

Facelift for historic Nizam-era police buildings in old city

Hyderabad: Two police buildings in the old city dating back to the 18th century will soon regain their original glory. The two buildings – Police Naka at Bahrupiya Galli, Puranapul, and the other – Police Thana on the Puranapul Road – will be restored and brought back to their original glory. During the Nizam rule, there were police naka (out-post), police thana (police station), and then other administrative buildings for higher officials. The Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority (QQSUDA), is taking care of the restoration works of both the buildings constructed during the Nizam era. Until recently, the police building at Bahrupiya Galli was used for keeping vehicles seized by the police. The place was cleaned up and the repair started on war footing last week. Puranapul 1 The 'Police Naka' at Bahrupiya Galli in Puranapul. Photo: Surya Sridhar

"It is an 18th-century building constructed during the Nizam era. We came to

know about the history of the building recently when officials came and inspected it. The residents are happy that the heritage value of the building was recognized," said Pradeep Kumar, a resident. The QQSUDA is overseeing the restoration works at the building. The contractor was asked to restore it using the material used while constructing it earlier to maintain its originality. The building was constructed using lime mortar and stone. "Restoration work of the two police buildings — Puranapul naka and Puranapul thana — is being taken up.

The work at the Bahrupiya Galli building has already started and it, will soon commence at the other building," said an official of QQSUDA. Heritage activists appreciate the efforts of the State government and the Hyderabad Police in taking up the restoration of the old police buildings. The Commissioner of Police office building at Purani Haveli area is also being restored and will be inaugurated soon. However, there are also



demands that the old police naka at Darussalam, Gowlipura junction, and other places in the city and suburbs be restored too.

Hyderabad's traffic nightmare: Rising vehicle numbers choke city roads



Hyderabad: Never ending are the travails of motorists in Hyderabad. The scope of roads widening is thin but unmindful of the road realities, the number of vehicles keeps rising and rising. Every day, more wheels get added to the city roads and almost all the key road stretches are jammed with the cars, bikes, autos and buses. Estimates suggest that Hyderabad has anywhere between 85 lakh to 90 lakh vehicles and the numbers are going up each day. Such has been the spurt in the numbers that the vehicular density has gone beyond 10,000 vehicles per km last year compared to 6,500 vehicles per km five years back. As traffic jams become an everyday feature, bumper-to-bumper

travel is common on many road stretches. The struggle to find a way out of the chaos that prevails on the roads has started to take a heavy toll on motorists with the stretched out travel time, constantly managing the vehicle amid erratic driving practices, wrong side drivers, long u-turns and prolonged red traffic signals. Even on the flyovers, the pleasure of driving is lost to the constant pressure. The flyovers which are expected to ensure seamless driving are now jammed with vehicles moving at a pace that puts even a snail to shame. Whether it is the grand old Begumpet flyover or the once popular Paradise flyover or the latest Hitec City flyover, the scene is the same.

SLBC tunnel tragedy: Officials keep fingers crossed as rescue teams race against time

Hyderabad: The ongoing operations to rescue the eight persons trapped inside the SLBC Tunnel project have taken a sombre turn with Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, after an on-ground assessment of the conditions inside the tunnel, revealed that the situation inside remained dire and far from optimistic. The severity of the incident has left officials and rescue teams grappling with diminishing hope and growing despair. In the last 36 hours, despite exhaustive efforts to reach the trapped workers and engineers, rescue teams have been unable to estab-

lish contact with any of the eight members lost deep within the tunnel, approximately 400 metres beneath the hill range. Rescuers have called out the names of the missing workers using speakers, only to hear their own voices echoing back in the corridors. Senior officials on site have continued the rescue exercise with unwavering intensity, visiting the accident spot for stock-taking from time to time. However, the mood among the rescue teams that are yet to make significant headway towards the spot where the workers are trapped, is gloomy. Minister Krishna Rao, accompanied by teams from the NDRF, SDRF, and the military, ventured up to a point that was believed to be hardly 100 metres away from the spot to assess the situation first-hand. Since 1 pm on Sunday, he has been overseeing the rescue efforts. He said the water pressure had severely impacted the tunnel boring machine, further complicating the operations. The distance from the tunnel entry to the accident site is approximately 13.5 km and the arduous travel involved to the spot has added to the complexity of the rescue mission. The critical 200-metre last

stretch of the tunnel remained filled with water and debris, making it inaccessible. The dewatering process taken up for draining the accident zone was expected to take time, and it is difficult to estimate how long it will take to complete the process and enable the rescue teams to gain entry. Removal of debris that blocked the passage to the place was also taken up as the army teams joined the operations. The deployment of more specialised forces capable of navigating through the slush was asked for in the hope of reaching the survivors.

How a photograph of Gandhi's kin, taken at a Congress meet in 1948, helped solve a riddle

The story has as its central theme the close interactions our late mother Khorshed Wadia Ezekiel (1927-2016) had with the giants of the freedom movement, including and particularly Mahatma Gandhi. And finally, it is a story of how that historic photo solved a mystery in the Gandhi family that went back to the late 1940s when the photo was taken. Mother's maternal aunt (maasi) Gool's husband Dinshah Mehta was the pioneer of the Nature Cure movement in India and Gandhi's doctor. Mehta's home-cum-clinic in Poona (now Pune) was where Gandhi came for treatment and also where he would meet Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Abul Kalam Azad and other leaders in the years running up to independence. Mother was Gool's favourite, and she would often travel from Bombay (now Mumbai) to Poona where she stayed with the Mehtas and was inspired to be a part of the freedom movement. In 1948, mother travelled to Jaipur with the Mehtas to attend the 55th session of the Indian National Congress held between December 18 to 20 under the presidency of B Pattabhi Sitaramayya. It was the first post-Independence session and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, who had been assassinated 11 months earlier. Mother had the 60-page Presidential address booklet autographed by Jawaharlal and Brijlal Nehru, Sitaramayya, Padmaja Naidu and others, a precious and historic document carefully preserved in my possession. Now comes the story of the photo. It shows a young woman cradling her baby in her arms. At the back of the photo, mother has written in ink: "I took this photo at Sabarmati Ashram. Bapu's grand-daughter and her baby. After the Jaipur Congress session." I was stunned when I came across the photo six months ago while archiving the family collection. Despite my lifelong fascination with photographs, I had no memory of ever seeing this one. It was only thanks to the caption on the back that I was able to place it in its historical perspective.

