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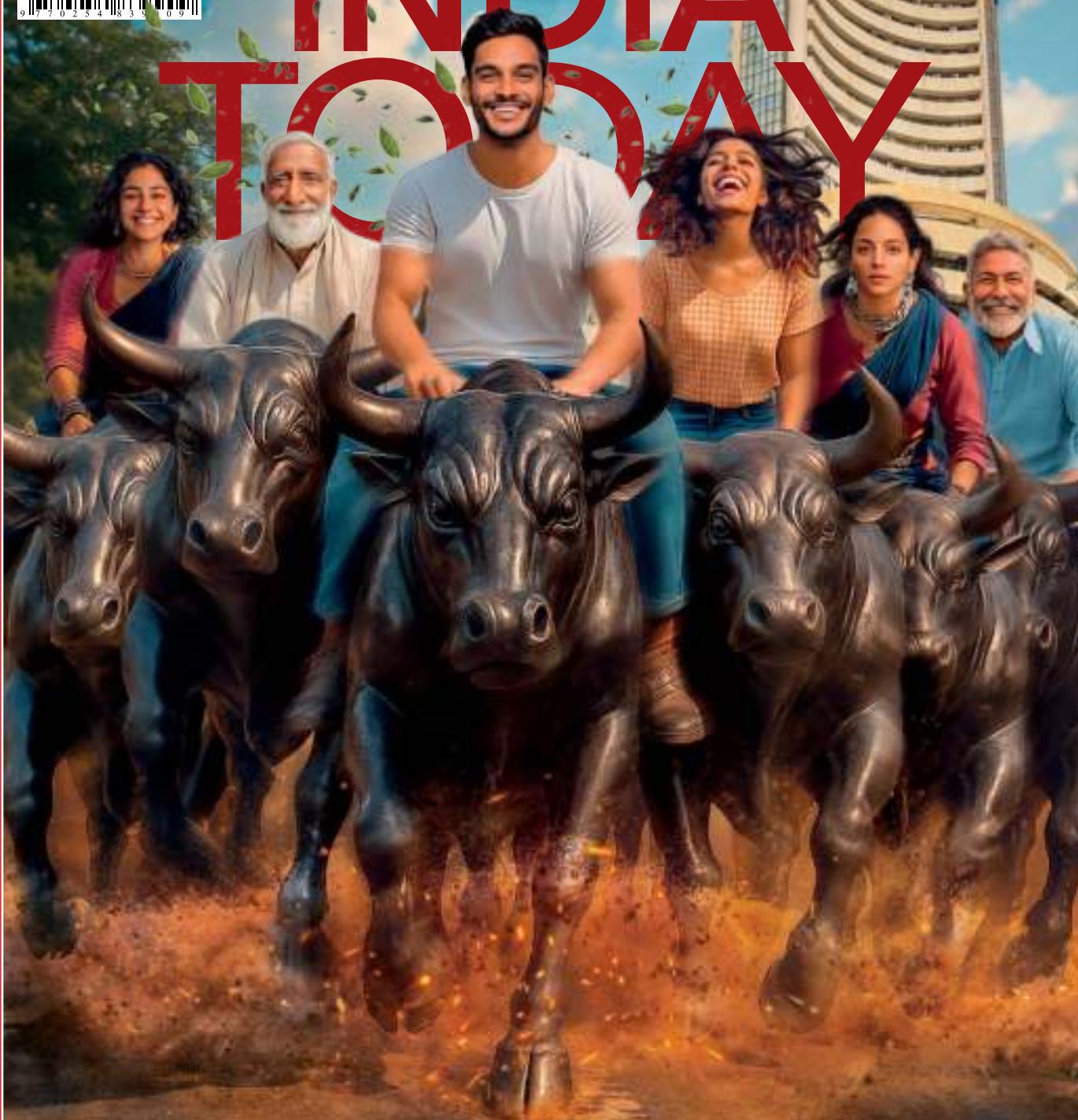
BIHAR: CHIRAG'S POWER PLAY | BJP: WOOING THE ROYALS

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INDIA TODAY**STOCK MARKETS****THE NEW BULLS**MILLIONS OF BOLD AND FINANCIALLY SAVVY SMALL
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FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For decades, the Indian middle class parked most of its savings in fixed deposits, gold or real estate. These investments may have brought lower returns, but were seen as low-risk comfort zones. Investing in shares was reserved for the bold, the wealthy, or the well-connected. Our cover story this week captures a silent but sweeping transformation in India's capital markets. The middle class, once hesitant and risk-averse, is now at the centre of India's financial engine. They are no longer watching from the sidelines. They are shaping the game and acting as a stabilising force that buffer the stock markets against global storms.

And they are doing so with scale. The number of 'demat' accounts rose nearly five times from 41 million in FY20 to about 192 million by FY25, a phenomenal CAGR of 35 per cent. Another tell-tale clue: household savings, as a share of GDP, have fallen from 22.7 per cent in FY21 to 18.5 per cent in FY25. That money hasn't disappeared. It's simply moved to the stock market—much of it, at least. That is evident from the unprecedented boom in the mutual funds industry. Their total assets under management (AUM) have trebled over five years to reach Rs 74.4 lakh crore by the end of Q1FY26. Even in this larger pie, the share of small investors has increased to 28 per cent, from 20 per cent a decade ago. Together withHNIs, they now constitute 63 per cent of the total AUM in mutual funds. The rise of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) is another marker of this maturity. Monthly SIP contributions stood at Rs 27,269 crore in Q1FY26—up from just Rs 8,055 crore in FY19. There are now 92 million SIP accounts in India, with over 86 million of them actively contributing every month.

Yet the transformation is not limited to mutual funds or SIPs. Retail investors now constitute nearly half of all trades in the stock market's cash segment, up from a third in FY19. In the derivatives segment, their share has more than doubled in recent years, from 20 per cent to 44 per cent. Many have experimented with futures and options; many have made mistakes. But the larger trend is unmistakable: India's small investors are learning, adapting, and evolving.

This new base of domestic capital has fundamentally altered the dynamics of the Indian market. Consider this: in the first five months of this year, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pulled out over Rs 97,000 crore from Indian equities and bond markets. This was a staggering reversal, driven by global headwinds, including US Federal Reserve rate hikes, geopolitical tensions and shifting risk appetites. A decade ago, such an exodus would have sent Indian indices into free fall. Instead, the markets held firm. In July 2025, the Sensex continues to hover around

the 81,000 mark, while the Nifty remains near 25,000.

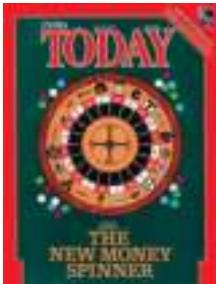
The resilience was not accidental. It was underwritten by a steady stream of domestic liquidity that ensured retail capital would step in when foreign money stepped out. Between FY19 and FY25, the combined holdings of retail investors and mutual funds rose from 15.8 per cent of the market capitalisation of NSE-listed companies to 19.9 per cent. In the same period, FPI share declined from 21 per cent to 17.5 per cent. The balance of power is clearly shifting. India's markets are no longer wholly dependent on the mood swings of global capital. The domestic investor is emerging as both a counterweight and a cushion.

This is the outcome of a decade-long confluence of policy, technology and behavioural change. Regulatory moves by SEBI, such as e-KYC, two-day settlement cycles and greater transparency, have improved access and trust. Digital infrastructure has been key. App-based brokerages like Zerodha, Groww and Upstox have lowered entry barriers and demystified trading. Mobile penetration, cheap data and fintech innovation have brought market access to every district in the country. So, too, has financial literacy. Government campaigns,

school-based investor education programmes and the rise of 'finfluencers' have helped create a generation of investors who are more aware of products, risks and strategies than ever before.

What sets this moment apart is the depth of participation. The average age of new investors is now just over 28. Nearly a quarter of new demat accounts are held by women—up from 16 per cent in 2019. Proof of this new spirit putting down roots is, in fact, stronger in places you would think unlikely. Between FY23 and FY25, Uttar Pradesh outpaced the national average in demat account growth with a jump of 65 per cent; Bihar registered 70 per cent. Maharashtra and Gujarat remain top contributors, but the surge from Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns is what's driving the next phase of India's financial democratisation. Deputy Editor Anilesh S. Mahajan, who unpacks all ingredients of this quiet revolution, points out that the risks still remain. The boom in retail F&O trading has also meant significant losses for retail investors. SEBI data indicates they lost nearly Rs 1.8 lakh crore in options trading between FY22 and FY24. IPO euphoria has led to post-listing corrections. Also, rising household debt, particularly through credit cards and unsecured loans, is a warning signal regulators are watching closely.

But there is no doubt there is a structural shift that is rewriting the social contract between India's middle class and the capital market. They are not just riding the bull run. They are the bull run.



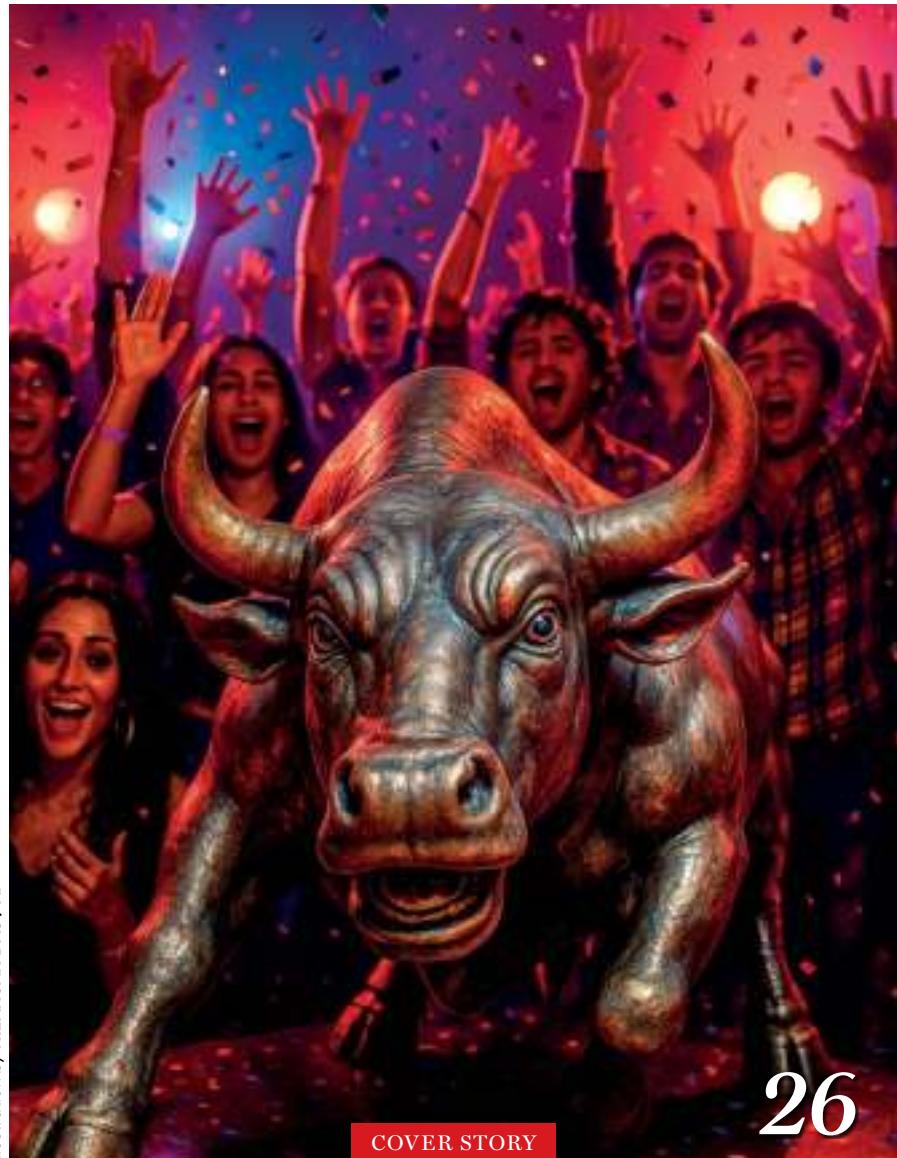
▲ July 31, 1985

(Aroon Purie)

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Illustration by NILANJAN DAS / AI

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THE NEW BULLS

MILLIONS OF BOLD AND FINANCIALLY SAVVY SMALL
INVESTORS ARE SHORING UP INDIA'S BOURSES

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The BJP sheds inhibitions about wooing erstwhile royals to advance their political cause. For the royals, it is a chance to regain political and cultural relevance



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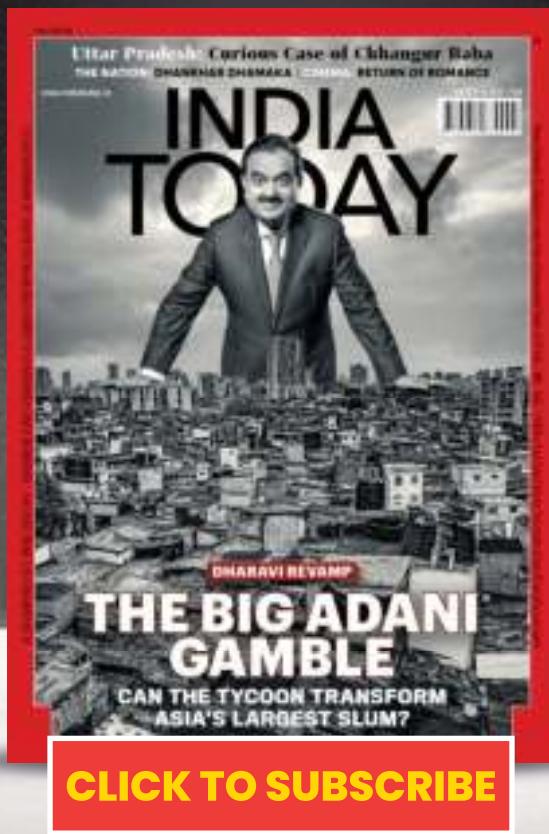
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In Bihar's liminal space—between the BJP's leadership deficit and the JD(U)'s ebbing influence—Chirag Paswan sees a fault line ripe for exploitation



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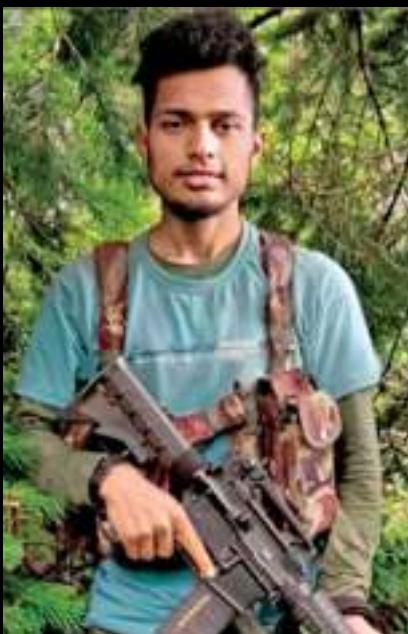
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UPFRONT

INDIA-UK FTA: A FAIR DEAL PG 14

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◀ TERROR TRIPTYCH From left, Pahalgam terrorists Jibran, Suleiman Shah and Hamza Afghani, who were killed by security forces on Jul. 28

► OPERATION MAHADEV

NAILING THE PAHALGAM PERPETRATORS

India gives a fitting response by killing three Pakistani terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack, but a few questions remain

By PRADIP R. SAGAR

IF COINCIDENCE IS EVER WORTHY OF historical recall, it was here. After a hunt of 96 days—and, as it happened, exactly before a Parliament debate was to start on national security issues flowing from the April 22 Pahalgam massacre—the Pakistani terrorists

who executed it were tracked down and killed in Kashmir. Their end came in the Dachigam forests near Srinagar, on the morning of July 28. Forensics confirmed their identity in another day, and the news broke just as Parliament started a two-day debate on Pahalgam and Operation Sindoor, the Indian

military's retaliation against Pakistan. Naturally, that blunted the Opposition's artillery, which had expected to fire away from a position of advantage, with a focused critique of lapses in intelligence, operational strategy and foreign policy. In the event, the Narendra Modi government's big guns managed to hold on to moral high ground, while tactfully sidestepping trickier questions like the Chinese collusion with Pakistan and the alleged loss of fighter jets.

The full details of Operation Mahadev, so called as the encounter took place in the Mahadev Peak area of Dachigam, came as Union home minister Amit Shah addressed the Lok Sabha on July 29. He said three "A-list" terrorists—Lashkar-e-Taiba commander Suleiman Shah, Hamza Afghani and Jibran—were killed in a joint operation by soldiers of 4 Para of the army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police. Shah said the Pakistani terrorists were shadowed by security



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forces since May 22, when intelligence was received about their presence in Dachigam. The Intelligence Bureau and the army, he said, used specialised equipment like heat signature drones and satellite imagery to intercept frequencies of the terrorists' communication equipment and pursued them relentlessly for over two months. As per officials involved in the operation, from May 22 to July 22, intelligence agencies along with the CRPF, army and J&K police continuously patrolled the dense and mountainous forest area. And, once confirmed by an intercepted communication, they launched the final combing operation on July 22 after the terrorists were cornered. "Operation Sindoar had killed the bosses of the terrorists... Operation Mahadev killed the terrorists themselves," Shah said. Extensive forensic analysis of the M9 and two AK-47s used by the terrorists, and the matching of ammunition shells generated by firing them at the Chandigarh Central Forensic Science Laboratory with the spent cartridges picked up in Pahalgam, generated a 100 per cent match.

Overall, the government emphasised the success of Op. Sindoar, with defence minister Rajnath Singh praising the military's precision in targeting Pakistani terror hubs. Shah's statement effectively countered the charge about a lax security atmosphere, but the question on how they breached the heavily guarded Line of Control remains unanswered. 'Intelligence lapses' was going to be the key weapon for the star Opposition speakers like Rahul Gandhi, Gaurav Gogoi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra of the Congress, Akhilesh Yadav (Samajwadi Party), Supriya Sule (NCP-SP) and Kalyan Banerjee (TMC).

However, security forces are looking to plug the gaps. "We need a smart counter-infiltration grid combining tech with boots on the ground," says a top army officer serving in Kashmir. The army must invest in synthesising signals intelligence, human intelligence and surveillance technologies, he feels. "The counter-terrorism grid



POINTS TO PONDER

Unanswered queries raised by the Opposition

► Possible intelligence failure that enabled Pahalgam terrorists to breach the LoC

► Clarity on claims of aircraft lost during the first day of Op. Sindoar

► Acknowledgment of China's real-time aid to Pakistan during Op. Sindoar

► The diplomatic embarrassment for India as President Trump hosted, and praised, Pakistan army chief Asim Munir

should be reviewed, with CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) and police in the inner tier and army/Rashtriya Rifles in the outer tier, ensuring army dominance in higher reaches and outer areas," a former corps commander suggests. Another officer says the military should have contingency plans vis-a-vis the scale of terror attacks and the enemy shouldn't get the time to be prepared, as they did after Pahalgam.

Leaders like Akhilesh and Rahul questioned the reason for a ceasefire when India had the upper hand. "When our army had brought Pakistan to its knees, why did we agree to a ceasefire?" asked the former, tipping then to the rhetorical troughs previously owned by the BJP: "It was the best time to advance towards PoK." Rahul asked pointed questions about the veracity of US

► **JOB WELL DONE** Army personnel in Dachigam, near Srinagar, following Operation Mahadev, Jul. 28

President Donald Trump's repeated claims of brokering peace. In words not so felicitously chosen at a time of trade negotiations, he demanded that the appellation "liar" be used if he was wrong. PM Modi emphasised that no world leader had asked India to stop Op. Sindoar, and that India agreed to a ceasefire after it met all its objectives and Pakistan begged for it.

A key government official admits to a more layered story. "It's clear there was an off-ramp and third-party intervention," he says. "Trump's character fits his claim of taking credit for preventing a nuclear war, which oversimplifies nuanced diplomacy.... Acknowledging this intervention might be politically challenging for India."

'ONLY A PAUSE'

Rajnath Singh sought to allay any doubt by reverting to a combative stance, saying Op. Sindoar has only been halted, and that India is prepared for action if Pakistan sponsors another terror act. But the government evaded questions on the Pakistan-China nexus and the loss of Indian jets. Military observers claim Chinese satellites gave live battlefield inputs to Pakistan, something deputy chief of army staff Lt. Gen Rahul R. Singh alluded to at a FICCI event on July 4. Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan, in a May 31 interview, too, had admitted to the loss of jets due to "a tactical mistake".

On India's diplomatic blitz, external affairs minister S. Jaishankar said all 193 UN member countries, barring three, stood with India. However, he did not address another matter raised by Rahul—that of Trump inviting Pakistani army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir to the White House on July 18 and praising him for de-escalating the conflict.

Though the government has sidestepped a few queries, it has provided clarity on crucial elements. Most importantly, justice has been served to the perpetrators of Pahalgam. ■

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FREQUENT FLYER FILES

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been quite the globetrotter this year, and now we've got the receipts, so to speak. In response to questions posed by TMC MP Derek O'Brien in the Rajya Sabha, it turned out that Rs 67.07 crore has been spent this year on the PM's visits to five countries: France, the US, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia. Bills for nine more visits are still being tallied. Between 2021 and 2024, the grand total came to around Rs 295 crore, with the US topping the charts at Rs 74.44 crore. Publicity expenses abroad added another Rs 1 crore because a little dazzle never hurts. Expenses included delegations too, sometimes as large as 145 tagging along in 2024. Call it diplomacy with frequent flyer flair.

Illustrations by **SIDDHANT JUMDE**

▼ POWER POINT

OUTAGE OUTRAGE

Uttar Pradesh energy minister **A.K. Sharma** is back in the spotlight—and not how his party would have wanted it. At a Moradabad event, a power outage struck just as the BJP leader was about to inaugurate a theatre. Sharma responded by suspending five senior officials on the spot. Soon after, in Sultanpur, residents confronted him over daily power cuts. He



offered no answers, just folded his hands, chanted "Jai Shri Ram, Jai Bajrang Bali" and drove away. Now, he's under fire again for allegedly using a casteist slur during a departmental meeting while berating officials. From blackouts to backlash, Sharma's response to the power crisis is attracting more attention than any solution.

ONLY THE LONELY

Ex-CM and AIADMK rebel **O. Panneerselvam** (OPS) waited with the hope that PM Narendra Modi might toss him a lifeline during his Tamil Nadu visit. He didn't even get a handshake. With the main AIADMK shutting the door and the BJP looking the other way, his loyalists are now urging him to court actor Vijay's *Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam* (TVK). Whether he will be welcomed there will provide the next chapter in this fading saga.



Fists of Fury



Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) MLA **Sanjay Gaikwad**, who was recently caught on video assaulting staffers at the MLAs canteen in Mumbai, is now readying for some fisticuffs with ex-AIMIM MP **Intiaz Jaleel**. The two had got into a verbal duel, after which a challenge was issued and accepted. The self-proclaimed tiger killer says he has made out a "stamp paper agreement" for the duel with Jaleel. Last we heard, though, saner counsel has prevailed, with Jaleel seeking a détente to focus on "development".

CABINET CHURN

Andhra Pradesh CM **N. Chandrababu Naidu**

returns on July 31 after a five-day investments-chasing tour of Singapore, and his top priority, say sources, will be a cabinet reshuffle. 'Performance parameters' will weigh heavily on the six ministers (of the 24) likely to be dropped. Of course, "coalition dharma" will be a factor. Both the BJP and the Janasena

Party, which have one and three ministers respectively, are likely to get an additional berth. These parties have eight and 21 MLAs while the TDP has 135 in the 175-seat assembly.



