Rs 12 lakh, another luxury watch valued at Rs 3 lakh, a diamond solitaire ring, a pair of high-end earrings, a moon bracelet and around Rs 3.6 lakh in cash from the accused's possession.

Man fatally stabbed in Shahbad Dairy video shows knife lodged in back

New Delhi(GNS): A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by three youths in northwest Delhi's Shahbad Dairy on Saturday night, police said. A video of the incident surfaced on social media showed the victim lying on the road with a knife lodged in his back as bystanders gathered around him. Police said information regarding the stabbing was received, following which a team rushed to Mahadev Chowk in Shahbad Dairy and later reached MV Hospital in Pooth Khurd, where the injured man had been admitted. The victim was identified as Narayan Dutt, an e-rickshaw driver and a resident of Prahladpur's Gupta Colony.

According to the cops, Narayan had suffered multiple injuries and was declared unfit to give a statement. He was later shifted to Safdarjung Hospital, where doctors declared him.



During the investigation, police scanned CCTV footage from the area and found three boys attacking the victim. A case was initially registered under sections 109 (attempt to murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of BNS at Shahbad Dairy police station. After the victim succumbed to his injuries, section 103 related to murder was added to the FIR.

Police teams were formed to analyse CCTV footage and track down the accused. One of the alleged assailants, identified as 20-year-old Suraj, a resident of a jhuggi cluster in Shahbad Dairy, has been apprehended.

How brutal summers drive India's monsoon engine

New Delhi(GNS): By late May, Delhi feels like a furnace. Roads shimmer under the afternoon glare, metro pillars radiate heat long after sunset, and even pockets of city forests seem to exhale warmth. Across northwest India, temperatures push past 45°C, bringing heat-stroke warnings, water stress and exhausted streets. Each summer, the same question returns: How can this level of heat possibly be normal?

Yet, beyond the panic of shooting temperatures, meteorologists, foresters, ecologists and agricultural scientists point to a more complicated truth. There is a purpose to the brutal summer. It is also part of an engine that kills pests, aids soil, ripens fruits, and importantly, drives the monsoon. The same heat that scorches the plains helps create pressure gradients that pull rain-bearing winds over the subcontinent.

The Indian monsoon is often described simply as seasonal rain. In reality, it behaves more like a continental-scale breathing system. During May



and June, the landmass over Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Pakistan heats much faster than the surrounding Indian Ocean.

As the ground bakes under relentless sunlight, hot air rises rapidly, creating an enormous low-pressure zone over northwest India. Meteorologists call this the "heat low".

This low-pressure region acts almost like an atmospheric vacuum. Moisture-laden winds from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal rush towards it, eventually colliding with the

cooler upper air and producing monsoon rainfall. In simple terms, the land must become hot before ocean winds can surge inland carrying rain.

Prof Manju Mohan of Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi explains how summer heat creates convection currents that strengthen monsoon circulation. "Air flows from high pressure to low pressure. The higher the temperature and stronger the pressure gradients, the stronger the circulation becomes. When moisture-car-

rying winds rush in to fill this low-pressure gap, rainfall occurs," she says.

However, Mohan cautions that heatwaves are dangerous, especially for outdoor workers and the vulnerable communities. But scientifically, the intense summer heating is part of the seasonal transition that "paves the way" for the monsoon. This process is incredibly harsh on northwest India because it is landlocked and dry. Unlike coastal cities moderated by sea winds, Delhi and its surrounding regions absorb and retain heat rapidly. Hot winds sweeping in from Thar Desert further intensify temperatures. "This heat can't be separated from the monsoon. Extreme heating over northwest India helps pull monsoon currents inland," says meteorologist Mahesh Palawat of Skymet.

But the effects of summer extend beyond meteorology. Across forests and grasslands, wildlife species have evolved around these cycles of heat, scarcity and renewal.