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, I could upload it on X (formerly Twitter) and tag Amrita Gandhi, the Mahatma's great-granddaughter and my colleague at NDTV, where I worked from 1996 to 2000. A flurry of messages were exchanged, and Amrita put me in touch with her father, former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi, who traced the background of the photo with the help of the archivist at the Sabarmati Ashram, Kinnari Bhat. Thus, it was revealed that the baby in the photo was Lekha, daughter of Ansuya and Mohan Parikh. Ansuya Parikh's mother was Rami, daughter of Gulab and Harilal, the eldest son of Kasturba and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. So Ansuya was their great-granddaughter and not granddaughter, as my mother mistakenly wrote, skipping one generation and Lekha the great-great-granddaughter. Here is where the plot thickens, so to speak. Gopalkrishna Gandhi connected me with Lekha, now Lekha Balasubramanian, a resident of St. Louis, Missouri (USA), where she had gone in September 1970 to attend graduate school. It was here that Lekha met her future husband and fellow student, late TM Balasubramanian, and they were married in 1976.

Lekha was thrilled to see the photo and particularly the caption. Why? Because it solved the mystery of her birth date, which

all records show as November 3, 1949, despite her parents insisting she was born in 1948. Lekha explained in an email to me: "My birthday is November 3, 1948, not 1949. One of the school leaving certificates mistakenly wrote, '1949'. In Gujarati, the numerals 8 and 9 are similar. Neither my parents nor the hospital where I was born had registered the birthday with the local municipality. They both thought it was the other party's job. So no documentation of my birthday anywhere! Except for a few photos taken by my dad and your mum. By the time my parents realised (when I was finishing high school), they figured being one year younger wouldn't be a problem. So on all official documents it is 1949." Lekha continued: "Your mum's notation 'after the Jaipur Congress session' is very illuminating.

The infant in the photo is obviously a few months old. So the baby must have been born before December 1948. This is the first proof from an independent source as to my birth date. My parents had dated the infant's photos, but that was not "officially acceptable" proof. My grandkids joke about my age all the time. "But are you sure"? My family has been excited about this photo in more than one way. They finally believe me! The fact that the caption states it was taken after the Jaipur Congress session indicates it was most probably in late December 1948, when the infant would have been less than two months old. And so was solved a family mystery dating back a lifetime. Footnote: Lekha travelled to India with a group of friends, and we met last month in New Delhi. On her request, we visited the Parsi



aramgarh (cemetery), my mother's last resting place, on Prithviraj Road, just outside Khan Market. Here, the daughter of Ansuya, the young mother of the photo, and the son

of the photographer, both our mothers being of the same age back when they met in Sabarmati, finally themselves met 76 years (and a month) after the photo was taken.

How iPhones are driving smartphone exports from India

Riding on the back of the government's production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, India's mobile phone exports surged past Rs 25,000 crore in January 2025, and is expected to cross Rs 1,80,000 crore by the end of this fiscal, marking a significant 40% jump over last year, as per industry body India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA). The surge has been primarily led by a strong push by Apple, which has set up — through its contract manufacturers — a sizeable assembly base in the country. It is estimated that iPhone exports during April-Jan were close to Rs 1 lakh crore, against Rs 60,000 crore in the same period last year. Of the total exports in January, close to 70% came from Apple via iPhone shipments. Apple's push to broaden its manufacturing base in India comes on the back of the company looking to diversify such operations away from China, amid geopolitical tensions. India has emerged as a favourable destination for the company as far as iPhone assembly is concerned, even as a substantial chunk of the device's production is still centred in China.

The PLI for large scale electronics manufacturing, which was first announced in 2020 with an outlay of Rs 38,601 crore, offers incentives ranging from 4 to 6 per cent on net incremental sales of eligible products over the sales in the base year to the se-

lected applicants. Due to production under the scheme, handsets became the second highest exported product from India, at \$13.1 billion, during April-November 2024. Until June last year, the scheme had helped create 1,22,613 direct jobs as well, The Indian Express had reported. The PLI scheme has topped the allocation at Rs 8,885 crore in Union Budget 2025-26, significantly higher than allocation for PLI schemes of other ministries.

Production of smartphones surges As per ICEA, since the launch of the PLI scheme, mobile phone production in India has doubled—from Rs 2,20,000 crore in FY24 to Rs 4,22,000 crore in the ongoing fiscal. "Looking ahead, production is set to reach an estimated Rs 5,10,000 crore in FY25..." ICEA said in a statement. It also projected that mobile phone exports could exceed approximately Rs 1,80,000 crore by the end of the ongoing fiscal. "This represents approximately 40% growth over the previous fiscal year, crossing Rs 1,29,000 crore and an estimated over 680% growth since the inception of the PLI scheme in FY20-21. Mobile phone export is the largest growth driver within electronics, with the US standing out as a key market for India's smartphones," ICEA said. Under the PLI scheme for smartphone manufacturing, the government has disbursed close to \$1 billion (Rs 8,700

crore) in the three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25, with Foxconn, Tata Electronics and Pegatron, the three contract manufacturers of Apple receiving cumulatively over 75 per cent of the amount. Overall, five beneficiaries collectively received more than 98 per cent of the total disbursements: Foxconn (Rs 2,807.17 crore), Tata Electronics (Rs 2,067.51 crore), Pegatron (Rs 1,724.36 crore), Samsung (Rs 1,365.91 crore) and Padget Electronics (Rs 596 crore).

Apple's contract manufacturers, Foxconn, Tata Electronics and Pegatron (which was recently acquired by the Tatas), have received a total of almost Rs 6,600 crore over three years — 2022-23 and 2024-25, as per data obtained by The Indian Express through a Right to Information (RTI) application. The RTI data also revealed that in 2022-23, the first year when PLI incentives were disbursed, the maximum subsidy of Rs 953 crore was issued to Wistron (later acquired by Tata Electronics). In 2023-24, Foxconn, which is Apple's biggest contract manufacturer globally, received a subsidy disbursement of Rs 2,450 crore, the highest during the year. However, in 2024-25, the data showed no incentive was issued to Foxconn. In 2024-25, Samsung received the highest subsidy of close to Rs 958 crore. Besides Apple and Samsung, local contract manufacturer Dixon (Padget Electronics) has also benefited from the scheme.

Global Gems & Jewelry Academy Celebrates First Annual Convocation Ceremony

Hyderabad: The Global Gems & Jewelry Academy (GGJA) proudly commemorated its inaugural Annual Convocation Ceremony at GGJA, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad on 24th February, 2025, celebrating the accomplishments of over 10 exceptional graduates from its prestigious programs. The ceremony was held at the GGJA campus and featured prominent industry figures, including Chief Guest Mr. Anoop Agarwal, CEO of Rysun Jewels & KRIS Diamonds, and Guest of Honor Mr. Javin Kumar Agarwal, Director of Rysun Jewels & KRIS Diamonds. Their presence underscored the significance of the event and the promising future awaiting the graduates. The graduates were recognized for their academic excellence in diverse programs, including the Program in Gems & Jewelry, the Program in Gemology, and the Graduate Programme in Jewelry Design and Technology. Each graduate received a certificate, symbolizing their hard work, commitment, and readiness to contribute to the gems and jewelry industry. During the ceremony, Mrs. Sonal Agarwal, CEO & Director of GGJA, delivered an inspiring address highlighting the accomplishments of the graduates. "We are extremely proud of our students, who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and excellence. This convocation is a celebration of their achievements, and we are confident that they will continue to make remarkable contributions to the gems and jewelry industry," she stated. The



convocation ceremony served as a source of motivation and encouragement, with in-

spiring speeches from the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor. Their words instilled confi-

dence in the graduates as they embark on their professional journeys.