Kaushik Deka with Arkamoy Datta Majumdar, Kavitha Muralidharan, Dhaval S. Kulkarni, Avaneesh Mishra and Amarnath K. Menon

HEALTH WATCH

By **Sonali Acharjee**

CRYING CLUBS WEEPASANA CENTRES

A place to cry your heart out? Amid people you don't know. Well, that's exactly what the Mumbai Crying Club, launched just last week, will allow you to do. Nor is it the only one. You may not think of Surat as a city in need of emotional release, but it has had a Healthy Crying Club since

There is now evidence-based data to support the health and therapeutic benefits of shedding tears. For, it is not just an emotional response, but a 'biologically adaptive' one. Indeed, a 2019 study cited in Pubmed says those who cried while watching emotional videos maintained



GETTY IMAGES

2017, where those in need of a good cry can do so once a month. Metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad have taken their cue from the Japanese *rui-katsu*—communities that hold regular sob sessions—and have tear-sharing or vulnerability circles. But these are not formalised clubs, and exist only at the community level. "We encourage everyone to come and have a sob," says Shruti Rao, a resident of Whitefield in Bengaluru.

more stable breathing, had a decelerated heart rate (before crying) and returned to baseline faster. This suggests that bursting a few sob bombs aid emotional regulation and physiological recovery. Several other studies have also confirmed that tears, especially emotional ones, 'contain stress hormones', and are a natural detox for mind and body. Hence the need for a safe space to release stress, emotions and mental burdens through collective crying.

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● Pre-FTA Tariff ● Post-FTA Tariff



TEXTILES & APPAREL

● 8-12% ● 0%

Potential gains: 30-45% export growth



IT & BUSINESS SERVICES

● Non-tariff barriers
● Reduced

Potential gains: 15-20% export boost due to gains in labour mobility



LEATHER & FOOTWEAR

● Up to 16% ● 0%

Potential gains: MSME acceleration



AGRICULTURE & MARINE PRODUCTS

● 5-20% ● 0-low

Potential gains: Basmati & seafood production surge



GEMS, JEWELLERY, SPORTS GOODS

● ~4% ● 0%

Potential gains: Doubling of exports



RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPONENTS

● 5-12% ● 0%

Potential gains: \$500 mn+ exports by 2027



PHARMA & MEDICAL DEVICES

● 0-6%* ● 0%

Potential gains: <£1 bn market expansion due to price drop



EDUCATION & SKILL SERVICES

● Non-tariff barriers

● Reduced

Potential gains: Students benefit, services rise due to lesser certifications



ENGINEERING GOODS, AUTO PARTS, CHEMICALS

● 8-14% ● 0%

Potential gains: 30-40% sectoral growth; exports double



PROCESSED FOOD & BEVERAGES

● 8-12% ● 0%

Potential gains: 20-30% export growth

*2-6% on medical devices, 0% on essential drugs and 1-3% on generics
FTA: Free Trade Agreement

"THE INDIA-UK FTA SIGNALS CONFIDENCE IN INDIA'S MANUFACTURING DEPTH, SERVICES CAPABILITIES AND GLOBAL CREDIBILITY. IF EXECUTED WELL, IT COULD SERVE AS A TEMPLATE FOR FUTURE HIGH-IMPACT TRADE PARTNERSHIPS"

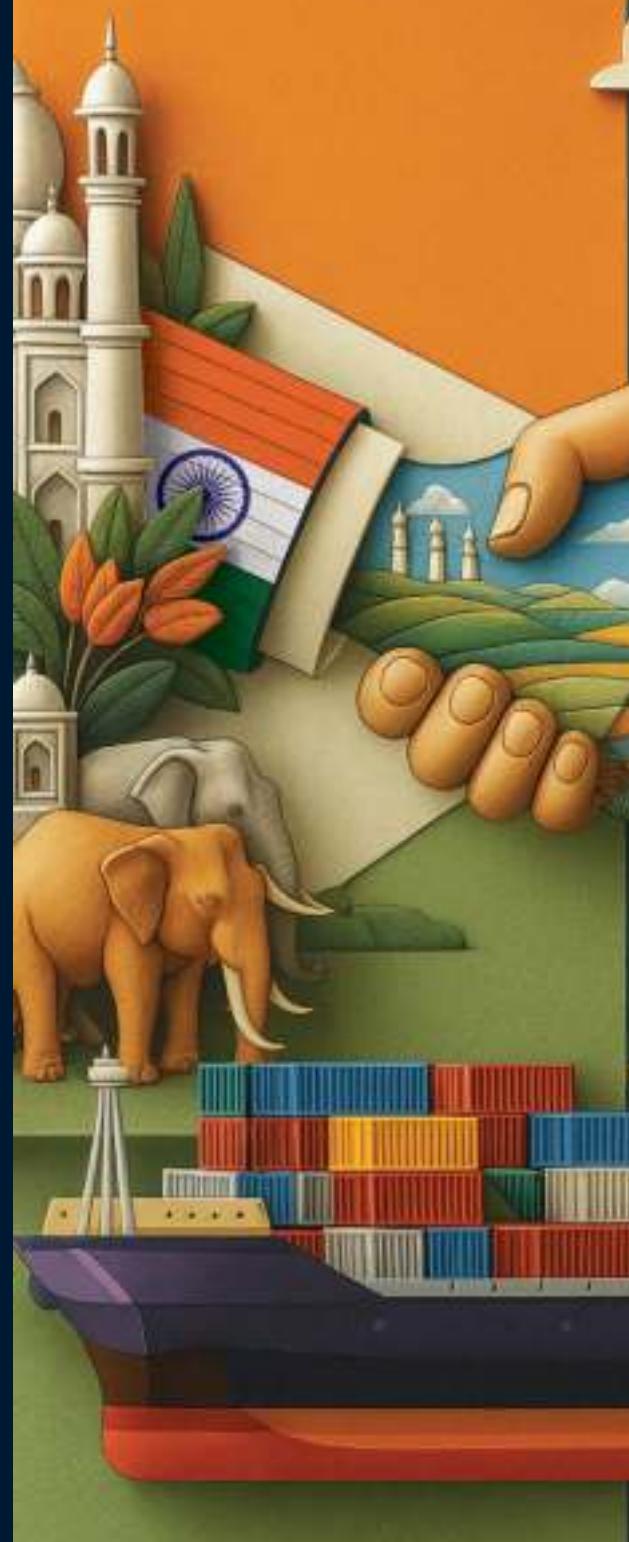
RAHUL JAIN, India Head, Boston Consulting Group

► INDIA-UK FTA

FAIR TRADE AGREEMENT

Graphic by NILANJAN DAS &
TANMOY CHAKRABORTY

Text by ANILESH S. MAHAJAN/ M.G. ARUN



India has clinched a landmark trade deal with the UK. On July 24, New Delhi and London signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), India's first such pact with a G7 nation. Touted as "historic", the deal aims to double bilateral trade by 2030 and promises unprecedented market access for both sides. Here's a look at how both countries stand to gain



THE TRADE-OFFS

How British goods and services will get cheaper in India and stir local competition

● Pre-FTA Tariff ● Post-FTA Tariff



SCOTCH WHISKY

- ~150%
- 75% immediately, reducing to 40% by year 10

Potential gains: 25% drop in duty means ~8-10% retail price reduction and more sale

LUXURY CARS/ EVs



- 70-110% / 75-125%
- ICE cars: 30-50% in year 1, 10% by years 5-15; EVs (above £40,000): 40-50% (year 6), 10% by year 15

Potential gains: 20-35% duty cut under quota; larger cut for ultra-luxury EVs

DIGITAL TRADE



- Data localisation & compliance costs
- Reduced

Potential gains: Lower cost of UK cloud/ fintech services



PATENT/ IP

- Standard WTO TRIPS[#]
- Extended protections

Potential gains: Extended exclusivity for patented drugs



DAIRY & PROCESSED FOOD

- 30-60% ● 10-20%

Potential gains: 15-25% cheaper UK cheese & chocolates

FINANCIAL SERVICES



- Regulatory barriers
- Liberalised access

Potential gains: Lower cost of foreign credit/ insurance

LABOUR MOBILITY



- Visa quotas & caps
- Largely unchanged

Potential gains: Streamlining of short-term business visas

LEGAL SERVICES



- Strict entry barriers
- Partial liberalisation

Potential gains: Cheaper international arbitration



AGRO SANITARY AND PHYTO-SANITARY NORMS

- High sanitary barriers
- Harmonised standards

Potential gains: 10-15% cheaper UK agro products



PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY

- Opaque bidding, high markups
- Open bidding

Potential gains: Lower cost of imported infra/ tech

Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights



"WE NEED TO IMPROVE MANUFACTURING IN A BIG WAY TO BE COMPETITIVE. REDUCED TARIFFS ALONE ARE NOT GOING TO HELP TURN COMPETITIVE. WE NEED TO REDUCE OUR LOGISTICS AND SHIPPING COSTS, AND VASTLY IMPROVE OUR SHIPPING TIME"

AJAY SAHAI, DG and CEO, FIEO

▼ VIEWPOINT

REINING IN THE BCCI AT LAST

A new national sports law promises to make the apex cricket body subject to government scrutiny

The Union government's initiative to introduce the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha is a significant stride in reforming the functioning of National Sports Federations (NSFs). While the Bill is intended to apply uniformly across all recognised NSFs, its implications are particularly pronounced in the context of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which has historically repelled governmental oversight due to cricket's popularity and financial dominance. The BCCI has maintained that since it does not take any financial grant from the government, it is not subject to policies applicable to other sporting federations. This stand has met with challenges, notably in the landmark *BCCI vs the Cricket Association of Bihar* 2016 judgment, where the Supreme Court held that the BCCI functions due to a tacit recognition by the Government of India, and the government has the power to regulate its activities through legislation. That legislation is finally near.

The Bill provides for the establishment of a National Sports Board (NSB), a statutory body intended to steer sports governance and oversee NSFs, issue guidelines for ethics codes and frame sexual harassment policies. Such provisions are particularly notable with regards to the BCCI. As a statutory body, the NSB is duty-bound to act upon complaints it receives, which cannot be left unaddressed or in abeyance, a frequent occurrence in the case of BCCI and its affiliated units. Further, the Bill provides a statutory right of appeal against any action taken by the



A NATIONAL SPORTS BOARD WILL COME UP TO OVERSEE FEDERATIONS, ETHICS CODES AND HARASSMENT POLICIES, AS WELL AS ELECTIONS

NSB—including suspension or cancellation of recognition—with such cases to be heard by the National Sports Tribunal, bringing governance issues squarely within judicial oversight.

The Bill also impacts the administrative structure of the NSFs and lays down specific requirements regarding the composition of their executive committees and mandates a cap of 15 members. The committees must include at least two sportspersons of outstanding merit, two representatives from the Athletes' Commission and a minimum of four women members, thereby ensuring athlete/ player and women's representation, and broader stakeholder inclusion in decision-making. This would mark a change from the BCCI's current structure. With the



BY VIDUSHPAT SINGHANIA

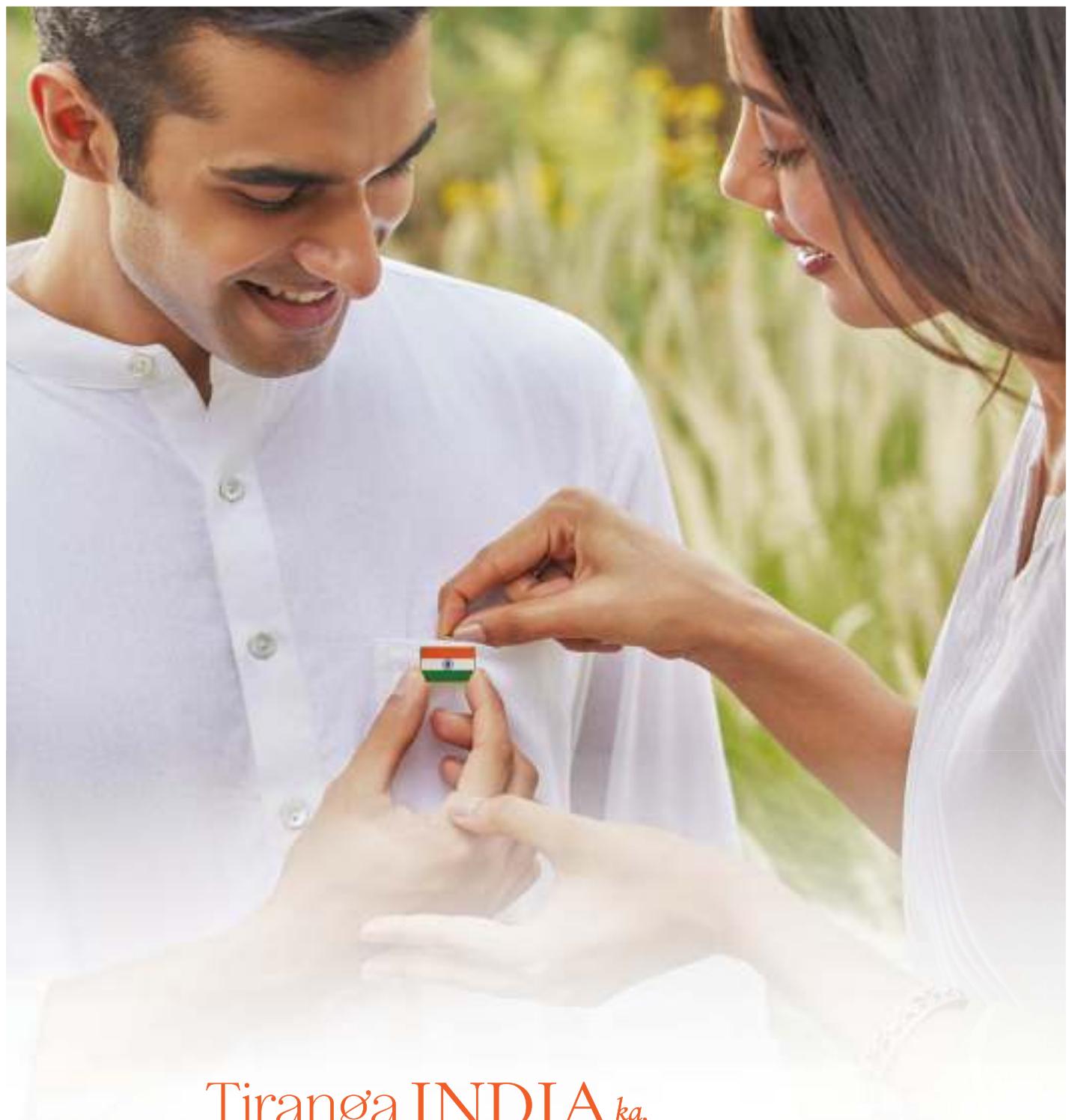
Bill, representatives of cricketers' association and outstanding Indian cricketers will also have voting powers in the executive body of the BCCI.

A key reform introduced by the Bill relates to the conduct of elections within NSFs. The Bill proposes the establishment of a National Sports Election Panel. This is significantly different from the current framework, particularly in relation to the BCCI, whose elections are overseen by an Electoral Officer appointed by its Apex Council and under internal rules framed by its General Body.

Crucially, the Bill removes ambiguity on the applicability of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, to recognised sports bodies. The Bill explicitly states that all recognised sports organisations will be deemed public authorities under the RTI Act in relation to their functions, duties and powers. Unlike earlier legislations, this provision leaves no scope for exclusion, bringing even bodies like the BCCI within the fold of statutory transparency.

A word of caution though: the Bill empowers the Union government to grant exemptions or relax specific provisions of the Bill, including eligibility criteria for executive committee members. While the Bill marks a pivotal moment in India's approach to sports governance, its true impact on the future of Indian sport and particularly the BCCI will be shaped by how these reforms are implemented in practice. ■

The author is a lawyer specialising in sports, gaming and entertainment



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STATE SCAN

MP: 90 DEGREES OF REPARATION PG 20

J&K: FIRST-AID FOR THE STRICKEN PG 22

► TAMIL NADU

MODI'S NEW VESHTI STRATEGY

Rich cultural symbolism dominates a Modi visit to poll-bound TN, but sceptics aren't sure of saffron's sync with Tamil identity

By Kavitha Muralidharan

IT WAS A SUBLIMELY choreographed moment of political theatre, of the grandiose genre that has long been seen to befit the man. Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ancient Brihadiswara Temple, holding a vessel of *gangajal* from Kashi, framed against the *gopuram* and the blue Tamil skies behind. That July 27 image from Gangaikonda Chozhapuram, tweeted by BJP leader H. Raja with the caption 'Living Gangai Kondan', went viral. The symbolism was thick, and hard to miss.

Modi's two-day visit to Tamil Nadu, beginning July 26, also brought the usual rain of inaugurations: infrastructure projects worth Rs 4,800 crore, including the expansion of the VO Chidambaranar Port, and a Rs 450-crore terminal at the airport.

CULTURAL MESSAGING

If all that is a necessary part of the script in the BJP's push for the 2026 assembly election, it was the cultural spectacle and messaging that dominated the debates. Modi released a commemorative coin in honour of



► 'LIVING GANGAI KONDAN', say BJP bhakts, as Modi poses in front of Thanjavur's iconic Brihadiswara temple

Rajendra Chola I, listened to Odhuvar recitations of Shaivite hymns, and attended a spiritual concert by Ilaiyaraaja. Flanked by heads of prominent Shaivite *mutts*, he described the Chola empire as a "blueprint for Viksit Bharat", praising its maritime influence and administrative acumen as early examples of Indian greatness.

Supporters hailed the gesture as a reclamation of Tamil legacy. Critics,

however, saw it as a calculated attempt to reinterpret Tamil history through a Hindutva prism. "If Rajendra Chola was hailed as Gangai Kondan, it was because he defeated rulers of the Gangetic plains, not because he brought Ganga water," says political commentator Priyan. "The ASI's refusal to accept the antiquity of Keezhadi reflects the BJP's actual views."

Actor-politician Vijay weaponised

the visit against both the BJP and the DMK, calling the saffron gestures “political drama”, but saying the DMK long ignored the Chola legacy.

The record, of course, reveals a handsome harvesting of history by the latter. As CM in 2010, M. Karunandhi led the grand millennium gala at Brihadiswara Temple. In 2022, M.K. Stalin made a state event out of Raja Raja Chola’s birth anniversary. “Those late to Tamil pride are free to speak,” quips a DMK elder. “History knows who lit the lamp first.”

Senior journalist Thuglak Ramesh defended the BJP on the charge of being motivated by political gain. “It may appear to be a strategy to counter the perception that the BJP

Takeaways

- **Modi makes a grand visual tour de force out of a two-day political visit to poll-bound TN**
- **DMK says the Hindutva is out of place, as the PM carries gangajal to Chola territory**

is alien to Tamil identity. But I have heard the PM genuinely engages with Tamil antiquity. This goes beyond political calculation—it reflects a sincere personal devotion,” he says.

Priyan says this is belied by the fact that the BJP strategy in Tamil Nadu mirrors its approach in other states and social demographics, appropriating local or community icons to build cultural bridges. He feels Tamil Nadu’s unique polity—grounded in linguistic rights, social justice and federalism—would defy such subsumption. “People appreciate such gestures, but they will still ask tough questions: about flood relief, education funding, archaeological flashpoints, the Governor. Symbolism alone won’t suffice.” A people who have chosen to be ruled by regional parties since 1967. ■

► KARNATAKA

A CASTE ENCORE

Karnataka orders a new caste survey this year, junking the report based on the 2015 numbers

By Ajay Sukumaran

IT HAS BEEN full of twists, real and imagined. Caution had filled the April air as the Siddaramaiah regime dusted off Karnataka’s 2015 caste survey report. Tense cabinet meets ensued, amid a feared backlash from the Lingayat-Vokkaliga caste duopoly. Meanwhile, a googly came from the Centre: on April 30, after years of holding out, it relented on including a national caste count in the 2026 census. The Congress claimed credit for forcing the U-turn, but soon made one of its own. Karnataka effectively junked the 2015 report. Instead, between September 22 and October 7, some 165,000 enumerators will fan out with handheld devices for a de novo sorting of the state’s 70-odd million.

WHY ALL OVER AGAIN?

What ordained a fresh caste survey? The 2015 one, a pet Siddaramaiah project, didn’t yield a report till he demitted office. It fell upon him, when he was back as CM in 2023, to retrieve it from the freezer and order an analysis of its data.

The ensuing 2024 report ran smack into the minefield everyone knew lay out there, counting Lingayats and Vokkaligas at 11.09 per cent and 10.31 per cent of the population, respectively, far slimmer than the long-set-in-stone 17/12 per cent, an anticipated diminution that had all along raised cries of the 2015 survey being ‘unscientific’.

Takeaways

- **Karnataka will conduct a fresh caste survey this September-October**
- **The 2024 report, based on the 2015 survey from Sidda’s 1st term, is junked**
- **Lingayats, Vokkaligas, the two dominant caste groups, had questioned the validity of 2015 data**



“Their interest was to maintain status quo,” says a legal expert familiar with the heated cabinet debates.

“But a statutory bar prevented progress,” he explains. The report called for hiking backward quotas from 32 per cent to 51 per cent. The snag? Not just a breach of the Supreme Court’s 50 per cent cap. The 2015 data was ‘outdated’. Several SC verdicts insist on ‘contemporaneous’ data for any revising of backward classes, which the report had done in two categories. “This is the primary basis on which it was put on hold,” says the expert.

Caste groups welcome the new survey, if guardedly. The Opposition calls it profligacy. Others look forward to richer data, upgrading from an X-ray to an MRI of Karnataka’s society, economy and polity. ■



ANI

► MADHYA PRADESH

90 DEGREES OF REPARATION

The public works wing gets a public hanging, but MP's jagged flyovers are only symptoms of a systemic skew

By Rahul Noronha

FOR A FEW WEEKS NOW, Bhopal has been famous on social media for a flyover in the city's Aishbagh area: local wits have dubbed it the 'Ninety Degree Bridge', owing to a sharp turn it takes in mid-flight. Public censure effectively grounded seven engineers, including two chief engineers, of the Public Works Department (PWD). As the negative portrayals of the department piled up, with incompetence and dishonesty becoming buzzwords, the state govern-

ment was forced to order a probe and eventually suspend the said officials.

Not many days had passed when another flyover, this time in Indore, was dubbed the 'Z-Shaped Flyover' and declared an engineering disaster. A rattled PWD first ordered suspension of work on all 355 flyovers and railway overbridges, pending a review of their designs, and then retracted. But the nervousness showed. Vast sums of public money seemed to be going down the drain due to engineers who didn't

Takeaways

► Infamy chases 'Ninety Degrees Bridge' in Bhopal, Z-shaped flyover in Indore

► A rattled PWD first orders suspension of work on 355 flyovers and railway overbridges, but retracts later

► A design review is on. Minister feels PWD itself needs one, sets ball rolling

know their work—and the absence of an oversight system. Suddenly, it seemed the PWD, itself a creaking edifice of Raj vintage and a veteran of miles of bridges and roads over the decades, just couldn't get anything right.

So, what ails the state PWD? Not funds. With an outlay of Rs 14,000 crore this year, it's one of the few departments that managed to corner a goodish share of the budget—remember, MP is a state where Ladli Behna payoffs take an annual toll of around

Rs 20,000 crore. Clearly, the ruling class knows the PWD's work has visible salience: roads, bridges and the like become key election issues.

"I'm aware of the challenges we face," says PWD minister Rakesh Singh, who seems intent on repairing the department's cracked image. The PWD had a quality cell that died a sudden death 14 years ago. Efforts are on to revive it. Training workshops are also being planned for all 1,644 engineers across the state's 10 divisions. "Engineers need to keep themselves abreast of emerging technologies," adds Singh.

NOT ENOUGH HANDS

Like most departments, the PWD faces a staff crunch. That 1,644 represents a shortfall of 40.8 per cent, against the total of 2,778 sanctioned posts, including deputations. Morale isn't flowing above danger mark either: promotions have been on pause since 2016, owing to a legal dispute over reservations. Given this disarray, a lot of the design work is now entrusted to consultancies. But outsourcing has become part of the problem, with increasing delays and misaligned objectives.

So, is there a design flaw in the Aishbagh flyover? PWD sources concede there are issues, but insist that the 'sharp turn' isn't one of them. In flyover design, they say, the turning radius is what's crucial. The code prescribes 15 metres. Here, it's a "safe" 20 metres.

Civil works entail big-ticket projects, and the financial stakes are very high, with deeply entrenched lobbies at work. For instance, two of the minister's ideas for an overhaul represented perhaps too sharp a turn for the system. One was procurement of bitumen, a key component in road construction, from Indian Oil Corporation, to ensure quality control. The second was peer review: chief engineers of all divisions were to go and inspect the works of other chief engineers, in random checks slated by a software. Both were heavily opposed, with engineers even threatening a strike. We need to see how that goes down the slope. ■

► GUJARAT

A RICH HARVEST OF RURAL SCAMS

NREGA and Nal Se Jal leak like faulty taps in tribal Gujarat as the corrupt milk flagship social schemes

By Jumana Shah

FOUR SCAMS IN THREE months. The tribal soil of central-eastern Gujarat has of late been quite rich with embarrassment—and worse. Judge only by the expenditure domains that are seeing corruption inquiries: the execution of flagship social sector schemes, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in Dahod, Bharuch and Vadodara districts, and the Nal Se Jal scheme in Mahisagar district.

The misappropriation of funds, now being investigated, is said to have lightened the state exchequer by Rs 204 crore. The scams—Rs 71 crore in Dahod, Rs 7.3 crore in Bharuch and Rs 2.7 crore in Vadodara—reveal a near-identical pattern. Fictitious or incomplete infrastructure projects were passed off as complete for construction contractors to claim the money.

PHANTOM INFRA

Between January 2021 and December 31, 2024, infrastructure projects like roads, check walls and stone bunds had a phantom-like quality about them in Dahod—they existed only on paper. As befits the best fiction, a bit of fact was sometimes mixed in, as audits revealed. In Kuva village in Dahod, for instance, only 15,176 metres of the claimed 25,066 metres of roads were constructed; in Simamoi village, just 3,492 metres of 19,200

Takeaways

■ Inquiries have been ordered into a spate of rural scams in Gujarat

■ Dahod, Bharuch, Vadodara, Mahisagar see identical methods

■ Fictitious projects, backed by fake papers, skim off Rs 204 crore

■ BJP has kept up a stoic silence, Congress demands an SIT probe

metres were built. Yet, full payments were disbursed.

The money was funnelled to some 32 unauthorised firms, including Shri Raj Construction Co. and Shri Raj Traders, which alone received Rs 30.04 crore and Rs 82 lakh, respectively, without entering the mandatory bidding processes. In Bharuch and Vadodara, construction agencies similarly defrauded the government through forged bills and manipulated tenders, with payments cleared for materials never supplied, or work left incomplete.

The scam in Dahod surfaced in January when local villagers complained to district authorities. An

FIR was filed in April after audits by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) confirmed inaccuracies. The scandal hit local media when two sons of minister Bachubhai Khabad (MoS, panchayat and agriculture) were among the 11 people arrested. Balwant and Kiran were later released on bail. The BJP said the arrests were a sign of its commitment to punish wrongdoers even if they were associated with a minister, but the political damage is likely to run deep.

The Congress legislative party leader, Amit Chavda, was at the forefront in exposing the scam and demanding action. But in Bharuch, Congress vice-president and district leader Hira Jotva and son Digvijay were arrested on accusations of inflating material costs through their agency.

The Nal Se Jal scheme saw Rs 123.44 crore purloined from funds allocated for drinking water infra like pipelines, wells and tubewells in 620 villages between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2023. The playbook was the same: forged bills, bogus documents, inflated costs, bypassed tender protocols, contracts to unauthorised agencies. It was a unit manager of



► **WELFARE IN ACTION** NREGA workers at a forestry project site

the Water and Sanitation Management Organisation in Mahisagar who filed an FIR in June. The 12 arrested include a government officer and some outsourced staff.

TRAIL OF FORGERY

Gujarat's eastern belt has 27 tribal reserved seats. Tribals influence another 13 seats—a key factor, then, in 40 of 182 assembly seats. The BJP won nine of these in 2017 and 23 in 2022. The Congress's tally shrunk from 15 in

2017 to three in 2022. Dahod typifies this: its seven MLAs are all BJP.

Here, Chavda alleges, the scam covers at least two more talukas and accounts for over Rs 100 crore, but is being suppressed to save Khabad, a prominent OBC Koli leader and four-time MLA. The BJP's stoic silence has only fuelled those allegations. Its response would be critical if the Opposition—say, via Chavda's demand before the Governor for an SIT—manages to scale it up. ■

► **JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

FIRST-AID FOR THE STRICKEN

LG Manoj Sinha launches a mission to bring relief to thousands of families left broken by terrorism

By **Kaleem Geelani**

KOUSR JAN USED TO SAY, as a little kid, that she would grow up to be a doctor. But then, while still in Class II, her life was plunged into a perverse negative of the paradise outside. Hapatnar, her village in Pahalgam, means the 'land of bears', yet it was the wolves that came for them. On a summer night in 2002, their home was burnt down and her father with an extra serving of brutality: his head and bullet-pierced body were found on two opposite banks of a water stream. "No one came forward to help. Not even relatives," Kousar tells INDIA TODAY. "We were shattered and homeless. I remember taking refuge under a broken tin shed."

Fear of the gun kept everyone away. Also, the social stigma that attaches to those that terrorists branded as 'police informers'.

Working at houses and as manual labour, her mother Zareefa Banoo did all she could to sustain her two daughters. But even Kousar, the younger of the two and the only literate one in the family, could study only till Class X. Ostracisation ordained that, after facing multiple rejections, she was married off to a visually



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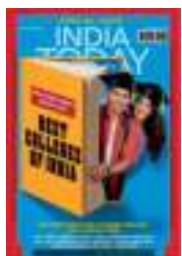
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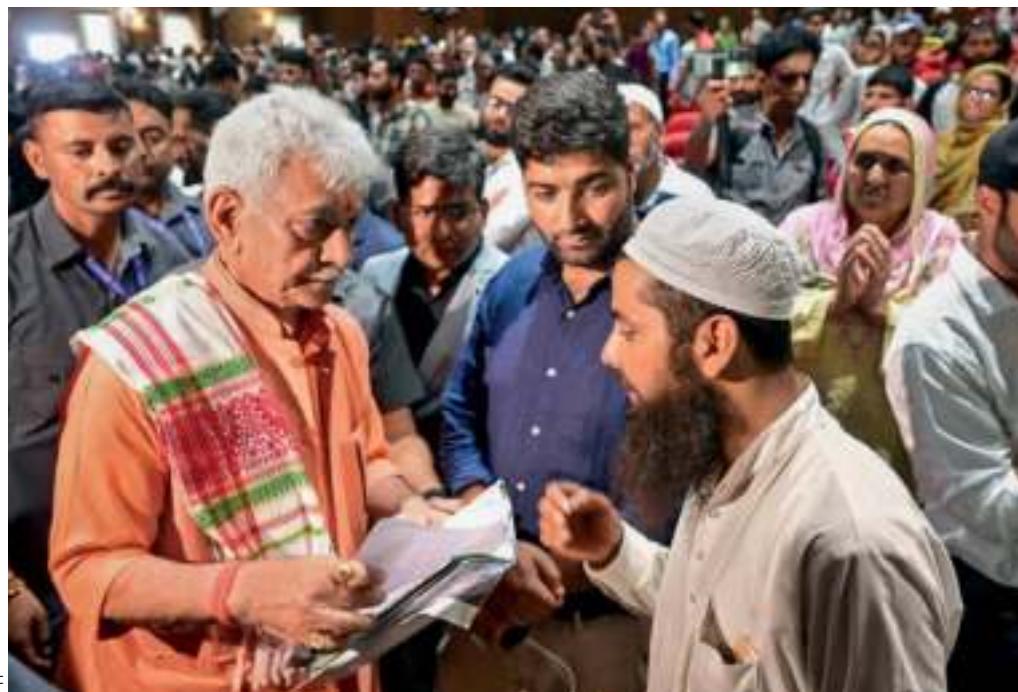


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PTI

Stalked by terror and opprobrium for too long, victim families were “afraid of speaking about who had ruined their lives”



HEALING TOUCH

LG Manoj Sinha distributes appointment letters to family members of terror attack victims in Baramulla district, Jul. 13

impaired man in 2012. Now 33, herself a mother to a girl and two sons, she was stalked all her life by penury. It is only now that a semblance of healing is coming to her.

THE FORGOTTEN ONES

The balm comes via a humane initiative from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. “LG saab listened to my ordeal like a father does with his children and promised relief,” Kousar says, talking of her meeting with Sinha on June 29, alongside 119 other families, in Anantnag. The LG has launched a mission to rehabilitate the families left incurably wounded by three and a half decades of terrorism in Kashmir. This is a landscape littered with broken lives, but here’s an unheralded subset of that. Families left with no recourse to justice or empathy on any side: no real compensation for their loss, no investigation as moral redemption.

Kashmir has an estimated 11,000 terror victim families; Hapatnar alone has 38. Save Youth, Save Future Foundation (SYSFF), an NGO that identified and documented these families, drew Sinha’s attention to their ordeal last October. “Around 60 affected families

met LG saab at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar. That wasn’t easy, families were afraid of speaking about what and who ruined their lives,” says Wajahat Farooq Bhat, chairman, SYSFF.

Takeaways

- **Kashmir has 11,000 or so terror victim families**
- **Shunned by state and society, justice eluded them for decades**
- **The LG’s initiative will provide them jobs, loans**
- **Old cases to be probed**

‘MY OWN FAMILY’

Now their fate is being rewritten, with LG Sinha mandating that investigations into old cases be reopened and expedited, and fresh FIRs lodged in incidents hitherto left untended. That’s with a string of relief measures for each family: government

jobs under the Jammu and Kashmir Compassionate Appointment Rules, 1994, and Rs 20 lakh to handhold startups under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

“I want to assure all terror victim families they are no different from my own family,” LG Sinha said in Baramulla, offering the first tranche of appointment letters to the kin of about 50 terror victims on July 13, the scrapped Martyrs Day holiday that saw mobility curbs on Kashmir’s key political leadership, including CM Omar Abdullah.

The initiative comes in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam attack and unprecedented local protests against terrorism. Offering a never-imagined turnaround for the families, the response it’s generating is revelatory. A special web portal, helplines and dedicated cells have been set up in all districts to help families register cases and claim rehabilitation. Over 2,000 applications have been received so far. “We are receiving hundreds of complaints even from the 1990s. In many cases, FIRs were not registered. No one will be spared,” Sinha vowed. ■

STOCK MARKETS THE NEW BULLS

MILLIONS OF BOLD AND FINANCIALLY SAVVY SMALL INVESTORS ARE SHORING UP INDIA'S BOURSES

By ANILESH S. MAHAJAN | Illustration by NILANJAN DAS / AI

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unchbreaks are when Anjali Mehta, a 29-year-old schoolteacher in Kanpur, finds time to think about her investments. She checks the latest options on her cell phone and recently earmarked Rs 5,000 for her fifth contribution to a mutual fund this year. The amount was small. But the decision was anything but casual. "I consider these investments as my future," she says. "Banks give nothing, gold is too slow. The stock market is where the real action is."

Anjali is not an exception. She's part of a fast-growing tribe of middle-class Indians who are rewriting the rules of personal finance and, in the process, changing the face of India's resilient stock market. In the past five years, India has witnessed a quiet revolution in household investing, with the number of dematerialised or demat accounts (where share certificates are stored electronically) opened by small investors seeing a near-five-fold increase. They rose from 41 million in FY20 to 192 million by FY25 with a phenomenal CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 35 per cent. Of these, an estimated 75 per cent were for retail participation alone, with the remaining dominated by institutional investors.

India's mutual fund industry, which is the favoured option, is riding an unprecedented wave. The total assets under management (AUM) in the industry stood at Rs 74.4 lakh crore by the end of Q1FY26. This is nearly thrice the Rs 25.5 lakh crore just five years earlier. Small investors accounted for 28 per cent of the AUMs in FY25,



up from 20 per cent a decade ago. Along with high net-worth individuals (HNIs), they together constitute 63 per cent of the total AUMs.

This shift reflects a deeper change in mindsets. For decades, Indian households favoured fixed deposits, gold or real estate as the safe, steady and familiar investment options. Such household savings were once the bedrock of India's economic resilience. But, with inflation eroding real returns, digital access rising and financial content flooding YouTube and WhatsApp, a new playbook started taking shape. The result is that household financial savings as a share of the GDP fell from 22.7 per cent in FY21

trades in the stock market's cash segment, up from one-third in FY19. Even in the adrenaline-charged world of futures and options (F&O), their footprint has more than doubled, from 20 per cent to 44 per cent in the same period.

In short, they're not just investing, but experimenting, day-trading, hedging and learning. And patiently enough to have become a major stabilising force for India's stock market. "The middle class is no longer a passive saver; it is actively driving liquidity, sentiment and price discovery in the Indian stock market," explains veteran investor Madhusudan Kela, promoter of MK Ventures. "With sustained SIP growth, widening



"THE MIDDLE CLASS HAS BECOME THE NEW BULL DRIVING THE INDIAN STOCK MARKET. IT IS ACTIVELY DRIVING LIQUIDITY AND COUNTERING FII OUTFLOWS"

MADHUSUDAN KELA, Promoter, MK Ventures

to 18.5 per cent in FY25. This is well below the post-liberalisation average of 20.5 per cent. But much of that money hasn't disappeared. It has simply moved to the stock market. As a result, what was once the realm of institutional giants and savvy brokers is now teeming with first-time investors that include schoolteachers, small business owners, salaried workers and professionals from different walks of life, several of whom have earned the right to be called HNIs.

Another gauge of this movement is the boom in Systematic Investment Plans or SIPs, the disciplined monthly contributions that build long-term wealth. SIP investments touched Rs 27,269 crore per month in Q1FY26, up from Rs 8,055 crore in FY19. There are now 92 million SIP accounts in India, 86.4 million of them actively contributing, making up 38 per cent of all MF folios. The appetite for risk, though, is greater than what MFs can sate. Retail investors now make up nearly half of all

regional participation and the ability to counteract FII (foreign institutional investors) outflows, the Indian middle class has indeed become the new bull powering Dalal Street."

THE SMALL INVESTOR SURGE

The average age of new investors has dropped to just over 28 years. Nearly 24 per cent of new demat account-holders are women, a sharp rise from 16 per cent in 2019. This isn't just a metro story confined to, say, a Delhi or Mumbai; the heart of this explosive growth is coming from Tier-2 towns and semi-urban India—from Surat's back offices to Coimbatore's cafes, from Indore's coaching classes to Bhubaneswar's software hubs. Maharashtra still leads in absolute investor numbers, but Gujarat's entrepreneurial spirit and Tamil Nadu's digital edge are rapidly narrowing the gap (see *New Bulls, New Turf*). The flood waters have

THE RETAIL BOOM

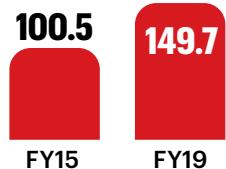
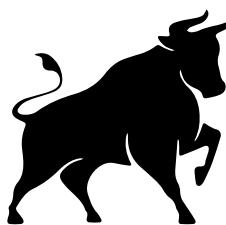
AS DEMAT ACCOUNTS MULTIPLY, AND SIPs AND MFs GATHER PACE, SMALL INVESTORS STEER A BIG SHIFT FROM TRADITIONAL SAVINGS TO MARKET-LINKED ASSETS, LEAVING AN EVER-LARGER IMPRINT ON INDIA'S CAPITAL MARKETS

RISING STOCK

The market capitalisation of NSE-listed companies has grown fourfold over the past decade

MARKET CAP
(in Rs lakh cr.)

409



FOR DECADES, FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS ACTED AS THE MOOD-SETTERS OF INDIAN BOURSES. TODAY, THAT EQUATION HAS SHIFTED. THE REASON: A DEEP LAYER OF DOMESTIC RETAIL CAPITAL

₹27,269
CRORE

Average monthly
SIP inflows in
Q1FY26, up from
Rs 8,055 cr. in FY19

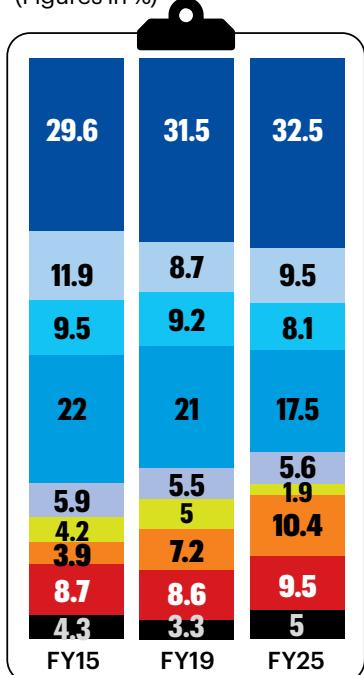
18.5
PER CENT

Share of household
financial savings in
GDP in FY25, down
from 22.7% in FY21

WHO OWNS THE BOURSES

Ownership across shareholder categories by total m-cap in NSE-listed companies

(Figures in %)



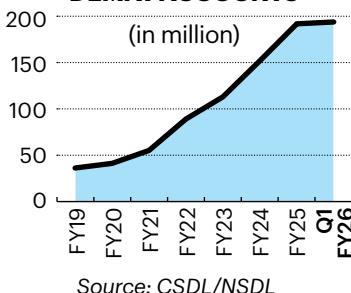
- Private Indian promoter
- Govt promoter
- Foreign promoter
- Foreign portfolio investor
- Banks, FIs & Insurance
- Non-promoter corporate
- Domestic mutual funds
- Individual investor
- Other non-promoters

Source: CMIE Prowess, NSE EPR

DEMAT DELUGE

A record rise in demat account openings signals the mass entry of first-time retail investors

DEMAT ACCOUNTS

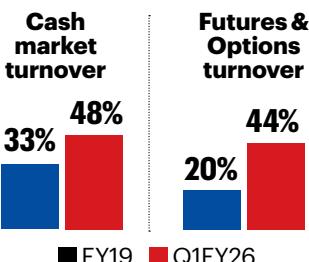


THE BOLDER LOT

Retail investors now account for nearly half of all trades in both equity and F&O markets—a dramatic rise since FY19



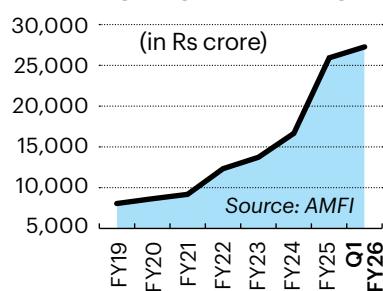
RETAIL SHARE IN...



A SIP OF MARKET CHEER

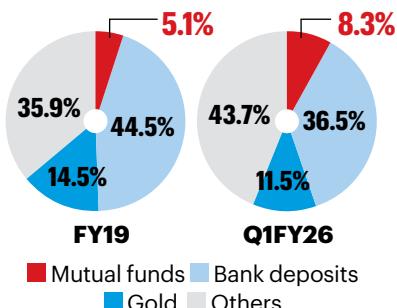
About 80–85% of SIP accounts have monthly contributions below Rs 5,000—underscoring the broad-based participation of small investors

AVERAGE MONTHLY INFLOW



GRAND SAVING REALLOCATION

The allocation of household financial assets to MFs has seen a steady rise, moving away from gold and bank fixed deposits



Sources: RBI, NSO, AMFI, MoSPI

also swept into some of India's poorest states. Between FY23 and FY25, new demat accounts in Uttar Pradesh jumped over 65 per cent while Bihar saw a growth of over 70 per cent, far outpacing the national average of 40 per cent. What we are witnessing is the largest-ever grassroots movement in Indian finance—an organic, bottom-up leap of faith by India's middle class into the world of equities.

What makes this moment remarkable is the power their investments have unleashed. For decades, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), global funders that buy into Indian stocks and bonds, largely acted as the mood-setters of the Indian stock market. When they pulled out, markets slumped. Today, that equation has shifted. The reason: the deep, sticky layer of domestic retail capital that absorbs shocks

and sustains momentum. In 2024, net FPI inflows into Indian equities plunged to Rs 427 crore, down over 99 per cent from Rs 1.71 lakh crore in 2023. Yet, the National Stock Exchange's Nifty 50 index recorded significant gains, reaching 26,200, while the Bombay Stock Exchange's Sensitive Index (Sensex) breached the 80,000 mark.

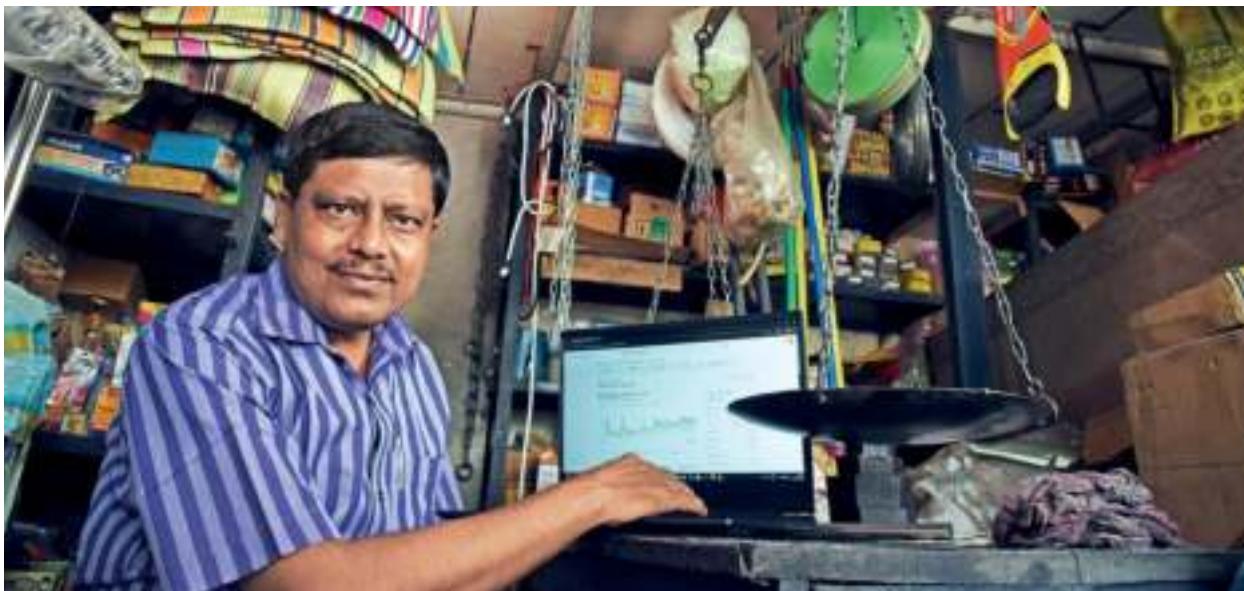
That buoyancy continued into 2025 despite international markets becoming

shaky, spooked by a mix of global and domestic headwinds. In the US, the Federal Reserve's interest rate pivot made western markets safer and more attractive. The rest of the world was reeling under a volatile mix of conflicts that included the lingering war in Ukraine, fresh flare-ups in Gaza and the Iran-Israel stand-off. In the middle of all this, oil prices swung wildly. Closer home, tensions with Pakistan added to the gloom. In January alone, FPIs pulled out a staggering

Rs 78,000 crore from Indian stocks, their sharpest monthly withdrawal in years. Though the trend saw a modest reversal in April-May, the overall picture remained grim. The pullback in bonds was as dramatic. Early 2025 saw record FPI outflows of roughly Rs 18,000 crore from the Indian debt market, the biggest single-month exit since the Covid-era turbulence of May 2020. By May this year, cumulative FPI outflows had crossed Rs 97,000 crore.

Despite this, the Indian markets didn't crumble. That's because Indian investors are increasingly filling the vacuum left by FPIs. "India is now a net exporter of capital," says Nilesh Shah, Managing Director of Kotak Mahindra Asset Management. "We've bought more gold than the total foreign portfolio flows into Indian markets this century. Our dependence on FPI flows has reduced significantly, thanks to rising domestic participation." Between FY19 and FY25,

CASE STUDY



DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY

**I TRUST
MY OWN
ANALYSIS"**

KALYAN
KUMAR DEY, 52

Hardware shop owner | Bardhaman, West Bengal

Kalyan lives with his wife, two daughters and elderly parents in Bardhaman, a Tier-2 city, over 100 kilometres from Kolkata. A commerce graduate, he began dabbling in stocks shortly

after he completed his studies 25 years ago. For a while, the venture went well. But the volatility of the market soon took its toll. With growing responsibilities at home and diminishing returns,

Kalyan decided to step away from active trading.