DICV Powers Oragadam Facility with 100% Renewable Power, Advancing CO₂e* Neutrality Goals



Hyderabad :Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), a wholly owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, has reached a significant milestone in its sustainability journey by utilizing 100% renewable power at its state-of-the-art Oragadam production facility, ahead of its sustainability roadmap. This achievement underlines DICV's commit-

ment to environmental protection and marks an important step, as the company has successfully reduced its Scope 2 emissions ahead of the original end-2025 target. From the outset, DICV has placed climate and environmental protection at the core of its operations, with a focus on reducing CO₂e emissions and optimizing energy consump-

tion. Since 2018, the company has steadily expanded its renewable energy initiatives that culminated in the implementation of cutting-edge infrastructure. At the heart of this achievement is DICV's forward-thinking renewable energy strategy, which combines onsite solar power generation with offsite renewable power procurement. A total of

22,970 tons of CO₂e is offset through the sourcing of renewable power, underscoring DICV's commitment to decarbonization. A key element of this strategy is the installation of a renewable power-generation plant with a peak capacity of 4,300 kW, powered by 15,000 solar panels. This plant offsets approximately 4,000 tons of CO₂e emissions annually, contributing to 17% of the renewable power generated in-house. Satyakam Arya, Managing Director & CEO, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles, said, "We have made significant strides in positioning DICV as a leader in sustainable manufacturing and we are proud to achieve 100% renewable power utilization at our Oragadam facility. This milestone, achieved ahead of target, demonstrates our commitment to decarbonizing operations. Since 2018, we have focused on building the infrastructure to increase our reliance on renewable power and now we have reached 100% renewable power utilization under Scope 2 emissions. Supportive state and central policies, such as green power purchases through various energy sources available under regulatory framework, played a vital role in this accomplishment." In addition to renewable power, DICV remains committed to energy efficiency and exploring alternative renewable sources to further minimize CO₂e emissions. These initiatives reflect the company's holistic approach to sustainability and its dedication to creating a carbon-neutral future. By integrating advanced sustainability practices, DICV continues to set industry benchmarks.

Sankalp Suraksha Run Uniting for a Safer Future for Children

Hyderabad: In a bid to enhance child safety and education, Sankalp, a registered NGO, successfully hosted the *Sankalp Suraksha Run* at Gachibowli Stadium today, drawing over 1,700 enthusiastic participants. The run was initiated in response to alarming statistics revealing a 96% increase in sexual violence against children from 2016 to 2022, as reported by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). With a staggering 162,000 cases recorded in 2022 alone, the necessity for collective action has never been more critical.

Sankalp aims to amplify awareness regarding child safety and the urgent need for the prevention of child sexual abuse in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals. "The idea for the Sankalp Suraksha Run emerged from our commitment to working with vulnerable children and communities," said Ms. Hemalatha Vijayaraghavan, the Founder and President of Sankalp during her opening remarks. "Education and safety go hand in hand. A child who feels secure can dream big and achieve their full potential. Let's make this a reality for every child." The event featured numerous esteemed guests, including the chief guest, Mr. D. Joel Davis, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police in Cyberabad, who emphasized, "It's time we make child safety a top priority," underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts in creating a secure environment for children. The *Sankalp Suraksha Run*, organized in partnership with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), gathered like-minded citizens aiming for the shared goal of zero tolerance against child



abuse by 2030. This collaboration is vital as both organizations recognize the urgent need

for action and education on child protection. For more information about

Sankalp and its future initiatives, please visit (<http://sankalp.org>)

Sirjanhara Studios Presents "Sculpting Voids": A Solo Exhibition by Master Sculptor Robin David Now Open at Phoenix Arena



Hyderabad :Sirjanhara Studios presents "Sculpting Voids," a vibrant solo exhibition showcasing the remarkable works of acclaimed Master Sculptor Robin David, now

open at the Phoenix Arena. The exhibition was inaugurated by Suresh Chukkappalli, Founder of Phoenix Arena, alongside Sharath Chadilavada, Founder of Anuradha Timbers,

and welcomed esteemed guests including Amrish from the Online Art Gallery, renowned artist Chippa Sudhakar, and German Art Curator Matthew. The evening was made

special by an enchanting musical performance from Soham Pal, crafting the perfect atmosphere for attendees to delve into David's artistic vision.

"Sculpting Voids" will run from February 22 to March 16, 2025, offering an intriguing exploration of David's contemplation of space and existence through his art. The exhibition features 30 striking sculptures that delve into the intricate relationship between form and emptiness, inviting viewers to engage in a dialogue about how voids resonate with emotion and meaning just as powerfully as solid masses. Reflecting on the exhibition, Robin David stated, "Art has the power to bridge the seen and the unseen. In 'Sculpting Voids,' I endeavor to bring forth the stories that lie within absence, prompting viewers to contemplate the relationship between existence and non-existence. Each piece is a reflection of my journey through sculptural expression." Curator Aman Preet Kaur highlighted the exhibition's significance, saying, "Robin David's work is a meticulous exploration of the delicate balance between form, space, and light."

This exhibition is not just about the sculptures; it's an experience that connects viewers to the deeper essence of art, encouraging dialogue and a sense of wonder."

The story of Calcutta's Parsi community: Once thriving, now dwindling

Seated gracefully on her couch in her South Kolkata residence, author Prochy N Mehta holds two of her most cherished publications on the history of the Parsi community. As she flips through the pages of one, memories of her father's journey unfold. "My father, Rusi B Gimi, came to Calcutta from Bharuch in Gujarat in the 1940s," she recalls. "Like many other Parsis from small towns and villages, he arrived in the city with ambition and hope." Gimi's first home was the Parsee Dharamshala (guesthouse) in Bowbazar, a bustling neighborhood in North Calcutta, where newly arrived Parsis often sought refuge. Mehta shares that Gimi initially started a bucket factory. Later, he married the daughter of the gentleman who ran the dharamshala and eventually transitioned into advertising. "My maternal grandfather wasn't too pleased with this," she chuckles. "He would chide my mother, saying, 'You're marrying a hoarding painter!'"