Life moved on. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic. "After the lockdowns, I noticed how bearish the market had become. I realised this was an opportunity," recalls Kalyan. "I approached it with a much more analytical mind-set. I read pink papers regularly, went through annual reports, followed company news online and used my judgement based on data. Now, I trust

"I BELIEVE THE INDIAN ECONOMY IS IN A STRONG POSITION.... THAT GIVES ME CONFIDENCE"

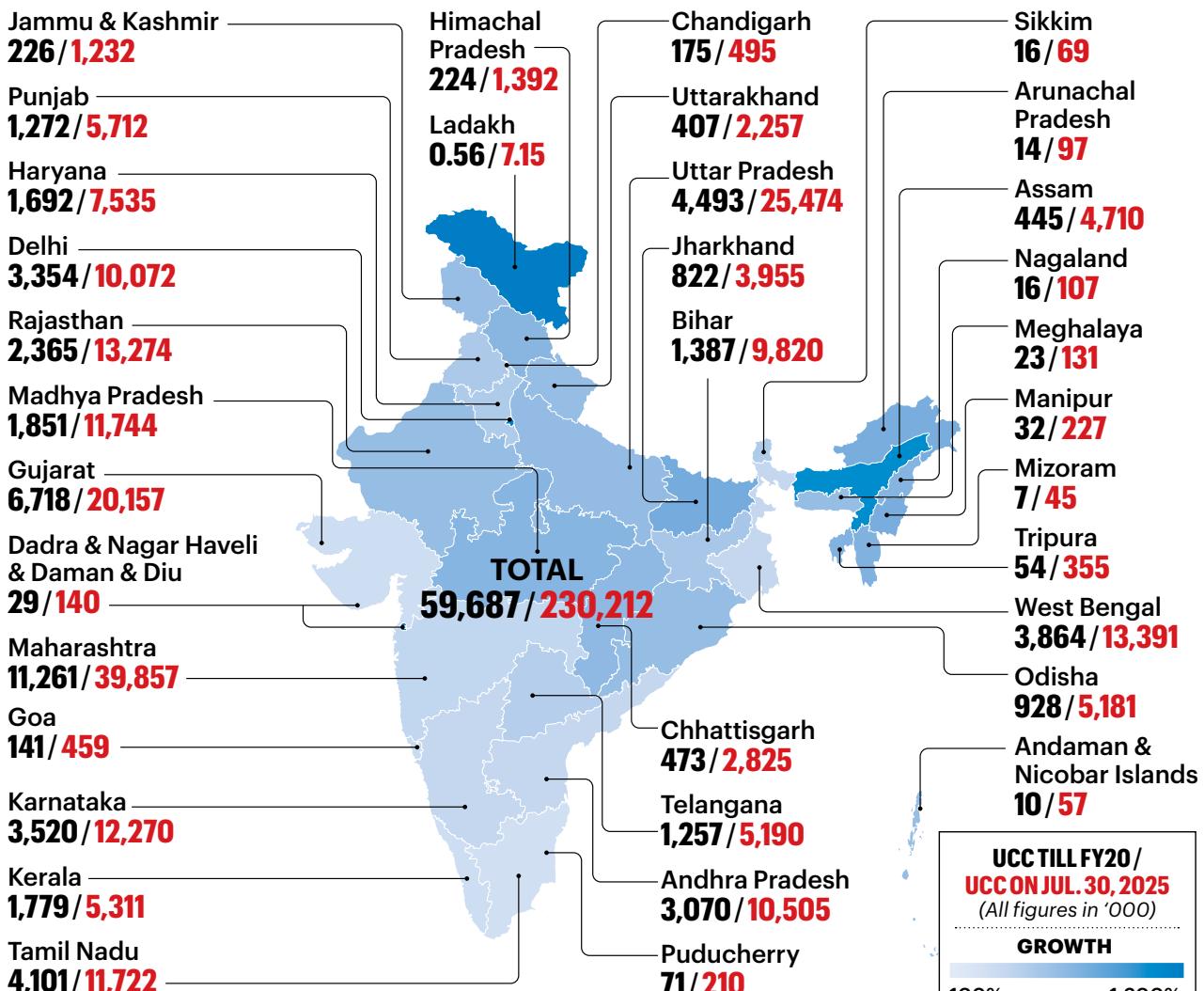
my own analysis."

By May 2025, the volume of his trade skyrocketed to Rs 2 crore and he has generally been making profits. "I believe the Indian economy is in a strong position. We've overtaken Japan in GDP. That gives me confidence."

—Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

NEW BULLS, NEW TURF

A surge in NSE investor accounts shows more Indians are entering the stock markets—with significant growth coming from places like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and the Northeast, far from the traditional trading hubs of Mumbai and Delhi



55
PER CENT

Share of Tier 2/3 cities
in new demat accounts

28
YEARS

Average age of
the new investor

24
PER CENT

Women's share in
new accounts

Note: An investor may maintain accounts with different brokers, resulting in multiple unique client codes (UCC). For instance, by the end of FY25, the total number of investor accounts (UCCs) registered with NSE surpassed 220 million, but the total number of unique investors stood at only 113 million; Source: NSE

the combined ownership of individual investors and mutual funds rose from 15.8 per cent to 19.9 per cent of the total market capitalisation of companies listed on the NSE. In the same period, the share held by FPIs fell from 21 per cent to 17.5 per cent. It shows how the balance of power in India's capital markets is steadily shifting into domestic hands.

THE DRIVING FORCE

The groundwork for India's retail investment surge was laid through a series of targeted policy and regulatory reforms. As early as 2010, NSE and BSE began partnering with telecom and tech firms to enable real-time trading access via

mobile phones. In 2015, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the market regulator, accelerated this shift by requiring brokerages to adopt a digital-first approach and serve non-institutional investors. Crucially, it introduced KYC norms and two-factor authentication—safeguards that built trust and encouraged new entrants.

Meanwhile, the two major depositories, the Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) promoted by the BSE and National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) by the NSE, were developing the infrastructure to support this transition. As early as 2012, they introduced low-cost demat accounts with waived or capped charges for small investors. Later innovations, such as e-KYC and Aadhaar-based instant account-opening, reduced onboarding time from weeks to minutes.

On the policy front, SEBI's 2017 reforms mandating a two-day settlement cycle after each trade (known as T+2); launch of direct mutual funds, wherein individuals could make investments without involving a broker or financial advisor; and the 2018 push for digital Power of Attorney (PoA) further lowered costs and friction for retail participants.

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The explosion of smartphones in small towns and rural India, which coupled with ultra-low mobile data costs, opened up financial markets to millions. Alongside, a new crop of app-based discount brokerages, like Zerodha, Upstox, Groww and IN-Dmoney, handheld the investors. With zero brokerage fee, intuitive design and seamless onboarding, these platforms made it possible for a layperson to trade stocks, invest in MFs or apply for IPOs with just a few taps. "Earlier, participation in the stock market was seen as an exclusive club of a few, accessible only to the wealthy and well-connected. Technology has shattered these barriers, making investing accessible to everyone," says Ambareesh Baliga, an independent capital market expert. By March 2025, these four firms, along with Angel One, had over 32 million active clients, collectively cornering three-fourths of India's retail broking market (see *The D.I.Y. Revolution*).

The democratisation of financial knowledge has been another quiet but powerful force behind the rise of retail

The D.I.Y. Revolution

Fintech platforms and social media voices are democratising India's stock market, ushering in a do-it-yourself era of investing for millions

A quiet revolution has reshaped India's financial landscape over the past five years. What began during the Covid-19 lockdown as a digital detour for bored young Indians has morphed into a full-fledged retail investing movement, fuelled by smartphone apps and financial influencers. Together, they've turned stock trading from a specialist's game into a mass-market phenomenon—one that's aspirational, but increasingly risky too.

At the heart of this transformation are apps like Zerodha, Groww, Upstox, INDmoney and Angel One, which offered what banks and traditional brokers didn't: instant eKYC and UPI-based transactions on slick, mobile-first interfaces. Groww's clean, no-jargon design attracted millennials and first-time investors in Tier 2 and 3 cities, while

Zerodha, which bootstrapped its way to prominence, offered a suite of tools that found favour with more serious traders. IN-Dmoney distinguished itself by bundling investments, credit tracking and global stocks in one app. Upstox, backed by Tiger Global, leveraged aggressive zero-commission trading models and high-decibel marketing. Angel One, rebranded from Angel Broking in 2021, tapped into regional markets by offering local language support and targeting rural investors. By March 2025, these firms had over 32 million active clients, collectively cornering three-fourths of India's retail broking market.

It wasn't just technology that fuelled the trading boom. Platforms embedded investor education into the experience—through IPO trackers, stock explainers, risk alerts—and tapped a new

"INDIA IS NOW A NET EXPORTER OF CAPITAL. OUR DEPENDENCE ON FPI FLOWS HAS REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY, THANKS TO RISING DOMESTIC PARTICIPATION"



NILESH SHAH, MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management

investing. From government-backed campaigns to private sector initiatives, financial literacy has become a national priority. SEBI's Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) has scaled campaigns to reach over 70 million citizens through workshops, radio and OTT content. CDSL's MyFirstIPO and SMART programmes have onboarded more than 1.2 million first-time investors since 2022, while NSDL's 'Market ka Eklavya' initiative takes stock market education to schools and colleges in semi-urban and rural India. "The true catalyst for growth has been the retail

TOP STOCK BROKING APPS



**Grow
Invest Tech**
13.02
MN



**Zerodha
Broking**
7.96
MN



**Angel
One**
7.65
MN



**Upstox
Securities**
2.79
MN



INDmoney
0.84
MN

Above figures denote number of active clients

TOP FINFLUENCERS



RACHANA RANADE
5.3 MN / 1.1 MN



SHARAN HEGDE
3.5 MN / 2.8 MN



ANANT LADHA
3 MN / 1.1 MN



SAKCHI JAIN
.71 MN / 1.7 MN



NEHA NAGAR
.39 MN / 2 MN

■ YouTube Subscribers
■ Instagram Followers

breed of financial educators: finfluencers. Where financial advice was once limited to English-language media and SEBI-registered advisors, today's investors turn to Instagram Reels, YouTube Shorts, Telegram groups and WhatsApp forwards.

On YouTube, Rachana Ranade's classroom-style breakdowns and Sharany Hegde's humour-laced analogies have drawn millions of views. Instagram creators like Sakchi Jain engage young, regional-language audiences with punchy explainers, while influencers such as Anant Ladha and Neha Nagar combine financial expertise with digital fluency to build trust across platforms. For many in Tier 2 and 3 cities—where traditional financial literacy remains low—these creators, with their bite-sized, relatable content, have become the face of market wisdom, shaping how people approach SIPs, IPOs or mutual funds.

Brokerage firms have leaned into

the trend. Groww actively partners with regional-language influencers; Zerodha's Varsity platform offers free, structured courses. In doing so, they're bridging the information gap left by jargon-heavy PDFs and inaccessible AGM calls.

But this democratisation has also come with a downside. Not all influencers are qualified. Some push unverified tips, dubious penny stocks or pump-and-dump schemes. At the same time, a newer, more insidious threat has emerged: AI-generated deepfakes. Fake videos of NSE CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan, his BSE counterpart Sundaram Ramamurthy and even former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das touting too-good-to-be-true dubious schemes have hit gullible investors. As India's retail investing class grows, trust, transparency and digital literacy are becoming as crucial as financial acumen. ■

—Anilesh S. Mahajan

investor," notes Nilesh Lodha, Chief of Business Development & New Projects, CDSL. "Their remarkable ability to adapt, swiftly embrace dematerialisation, eKYC, online account opening and digital trading platforms has transformed India's securities markets."

Even traditional banking players and new-age wealth managers have entered the fray, launching mobile-first investment products and AI-driven robo-advisory services targeted at younger investors. The line between saving and investing is increasingly blurring for salaried millennials and Gen Z profes-

sionals. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Boston Consulting Group data, mobile-led investment accounts offered by banks grew 4.7 times between FY20 and FY24, with ICICI Direct Neo, HDFC Sky and SBI Securities together capturing over 18 million active users under the age of 35.

"The future of wealth is frictionless and digital," says Charan Singh, former chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank. "For the new generation, a mutual fund SIP is no longer a banker's paper form, but a 30-second flow on a mobile screen." A senior HDFC Bank executive echoes

that: "We are seeing the salary account itself become a gateway to investing, with bundled wallets, auto-invest features and UPI-based SIPs driving volumes that were once unthinkable."

The optimistic sentiment was reinforced by a string of high-profile initial public offerings (IPOs) between 2020 and 2023, including marquee listings in tech, finance and consumer sectors. These IPOs didn't just unlock capital for companies, they also brought in a wave of first-time investors, many of whom remained active in the markets long after the listing day buzz faded.

DARK SIDE OF THE BOOM

The surge, though, has been accompanied by financial casualties too. The frenzy around IPOs, for instance, has pushed valuations sky-high, often untethered from fundamentals. Many tech startups and fintech firms have seen their share prices triple on listing day, only to slide soon after. The 2021 debut of Zomato, where shares jumped over 50 per cent on day one, is often cited as a case in point; within a year, the stock lost nearly half its value. Similar post-listing swings for Paytm and Policybazaar left late-stage retail entrants nursing losses. According to a Morgan Stanley report from late 2024, nearly 40 per cent of IPOs in FY23 and FY24 fell below their issue price within six months.

Small investors have been hurt big. Puneet Goyal, a 36-year-old college teacher in Udaipur, had hoped to use his stock market gains to buy a home. A sharp correction in early 2025 wiped out Rs 2 lakh from his portfolio, forcing him to postpone his plans. Stories like his are increasingly common. A SEBI study revealed that, between FY22 and FY24, around 11.3 million individual traders collectively lost Rs 1.81 lakh crore in F&O trading. Saurabh Mukherjea, Founder and Chief Investment Officer at Marcellus Investment Managers, has a word of caution. "I don't have a problem with gamification—making things easier to access and use should be the way forward across all industries, including investing," he says. "The real challenge is self-control. If investors can't rein in their animal spirits, they'll end up hurting themselves—with or without gamification."

The RBI, meanwhile, noticed another alarming trend. By January 2024, outstanding credit card dues had surged to Rs 2.6 lakh crore—a 31.3 per cent jump in just a year—raising fears that consumers were using borrowed money to gamble on stocks. In other words, part of the equity market boom was being driven by personal debt. Meanwhile, the shift from fixed deposits to equities disrupted bank liquidity and constrained their lending capacity.



SUMIT KUMAR

"TOO MANY TIPS CAN CONFUSE YOU"

SHIVAM PANDEY, 31

Senior Analyst | Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Shivam didn't arrive at stock trading through hype or hearsay. A senior analyst in a private firm, his interest took root while pursuing a master's in finance. "It started when I began linking classroom theories to real-world market trends," he says. "Trading suddenly felt more than just textbook content—maybe even a steady source of passive income."

That idea has since

evolved into a carefully built Rs 5 lakh equity portfolio. Modest in size, it reflects discipline, not daydreaming. Shivam doesn't chase daily gains or park money for decades. Instead, he prefers swing trading—buying stocks and holding them for a few weeks to months. "Two to three months is my usual holding period," he says. "I don't rely on Telegram channels. Too many tips can confuse you."

"TWO TO THREE MONTHS IS MY USUAL HOLDING PERIOD. IT FITS MY SCHEDULE AND CAPITAL BETTER"

Losses, when they come, don't rattle Shivam. "I booked some losses recently. It happens. I treat them as operating costs. As long as my risk is managed, I can live with temporary setbacks."

—Avaneesh Mishra

As a result the government and regulators have begun watching closely. From FY23 onwards, SEBI had rolled out a series of reforms to rein in frothy retail speculation—especially in the booming equity derivatives segment. Risk disclosures became compulsory before every F&O trade. Pop-up warnings on broker apps began flashing

sobering messages: 'Nine out of ten F&O traders lose money'. For leveraged trades, income proof was mandated, and suitability assessments introduced to screen retail participants. The 2024 Union budget put clamps on retail investors. It scrapped inflation indexation for debt mutual funds, hiked the Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

गौरवशाली आदिवासी संस्कृति,
प्रकृति, जीवन दर्शन की झलकियां



बिरसा मुंडा

सिदो-कान्हू चांद-भैरव
नीलाम्बर-पितौबर टाना भगत

पोटो हो फूलो-ज्ञानो
जगन्नाथ सिंह पातर

वीर नारायण सिंह
तिलका माँझी लक्ष्मण नायक

रामजी गोड़ रावत जोधसिंह चौहान
तलकफल चंदू गोविन्द गुरु

अल्लूरी सीताराम राजू
दानी गाइदिनल्लू

टंत्या भील मोजी रिबा

प्रियमपिल्लई कुटवानाई

दाघोजी भांगरे

थूरवीर पसालथा खुआंगचेहा

कुथल कोंवार छपिणी देबबर्मा

तिरोत सिंग सिएम
बिरसा मुंडा

झारखण्ड आदिवासी महोत्सव

9, 10, 11 अगस्त
मोरहाबादी मैदान, रांची

2025

जहाँ बोलना ही संगीत
और चलना है नृत्य

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं

श्री हेमन्त सोरेन

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार





SANDEEP SAHDEV

“THE KEY IS BALANCE AND PATIENCE”

Tech entrepreneur | Panchkula, Haryana

Rohit's journey as an investor began like that of many Indians: in a middle-class home,

ROHIT SHARMA, 44

in a Tier-2 town, where gold, fixed deposits and real estate were the only trusted ways to save.

The son of government employees, he grew up wary of the stock market—viewing it more as a gamble than a path to prosperity.

In the early 2000s, newly married and eager to grow his savings, Rohit dipped a toe into day trading. With just Rs 20,000, he tried his luck. It didn't

last long—12 sessions in, the money was gone. Spooked, he returned to safer ground.

Two decades later, during the Covid-19 lockdown, a quieter shift began. With more time, better access to information and a need to make his money work harder, he decided to try

“IN SOME WAY, I FEEL ALIGNED WITH INDIA’S ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS”

again. This time, he approached it like a student, reading company reports and tracking sectoral trends. Today, nearly 90 per cent of his savings are spread across mutual funds, equities and bonds. Since 2020, he has averaged a 14 per cent annual return. “The key is balance and patience,” he says.

—ASM



“I DON’T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH GAMIFICATION—MAKING THINGS EASIER TO ACCESS AND USE SHOULD BE THE WAY FORWARD. THE REAL CHALLENGE IS SELF-CONTROL”

SAURABH MUKHERJEA, Founder & Chief Investment Officer, Marcellus Investment Managers

on F&O trades, and tightened capital gains rules. The RBI's crackdown on unsecured lending began to show results: by February 2025, the growth rate in credit card dues had cooled to 11.2 per cent year-on-year. Then, in April, SEBI directed stock exchanges to monitor intra-day position limits in real-time, using random snapshots to detect breaches early. The result was swift: retail activity in high-risk index

options dropped by nearly 70 per cent from late 2024 levels. In another significant reform, SEBI has mandated that all algorithmic trading strategies be registered and audited to ensure a level playing field against institutional players like the US-based Jane Street, which is in hot water for allegedly exploiting ultra-fast algorithms to manipulate expiry-day trades on Nifty, giving it an unfair edge over regular investors.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

As the dust settles, a new pattern is emerging: ordinary investors are not running scared, they are evolving. “Data from the markets makes us confident that the surge of middle-class investment hasn’t stopped, just moved to more mature products,” says Kela. Crucially, the fundamentals of the Indian economy must stay strong. The GDP is expected to grow around 6.3–6.8 per cent in FY26, on the back of robust consumer demand, public infrastructure spending and urbanisation trends. What happens next will define India’s financial future. For the retail revolution to endure, regulation must keep pace with innovation; financial education must scale alongside enthusiasm. And policymakers must see the middle class not just as a tax base, but as a cornerstone of long-term growth. ■



सबसे भरोसेमंद खोतों से, सबसे सटीक जानकारी

सब्सक्राइब करें और पाएं 68% तक की छूट

हाँ! मैं इंडिया टुडे को सब्सक्राइब करना चाहता/चाहती हूँ

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<input type="checkbox"/>	1 वर्ष	52	3120	999	डिजिटल	68%
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 वर्ष	52	3120	2699	डिजिटल+प्रिंट	14%

कृपया फॉर्म को ब्लॉकलेटर में भरें

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..... शहर..... राज्य..... पिन.....

मोबाइल..... ईमेल.....



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A Touch of Ro



yalty

The BJP sheds inhibitions about wooing erstwhile royals to advance their political cause. For the royals, it is a chance to regain political and cultural relevance

By RAHUL NORONHA



REGAL REDUX
Madhya Pradesh CM
Mohan Yadav at the
Rajwada cabinet meeting
in Indore, May 20

M

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav is known to have a penchant for offsite cabinet meetings. Whenever he is in a mood to indulge his cabinet colleagues or send out a political signal, the venue shifts from the cabinet room on the fifth floor of Vallabh Bhavan—the state secretariat in Bhopal. On May 20, it was the Rajwada, the 200-year-old palace of the Holkars, the erstwhile rulers of Indore, that was the venue. CM Yadav sat in an ornate chair, while his cabinet colleagues were arranged in a manner that evoked the impression of a Holkar Durbar. The meeting was to discuss the plans for the upcoming 300th birth anniversary of Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar, and the commemorative events to be held in her honour.

The enactment of this piece of royal theatre was not lost on anyone. “There’s nothing objectionable about celebrating an icon like ‘Devi’ Ahilyabai,” a source said. “But it’s the royal makeover of an otherwise routine cabinet meeting that stood out.” This is not all. The BJP-ruled MP has also launched ‘Virasat se Vikas’(heritage to development), a programme to revive the legacies of Rani Durgawati, Rani Avanti Bai, Ahilyabai, Raja Bhabhut Singh, as well as the legendary King Vikramaditya.

PALACE TO POLLS

From the north to the south: A selection of some of the prominent personalities in the BJP from former royal families across the country

Royalty is getting recognition elsewhere, too. Gujarat, for instance, is planning to dedicate a whole museum—the Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India (MORKI)—to record the contributions of the princely states (see *Mission Museum*). Expected to open in 2027, the Rs 260 crore project will come up next to the Statue of Unity in the Narmada Valley.

The BJP is clearly going through a phase of royal obsession. Aditya Pratap Deo, associate professor of History at St Stephen's College, Delhi, and member of the erstwhile royal family of Kanker in Chhattisgarh, explains it thus: "The BJP and RSS represent a form of cultural nationalism where custom, tradition and history form the bedrock of their political imagery of a pristine nation. As polities described as monarchial have been the commonest and most remarkable type of high politics and political system in South Asia, and been integral to a certain understanding of the nature of Indian civilisation, they have found greater acceptance in the political discourse of post-liberal India."

PROJECT RAJ

Though the Congress has counted many royals in its ranks—Karan Singh, the titular maharaja of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir, Amarinder Singh (now in the BJP) of the Patiala royal family, the late Madhavrao Scindia of the erstwhile Gwalior ruling family, Rajya Sabha member and former MP CM Digvijaya Singh of Raghogarh the most prominent among them—the party's relationship with the princely states was always prickly since the abolition of the privy purses in 1971 besides the withdrawal of other privileges, such as the right to hold an unspecified number of weapons and use royal titles. The following year, as former IAS officer Ranjitsinh, member of the erstwhile ruling family of Wankar, points out, "The Wildlife Protection Act hit the former royals' fortunes not just because they indulged in *shikaar* but also because many of them ran commercial *shikaar* companies

JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA, 54

Madhya Pradesh

The Union minister hails from the Gwalior ex-ruling family and began his career in the Congress



ANANT MAHARAJ, 66

West Bengal

Also known as Narendra Ray, the chief of the Greater Cooch Behar Democratic Party was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha with the BJP support

DUSHYANT SINGH, 51

Rajasthan

The five-term MP from Jhalawar is former CM and former Union minister Vasundhara Raje's son and belongs to the former ruling family of Dholpur from his father's side



DEVENDRA PRATAP SINGH, 50

Chhattisgarh

A member of the Raigarh ruling family, the Rajya Sabha member also comes from a tribal background

VISHVARAJ SINGH MEWAR, 56

Rajasthan

A member of the erstwhile House of Mewar, he is a BJP MLA. His father, the late Mahendra Singh, was a parliamentarian and his wife Mahima Kumari is a BJP MP

AS THE BJP EXPANDS ITS REACH ACROSS THE COUNTRY'S GEOGRAPHIES AND COMMUNITIES, IT HAS BEEN SEEKING ICONS IT CAN USE TO RALLY VOTERS. ROYALS FULFIL THAT PURPOSE EQUALLY

that attracted foreign clients."

More recently, in a media article in November 2024, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi drew the ire of several erstwhile rulers when he referred to maharajas and nawabs as collaborators of the East India Company.

The BJP is now seeking to correct this 'historical wrong', which it sees as a one-sided narrative spread by the colonialists to suit their interests. "Royal families," says Dr Pankaj Sharma, director of the department of archaeology and museums in the Gujarat government, "were often painted as antagonists who were bad administrators, disliked by the locals, and who succumbed to the British Raj, compromising public

interests, to maintain their privileges. Their contributions and sacrifices in integrating with the Union of India, the public welfare initiatives, their rich cultural heritage, stories of their valour and service to society have been overlooked."

The RSS is in agreement with the BJP's viewpoint. "The RSS is absolutely in agreement with monarchy. It is in keeping with the concept of Hindutva. India's glorious past includes royalty, which needs to be celebrated," says a source close to the Sangh. Plus, the fact that many former royals continue to control trusts that administer temples helps the BJP's Hindutva push.

There is, of course, a political logic to the BJP's royal overtures. As the



KESRIDEVSINH JHALA, 42

Gujarat

From the erstwhile ruling family of Wankaner, Kesrudev Singh is a Rajya Sabha member. He is the son of Congress leader and former Union minister Digvijay Singh Jhala

DIYA KUMARI, 54

Rajasthan

From the erstwhile Jaipur ruling family, Diya Kumari is a deputy CM. Her father, the late Bhawani Singh, had contested the LS polls as a Congress candidate while her step-grandmother, late Gayatri Devi, had been an MP from the Swatantra Party



UDAYANRAJE BHOSALE, 59

Maharashtra

The Satara MP is considered the 13th holder of the Chhatrapati title, originally accorded to Shivaji

KANAK VARDHAN SINGH DEO, 69

Odisha

From the former ruling family of Patna, Balangir, he is a deputy CM. His wife, Sangeeta Singh Deo, is the BJP MP from Balangir



VASUNDHARA RAJE, 72

Rajasthan

The former CM and former Union minister was born in the Scindia family of Gwalior and married into the Dholpur royal family. She is the sister of Yashodhara and the aunt of Jyotiraditya

SANGEETA SINGH DEO, 63

Odisha

Wife of Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, she is the MP from Balangir

YADUVEER KRISHNA-DATTA WADIYAR, 33

Karnataka

The Mysore MP is a scion of the Wadiyar dynasty



AMRITA ROY, 62

West Bengal

The 'Rajmata' of Krishnanagar contested the 2024 LS polls from Krishnanagar and lost

party expands its reach across geographies and communities, it has been seeking icons it can use to rally voters, building statues or monuments in their name. Royals fulfil that purpose equally. Witness the prime minister's recent invocation of the legacy of Rajaraja Chola and his son Rajendra Chola I during a trip to Tamil Nadu.

GAME OF THRONES

The BJP's strategy is evident in the apparent relaxation of norms around ticket distribution and its policy of denying tickets to the kin of elected representatives. For instance, Vishvaraj Singh, the titular maharaja of Mewar and the BJP MLA from Nathdwara, Rajasthan, was fielded in the December 2023 assembly election and, six months later, his wife Mahima Kumari, too, was nominated for the Lok Sabha. Both won their respective polls.

Similarly, in Madhya Pradesh, tribal leader and minister Kunwar

Vijay Shah, who hails from the erstwhile estate of Makrai, was nominated from Harsud. His brother contested in neighbouring Timarni, though he lost to his nephew from the Congress.

In the east, the BJP appointed party veteran and former royal Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo of Balangir as a deputy CM of Odisha in 2024, while his wife Sangeeta Singh Deo was re-elected to the Lok Sabha. In West Bengal—a state once home to India's longest-running communist government—it nominated Amrita Roy, the 'Rajmata' of Krishnanagar, for the Krishnanagar Lok Sabha seat, though she lost the election. Earlier, in 2023, the party had sent self-styled Koch royal Anant Maharaj, who claims to be king of the Rajbanshi community in North Bengal, to the Rajya Sabha. His election was widely seen as an attempt to consolidate the Rajbanshi vote in the politically volatile region around Cooch Behar and Alipurduar. Likewise, the party nominated

Kesrudevsinh Jhala of Wankaner in 2023 and Devendra Pratap Singh of the former princely state of Raigarh to the Upper House in 2024, from Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, respectively.

What does cultivating royalty get the BJP at a practical level? "In the initial years after Independence, many members of the erstwhile royal families moved to cities from their places of residence. But, with tourism picking up, properties being converted into hotels, and many of them joining politics, the connect with the local people continued. In many instances, this translated into electoral advantage, making political parties nominate members of royal families," explains Ranjitsinh. Their royal status gives them winnability, which is a key factor in ticket distribution for the BJP, as MP minister Kailash Vijayvargiya points out.

The BJP's royal turn is not without its biases, though, often shaped by religious and historical narrative. In

Bhopal, for example, party MP Alok Sharma has been running a campaign against the erstwhile ruling family, blaming the last nawab Hamidullah Khan for delaying the merger and harbouring plans to join Pakistan post-Independence, a charge that has often been levelled against non-Muslim princely states too. And who can forget the furore caused by senior BJP leader Parshottam Rupala shortly before the 2024 election, when his remark that the erstwhile maharajas capitulated to Britishers, broke bread with them and even married off their daughters to them, had the entire Kshatriya community up in arms. Rupala was nonetheless fortunate to win his constituency Rajkot that year. Also worth noting is the BJP government's 2019 amendment to the Arms Act, which reduced the number of licenced weapons an individual can possess from three to two. A similar move during the UPA era had been stalled following interventions by MPs, particularly those from royal lineages.

PRINCELY PRAGMATISM

What do the royals themselves think of the BJP's outreach? "The blessings of the Almighty and our ancestors, as well as our conduct, have fortunately earned the continued confidence of the public. I am thankful to the party (BJP) and the people for giving me an opportunity to contribute to our country's development," says Vishvaraj. Digvijaya, however, doubts "the BJP's faith in the tenets of the Constitution, which espouses equality for all". Claiming that the party has a soft corner for royalty, he says: "As far as my family is concerned, we chose the path of democracy and did not join the Jana Sangh or the BJP, although they were very keen."

From a historical perspective, royalty, says a section of sociologists, has always aligned with the winning side. "Royalty, like political actors of all types, does survive through tactical alliances, etc. Just as we have politicians who are consummate survivors, so too are there royal dynasties that have managed to hold relevance despite all

MISSION MUSEUM

To showcase the contributions of princely states, the Gujarat government is building the Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India in Narmada district

2027

Scheduled year of opening

15 acres

Area of the campus

₹ 260 cr.

Estimated cost of the project

3

No. of main galleries

Indian Royalty, the Story of Integration and the Hall of Unity

Other Attractions

► Permanent and changing exhibitions

► Interactive and immersive displays

► Extensive facilities for tourists

ERSTWHILE ROYALTY ARE NOW POPULAR ON THE CONCLAVE CIRCUIT, AS WELL AS ON PODCASTS AND CHAT SHOWS

kinds of historical changes and challenges," says author Manu Pillai. "It is a bit simplistic to reduce the princely legacy to one of 'collaborators with the Raj'; it is like applying black and white lenses to present-day politics, which actually has many more layers and complexities."

A ROYAL REVAMP

That said, royals are trying to reinvent themselves in the modern world. Zamindars and rajas—cast as evil and exploitative in the Bollywood films of the 1980s and '90s—are now increasingly celebrated in popular culture. Their public image has shifted, too, with erstwhile royals now regulars on the conclave circuit, on podcasts and chat shows. Radhika Raje Gaekwad of the former Baroda royal family was recently invited by a newspaper to write about an OTT show that did not paint a very charitable picture of her ilk. "There is definitely an allure, and it began when magazines like *Hello*, which had covered European royalty, came to India. The magazines featured royals on their covers and their palaces were opened up for people to see them through their pages. Social media, too, has a major role to play as it provides royals a platform to tell their stories like they wanted to," she says.

Anshu Khanna, a communication professional, says earlier, if a glossy featured an industrialist, a sportsperson and a professional, today it also covers a former royal as part of the spread. "Many among the younger lot of erstwhile royals have studied at foreign universities. Having returned, they are now pursuing careers relevant to the times and have played a major role in changing the narrative," says Khanna, who set up Royal Fables in 2010, a platform that showcases royal India.

"Our families are often subjected to statue politics, unwarranted comments and misrepresentation by politicians and the entertainment industry," says Vishvaraj. "True recognition will come when both historical and contemporary records are presented factually, and strict action is taken against those who malign our families and ancestors for personal or political gain."

Until then, the erstwhile rulers will throw their lot with the party that is the real ruler in exchange for preserving their political and cultural relevance. ■

*—with Dhaval S. Kulkarni,
Rohit Parihar, Jumana Shah and
Arkamoy Datta Majumdar*



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HEAVY WEIGHT Chirag Paswan with supporters at a 'Bahujan Bhim Sankalp Samagam' rally in Rajgir



THE NATION | BIHAR

CHIRAG'S POWER PLAY

In Bihar's liminal political spaces—between the BJP's leadership deficit and the JD(U)'s ebbing influence—Chirag Paswan sees a fault line ripe for exploitation

By AMITABH SRIVASTAVA

ON

ON JULY 26, UNION MINISTER CHIRAG PASWAN WAS IN GAYA to address a public gathering when he lashed out at the Nitish Kumar-led NDA regime in Bihar. "I am sorry I have to support this government," he told the media when asked about the ambulance rape incident that had rocked the town—and made national headlines—two days earlier. "Murders, kidnappings, rape... yet the state machinery prostrates itself before criminals." Though he refrained from naming the chief minister, there was no mistaking who his salvo was aimed at—the home department works under Nitish.

Insiders acknowledge that Chirag's withering critique was no knee-jerk reaction, nor a bargaining ploy for more seats in alliance negotiations. With the Bihar as-



sembly polls slated in October-November, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief is playing a far bigger game.

Chirag's history with Nitish is one of both rivalry and alliance. In 2020, the then undivided LJP fielded candidates in 135 of Bihar's 243 constituencies, most of them against the JD(U) or Janata Dal (United). This delivered a stinging blow, relegating Nitish's party to third place. Yet, the latest attack is less about enacting an encore than about seizing the present moment.

The BJP, despite being the largest party in the state assembly, with 80 MLAs, lacks a local leader with pan-state appeal who can command loyalty. Conversely, Nitish—once lauded as the architect of Bihar's post-2005 resurgence—now appears diminished. Whispers about his health and his grip on power slipping have spurred speculation of an impending leadership vacuum. In this liminal space, Chirag discerns a fault line ripe for exploitation.

THE ELECTORAL PARADOX

Chirag carries both the promise and the weight of his late father Ram Vilas Paswan's legacy. His ambitions to return to Bihar power politics extend beyond undermining a rival; they also expose a certain existential dilemma: the party has been extraordinary in parliamentary elections—sweeping five out of five seats in 2024, six out of six in 2019 and six out of seven in 2014 on vote shares of just 6-8 per cent—yet it has been a disaster in assembly polls, scoring 3, 2 and 1 seat in the past three elections, respectively.

This is not a statistical anomaly, but a deeper organisational failure: while the party has piggybacked on the larger NDA vote in Lok Sabha contests, it lacks the grassroots machinery, local leadership and policy platform necessary to convert that momentum into state-level power. Compounding this

sporadic spoiler into a decisive force in Patna's corridors of power.

Election fever has yet to pick up in Bihar, but insiders are already whispering about how Chirag's ambitions extend beyond his ministerial berth in New Delhi. One confidant quipped, "Do you think he will come to Patna merely to serve as a minister here? No; the only office that interests him is the chief minister's chair."

LANGUAGE OF THE YOUTH

Although the BJP commands substantial strength elsewhere in the Hindi heartland, Bihar remains the lone state where it has never governed in its own right, perpetually reliant on coalition partners like the JD(U) to secure power. Recognising this, Chirag is now aspiring to occupy the space Nitish has dominated since 2005. An essential part of that will

"CHIRAG SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE OF THE YOUTH. HE'S MODERN, ROOTED AND UNAPOLOGETICALLY AMBITIOUS"

—BJP strategist on LJP leader's role in Bihar poll campaign

"PM MODI AND AMIT SHAH TRUST NITISH KUMAR... EXCESS OF ANYTHING IS BAD, EVERYONE MUST REMEMBER THAT"

NEERAJ KUMAR
JD(U) spokesperson

is the widespread perception—dating back to Ram Vilas's tenure as Union minister—that the LJP's interests lie chiefly in central politics, a stand that has led supporters to look elsewhere in assembly elections.

For Chirag, this anomaly is both a challenge and an opportunity. His crusade for a more prominent role in Bihar's politics—evident in his '*Bihar Bula Raha Hai* (Bihar is calling)' campaign, and his party's bold decision to field him from an unreserved seat in the upcoming election—is designed to bridge the gap between national visibility and regional credibility. The hope is that it will transform the LJP from a

be rejuvenating his LJP faction and whipping up some enthusiasm in the 5.3 per cent Paswan cohort, the largest grouping in the state's 19.7 per cent Scheduled Caste demographic.

Next up is the real possibility that alliance partner BJP will prop him up as a strategic foil to Nitish. Sources say the lack of a leader with pan-state appeal is weighing heavily on the BJP leadership. They have reportedly urged Chirag to campaign across the state, especially in urban and semi-urban pockets where youth voters could tilt the balance. The feeling is that Chirag's 'Bollywood-style charisma', pro-Modi stand and aspirational messaging will resonate across

caste lines, especially among first- and second-time voters. "He speaks the language of the youth," says a BJP strategist. "He's modern, rooted and unapologetically ambitious."

There's another vacuum he spots. Bihar's 20 per cent Dalit vote is splintered into numerous sub-communities. The LJP's Paswan base, where Chirag is thought to command en bloc loyalty, has hitherto had a near-autonomous trajectory. The party has not specifically eyed a larger Ambedkarite consolidation, and is thus aloof from other Dalit segments—Ravidas (5.2 per cent), Musahar (3.1 per cent), Panar (1.7 per cent) and Pasi (1 per cent). Chirag has room for growth here. The only other claimant to Bihar's Dalit landscape, Hindustani Awam Morcha leader Jitan Ram Manjhi, is now 80, and his son and heir, Santosh Suman Manjhi, lacks Chirag's panache. They have also not grown much above their Musahar caste band. These dynamics have convinced followers that Chirag could be the one to unite the disparate Dalit flock and claim his father's mantle as Bihar's pre-eminent Dalit leader.

TARGETING NITISH

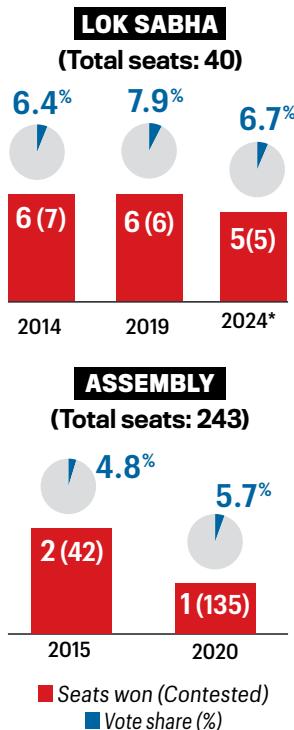
The timing of Chirag's public rebuke is no accident, say analysts. Nitish's diminishing appeal opens up a vortex of uncertainty, and the LJP chief's advisors perhaps feel it's time to test the waters with the broader electorate that is increasingly frustrated with the security and governance issues facing the state.

Not that the JD(U) is oblivious to Chirag's motives. The critique of Bihar's law and order situation drew an immediate rebuke from the coalition partner. JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar dismissed the plaints, and also served a reminder: "PM Modi and (Union home minister) Amit Shah trust Nitish Kumar, and NCRB data shows crime has declined in Bihar. Excess of anything is bad...everyone should remember that."

The lessons of the 2020 assembly election still loom large in Bihar's collective memory. When Chirag broke ranks with the NDA and fielded LJP

CONTRASTING FORTUNES

The LJP does stupendously well in LS polls, but performs atrociously in state elections



*LJP (Ram Vilas), party split in 2021

candidates against the JD(U), it may have won just one seat, Matihani, but it polled 5.7 per cent of the vote (238,300-odd votes) across the 135 seats it contested. More to the point, in a remarkable 38 constituencies, the margin of defeat for NDA candidates was less than the votes won by the LJP, enabling the RJD to claim 29 of these seats and the Congress nine.

The fallout was catastrophic for the JD(U), which collapsed to just 43 MLAs in 2020, while the BJP surged to 74 wins. The move was widely interpreted as a spoiler manoeuvre—one that many believe the BJP tacitly encouraged to cut Nitish down to size.

The LJP's performance also throws up intriguing hints. Its 238,300 votes translated to a 10.3 per cent share in

the seats it contested. However, discounting the 110 where it forfeited deposits, it narrows the party's real sphere of influence to about 25 seats. These are precisely the constituencies the NDA may deem suitable for any seat-sharing arrangement. Chirag, of course, may not be satisfied with that number.

HISTORICAL ECHOES

Chirag's father, Ram Vilas Paswan, once stood poised to become Bihar's kingmaker after the February 2005 assembly election, when the LJP won 29 seats—its best-ever performance in the state. Those results produced a hung house and offered him the power to determine the next government, yet he failed to clinch the moment.

Chirag, sources say, is keenly aware that he cannot afford to miss such opportunities. The strategy, for now, is to be deliberate and daring. The decision to contest from an unreserved seat rather than a Dalit/ reserved constituency—and asking the public to decide which one—signals an ambition to emerge as a pan-Bihar leader. His speeches, peppered with precise criticism of specific incidents, from shocking rapes to police inaction in urban districts, lend his messages moral force. He amplifies these assertions across social media, panchayat meetings and targeted door-to-door campaigns, recasting the LJP's image from a niche caste outfit into a potential kingmaker.

Post-election, a resurgent LJP may reshape Bihar's political equilibrium. Nitish's JD(U) could find its once-formidable coalition position precariously eroded. Caste alliances might shift as other marginalised groups seek their champion. Will Chirag's rhetoric and provocations translate into real seats in the state house? Or will the LJP's historic weakness in local organisation blunt his ascent? As the young politician refines his campaign, balancing his father's legacy with modern aspirations, Bihar watches. One thing is certain: this election will change Chirag Paswan and his LJP forever. ■

—with Anilesh S. Mahajan



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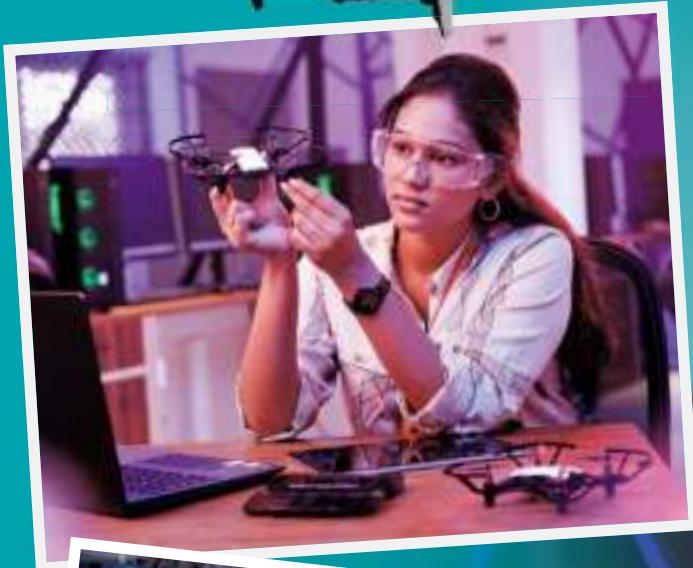
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Drone and Robotics Experimentarium

The Drone and Robotics Experimentarium (DARE) Lab is a state-of-the-art teaching and research facility that aims to be a premier center for Drone and Robotics research. The lab has Autonomous Drones, Industrial Robotic Arm, Autonomous Rovers, Humanoid Robot, Quadruped Robot and Robotics Workstations. All drones and robots present in the lab are fully programmable. There is no need for manual control or human intervention in their operation. All workstations come with Wi-Fi and Bluetooth communication in order to interface with the drones and robots.



Centre for Advanced Studies

Sathyabama Centre for Advanced Studies, a state-of-the-art facility established with Advanced facilities that ensembles the conjunction of academic and research expertise. The Centre houses Artificial Intelligence Laboratory with Supercomputing facilities, DARE (Drone and Robotics Experimentarium) Lab consisting of Robotics Workstations, Swarm drones, Quadruped and Humanoid Robots and autonomous rovers, Advanced Characterization facility with HRSTEM, FESEM and XRD Development tools, Advanced Media Centre and Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer.



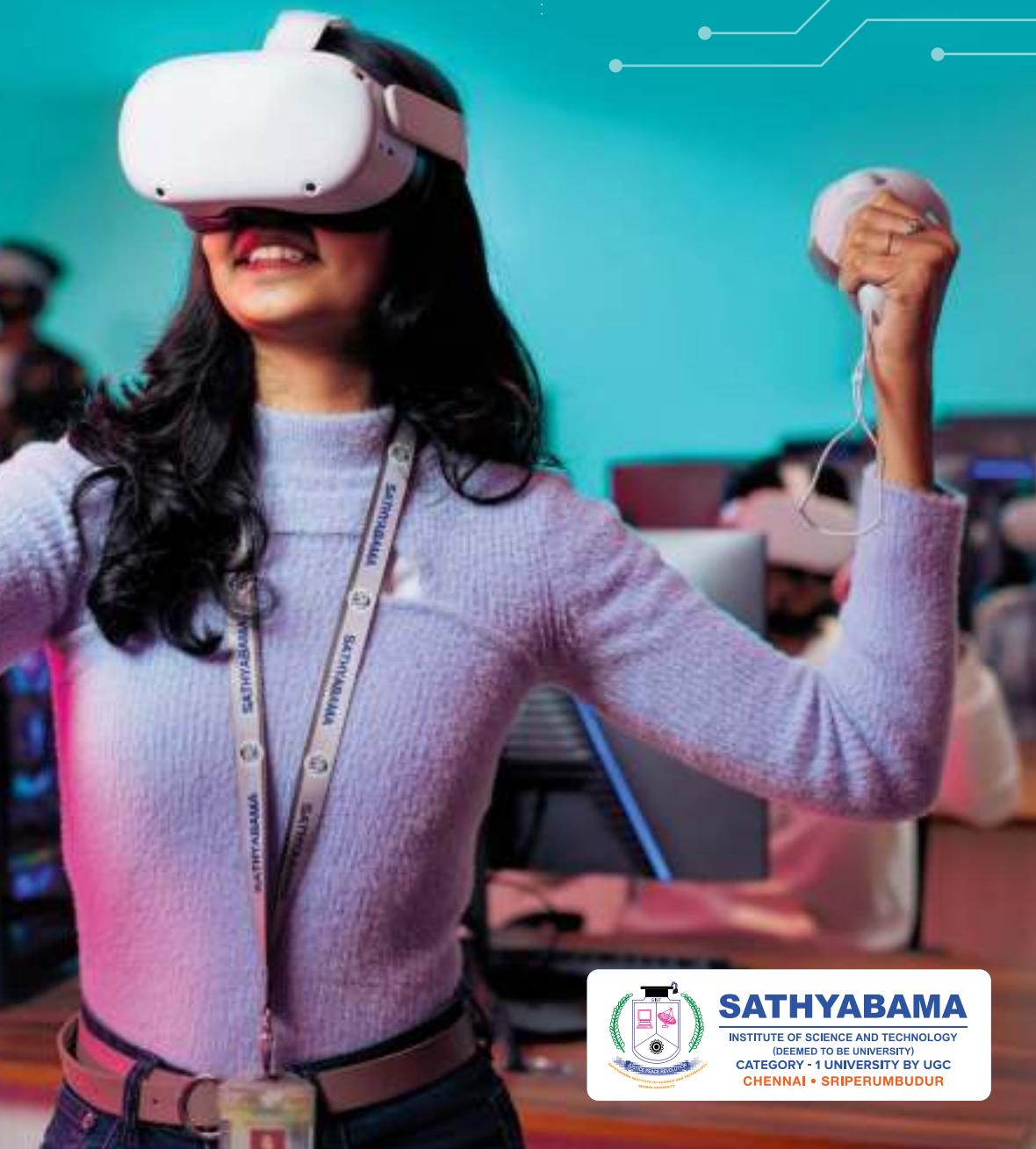
METAVERSE STUDIO • AI SUPERCOMPUTING FACILITY

Metaverse Studio

The Metaverse Studio is a futuristic facility that transforms creativity and imagination into interactive and immersive experiences. Using cutting-edge high-performance development systems and Head Mounted Displays, this studio has a lot to offer for XR designers, XR engineers and Game developers. The studio also houses an immersion zone to fully engage yourself in the metaverse. The Metaverse Studio encompasses Development Space, Metaverse Stations, Nvidia Ampere Architecture, Ray Tracing, AI DLSS, Nvidia Reflex, Blender to XR Development Tools, Unity Game Engine, Unreal Engine, Immersion Zone and Ideation Area.