The history of the Parsis in India is both fascinating and enigmatic. Kisseh-e-Sanjan, an epic poem composed by Parsi priest Baman Kaikobad in AD 1600, remains the only known account of their migration to India in 636 CE to escape Arab persecution. It details their arrival in Sanjan, Gujarat. However, as Mehta notes, much of this narrative is steeped in historical fiction. Historians remain uncertain about the precise date, location, and number of Parsis who first arrived. In her recent book, *Who is a Parsi?*, Mehta argues that Parsi migration was predominantly male-driven, with settlers intermarrying with Indian women. Over time, the community expanded across Gujarat, integrating into local economies and establishing trade networks. One of the key trading hubs for the Parsis was Surat, where they engaged in commerce alongside Armenian brokers. When these brokers moved to Murshidabad, a prominent trading center in Bengal, it is likely that Parsi traders followed suit, eventually bringing them to Calcutta. In *Pioneering Parsis of Calcutta*, Mehta writes, "Till the early 1700s, when the British came to India, the Parsis existed as a tribe amongst the Hindus, many following Hindu customs and procedures."

The British presence, coupled with the Parsis' growing involvement in trade with China, brought newfound affluence. They were appointed as middlemen for European merchants in trading and banking operations. Academic Dalia Ray, in *The Parsees of Calcutta*, notes that Parsis "served the Company as interpreters, contractors, and brokers." This economic prosperity fostered a stronger sense of religious identity, leading to the establishment of Parsi places of worship and distinct funeral practices. The first documented Parsi in Calcutta, Dadabhai Behramji Banaji, arrived in 1765, the same year the Battle of Buxar ended with the Treaty of Allahabad, solidifying British rule in eastern India. A successful trader from Surat, 'Banaji Seth' was patronised by John Cartier, then-Governor of Bengal, and became the patriarch of the influential Banaji family, shaping Bengal's commercial and industrial landscape. As Calcutta prospered, more Parsis from Bombay and Gujarat followed. By 1797, as historian Dinyar Patel notes in *The Banaji and Mehta Families: Forging the Parsi Community in Calcutta*, a small group of Parsi traders controlled 11.2 percent of

Calcutta's non-European export trade with London, nearly matching the 11.4 percent held by local Hindu Bengali firms. This influence is particularly striking considering that the city's Parsi population grew from just 141 in 1881 to 274 by 1901. "My father was the first to put up a hoarding in India!" Mehta exclaims. However, when he began his journey, he was denied entry to Advertising Club meetings simply because he wasn't English or part of the elite. Mehta says that class has always been a deep divide in society, highlighting the sharp contrast between the affluent Parsi Sethias (the upper class) and families like hers, who came from more modest backgrounds.

"That said, most Parsis in Calcutta were affluent, having come to the city in pursuit of wealth." Shipping, Mehta recollects, was one of the key industries in which they thrived. Her father's business, too, flourished over time, but his contributions extended beyond commerce. Deeply committed to social service, Gimi founded a school for children with hearing impairment. Fire temples also played a role in charity, funding medical treatments and children's education. A key part of community life was the Parsi Club on Maidan — a lush green expanse in the heart of the city. Established as a cricket club in 1908, "it soon became a vibrant hub for Calcutta's Parsis, reflecting their deep engagement with sports," says Mehta. After Dadabhai Banaji's arrival in 1765, other prominent Parsis followed, including Rustomji Cowasji Banaji in 1812. Rustomji built a thriving business in shipbuilding and the lucrative China trade, which was heavily tied to opium smuggling. His fortunes soared during the First Opium War (1839-1842). Ray explains that as the capital of British India, Calcutta served as a key transit point between China and Bombay for the opium trade. While Indian opium and raw cotton were central to British commerce, private traders had monopolised opium marketing in China since 1786. By 1809, Parsi merchants had overtaken the Armenians, who had led the opium trade until. Shipping primarily in their own vessels, the Parsis controlled the trade in partnership with English private firms like Beale & Magniac and Jardine Matheson & Co from 1810 to 1842. "Thus, trade in opium and raw cotton became the mainstay of the Parsee Seths in Calcutta," says Ray.

In June 1828, Rustomji founded the Sun Insurance Company and carried on a very extensive business. He, along with Dwarkanath Tagore, were the only Indian members selected in the executive committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce established in 1834. In July the same year, he was elected Director of the Union Bank. "The British also honoured him by appointing him among the twelve Justices of the Peace created in 1835," notes Cyrus J Madan in his short essay *The Parsis of Calcutta*. By 1837, not only did Rustomji own a fleet of 27 ships but also bought the Calcutta Docking Company, the Khidirpur Docks. Subsequently, Rustomji defied social norms by relocating his entire family from Bombay to Calcutta in 1838. "He also permitted the women of his family to relinquish the 'pardah' and mix freely with men," adds Ray. He was known to generously contribute to famine funds, and was a member of the Committee



for 'the relief of the native poor' established in 1833. At the time, Calcutta had a notorious reputation for disease and filth. For the improvement of sanitation and water supply, Rustomji constructed a canal in the northern part of the city. To address the fire hazard, he excavated several tanks at his own expense. Among the hospitals founded with his donations include the first Fever Hospital, Native Hospital and Medical College Hospital. He died on April 16, 1852.

Seth Jamshedji Framji Madan was another notable Parsi. In 1885, at the age of 29, he established a wine and provisions business on Dharmatala Street (now Lenin Sarani). He later became a pioneering figure in India's cinema industry. In honour of his contributions, the British government awarded him the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) in 1918, followed by the CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in 1923 — distinguished accolades within the British honorary system. After the Banajis, RD Mehta emerged as a figure of comparable stature. He carried forward their legacy through public office, philanthropy, and the opium trade. A member of the Asiatic Society, he also served as the vice president of the Indian Association — one of Calcutta's leading political organisations — and as the municipal chairman of Maniktala in north Calcutta.

"Both the Banajis and the Mehtas translated their commercial success into political and social capital... forging friendships with the city's Bengali and British elite, and earning honours and appointments from the government," writes Patel. Fire temples were central to Calcutta's Parsi community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The first, established by the Banaji family on September 16, 1839, operated at 26 Ezra Street until the 1970s, when street hawkers took over the site. The second, inaugurated at the Mehta family's Atash Adaran on October 28,

1912, was later entrusted to Calcutta's Zoroastrian Anjuman, transforming it from a private shrine into a community institution. A report, cited by Mehta, from the centenary celebrations of the Seth Rustomji Cowasji Banaji Atash Adaran, held on August 26, 1939, stated: "A well-organised community dinner followed... About a thousand Parsis participated in it, marking the first time in the history of the Parsis of Calcutta that such a large number sat down to dinner together." "I was born a few years after India's independence, a period that would alter the fate of the Calcutta Parsis," Prochy Mehta says with a grim expression. In newly independent India, the struggles of the past were still fresh in people's minds. Little Prochy Mehta with her family friend Roshan Ginwala Little Prochy Mehta with her family friend Roshan Ginwala Prochy Mehta grew up hearing stories about Pherozeshah Mehta, a prominent Parsi leader from Bombay who played a key role in India's fight against British rule. "My father would tell us, only occasionally," she laughs, recalling a rare admission, "that he too went to jail for a year while in college in Poona (now Pune) for his role in anti-British agitations." The role of Calcutta's Parsis in India's freedom struggle is often overlooked, though it was undeniably significant. "However, with the British departure, the Parsis began to lose the influence and prosperity they had once enjoyed," she says. While Calcutta's Parsis thrived in the 19th century, they were also deeply engaged in the political currents of the 20th century. In the mid-1880s, as the Indian National Congress was taking shape, RD Mehta maintained regular contact with Dadabhai Naoroji, the prominent nationalist leader who co-founded the Congress in 1885. He played a crucial role as a bridge between Naoroji and the Bengali intelligentsia, exemplifying how Parsi nationalists leveraged community ties for broader political engagement. "During the 1880s and 1890s, Mehta.

Decoding the complex history of food in Delhi's old gullies

Writer Dr Pushpesh Pant talks about the food history of Delhi — that of migrants, refugees, traders, travellers, and colonisers — a little after 9 am on a balmy February morning, and the dense lanes of old Delhi have begun to put themselves together. The cables hang over one's shoulders, the labourers draw up carts to restock shop supplies, and the nanbais (bread makers) roll out dough balls to make fresh rotis. The smell of tandoors, attars, and curries buried in handis wafts through the air, and amid all this chaos is food historian and writer Dr Pushpesh Pant, sporting a beret and a greedy smile, as he sits down with HT for breakfast at the iconic Al Jawahar restaurant near Jama Masjid — to talk about fables of feasts, mutton cutlets, the imprint of the British on the city's eating habits, and his latest book *From the King's Table to Street Food* (Speaking Tiger Books LLP, ₹699). "The culture of breakfast as a meal was something that arrived with the British," says Pant, as he waits for his plate of nihari (slow-cooked mutton stew) and khameeri roti (fluffy bread, slightly sour). The word nihari translates to the Arabic word 'morning'.

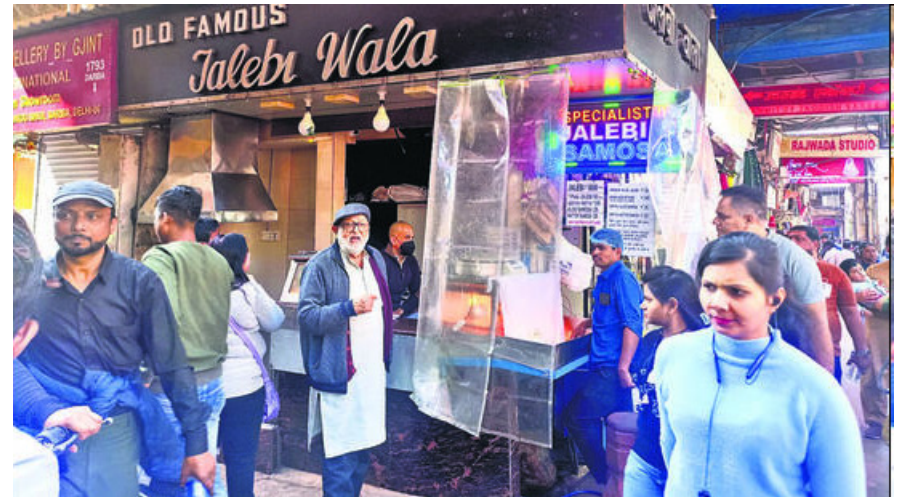
What is the history of the food of Delhi? There is no one answer because the food of India's Capital is the food of migrants, refugees, traders, administrators, travellers and colonisers — in no particular order. This is why Pant chose to subtitle his book "A Food History of Delhi" and not "history of Delhi food". On being asked what prompted him to write this book, the 78-year-old said, "Delhi is the only place I can call home... I came here when I was 17 and have lived here for over six decades. Cooking at home, eating out, eating with friends and colleagues form my core memory... I just wanted to put all of this in a historical context because I am a historian who has always been interested in food."

In this book, he looks for the real Dilliwalla, and wonders if there really is one. Through narratives woven into history and presented with anecdotes, Pant talks about the coexistence of cultures punctuated by historical events that shaped Delhi as a culinary capital through the centuries. For instance, how the Old Famous Jalebi Wala, a sweet shop, was established in Dariba in 1884 by one Nemichand Jain who migrated from Agra for better prospects with just eight annas, Pant writes. He "sold rabri from a khomcha (a makeshift stand) before a kindly Muslim shopkeeper, Irfan Shamsuddin, took pity and let him set up a stall... outside his shop in 1912. He saved enough money to build a haveli and then there was no looking back," the book says, citing lore. From the narrow lanes of old Delhi to the Instagram reel-obsessed lanes of Connaught Place, Pant talks about how food changes course every five km, and bears witness to transitions as new communities trickle into the city — which eventually culminates into taste, smell and the flavour of Delhi.

But first, 78-year-old Pant, who has written *India Cookbook*, *The Indian Vegetarian Cookbook*, and *Buddhist Peace Recipes*, returns to his plate of nihari, the popular Mughlai dish. The mutton is slow-cooked overnight till it absorbs flavours from the marrow, the layers of spices, onions, ghee

and the thickening agent — wheat flour, which adds to the silken texture. "You can see that the fat is separated from the curry. It is the lashkari khaana — food of soldiers," says Pant. In his book, he writes about soldiers who were posted from "Lahori Gate to Kotwali to shield Qila e Mubarak or the Red Fort. "This is where lashkari khaana (nahari-paye, robust barra, and boti kebab was popular," he writes. The morning crowd at Al Jawahar, which was established in 1947-48, includes a couple of foreigners, families, and some regulars. A few metres away is Subhanallah Hotel, a hole in the wall that mostly caters to regulars who want a quick bite before they rush to work, and costs very little. In the same lane is Karim's — known for its mutton barra, and its origin story that dates back to 1913. Here, Pant points out, half a mutton burra costs ₹460. "The pricing is such because its target audience is not those in the immediate vicinity but ones visiting from outside," says Pant. Among the many original settlers of Shahjahanabad were folks from Punjab and Kashmir, Baniyas from Rajasthan, and Kayasthas and Khatri from Uttar Pradesh, many of whom were in service of the Mughal court, Pant writes. Through the years, ethnic minorities such as Parsis, Biharis, Nepalese, Anglo-Indians, south Indians and people from the Northeast added their own culinary experiences to the mix. From Jama Masjid, the author now moves to Chandni Chowk. With the change in landscape was also a shift in smells — attars give way to dhoop sticks, and kebabs to pakoras. "This is Dariba, an enclave of the Baniyas, 'occupied by traders," Pant says, as he wolfs down a plate of jalebis and a matar ka samosa from Old Famous Jalebi Wala.