AI Supercomputing Facility

The AI Supercomputing Lab is a groundbreaking AI research facility that aims to become a strong center for AI research. This lab aims to train and engage students and researchers in cutting-edge AI algorithms and its applications. The facility houses a 95-node supercomputer with 9.6 Peta FLOPS of AI performance. A tiered storage architecture is adopted to utilize flash storage and hence make data server provide industry-topping data speeds.



SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
CATEGORY - 1 UNIVERSITY BY UGC
CHENNAI • SRIPERUMBUDUR

Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer

The Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer aims to be a leading private deep-tech startup hub. The centre is supporting students, scientists, faculty, alumni members and external entrepreneurs in creating successful deep tech startups, and translating benefits to the society. The centre supports technology ventures by offering both technological and business assistance to help entrepreneurs establish their startups. In addition to this, the centre supports the Institution's scientists and faculty in product development, industry connect and commercialization.

Advanced Characterization Facility

Advanced Characterization facility like X-ray Diffractometer (XRD), Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM) and High Resolution Scanning Transmission Electron Microscope (HRSTEM) are available at the centre which can be used for understanding the structure, composition, shape, size and morphology of different kinds of materials at Nano scale.

Advanced Media Centre

The Advanced Media Centre is a state-of-the-art facility equipped with high-end production suites, green screen facilities and audio recording booths, for the development of high-quality visual and audio content. The centre serves as a hub for faculty to create high quality video lectures, creative e-content to enhance the online teaching & learning experience.



Centre for Ocean Research

Applied Phycology Lab

The Applied Phycology Lab is equipped with advanced instrumentation such as a Continuous Flow Analyzer (AutoLab), ATR-FTIR, and a Multimode Reader to explore the multifaceted applications of algae in biotechnology, environmental sustainability, and industrial sectors. The lab primarily investigates algal adhesion and its ecological implications in marine environments, contributing to the development of eco-friendly strategies for combating marine biofouling. Additionally, it focuses on optimizing microalgal culture techniques to enhance biomass production, and supports spore-based seed production in macroalgae for ecological and commercial purposes.

Biomolecules Separation Lab

The Biomolecules Separation Lab houses advanced separation technologies, including Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), for isolating novel molecules from natural sources. These systems allow for precise and efficient separation and quantitative analysis of biomolecules based on their interactions with stationary phases under high pressure. This capability supports the identification and development of new bioactive compounds with potential applications in environmental and biomedical fields.

Halophyte Conservation Lab

The Halophyte Conservation Lab undertakes applied research combining field surveys and laboratory experiments on seagrasses, seaweeds, and mangroves. The lab supports integrated strategies for the conservation and restoration of these highly productive coastal ecosystems. Facilities such as in-vitro micropropagation systems and mesocosm chambers are utilized for experiments on climate-induced stress, including warming and acidification. The lab also explores novel induction methods in halophyte cells for applications in natural product discovery, metabolic engineering, and conservation biology.

Livelihood and Skill Development Facility

Livelihood and Skill Development Facility is created to empower the youth with adequate skill sets that will enable their employment in relevant sectors and also improve productivity. The facility with associated labs and advanced instrumentation conducts capacity building through Skill development programmes. The trained youth will be encouraged with Institutional Seed fund to develop their own

commercial products. The facility enables innovators to scale up their finished products into marketable and viable solutions through the support of Sathyabama Technology Business Incubator.





Office of the International Relations & Higher Studies

The office of the International relations facilitates collaboration with International Universities for activities including Student Exchange, Faculty Exchange, Joint Research and other Collaborative activities for the benefit of the students and faculty. The office also initiates Semester Abroad Programmes, Internship Abroad Programmes and Summer Schools with Partnering Universities for the students of the Institution. The office also facilitates Faculty and Student Mobility programmes Funded by International Funding Organisations.

The Office of the Higher Studies helps in identifying and selecting the Universities to pursue Master Degree Programmes, provides support in the process of application, Letters of Recommendation and organises awareness programmes on Higher Education opportunities for the Pre final and Final Year Students. The Office conducts foreign language classes and other courses like TOEFL, IELTS for the students.

Makerspace

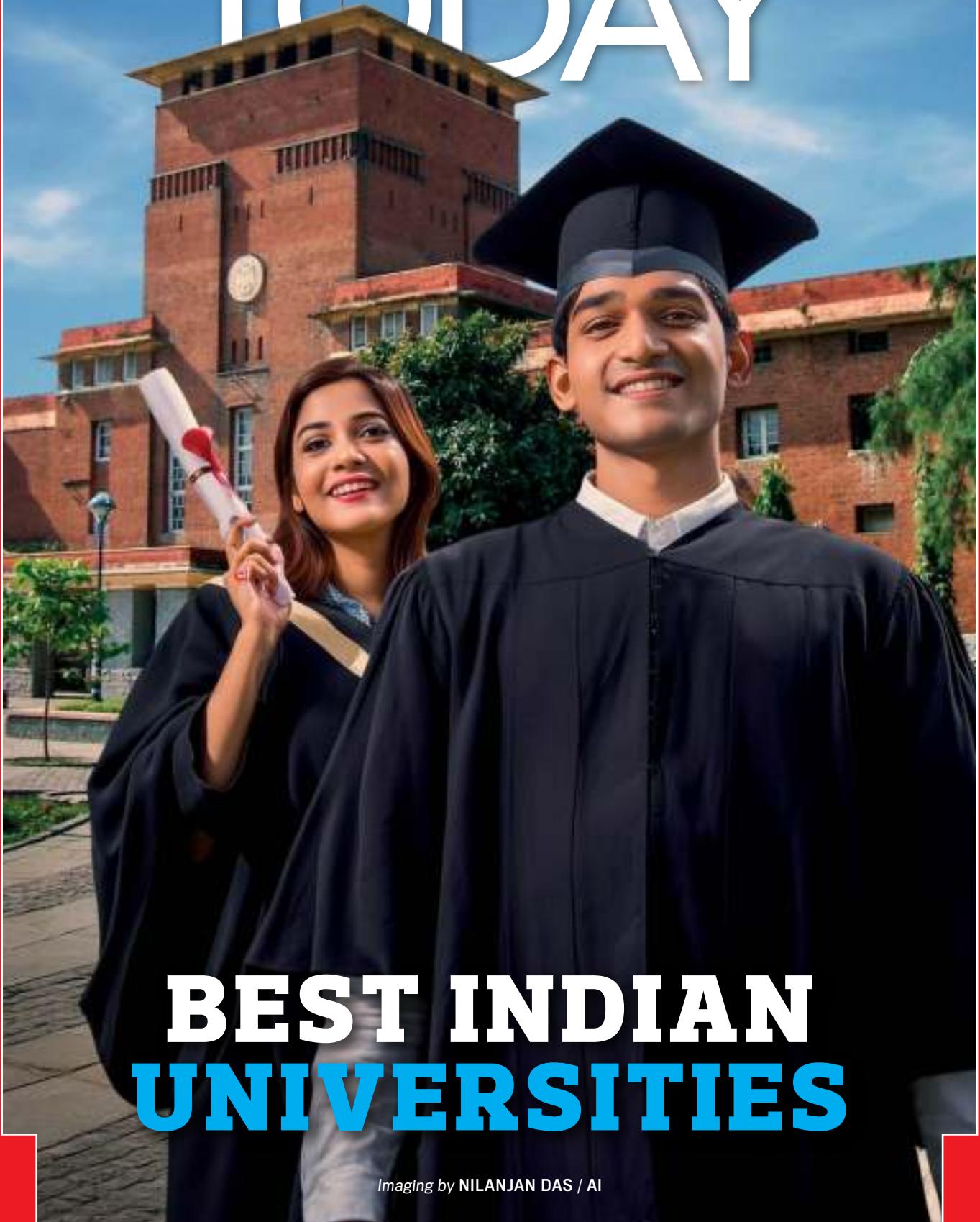
Makerspace is a state of art additive manufacturing facility established to foster innovations in young engineers, facilitate research and support additive manufacturing in industries. This unique facility is distinguished as a “Centre of Excellence for Additive Manufacturing” by Stratasys, India. Makerspace includes labs for material synthesis & testing, prototype designing and tissue engineering.



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INDIA TODAY



BEST INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

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MEET THE TOP SHOTS

THE INDIA TODAY-MDRA BEST UNIVERSITIES SURVEY REVEALS A NEW DYNAMISM IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION ECOSYSTEM, MARKED BY STABILITY AS WELL AS CHURN

By Kaushik Deka



I

INDIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IS A BEHEMOTH IN FLUX.

It's ambitious, overcrowded and, paradoxically, under-resourced. Yet, it continues to produce islands of excellence amid the chaos. The INDIA TODAY-MDRA Best Universities Survey 2025 captures this complex terrain with an evaluative lens that is at once empirical and perceptive, rendering it the most credible assessment of the country's university ecosystem. Now in its 16th year, the survey has become a benchmark for policymakers, recruiters, students and university leaders alike, not just for its rankings, but for what those rankings reveal about direction, aspiration and institutional agility.

At its core, the survey offers more than a ranking. It demonstrates that excellence in Indian universities is an ongoing project—constantly being built, reimagined and, often, rediscovered. That's what the university rankings in the general category reflect this year. Among the government universities in the general category, the University of Delhi (DU) occupies the pedestal for the first time, displacing Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), which had monopolised that perch since 2018. DU, which had ranked second since 2021, has now emerged as the benchmark for excellence in the public university space.

DU's ascent to the top reflects not only the consolidation of its academic and research output but also the success of its institutional reforms and improvements in

INDIA'S NO. 1 UNIVERSITIES

STREAM	UNIVERSITY
GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, NEW DELHI
GENERAL (PRIVATE)	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR
MEDICAL	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI
TECHNICAL	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI, NEW DELHI
LAW	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU

The survey readjusts the focus from pedigree to progress, incentivising resilience, adaptability and long-term reform



ARUNKUMAR

INDIA'S MOST IMPROVED UNIVERSITIES*

STREAM	UNIVERSITY
GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)	UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW, LUCKNOW
GENERAL (PRIVATE)	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR
MEDICAL	NA
TECHNICAL	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BANGALORE, BENGALURU
LAW	DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, VISAKHAPATNAM

*The university that has shown the highest percentage growth in ranking over the past five years (2020–2025) in the India Today-MDRA Best Universities Ranking

infrastructure, student engagement as well as placement performance. On a broader scale, it reflects a trend where older, multi-college public universities are reclaiming academic prominence amid India's shifting higher education landscape.

Meanwhile, Aligarh Muslim University has maintained a steady upward trajectory, entrenched in third place since 2021, while the University of Hyderabad has remained firmly in the top four despite minor fluctuations. Osmania University has shown consistent improvement over the years, despite periods of non-participation, and ranks fifth this time. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, which made an appearance only in 2021, has rapidly climbed to sixth place in this year's list. Bharathiar University and Acharya Nagarjuna University, on the other hand, have demonstrated remarkable long-term progress, moving up from 18th and 14th positions in 2018 to ninth and 10th, respectively, this year, mirroring the shift toward regional institutions gaining national academic recognition.

THE PRIVATE SPACE

The 2025 Best Universities survey reflects a major churn at the top tier of private general universities. The SRM Institute of Science & Technology in Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu, emerges as the new No. 1 for the first time since the rankings began, a significant leap from its fourth rank in 2021. Symbiosis International University, Pune, which held the top spot in 2024, has dropped to second place, while Amity University, Noida, a consistent leader from 2019 to 2023, has slipped to third. CHRIST University, Bengaluru, once a frontrunner (No. 1 in 2018), continues its gradual descent, coming in fourth this year.

The Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KL University) has demonstrated strong upward momentum, jumping from ninth position in 2018 to fifth now. Banasthali Vidyapith maintains its position in the top six, while Sathyabama and JAIN Universities show consistency in the mid-tier ranks. Galgotias University has made a significant climb from 18th place in 2018 to ninth in 2025. XIM University, which was not ranked until 2020, continues its steady presence in the top 10.

The rankings in the medical category reveal a strong consistency at the top, even as new institutions have emerged over the years. AIIMS Delhi retains its unbroken streak at No. 1 from 2018 through 2025, underscoring its unmatched reputation, academic excellence and healthcare leadership. Following closely are JIPMER Puducherry and King George's Medical University, Lucknow, which have



LEAD ESSAY

also held on to the second and third positions, respectively, since their introduction in the rankings in 2019.

Between 2018 and 2025, newer AIIMS institutions have come to occupy the top rungs in the ladder. AIIMS Jodhpur thus appears in fifth place in 2025, while AIIMS Bhopal debuts at rank 6. AIIMS Rishikesh, Raipur and Patna, too, inhabit the top 10, at ranks 7, 9 and 10, respectively. The entry of specialised institutes such as NIMHANS, Bengaluru (No. 4) and the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi (No. 8) points to how medical excellence has expanded beyond general medical colleges to include research-oriented super-specialty centres.

THE TECH LANDSCAPE

When it comes to technical universities, it's no surprise that an Indian Institute of Technology rules the top. The surprise is that it's IIT Delhi that has sat firmly in the lead for five years running (2021-2025), since its rise from second place in 2018. IIT Bombay, although consistently among the top three, has slipped from No. 1 in 2018 to No. 3 this year. IIT Kanpur continues to be in second or third spot ever since it left fourth place in 2021. IIT Kharagpur, once a powerhouse that held the crown in 2018, has slipped to fourth place in 2025.

IIT Roorkee entered the top five for the first time in 2024 and is holding steady this year. Below it is IIT Guwahati, which has consistently ranked sixth since 2023 but was fourth in 2020. IIT Mandi is another institute that has shown steady improvement since its appearance in the rankings. Non-IITs are making their mark, too, with Delhi Technological University (DTU), IIIT Bangalore and BITS Pilani finding a place in the top 10 since at least 2020.

And what of the law universities? The rankings here highlight the sustained leadership of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, which has never taken leave of its numero uno status. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), Kolkata, displays the same consistency a rung below, a position it has held every year since it re-entered the rankings in 2021.

THE UNIVERSITY ECOSYSTEM

TYPE OF UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER
CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES	57
STATE UNIVERSITIES	503
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITIES	145
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES	512
TOTAL	1,217

THE EXPANDING UNIVERSE

More than 400 new universities have come up in the last decade; 54 were set up in the last one year

YEAR	NO. OF UNIVERSITIES
2015-16	799
2016-17	864
2017-18	903
2018-19	993
2019-20	1,043
2021-22	1,047
2023	1,093
2024	1,163
2025	1,217

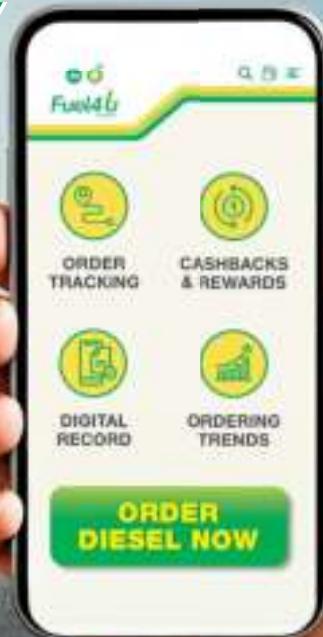
This year's survey also introduces a critical innovation: the 'Most Improved Universities' ranking. For the first time, universities have been evaluated not merely on the basis of their current standing but also by how far they have come—from 2020 to 2025—factoring in the percentage rise in their relative rankings. This innovation has brought in a new dynamism in rankings, giving a chance to those universities that may have started from a lower base but have displayed consistent upward mobility. No longer content to be peripheral players, these universities are aggressively competing on metrics that matter, from research output, faculty strength, campus development, digital innovation to industry engagement. And in doing so, they are challenging the long-standing hegemony of legacy institutions.

By readjusting the focus from pedigree to progress, the new list incentivises resilience, adaptability and long-term reform, and marks a celebration of institutional evolution. Such methodological innovations have helped the INDIA TODAY Best Universities Survey emerge, over time, as the most authoritative and trusted barometer of higher education in India. Its credibility rests on its dual assessment system, combining objective performance indicators (based on audited data, faculty quality, research output, infrastructure and placements) with perception scores (derived from surveys of faculty, students, recruiters and alumni). The survey is also particular about strict verification standards, ensuring transparency and eliminating data misrepresentation, a frequent concern in rankings.

More than anything, the survey stands apart for its nuanced rankings: separating general, technical, medical and law universities, and further distinguishing between government and private institutions. This disaggregation allows for a fairer comparison and helps students make more informed choices. In capturing not just who leads, but who's also catching up, the survey reflects both stability and churn. By combining empirical rigour with perceptive insight, and spotlighting not just excellence but evolution, the survey affirms one thing clearly: the future of Indian higher education will be shaped as much by ambition and adaptability as by reputation. ■

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HOW THE UNIVERSITIES WERE RANKED



ith 655 general, 79 medical, 192 technical and 27 law universities to choose from, the India Today Group's annual ranking of Best Universities has a special place in the country's academic calendar. It not only makes critical career decision easier for aspirants based on rich information and data, but also provides an overview of the state of university education to other stakeholders—recruiters, parents, alumni, policy makers and people at large.

INDIA TODAY's knowledge partner Marketing and Development Research Associates (MDRA), a reputed research agency, followed a rigorous methodology while doing this survey between March-July 2025. During objective ranking, MDRA has carefully attuned 125+ attributes to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparison of universities. These performance indicators were clubbed into five broad parameters—‘Reputation & Governance’, ‘Academic & Research Excellence’, ‘Infrastructure & Living Experience’, ‘Personality and Leadership Development’ and ‘Career Progression and Placement’. The ranking was done based on the latest data provided by the universities.

A list of 775-plus qualifying universities fulfilling the criteria was prepared. Postgraduate courses under four streams—general, medical, technical and law—were considered

for evaluation. Only universities offering full-time, in-classroom courses and having churned out minimum three pass-out batches by the end of 2024 qualified for ranking.

Experts with rich experience in their fields were consulted to frame the parameters and sub-parameters for respective categories of universities. Indicators were meticulously determined, and their relative weights were finalised.

A comprehensive objective questionnaire was sent to qualifying universities and also uploaded on the MDRA website. As many as 176 universities provided their data along with voluminous supporting documents within the stipulated deadline.

After receipt of the objective data from universities, a detailed scrutiny of the supporting documents was done. Data was verified by every possible means. An objective score was given to each university under the five indicators. While computing objective scores, it was ensured that aggregate data alone is not used and hence data were normalised.

A perceptual survey was carried out among well-informed 302 respondents—28 chancellors/vice-chancellors, 72 directors/deans/registrars, 202 senior faculty (professors and head of the departments)—across more than 20 cities divided into four zones.

► **North - Delhi-NCR, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh**
► **West - Mumbai, Pune,**

Ahmedabad and Indore

► **South - Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Coimbatore**
► **East - Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Patna**

National and zonal rankings were taken from them in their respective field of experience and were given 75 per cent and 25 per cent weightage, respectively. They also rated the universities on a 10-point rating scale on each of the five key parameters. The total scores arrived from the objective and perception survey were added in the ratio of 50:50 to get the total combined score.

MOST IMPROVED UNIVERSITIES

A new category called ‘Most Improved Universities’ has been added to the INDIA TODAY-MDRA Best Universities Survey 2025. It highlights universities that have made the most progress over the past five years. The ranking is based on how much a university’s position has improved in the annual rankings from 2020 to 2025, measured by percentage rise in rank. The university with the biggest jump is ranked first, followed by others in order of their improvement.

The MDRA core team led by Abhishek Agrawal (Executive Director) included Abnish Jha (Project Director), Vaibhav Gupta (Deputy Research Manager), Kamaldeep Kaur (Assistant Research Executive), Robin Singh (Assistant Research Executive) and Manveer Singh (Assistant Manager EDP). ■



EMPOWERING FUTURES WITH TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

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Amongst Top Indian applicant for filing highest number of Patents by a SIRO Including IITs in 2023-24

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Biotechnology | Agriculture Engineering

M.Tech. 19th Batch | AICTE Approved
Computer Science & Engg | Biomedical Engineering
Biotechnology | Agriculture Engineering

MANAGEMENT

BBA 30th Batch | AICTE Approved
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Global Business Management | General

MBA Plus 31st Batch | AICTE Approved
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Agri-business & Rural Entrepreneurship
Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Mgmt

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PSYCHOLOGY

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- 1 Yr.
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B.Com. LLB (Honors) | LL.B.
LL.M. (2 Yrs.) | LL.M. (1 Yr.)

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Nutrition & Dietetics | Microbiology
Biomedical Sciences | Biotechnology

M.Sc.

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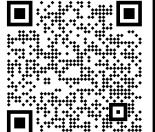
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By Shelly Anand

✓ AT THE HELM

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh with students at the university



ARUN KUMAR

FACULTY MEMBERS*
1,169

STUDENT-TEACHER*
19:1

DEPTS
86

SCHOOLS / INSTITUTES
23

RESEARCH PAPERS
5,200 (2024)

PLACEMENTS*
1,725 (2024)

* For PG programmes

TOP 10

GENERAL UNIVERSITIES (GOVERNMENT)

RANK 2025	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	RANK 2022	RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY
1	2	2	2	2	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, NEW DELHI
2	1	1	1	1	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
3	3	3	4	4	ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH
4	4	4	3	3	UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, HYDERABAD
5	5	7	7	NP	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD
6	6	9	12	12	GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
7	7	11	10	10	COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KOCHI
8	9	10	9	9	DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PUSA, SAMASTIPUR
9	8	13	13	14	BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE
10	12	16	18	15	ACHARYA NAGARJUNA UNIVERSITY, GUNTUR



FROM ITS MODEST BEGINNINGS in May 1922 through an Act of the central legislature, the University of Delhi today has evolved into a world-class institution of higher learning in India. In its inaugural year, the university comprised two faculties, Arts and Science, and offered a limited number of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes through its three founding colleges: St. Stephen's (1881), Hindu College (1899) and Ramjas College (1917). It began with eight departments: Sanskrit, History, Economics, English, Arabic, Persian, Physics and Chemistry, and the university library was established with a donation of 1,380 books, symbolising the early spirit of learning and scholarship.

Cut to 2025, and the university offers 90 undergraduate,

TOP RECRUITERS, 2024

Accenture, Deloitte, EY, McKinsey & Company, ZS Associates, ICICI Bank, KPMG, Amazon, Adobe, ITC, Mahindra, Morgan Stanley and TCS

CAMPUS CALLING

The North Campus, with its colonial-era charm, and South Campus, set amid the Aravalis, offer green, pedestrian-friendly spaces blending heritage architecture and modern living

135 postgraduate and 71 PhD programmes, along with 37 certificate and 114 diploma courses. Spanning 407 acres, it encompasses 91 colleges, 16 faculties, 86 academic departments and 23 centres, schools and institutes, boasting an enrolment of over 620,000 students. This makes it one of India's largest and most diverse public universities.

More than 11,000 students are currently enrolled in PG programmes, underscoring the institution's enduring commitment to advanced academic training, research excellence and interdisciplinary scholarship. Of a total of 109 academic departments, centres, institutes and schools, 87 are dedicated to PG and higher studies.