Pant writes that the domestic kitchens largely held on to the Baniya and Kayastha cuisines, later merging with Punjabi and Kashmiri flavours. The recipes involved co-



pious amounts of coriander, cumin, fennel, carrom, fenugreek and nigella seeds. Some dinner favourites were pyaaz ki sabzi (for those not averse to onions), and aam ke katre ka hing wala achar. The evening snacks brought together moong dal chilla, and aloo matar ki chaat. Around 12.30 pm, Pant and the writer left the lanes of old Delhi and walked into Kwaliti, a restaurant that brought tastes favourable to the American GI's during World War II, since it first opened doors in Connaught Place in 1940. It became a regular haunt of politicians, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries. As he settles into an upholstered chair and orders a plate of mutton cutlets, he says, "I love this place, I love coming here... There was a time when this cost just ₹10. The quality of Kwaliti has not changed," he says. The arrival and departure of the British left an enormous food imprint, says Pant. Cutlets, roasts, pies and custards clung onto the food spectrum; iconic eateries and restaurants such as Wenger's, Kwaliti, Gaylord, Volga, and United Coffee House took over Delhi in the first half of the 20th century. "It was quite common for the

well-off to go out for dinner and dancing, as all restaurants had a live band, many with crooners," Pant writes.

The influx of Partition refugees in 1947 allowed the Multani, Rawalpindi, Lahori and Amritsari dhabas to flourish. The mayhem of Partition homogenised "Punjabi food", changing its meaning and blurring the sub-regional ethnicities, he writes in his book. Dishes like butter chicken and dal makhani entered the city's vocabulary but what truly dominated homes were the humble bhartas, saag and sabzis that dominated homes. All of this was before paneer "annihilated" the foods of Delhi. From the King's Table to Street Food broadly covers episodes from when Delhi was Indraprastha, moves on to the reign of the Sultans in the 13th century, and traces the present preferences on Zomato. The book seamlessly moves from the Walled City to the Capital's peripheries, from the arrival of the British to the merger of Anglo and Indian cultures — and is a repository of stories of how food has evolved in Delhi temporally and geographically. And how Delhi has something for everyone.

Sinner, WADA deal shows why the process is broken

Mumbai: There's a palpable difference in the way the tennis community has reacted to two significant developments at either end of the Jannik Sinner doping saga. Right at the start when the world No. 1's two positive tests in March last year were made public before the US Open, most of his colleagues — with the leading exception of the outspoken Nick Kyrgios — chose caution over criticism in walking a tightrope and backing the Italian's innocence. Now, even as many continue to believe the notion that Sinner did not intentionally dope, the three-month suspension after a settlement with WADA has got them off the fence and firing away. Voices to have spoken up range from Novak Djokovic to Alexander Zverev to Jessica Pegula to Stan Wawrinka, with terms tossed around going from "strange" to "weird" to "favoritism" to "completely broken". Each of it could carry some merit because, irrespective of WADA's conclusion that the three-time Grand Slam champion "did not intend to

cheat", there was a certain degree of timeliness and bargaining power around this episode which is almost unprecedented compared to other doping cases in tennis. And that could set a tricky precedent. For, as Daniil Medvedev put it, players fighting similar cases should now also be able to go to WADA and say, "well, no, I want one month". "Otherwise," Medvedev added, "if it's not going to be possible, it's going to be bizarre." Sinner, who tested positive for banned substance clostebol which he stated was passed on inadvertently from his physiotherapist, was first given the benefit of doubt by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA). Until days ago, anti-doping watchdog WADA wanted to challenge that and seek a ban of one to two years. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) had set an April date for the hearing. That is where the timeframes around this case stand out. Armed with lawyers, Sinner's team was able to bring WADA to the table and strike a settlement with a

marked sense of urgency. The 23-year-old will not miss a single Grand Slam and will be free to return in time for his home Rome Masters tournament leading into the French Open. Contrast this with instances where cases have dragged on to cascading and career-ending effect. Simona Halep, the former women's world No. 1, was handed a four-year ban in 2022 which, two years on, was reduced to nine months by CAS. Halep, hardly the same player since, announced her retirement this month. British player Tara Moore lost 19 months of her professional career until she was cleared by ITIA of no fault or negligence for a doping violation. "If all players are treated the same and this is (the) future precedent, I wouldn't be bothered, but we all know it won't be. Why can't we all be treated the same?" Moore wrote on X this week. Stefano Battaglini, another Italian tennis player with far lesser accomplishments as a career-high world No. 760, had also tested positive for the same substance as Sinner in 2023.

Is this small cap stock a good bet on the electronics manufacturing services sector?

The search for the next growth cycle led us to electronics manufacturing services (EMS), a sunrise sector in India's manufacturing space. With India aiming to become a global electronics manufacturing hub, production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes provided a crucial push for EMS providers to grow. After surging multi-fold over the last three years, the sector saw a sharp dip in 2025, erasing six months of gains. Shares of Cyient DLM, Kaynes Technology India, and Centum Electronics fell over 40 per cent from their December peak, while Dixon Technologies and Syrma SGS Technology fell by 30 per cent. The sharp correction has made investors question: Is the EMS growth cycle over? Is the dip temporary profit booking before another round of rallies? However, global brokerage Jefferies remains bullish on the EMS sector, particularly companies that produce high-margin components like Syrma SGS Technology. We take a look at this small-cap stock to see its upside potential in the short- and long-term.