In alignment with the government's National Education Policy 2020, the university adopted UGCF (Undergraduate Curriculum Framework) 2022 and PGCF (Postgraduate Curriculum Framework) 2025, infusing flexibility, interdisciplinarity, Indian knowledge systems and research orientation into its curriculum.

The infrastructure is a blend of colonial-era heritage

FAMOUS ALUMNI



HARDEEP SINGH PURI

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas
MA (History), 1973



D.Y. CHANDRACHUD

Former Chief Justice of India
LLB from Faculty of Law, 1982



GITA GOPINATH

Former Deputy Managing Director of International Monetary Fund and Faculty at Harvard University
MA (Economics), 1994



Bragging Rights

DU has extended the single-girl child reservation to all PG programmes

It hosts 238+ specialised labs, advanced instrumentation centres like USIC and CIF, and facilitates hands-on exposure to funded projects through CSIR, DST, DBT and UGC

buildings and modern, state-of-the-art facilities, including a network of 34 libraries with over 1.7 million volumes and access to 30,000+ e-journals. With 20 student hostels, 568 classrooms and seminar halls equipped with audio-visual and digital learning tools and WiFi-enabled campuses integrated with the National Knowledge Network, the university has over 238 specialised laboratories that support PG and doctoral programmes across the sciences, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary domains.

In 2024, the university recorded an impressive research output, with over 5,200 publications indexed in Scopus; 10.4

per cent (540 publications) ranked within the top 10 per cent, and 1.2 per cent (62 publications) among the top 1 per cent most cited publications worldwide. In addition, the university filed four patents and recorded 1,725 campus placements. Leading recruiters included Accenture,

GUEST COLUMN



PROF. YOGESH SINGH
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Delhi

Building the Future

Over the past two years, the University of Delhi has embarked on a remarkable journey of transformation, driven by a vision to elevate its stature as a premier institution of higher education in India.

One of the most significant achievements has been the recruitment of nearly 5,000 faculty members. This faculty strengthening drives academic quality and research excellence, providing students with a stable and enriched learning environment. Complementing this is the ongoing recruitment of non-teaching staff, ensuring better administrative support and smoother functioning across the university's sprawling network of 91 colleges and around 500 academic programmes.

Infrastructure upgrades have been a priority, with an unprecedented Rs 2,000 crore investment aimed

at renovating existing facilities and constructing new buildings equipped with modern amenities such as smart classrooms, WiFi connectivity, CCTV surveillance and sustainable solar power solutions. The new East and West campuses—located near Karkardooma Court and Sector 21 metro station, Dwarka, respectively—are slated to become operational by September 2026, symbolising the university's expansion beyond its traditional North and South campuses.

Academic innovation is also at the forefront. The university has launched engineering programmes, marking its entry into technology education after decades of reliance on affiliated institutes. It has also expanded postgraduate offerings with new MA programmes in Korean and Chinese Studies, among others, reflecting a global and interdisciplinary outlook.

The implementation of the Na-

"One of the most significant achievements has been the recruitment of nearly 5,000 faculty members, besides the ongoing hiring of non-teaching staff"

tional Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has brought the introduction of four-year undergraduate programmes, enhancing academic flexibility and depth. Research output has flourished, with over 5,200 publications in 2024 and the highest H-Index among Indian universities, underlining its growing reputation as a hub of knowledge creation. The 'Institution of Eminence' status and government funding have accelerated investments in digital infrastructure and central research facilities.

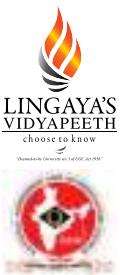
Entrepreneurship is being nurtured through a dedicated startup incubator providing seed funding, mentorship and internships, and the Vice Chancellor Internship scheme connects bright students with industry and administrative roles, bridging academia and practical experience.

Admission reforms through a centralised entrance test ensure a level playing field for applicants across diverse educational boards nationwide, fostering meritocracy and diversity with a balanced gender ratio of 53 per cent female students.

As the University of Delhi celebrates more than a century of excellence, these comprehensive reforms and investments signal a dynamic new chapter. ■

—as told to Shelly Anand

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GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)

TOP 5

MOST IMPROVED* GENERAL UNIVERSITIES (GOVERNMENT)

RANK	UNIVERSITY	CITY
1	UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW	LUCKNOW
2	ACHARYA NAGARJUNA UNIVERSITY	GUNTUR
3	GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY	AMRITSAR
4	BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY	COIMBATORE
5	DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PUSA	SAMASTIPUR

*The most improved universities are ranked based on their percentage growth in ranking over the past five years (2020–2025) in the India Today-MDRA Best Universities Ranking

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NO. OF PATENTS FILED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD	151
2	GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR	149
3	NAGALAND UNIVERSITY, LUMAMI	146
4	BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY, JHANSI	144
5	MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE ROHILKHAND UNIVERSITY, BAREILLY	138

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PG COURSES

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PG COURSES
1	ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH	148
2	ANNA MALAI UNIVERSITY, ANNAMALAINAGAR	124
3	UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, HYDERABAD	96
4	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD	95
5	GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR	79
5	UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE, MYSURU	79

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PhDs IN THE PAST 3 YRS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PhDs
1	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, NEW DELHI	2,516
2	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI	2,338
3	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD	2,238
4	MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE ROHILKHAND UNIVERSITY, BAREILLY	2,012
5	ANNA MALAI UNIVERSITY, ANNAMALAINAGAR	2,005

Deloitte, EY, McKinsey & Company, ZS Associates, ICICI Bank, KPMG, Amazon, Adobe, ITC, Mahindra, Morgan Stanley and TCS, among others. And the highest package offered to a PG student exceeded Rs 1 crore per annum.

However, the figure represents only a part of the university's PG student placement landscape. A significant proportion of students pursue non-traditional, entrepreneurial or flexible career paths that are not fully captured through conventional placement metrics. For example, many LLB and LLM graduates choose independent

NEW ELEMENTS
In 2023-24, PG offerings in Chinese, Korean and Hindu Studies, and Computer Science were launched

legal practice, judicial apprenticeships or roles in courts, typically unreported in structured placement data.

Similarly, students from disciplines such as Indian and foreign languages, music and performing arts commonly enter careers in translation, creative writing, journalism, tourism or freelance performance—sectors with rising demand but often with informal employment structures.

Over 50 per cent of outgoing PG students come from Science, Commerce, Economics and Social Sciences, many of whom are absorbed into start-ups, consultancy, NGOs and digital media. These emerging fields emphasise flexibility, innovation and personal growth, making the university a powerhouse of higher education. ■



GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)

CAMPUS NOTES



BY JYOTI MEENA

MBA in Marketing and Strategy, Third Semester, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi

The Launchpad of My Dreams

After completing my BSc (Hons) in Chemistry from Hindu College, I dedicated myself to preparing for the UPSC Civil Services Exam, reaching the interview stage in February this year. However, over time, I began to realise that while public policy fascinated me, I also wanted to experience its application from a corporate lens. That's when the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS) became my natural next step.

FMS offered everything I needed: academic excellence, flexibility, an unbeatable alumni network and, most importantly, the Delhi location, which al-

lowed me to manage my UPSC attempt alongside my course studies.

Academically, FMS keeps us on our toes. We tackle diverse courses—finance, IT, marketing, strategy—before specialising in year two. I chose marketing and strategy, and I'm also diving deep into government consulting.

We're currently required to complete a dissertation.

What I love most about the FMS and DU ecosystem is its balance: it's rigorous, yes, but not suffocating. There's space for growth beyond textbooks—through case competitions, guest lectures and cultural clubs. Outside the classroom, I'm an executive member of the Public Policy Club, the first of its kind at FMS. We host guest lectures and policy conferences, and it's rewarding to create platforms where business students explore how policy intersects with the private sector.

As I look forward to my final semester, placements and beyond, I also look back at my time at FMS. It has been more than pursuing a degree—a pivot, a platform and, most of all, a launchpad. ■

"FMS offered everything I needed: academic excellence, flexibility, an unbeatable alumni network, besides the Delhi location"

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATENTS PUBLISHED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD	145
2	GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, BILASPUR	131
3	MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE ROHLKHAND UNIVERSITY, BAREILLY	122
4	SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM (WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY), TIRUPATI	112
5	BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY, JHANSI	87

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATENTS GRANTED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS

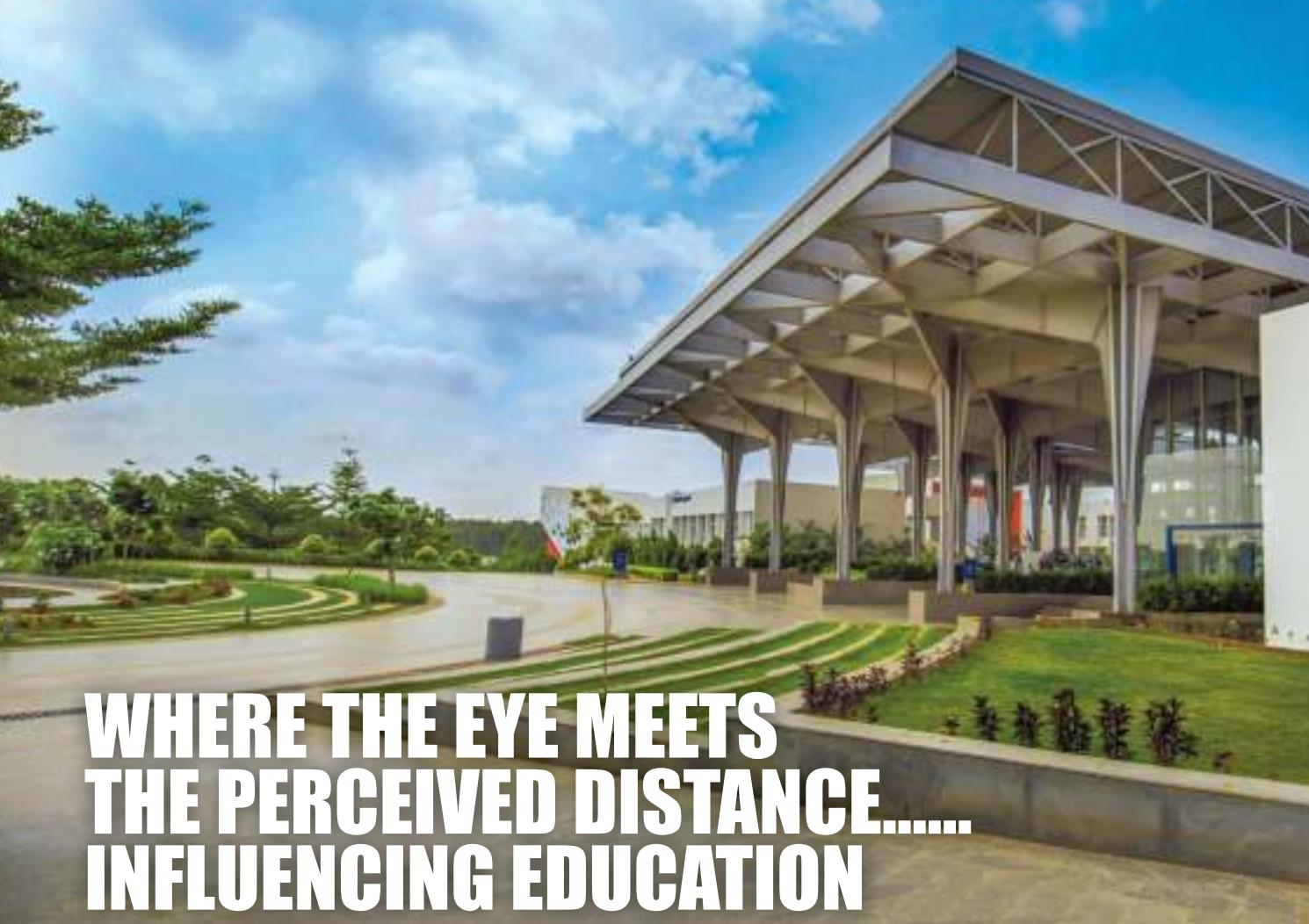
RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	NAGALAND UNIVERSITY, LUMAMI	97
2	TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE	67
3	UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD, PRAYAGRAJ	38
4	BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY, JHANSI	36
5	CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, DHARAMSHALA	34

TOP 5

GOVERNMENT UNIVERSITIES WITH THE BEST FACULTY-STUDENT RATIO

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	SRI KONDA LAXMAN TELANGANA STATE HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, SIDDIPET	0.99
2	ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, ANAND	0.92
3	TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE	0.69
4	DR. Y.S.R. HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, VENKATARAMANNAGUDEM	0.66
5	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES RAICHUR, RAICHUR	0.63

Note: Only PG student count was considered to calculate the ratio; total faculty = permanent faculty + visiting faculty + contractual/ad hoc faculty



WHERE THE EYE MEETS THE PERCEIVED DISTANCE..... INFLUENCING EDUCATION

With a campus filled with life, enthusiasm, passion for learning and an ambience that makes it a heaven for the young mind, Presidency University has been the brain child of Dr Nissar Ahmed, the Founder Chancellor of Presidency University and the Group Chairman of Presidency Group of Institutions. Located in sylvan surroundings, the green city of Bangalore, seems to be capsuled within the campus. With a rich history of education behind the Group, the campus looks forward to the latest technology and teaching methods in education. The University attracts students from all over the country and the world and has been one of the largest campuses in the city of Bangalore.

Dr Nissar Ahmed, the Founder Chancellor of Presidency University and the Group Chairman of Presidency Group of Institutions, is a leader with a vision that is clear and bright for his team. An empathetic leader, with a mind of keen insight, his inspiring courage is what has led the Group to the 50th year of its existence and the University to its Decennial year.

It is his belief that higher education has a long-term influence on a young student's personal and professional life and universities can set an experience that fulfils a student's expectations. From founding a modest school in Bengaluru in 1976 with just eight students, he built the Presidency Group of Institutions into a premier network of schools, colleges, and a university serving nearly 30,000 students.

Presidency University has a curriculum that



interests the learner and this is coupled with offerings of alternate programmes and short term courses. Research while studying is priority for students at Presidency. With a strong focus

on curriculum the university focusses on career progress for the student. Employability of students is thus emphasised on along with Academic strength and campus facilities.



The strong partnerships and connections with industries, has enabled the University to support students with their chosen fields of career. With Schools that offer specialized graduate and postgraduate programs through the schools of engineering, computer education, information science, management, commerce, liberal arts, sciences, legal studies, media, health sciences and design, the University has a structured international pathway defined for students too. The programme offered by most of the schools are regulated by the UGC, Bar Council of India, All Indian Council for Technical Education and such other bodies. Faculty are handpicked and are outstanding in their respective domains of education. To them, teaching and research along with mentoring is pivotal to their roles. Hence, individualized attention is not far beyond reach at Presidency.

Use of latest technology, trans-disciplinary and multidisciplinary learning, mentoring and assessments and an exceptional technology support at all stages; the university has been taking larger paces in higher education. Focus on sports, extra and co-curricular activities through clubs and other student-centric

activities that impart life skills, the university strives hard to ensure that people with diverse backgrounds are brought together in the campus. The overall campus experience derives its flavour from the coaches who are on the fields to train athletes and work with them in football, cricket, basketball, kabaddi to name a few specially coached sports. The gym is an attraction while the yoga park is not far beyond. Theatre to music to business clubs to various memberships and associations with NCC, NSS and the like, ensure that students have an attractive beyond academics life.

A strong alumni network has resulted in a series of valuable connections with the industry and the world beyond for internships and job opportunities. Strong leadership steers the University forward while top faculty who provide a supportive learning environment,

males learning a penchant for students. Not by command, but by his gentle nature and inspiring courage, Dr Nissar Ahmed has built the Presidency Group of institutions with an orchestration of teachers, professors, leadership and of course the family that stood by him. Having established the University, his focus has been on nurturing and developing it for a decade. With his farsighted approach towards learning, he is fully conscious of the challenges that the youth face today and the challenges that a university needs to be mindful about. As Dr Nissar Ahmed always says, " Establishing world-class university is a dream that every edupreneur must pursue and I personally feel this is a goal worth pursuing. Our focus has to be in providing education in the new and emerging frontiers of knowledge and technology has to be leveraged to its optimum capacity to build world-class universities".



GENERAL (PRIVATE)

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1985

STUDENT STRENGTH
70,000

A RISING POWERHOUSE

AN UNWAVERING FOCUS ON CAPACITY-BUILDING AND BEST PRACTICES HAVE TRANSFORMED SRM INTO A DOMINANT FORCE IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION

By Kavitha Muralidharan

TOP RECRUITERS

More than 1,700 companies including Amazon, Google, Pfizer, JP Morgan, Flipkart and Wells Fargo

ROM THE TIME IT WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 to its present status as one of India's leading multidisciplinary universi-

ties, the SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has always been defined by its ambition to fuse research, innovation and higher learning. A deemed university since 2002, today it is home to more than 70,000 students and 4,500 faculty members across six campuses, encompassing 15 million square feet of built-up space. Its global reach is equally impressive, with over 1,000 international students from 40 countries and 260 exchange students on academic visits.

The 460-acre campus at Katangalathur, 40 km from Chennai, reflects the institution's forward-looking vision. Facilities like the FabLab, the iOS Development Centre (built in collaboration with Apple and Infosys), and the iMac Lab with 240 high-performance systems create an ecosystem designed to inspire creativity and experimentation. SRMIST was ranked the 12th best university in India by the education ministry's NIRF-2024 rankings and No. 84 in the world by Times Higher Education

TOP 10

GENERAL UNIVERSITIES (PRIVATE)

RANK 2025	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	RANK 2022	RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY
1	NP	NP	NP	4	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR, CHENNAI
2	1	NP	NP	NP	SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), PUNE
3	2	1	1	1	AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA
4	4	3	2	3	CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU
5	3	2	3	6	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR
6	5	4	4	7	BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH, BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH
7	7	6	7	10	SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), CHENNAI
8	6	5	5	8	JAIN (DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU
9	9	9	11	17	GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY, GREATER NOIDA
10	8	8	8	11	XIM UNIVERSITY, BHUBANESWAR

AREA*
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DEPARTMENTS
12

CAMPUSES
4

FACULTY
4,500+

RESEARCH PAPERS*
24,387

PLACEMENT RECORD
12,925 (job offers in 2024-25)

✓ **STANDING TALL**

SRMIST vice-chancellor
Prof. C. Muthamizhchelvan
with his wards



*Kattankulathur, Chennai campus; #in past 3 years

UK in the multidisciplinary university category in 2025.

While engineering remains its core strength, with departments spanning Data Science and Business Systems to Genetic Engineering and Physics & Nanotechnology, the university also houses faculties in medicine, law, management, agriculture, pharmacy, nursing, public health, physiotherapy, and the humanities. In the past three years, the university has published 24,387 research papers in Scopus and Web of Science alone—the databases reckoned by national or international ranking agencies like NIRF, QS etc.—which together have earned over 182,000 citations.

Its Scopus h-index (a metric that measures productivity and citation impact) exceeds 173, and its average citation index stands at 9.4. The university has filed 1,120 patents, of which 485 have been granted, along with multiple

**CAMPUS
CALLING**

Spread across 460 acres, SRMIST offers a dynamic campus life. Flagship fests are Milan and Aaruush, while initiatives like Butterflies and Rendezvous build community ties.

FAMOUS ALUMNI



SIRRAM KRISHNAN
Senior Policy Advisor for AI,
White House, USA
BTech (2005)



DR NIKITA HARI
Head of Teaching and Research
Design Support Group (TDSG),
Dept of Engineering Sciences,
Univ. of Oxford, MTech (2011)



**DEEPAN
CHAKRAVARTHY**
International Chess Player,
MBA (2010)



GENERAL (PRIVATE)

copyrights, trademarks and industrial designs. High-impact research centres like the Nanotech Research Centre, REACH (focused on environment and climate change), and the SRM-DBT Life Sciences Platform drive groundbreaking studies with tangible real-world outcomes.

Eighteen centres of excellence, ranging from Electric Mobility and Translational Medicine to Social Entrepreneurship and Defence Studies, further define SRMIST's

TOP 5

MOST IMPROVED* GENERAL UNIVERSITIES (PRIVATE)

RANK	UNIVERSITY	CITY
1	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	KATTANKULATHUR, CHENNAI
2	GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY	GREATER NOIDA
3	SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)	CHENNAI
4	MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), MULLANA	AMBALA
5	GLA UNIVERSITY	MATHURA

*The Most Improved Universities are ranked based on their percentage growth in ranking over the past five years (2020-2025) in the India Today-MDRA Best Universities Ranking

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PG COURSES

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PG COURSES
1	AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA	155
2	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR, CHENNAI	152
3	SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY, MEERUT	102
4	PARUL UNIVERSITY, VADODARA	92
5	VINAYAKA MISSION'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), SALEM	88

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATENTS FILED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	JAIN (DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU	2,933
2	SANSKRITI UNIVERSITY, MATHURA	2,055
3	CHITKARA UNIVERSITY, PATIALA	2,006
4	GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY, GREATER NOIDA	1,540
5	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR	1,409

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PhDs IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PhDs
1	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR, CHENNAI	1,208
2	AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA	978
3	SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), PUNE	868
4	BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH, BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH	762
5	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR	530

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATENTS PUBLISHED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	JAIN (DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU	2,335
2	CHITKARA UNIVERSITY, PATIALA	1,288
3	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR	1,171
4	CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), BENGALURU	1,023
5	GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY, GREATER NOIDA	771



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GENERAL (PRIVATE)

research ecosystem. Over 652 funded research projects worth over Rs 286 crore have been undertaken, supported by agencies like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Science & Technology (DST) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Entrepreneurship thrives here. The Bootstrappers' Research Council, part of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, has secured Rs 3 crore in funding from DPIIT; the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) has sanctioned Rs 10 crore for medical startups. Success stories include Abinava Rizel, an electric vehicle (EV) powertrain

NEW ELEMENT
A NetZero 2050 campus with 95,000+ trees, social outreach spans 800,000 people, including 12 villages

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATENTS GRANTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	CHITKARA UNIVERSITY, PATIALA	640
2	AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, NOIDA	316
3	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR, CHENNAI	281
4	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR	275
5	SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), CHENNAI	206

GUEST COLUMN



**PROF. C.
MUTHAMIZHCHELVAN**
Vice-Chancellor, SRMIST

A Wholesome Experience

I have been associated with SRMIST since its inception as an affiliated college in 1985. Our commitment remains rooted in three pillars: academic rigour, innovation and social impact. In the past year, we have introduced programmes in cutting-edge areas like AI, robotics, digital health, quantum computing, climate science and clean energy. We also run forward-looking courses on design thinking, innovation, intellectual property rights, and entrepreneurship. Faculty training has been key. We have invested heavily in capacity-building, conducting training in-house and sending our faculty to universities here and abroad to learn best practices. While this is an ongoing process, it has already transformed the quality of teaching at SRMIST.

Our students benefit from the multidisciplinary nature of the in-

"The multidisciplinary nature of the institute helps students. They are encouraged to take courses beyond their core disciplines"

stitute. Students are encouraged to take courses beyond their core disciplines, broadening their perspectives. Campus life is equally vibrant, and we have a large number of student clubs. With 18,000 students living on campus, SRMIST offers a 24/7 immersive environment. Our sports facilities are world-class; our international-standard swimming pool gallery is named after Nethra Kumanan, a current student who became India's first woman to represent the country at the Olympics in Sailing.

Research is a cornerstone of SRMIST. Our labs are open 24/7, and we encourage both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research. We have established an Innovation Centre and an Idea Clinic, where students can post problem statements and collaborate on solutions. We classify research under five pillars: Environment, Energy, Water, Healthcare, and Disruptive Technologies. To date, SRMIST holds 485 granted patents, paving the way for technology transfers and product development.