In November 2024, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) proposed a \$5 billion (Rs 42,245 crore) incentive to promote the domestic production of electronic components such as printed circuit boards (PCBs). It required the finance ministry's approval and fund allocation in the Union Budget 2025-26. While the idea of incentives for electronic components was brewing, Syrma began evaluating opportunities in electronic component manufacturing. The company produces electronic devices such as smart energy meters and 5G subscriber devices like Wi-Fi routers, as well as electronic components such as electromagnetic and electromechanical parts, motherboards, and memory products for various industries. It has the potential to gain significantly from electronic components PLI. Fig 1: Syrma SGS Technology's Stock Price Momentum in 2024 and 2025 (year to date). In October 2024, Syrma opened its Pune facility to expand PCB assembly for automotive and industrial sectors. The timing couldn't have been more perfect — the announcement sent Syrma's stock soaring 33 per cent between October 25 and 30. However, a series of events dampened investor sentiment. On January 6, the Finance Ministry approved only Rs 25,000 crore compared to the MeitY's proposed Rs 42,245 crore electronics component incentive, stating that it wanted the funds to be used completely. In Union Budget 2025, more funds were allocated for electronics manufacturing PLI. However, there was no mention of a separate PLI for electronic components. The lack of clarity pulled down its stock price. International factors also played a crucial role. The emergence of China's DeepSeek AI module, trained at a fraction of the hardware cost of ChatGPT created panic around the need for high-computing data centres. Syrma stock took a hit as the company manufactures power supplies and power management units for data centres. Another round of uncertainty came from US President Donald Trump's announcement on reciprocal tariffs, which could negatively affect exports to the US. Syrma earns 20 per cent of its revenue from exports to the US and Europe.

Is the current dip an opportunity to buy?

Syrma is a low-volume high-margin manufacturer with its revenue growing faster than the industry average of 35 per cent. The stock fell by 32 per cent year-to-date and is trading at a 53x price-to-earnings ratio (PE), the level last seen in June 2023. Even 53x is a high valuation compared to another low-volume, high-margin EMS player Cyient DLM, which is trading at 50x. Syrma expects to grow FY25 revenue by 40-45 per cent to Rs 4,500 crore and operating earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) by 44-49 per cent to Rs 320 crore. The Q3 numbers hinted that the company is on track to achieve its FY25 earnings guidance. On the profitability front, the company aims to sustain its Ebitda margin at 7 per cent in FY25 and beyond. It also aims to improve this margin by increasing the mix of high-margin products. With an order book of Rs 5,300 crore as of December 2024, the company has enough orders to grow its revenue by strong double digits. It also has additional capacity in place from the Pune plant, which gives it flexibility to grow its annual revenue beyond Rs 6,000-6,500 crore. However, customer acquisition, product design, and other setup will take time before the facility can achieve a decent utilisation rate.

Can Syrma continue to grow without PLI?

According to Niti Aayog's outline, India aims to scale its electronics production to Rs 42.24 lakh crore by FY30 from Rs 9.71 lakh crore in FY24. Many players are looking to grab a piece of this growth pie. It would be interesting to see how Syrma, which already has PLI for manufacturing telecom and networking products, white goods, and IT products, performs. Its consumer segment is the major beneficiary of the PLIs and accounts for 40 per cent of its revenue. "Consumer business will continue to be a high-volume consumer business, (it) will continue to be about one-third of my revenue. That's the desire. And that is also guided by the PLI. See, we have a limit on the PLI. So, there is no point of bumping up the business which is not with PLI," said Syrma SGS Technology's Managing Director Jasbir Singh Gujral in the Q3 FY25 earnings call. The government approves products eligible for PLI and then offers 4-7 per cent incentive on incremental net sales from previous year. Since Syrma uses PLI for high-volume, low-margin products, it only manufactures to the level where PLI benefit reaches its maximum. In FY24, Syrma accrued Rs 12-13 crore in PLI and for FY25 it expects the number to grow to Rs 15-17 crore. The end of PLI could reduce the motivation to manufacture low-margin products as their margins could fall further. Hence, Syrma is looking to expand in high-margin verticals to keep the production capacity running and generate higher return on capital employed (RoCE).

Syrma is growing its revenue at 30-40 per cent. Dixon Technologies grew its sales and profit at a 5-year CAGR of 43 per cent and 42 per cent, respectively. Its revenue and profit after tax (PAT) surged 119 per cent and 177 per cent, respectively, in the first nine months of FY25 as the company expanded the mobile and EMS segment's contribution to 84 per cent from 60 per cent in a year. While Dixon has the benefit of accel-



ated growth, it is heavily dependent on the mobile PLI scheme for this growth. Moreover, there is concentration risk as the mobile segment now accounts for 84 per cent of its revenue. Any downturn in the mobile space and the end of the mobile PLI scheme in March 2026 raises concern about the sustainability of Dixon's high growth rate. On the other hand, Syrma has a well-diversified portfolio across verticals — consumer (40 per cent), auto (21 per cent), industrials (25 per cent), healthcare (7 per cent), and IT and railways (6 per cent), and only the consumer segment is dependent on PLI. While diversification reduces concentration risk, it also limits growth potential. For Syrma, a multi-bagger moment could come if a dedicated PLI scheme for electronics components becomes a reality. PLI or no PLI, the current reality is that Syrma is expanding business with a target to increase its RoCE from 9.5 per cent in Q3FY25 to the industry average of 20 per cent. It plans to do so by expanding manufacturing capacity and increasing the mix of higher-margin products. The stock has the potential to grow moderately depending on how the fundamentals improve. Motilal Oswal has a buy rating on Syrma SGS Technology with a target price of Rs 550, a

26 per cent upside from the current trading price of Rs 436. The broker is bullish on the company's 35 per cent revenue growth and margin expansion. Jefferies also has a Buy rating on the stock with a target price of Rs 690, as Syrma has a better risk-reward profile than its peers Amber, Kaynes, and Dixon. Still, in the early stages of growth, it would be interesting to see how Syrma SGS Technology rides India's EMS growth wave and rewards its shareholders. Note: We have relied on data from <http://www.Screener.in> throughout this article. Only in cases where the data was not available have we used an alternate but widely used and accepted source of information. The website managers, its employee(s), and contributors/writers/authors of articles have or may have an outstanding buy or sell position or holding in the securities, options on securities, or other related investments of issuers and/or companies discussed therein. The content of the articles and the interpretation of data are solely the personal views of the contributors/writers/authors. Investors must make their own investment decisions based on their specific objectives and resources and only after consulting such independent advisors as may be necessary.

Samsung decides to cancel over \$2 billion worth of treasury stocks

Seoul: Samsung Electronics said on Tuesday it has decided to cancel 3 trillion won (\$2.01 billion) worth of treasury stocks as part of its buyback plan to enhance shareholder value. Around 50.1 million common stocks and 6.9 million preferred shares will be retired, according to the company in a regulatory filing. Samsung Electronics said the cancellation follows the decision made at a board meeting in November to repurchase its own shares worth a combined 10 trillion won over the ensuing year, reports Yonhap news agency. As a first step, it said it was planning to buy back 3 trillion won of shares within three months and cancel all of them. By reducing the total number of outstanding shares, the company aims to boost earnings per share and support its stock

price, ultimately benefiting investors. Meanwhile, Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong received the largest amount of dividends in South Korea last year, a corporate data tracker said on Tuesday. Leaders Index surveyed 560 companies, which provided dividends in the form of cash and cash equivalents to their shareholders in 2024 to count up their overall dividends. The 560 firms provided a total of 40.7 trillion won (US\$28.2 billion) in dividends to their shareholders last year, up 10.4 per cent from a year earlier, the survey showed. Lee received 346.5 billion won in dividends last year, up 7.1 per cent from a year ago. Hyundai Motor Group Honorary Chairman Chung Mong-koo and his only son, Euisun Chung, executive chair of the group.

The perception shift against the AAP in the Delhi election

The 2025 Delhi Assembly election was nothing short of a political turning point, reshaping the electoral landscape of India's capital in ways few had anticipated. Data from Codemo and PeoplesPulse's survey reveal major shifts in voter behaviour, gender-based voting patterns, and the underlying factors that influenced the outcome at the polls. The survey was conducted over more than two months with a sample size of 30,000. Samples were collected from a telephone survey. Post-stratification, a statistical modelling technique was employed where a large poll sample was combined with Census data and analysed using multi-level regression to estimate voter preferences. In the early days of campaigning, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remained ahead of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in perception vote share (voters' perception of which party would win), indicating that a larger section of voters believed it could return to power. The AAP's perception vote share surged in the initial days following the announcement of schemes such as the Mahila Samman Yojana and Sanjeevani Yojana, rising to 58.1% till January 1 (Chart 1). However, its fortunes started declining after the BJP's campaign machinery was set in motion ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first rally on January 5. From January 1, AAP's perception vote share margin over the BJP dropped from +19.8% points to -11.8% points. The AAP's vote share peaked at 49.2% on January 1 and steadily declined thereafter, dropping to 40.5% by February 4. Meanwhile, the BJP and Congress improved their vote share by 4.7% points and 2.3% points respectively to reach 48.5% and 7% over the same period (Chart 2). Chart 2 shows party-wise real vote share trend (%) The AAP had huge electoral success in 2015 and 2020 banking on its promise of providing corruption-free governance and populist schemes. In 2025, the BJP and Congress capitalised on the alleged corruption in the Delhi excise policy, significantly damaging the AAP's corruption-free party image. Additionally, the BJP was successful in convincing voters that it wouldn't stop the welfare schemes and financial incentives provided by the AAP government if voted to power. Female and male voters The AAP announced the Mahila Samman Yojana scheme and opened registrations for it, which provided the party with an initial boost with female voters. Till January 10, the party received more than 67% of the female vote share, whereas the BJP managed 28%.

However, all the gains were undone in the final phase, with the AAP's vote share among women dropping to 50.2%, while the BJP and Congress gained at its expense, rising to 41.8% and 6.1%, respectively. This decline could be attributed to the lack of financial assistance for female voters before the election, unlike in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections. Additionally, the BJP and Congress countered the AAP by promising similar schemes and financial incentives. In the survey, the AAP's vote share among female voters was 50.2% in 2025 compared to 62.4% in the 2020 Delhi election. Click to subscribe to our Data newsletter The BJP had an edge among male voters from the beginning and increased its



margin over the AAP with time. In the survey, the BJP increased its vote share margin over the AAP from +4.3% points on January 1 to +17.5% points on February 4. The AAP had a 59% vote share among male voters in the 2020 election, which declined to 35.5% in 2025. The AAP managed to secure more than 55% of the general category vote share in the 2020 Delhi election. However, in 2025, the BJP got 57.3% of the general category vote share and the AAP's vote share dwindled to 31.9%. Other Backward Classes (OBC) votes were traditionally split between different parties. However, during this election, the BJP gained ground among OBCs with a vote share of 48.6%, while the

AAP got 41.1%. The AAP had an initial lead of +5.4% points over the BJP on January 1, but its margin with the BJP reduced significantly to -7.5% points by February 4. In the final phase of the election, AAP witnessed a significant decline in the Scheduled Caste (SC) vote share while the BJP and Congress made gains, largely due to a targeted outreach towards SC voters. On February 4, the AAP's lead over the BJP narrowed to +8.5% points, a sharp drop from its margin of +25.9% points on January 1. Voters with origins in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, also known as Purvanchali voters, were a decisive factor in many constituencies. The AAP had a lead of +3.5% points over the BJP

a month before the election. A month later, the AAP capitulated to Purvanchali voters as its margin with the BJP reduced to -16.7% points (Chart 3). While the Congress was not seen as a major player in this election, its impact was felt in key constituencies where it managed to cut into the AAP's voter base. Among SC voters, its vote share was 7.8%, an improvement from 6.1% in the 2020 Delhi election survey. Among Muslim voters, the Congress' vote share was 19%, a significant improvement from 12% in the 2020 Delhi election survey. Though the AAP managed to win six out of the seven Muslim-dominated seats, its win margin dropped significantly.

NASA says Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore to return to Earth earlier than scheduled

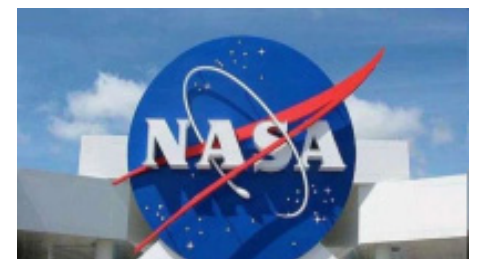
New York: NASA and SpaceX are accelerating the target launch and return dates for the upcoming crew rotation missions to and from the International Space Station (ISS), which will bring the agency's stranded astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back home.

The agency's Crew-10 launch now is targeting March 12, pending mission readiness and completion of the agency's certification of flight readiness process, NASA said late on Tuesday, Xinhua news agency reported. The Crew-9 mission, consisting of Williams, Wilmore, NASA astronauts Nick Hague along with Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, is planned for return to Earth following a several-day handover period with the newly arrived Crew-10 crew.

The previous launch date for Crew-10 was no earlier than late March. The Crew-10 mission will carry NASA astronauts Anne

McClain, and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov, to the space station. The earlier launch opportunity is available following a decision by mission management to adjust the agency's original plan to fly a new Dragon spacecraft for the Crew-10 mission which requires additional processing time, according to NASA. The flight now will use a previously flown Dragon, called Endurance, and joint teams are working to complete assessments of the spacecraft's previously flown hardware to ensure it meets the agency's Commercial Crew Programme safety and certification requirements. This comes as US President Donald Trump asked SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to facilitate the return of both Williams and Wilmore as soon as possible.

Musk claimed that it was "terrible" that the pair were left "stranded" at the ISS for so



Williams and Wilmore have been stuck in space since June last year due to technical problems with Boeing's Starliner which took them to ISS

long, even though NASA had already roped in SpaceX months ago to return both astronauts as part of its Crew-9 mission. Williams and Wilmore have been stuck in space since June last year due to technical problems with Boeing's Starliner which took them to ISS.