In the past six years, around 100 startups have graduated from our incubation ecosystem. A notable example is Abinava Rizel, which designs electric motors for electric vehicles. After two years of incubation support, including space, patent filing, and funding, they recently secured Rs 200 crore in funding. One of our proudest achievements is our alumni network. Sriram Krishnan, who graduated in 2005, is now Senior Policy Advisor for Artificial Intelligence in the Trump administration. ■

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GENERAL (PRIVATE)

TOP 5

PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES WITH THE BEST FACULTY-STUDENT RATIO

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	MODY UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, SIKAR	1.37
2	WORLD UNIVERSITY OF DESIGN, SONEPAT	1.34
3	SRI SIDDHARTHA ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TUMKUR	1.33
4	VINAYAKA MISSION'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), SALEM	1.19
4	AMITY UNIVERSITY MADHYA PRADESH, GWALIOR	1.08

Note: Only PG student count was considered to calculate the ratio; Total faculty = permanent faculty + visiting faculty + contractual/ ad hoc faculty

CAMPUS NOTES

**K. NIVEDITHA**

Master's of Design (Public Spaces), Final Year, School of Architecture and Interior Design (SAID), SRMIST

Making the World Our Oyster

I completed my Bachelor's in Design with a specialisation in Interior Design here at SRMIST. The four years I spent as an undergraduate gave me such a strong foundation that I decided to do my Master's here as well. What I love is that SRM gives equal importance to academics, research and cultural activities. As an architecture student, I have access to excellent infrastructure, including the Fab Lab and its wide range of machines and tools. Working on projects there, collaborating with the lab team and bringing our ideas to life has been a game-changer.

SRM's cultural life is just as exciting. I have been part of Prachodaya, our department's architecture fest, experienced the energy of Aaruush, our flagship techno fest, and Milan, of course, our iconic cultural festival that's famous across the country.

What makes SRM truly stand out is the endless opportunities it offers. Faculty and students communicate openly and collaborate on research and innovation. In architecture, cross-disciplinary learning is vital, and I have had the chance to work with other departments on projects that encourage creativity and problem-solving. Conferences, workshops and design discussions are frequent, which keeps the academic atmosphere dynamic and idea-driven.

Sharing knowledge and learning from others has helped me grow every single day. From orientation—where seniors guide you through courses and campus life—to cultural festivals, SRM has provided me with a platform to evolve not just as a student, but as a person ready for the world. ■

"What makes SRM stand out is the endless opportunities, especially in cross-disciplinary learning, which is vital"

start-up, which raised Rs 200 crore for electric motor manufacturing; Torus Robotics with a Rs 15 crore defence contract; Paperplane, a digital hospital platform that secured \$1 million (Rs 8.7 crore); and Monkwise, an AI-driven skilling startup that has raised \$3 million (Rs 26.1 crore). In all, SRMIST has incubated over 100 startups, developed 88 prototypes, and launched 26 student- and faculty-led ventures.

Placements remain one of SRM's biggest draws. In 2024–25, students received 12,925 job offers from 1,700 recruiters, including Amazon, Google, JP Morgan and Pfizer. The highest package touched Rs 65 lakh per annum, while 202 students secured offers above Rs 20 lakh while 44 landed international roles.

Life on campus is just as vibrant beyond the classroom. Milan, one of India's largest cultural festivals, draws over 50,000 participants, while Aaruush—the signature techno-management fest—partners with DRDO and other major organisations. Its alumni network, spanning 29 countries and over 200,000 members, is another testament to its impact. Distinguished names include Sriram Krishnan, senior policy advisor for AI at the White House, and Prithviraj Thondaiman, gold medallist at the 2023 Asian Games. Equally significant is SRMIST's commitment to sustainability. With over 95,000 trees on campus, the institution has pledged to achieve NetZero in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and ranks third in India in the UI GreenMetric ranking. ■

BRAGGING RIGHTS

SRMIST got ₹3 crore from DPIIT and ₹10 crore from BIRAC-BIONEST for medical startups. 100+ startups incubated

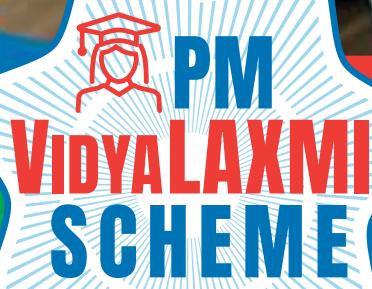
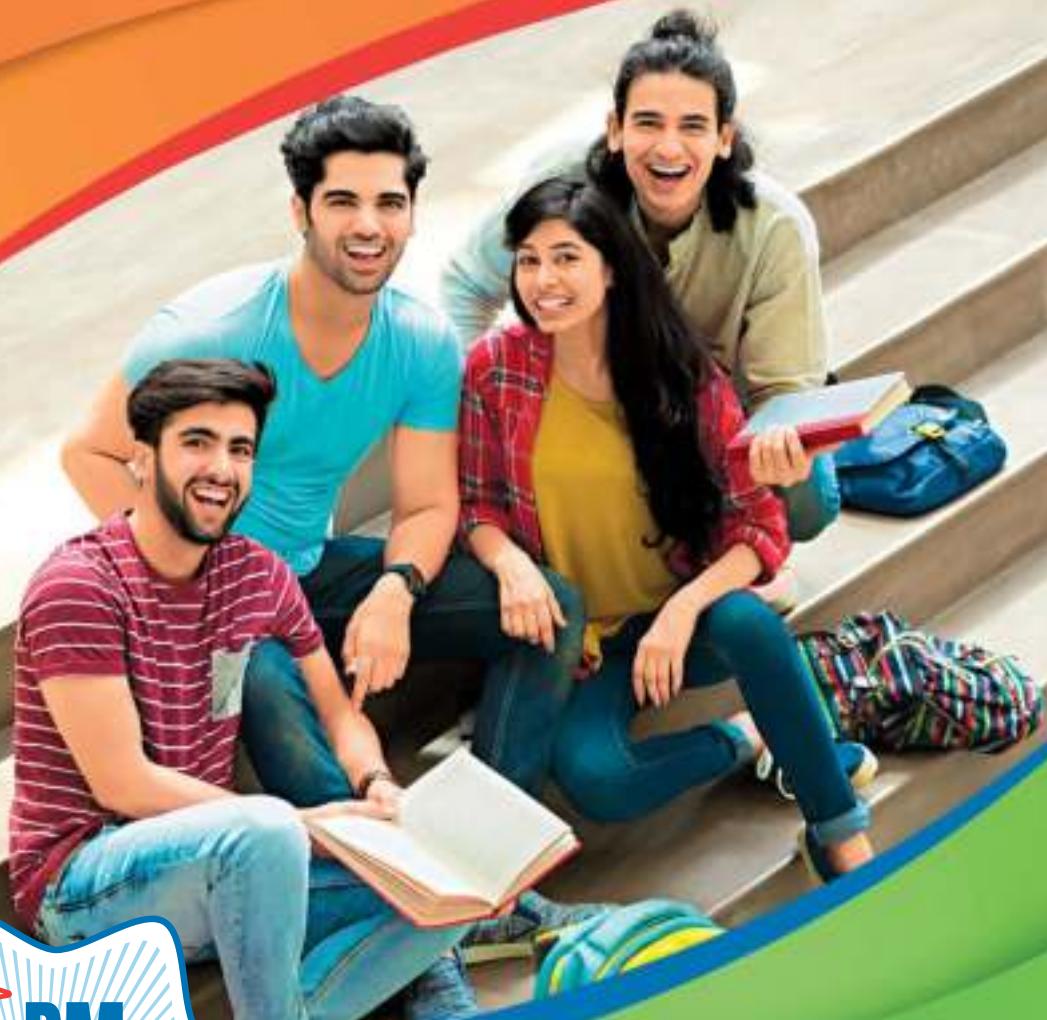


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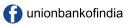
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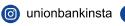
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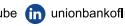
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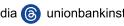
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MEDICAL

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1956

STUDENT STRENGTH
2,233 (PG Courses)

▼ NEW SHOW

Students get a live demo at a lab in AIIMS, Delhi



CHANDRADEEP KUMAR

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AIIMS CONTINUES AS THE TOP CHOICE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS NOT ONLY FOR ITS CUTTING-EDGE FACILITIES, SUPERB FACULTY AND EXPOSURE TO VAST PATIENT INFLOW, BUT ALSO FOR ITS EAGER EMBRACE OF LATEST TECH LIKE AI

By Sonali Acharjee

**AREA
213 ACRES**

**DEPARTMENTS/ CENTRES
43**

**FACULTY
825**

**RESEARCH PAPERS
3,584 (2024)**

**PLACEMENT RECORD
100 (per cent)**

THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), was conceived as an institution of excellence that embodied the hopes of a new India, and it has stayed true to that vision. Established in 1956 as an institution of national importance, it was envisioned by then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and spearheaded by Union health minister Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. Over the decades, AIIMS Delhi has emerged as India's premier medical institution, renowned for its cutting-edge research, high patient turnover, and specialised treatment facilities.

While an MBBS degree from here is much coveted, a PG degree is no less sought after. Postgraduate education at AIIMS Delhi is widely regarded as the pinnacle of medical training in India, offering an unmatched blend of academic excellence, clinical exposure and research opportunities.

The institute attracts the country's

TOP RECRUITERS
Government hospitals, AIIMS Delhi, biotech firms like Biocon, Bharat Biotech; research fellowships from WHO, ICMR

FAMOUS ALUMNI



DR RANDEEP GULERIA

Former Director, AIIMS, Delhi
MBBS 1979; MD (Medicine) and DM (Pulmonary Medicine)



DR SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

Former Chief Scientist, WHO; **MBBS 1978**



DR DEEPAK CHOPRA

Author
MBBS 1969

TOP 10

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

RANK 2025	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	RANK 2022	RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY
1	1	1	1	1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), NEW DELHI
2	2	2	2	2	JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (JIPMER), PUDUCHERRY
3	3	3	3	3	KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW
4	4	4	4	4	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES (NIMHANS), BENGALURU
5	5	5	6	6	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), JODHPUR
6	NP	NP	NP	NP	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHOPAL
7	6	8	NP	NP	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), RISHIKESH
8	8	9	8	9	INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES, NEW DELHI
9	7	NP	NP	NP	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), RAIPUR
10	9	10	NP	NP	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), PATNA

brightest minds through the highly competitive bi-annual INI-CET exam for admission to the MD/ MS/ DM/ MCh courses. It is taken by 50,000 MBBS and 25,000 dental graduates annually, yet less than one per cent secure a seat. Spread over a large, green campus in South Delhi's Ansari Nagar, the institute offers world-class facilities that promote both professional and personal growth.

Students say the highlight of PG education here is the faculty. They guide residents through complex clinical cases, research methodology, biostatistics and critical thinking. With a focus on both teaching and innovation, AIIMS faculty members are not just instructors, they are role models who shape the future of Indian and global healthcare.

In 2024 itself, the AIIMS faculty had

CAMPUS CALLING

Students organise Pulse, Asia's largest medical student fest, hosting cultural nights, sports, quizzes and concerts. The self-contained campus fosters student camaraderie through late-night study sessions, sports matches and hangout spots at cafes and lawns



MEDICAL

TOP 5

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF SUPER SPECIALTY STUDENTS GRADUATING IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	TOTAL NUMBER
1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), NEW DELHI	579
2	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES (NIMHANS), BENGALURU	200
3	JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH, MYSURU	193
4	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), RISHIKESH	166
5	KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW	144

many achievements to their credit. This year, Dr Neerja Bhatla, head of Gynae Oncology, was honoured with the Padma Shri this year for her pioneering work in cervical cancer prevention. Under Dr Deepak Agrawal's leadership, AIIMS became the first in India to employ Gamma Knife radiosurgery for treating retinoblastoma (cancer in the retina) in children. Dr Ashok Kumar Mahapatra led a groundbreaking multi-hour separation of conjoined craniopagus twins (joined at the head) at AIIMS Delhi, earning national acclaim. Dr Prasun Chatterjee was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (December 2024) and serves on the WHO Technical Advisory Group for Healthy Ageing.

Another big plus point of AIIMS Delhi is its vast and diverse patient inflow from across India, providing PG students with unparalleled exposure to rare and complex cases. This strengthens clinical skills and diagnostic acumen. AIIMS operates one of the busiest trauma centres in Asia, which means students learn how to cope with emergencies and high stress cases from day one itself.

There is also the central library, one of the best in Asia, which offers access to thousands of medical journals, e-resources and research databases. Dedicated reading zones and 24/7 digital access are available for PG students. Most

BRAGGING RIGHTS

With more than 35 recipients, it has the maximum number of Padma awardees in Indian medicine

TOP 5

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES WHERE STUDENTS (MS/ MD) ATTEND HIGHEST NUMBER OF OPD PATIENTS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS
1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), PATNA	13,665
2	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES (NIMHANS), BENGALURU	13,251
3	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHOPAL	10,816
4	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), NEW DELHI	9,375
5	KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, LUCKNOW	8,596

Average number of patients attended by a final-year student (MS/ MD) with the help of senior doctors in various OPDs (in one year)

TOP 5

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH LOWEST TUITION FEES (MS/ MD)

RANK	UNIVERSITY	TUITION FEES (ENTIRE COURSE)
1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), NEW DELHI	₹702
1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHOPAL	₹702
1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), RAIPUR	₹702
4	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), JODHPUR	₹1,667
5	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), PATNA	₹3,027

importantly, PG students are encouraged to engage in original research, supported by the AIIMS research cell, ethics committees and institutional funding, and aided by the latest medical equipment. Dedicated laboratories for pathology, molecular biology, genetics and radiology support such work. Moreover, AIIMS has collaborations

FACULTY COLUMN



DR M. SRINIVAS
Director, AIIMS Delhi

The Pinnacle Is Not Enough

The founding mission of AIIMS Delhi included achieving self-reliance in advanced medical education. Education and research are conducted across nearly 100 disciplines. In 2024 alone, the institute managed 906 extramural research projects funded by national and international organisations and supported 269 intramural research initiatives, with a cumulative grant value exceeding Rs 208 crore. AIIMS Delhi students receive exposure to a diverse array of clinical cases and cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic technologies. Responding to evolving healthcare needs, AIIMS has introduced new academic programmes—including a DM in Psychosomatic Medicine under the Department of Psychiatry.

The institute places strong emphasis on student well-being. The Department of Psychiatry operates an on-campus wellness centre for students. Recently, an intramural research funding scheme specifically designed to empower postgraduate researchers, was launched.

"AIIMS Delhi is making strides in applying AI in areas like oncology, medical imaging, ophthalmology and dermatology"

Key developments and initiatives at AIIMS Delhi include the K.L. Wig Centre for Medical Education, Technology & Innovation (CMETI) that hosted multiple capacity-building programmes for faculty and students, and Robotic Surgery Training Facility (MeHNAT), a high-tech training initiative leveraging Medtronic Hugo robotic systems to equip residents and faculty with advanced surgical skills via the SET (Skills, E-learning, Telemedicine) Facility. The SET Facility is the backbone of the National Medical College Network under the Union ministry of health. It supports e-Education and national telehealth efforts by linking medical colleges across India. A wide range of digital learning tools are accessible to students too. Finally, AIIMS Delhi is making notable strides in applying Artificial Intelligence to domains like oncology, medical imaging, ophthalmology and dermatology. It has been designated as a Centre of Excellence for AI/ML by the Union ministries of health and education. ■



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CAMPUS NOTES


DR ARADHANA SARMA
Junior Resident,
Dept of Biochemistry

The Art of Medicine

Stepping upon the lush expanse of AIIMS Delhi feels transformative, and I consider myself privileged to live and learn within India's most prestigious medical campus. During the week, I find myself immersed in the weekly Journal Club, guest lectures and interactive sessions where faculty and students engage freely in critical discussions. My academic

duties include leading case-based discussions, problem-based learning sessions and practicals for MBBS students. These are designed to embed basic biochemical ideas in patient-centred settings, allowing future physicians to relate textbook learning with real-life clinical scenarios.

Perhaps the most intriguing portion is thesis work. Our substantial MD projects are driven by complex approaches and continuous trial and error. AIIMS supports this deeply: labs and equipment are accessible 24x7, enabling flexible work schedules.

AIIMS can be considered a microcosm of India. Residents bring with them vibrant languages, cuisines, traditions and perspectives. Festivals like Diwali, Onam, Bihu, Baisakhi, Ganesh Chaturthi and Lohri are celebrated together, and language disparities serve as

natural bridges for friendships.

Of course, life here is intense. AIIMS receives a massive intake of patients, offering unparalleled clinical exposure. Residents use a variety of stress-relieving practices. Some go to the gym or swimming pool, while many, myself in-

"AIIMS is a microcosm of India. Residents bring vibrant languages, cuisines and traditions. We all celebrate festivals like Onam, Bihu and Diwali"

cluded, take late-night walks. For me, a week at AIIMS is an amalgam of intense academics, research opportunities, teaching and moments of community. Here, ambition finds direction and medical education is elevated to an art. ■

TOP 5

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH BEST FACULTY STUDENT RATIO

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES, NEW DELHI	2.73
2	NITTE (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), MANGALURU	2.12
3	JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH, MYSURU	1.79
4	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES (NIMHANS), BENGALURU	1.77
5	D.Y. PATIL EDUCATION SOCIETY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), KOLHAPUR	1.26

Note: MS/MD student count was considered to calculate the ratio
Total faculty = permanent faculty + visiting faculty + contractual/ ad hoc faculty

UNIQUE ELEMENT
AIIMS Delhi sees over 3.5 million outpatient visits annually; over 10,000 patients visit the OPDs daily

with global institutes like the Harvard Medical School and the World Health Organization, enabling exchange programmes and joint research initiatives. The research results speak volumes. Last year, a team of PG researchers—Trapti Shrivastava, Harshal Chaudhari and Vrijendra Singh—developed a machine learning model for early autism detection.

Recently, AIIMS, in collaboration with IIT Delhi, has established a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for AI in healthcare, proving that it is constantly upgrading, innovating and spearheading excellence in health research.

Career prospects after PG at AIIMS Delhi are exceptional. Graduates are sought after for senior residencies, teaching posts and fellowships abroad, and leadership roles in government and private healthcare. Being a PG student at AIIMS Delhi is more than pursuing a degree, it is a transformative experience that equips doctors with the skills and confidence to lead in healthcare. ■

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AS IIT DELHI REVAMPS ITS CURRICULUM, LABS AND VISION, IT GEARS UP TO LEAD THE NEXT WAVE OF TECH REVOLUTION

By Shelly Anand

**PREAD ACROSS 373 ACRES IN THE HEART OF INDIA'S CAPITAL**

IIT Delhi stands as one of the country's 23 premier institutions for training, research and development in science, engineering and technology. Established in 1961 and declared an 'Institution of National Importance' under the Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Act, 1963, it earned the coveted tag of 'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) in 2018.

Over the decades, IIT Delhi has steadily built a reputation for academic excellence and cutting-edge research. In the latest QS World University Rankings by Subject (2025), it climbed to 26th place globally in engineering & technology—up from 45th last year—making it the highest-ranked Indian institution in this category.

With 16 departments, 11 centres and six interdisciplinary schools, IIT Delhi currently serves around 10,761 undergraduate and postgraduate students, offering a wide spectrum of programmes, from BTech and MTech to MBA, Master of Public Policy, MSc and MA. Since its inception, more than 63,000 students have graduated, including over 7,500 with a PhD.

Research and innovation are central to the institute's mission. Faculty and students are actively involved in projects across domains—from fundamental science to applied technology. The Research and Innovation Park, inaugurated in 2022, exemplifies this approach. It fosters collaboration between academia, industry



CHANDRADEEP KUMAR

► **TECH FRONTIER**
Students working in the
NRF Lab at IIT Delhi

FAMOUS ALUMNI

GURTEJ SANDHU
Principal Fellow & CVP,
Micron Technology
MTech (Electrical), 1985



KIRAN BEDI
Former Lieutenant Governor
of Puducherry
PhD (Social Sciences), 1993



PRABU RAJA
President, Semiconductor
Products Group
PhD (Plasma Physics), 1991

STUDENT STRENGTH
2,319 (PG)

FACULTY
659 (PG)

DEPTS
16

SCHOOLS / CENTRES
17



TOP 10

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES

RANK 2025	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	RANK 2022	RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY
1	1	1	1	1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
2	2	2	2	4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR
3	3	3	3	3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, MUMBAI
4	4	4	4	2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR
5	5	NP	NP	NP	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE
6	6	5	5	5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
7	7	6	6	7	DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI
8	8	7	7	6	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI
9	9	8	8	8	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BANGALORE, BENGALURU
10	10	9	9	9	BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

CAMPUS CALLING
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GUEST COLUMN

PROF. RANGAN BANERJEE
Director, IIT Delhi

A Curriculum for Gen Next

and government to translate research into real-world applications and market-ready solutions.

The institute recently undertook a comprehensive curriculum revamp across all levels—undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral. Effective from the 2025–26 academic year, the new curriculum reflects themes such as flexibility, hands-on learning, sustainability, ethical reasoning and technological foresight, including AI and machine learning. For MTech and MS (Research) students, the structure is now more outcome-oriented, with greater industry engagement and the option to undertake master's theses within industry settings.

A PhD conversion option has also been built in for postgraduate students, while undergraduate students can now seamlessly transition into an MTech programme after three years, making them eligible for a five-year dual degree. Doctoral training has similarly been formalised, with a focus on producing independent, ethically grounded researchers.

Meanwhile, the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences has launched a new MSc programme with a strong emphasis on quantitative biology

This has been an eventful year. After nearly 12–13 years, we have completely revamped our curriculum. The changes are centred on flexibility, hands-on learning and preparing students for interdisciplinary careers. Every student—whether in undergraduate, master's or doctoral programmes—will now engage with concepts in Artificial Intelligence and sustainability, essential for any future career.

At the master's level, students will now take part in a capstone project, fostering teamwork and real-world problem-solving. There is also an increased focus on communication, internships with industry and a recalibrated credit structure to enhance academic depth. PhD programmes have similarly evolved. While depth in re-

“Every student—whether in UG, PG or PhD—will now engage with concepts in AI and sustainability, essential for any future career”

search remains central, the structure now includes elements of breadth—ranging from teaching practicum to research communication. Our goal is to ensure that doctoral candidates are not only strong researchers but are also prepared for academic or industry roles.

Recognising the fast-changing nature of work, IIT Delhi has deepened its ties with industry over the past year. This includes the launch of a Hyundai research centre—one of the company's few facilities outside Korea—which also involves IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. It will function as a national research centre, focused on areas relevant to industry. Entrepreneurship, especially among master's and doctoral students, is being actively promoted. If students—across UG and PG levels—come up with a strong idea, we support them to turn it into a startup.

Student well-being remains a core concern, especially in high-pressure academic environments. IIT Delhi has scaled up its mental health infrastructure significantly in the last year. This includes 24x7 counsellor access, online support tools and a more robust academic support system. ■

—as told to Shelly Anand

TOP 5

FIVE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH BEST VALUE FOR MONEY

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RoI
1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE	96.5
2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR	73.5
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI	72.8
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR*	60.6
5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR	38.6

Note: RoI or return on investment is calculated based on average annual salary (MTech)/tuition fees (MTech entire duration)

*For IIT Kharagpur, current publicly available data used



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TECHNICAL

TOP 5

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH BEST FACULTY STUDENT RATIO

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT, JAIPUR	9.53
2	VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), GUNTUR	7.88
3	JSS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY, MYSURU	3.42
4	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY UTTARAKHAND, SRINAGAR, PAURI GARHWAL	1.85
5	NOORUL ISLAM CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, KANYAKUMARI	1.76

Note: MTech student count was considered to calculate the ratio

TOP 5

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PhDs IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR*	1,280
2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, MUMBAI*	1,270
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI	1,143
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE	976
5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI	778

Note: For IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur, current publicly available data

TOP 5

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NO. OF PATENTS FILED IN THE PAST 3 YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT, JAIPUR	768
2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, MUMBAI*	534
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR*	383
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR	367
5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI	331

Note: For IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur, current publicly available data used

and “learning by doing”, addressing a critical skills gap in data-driven life sciences. IIT Delhi recently inaugurated a cutting-edge MRI research facility under its IoE initiative.

Housing a 1.5 Tesla clinical-grade MRI scanner, it is India’s first such standalone facility within an engineering campus—free from hospital constraints and designed to spark innovation in medical imaging.

“The institute is also part of the National Quantum Mission, anchoring a new hub on quantum materials and devices,” says IIT Delhi director Prof. Rangan Banerjee. “Notably, its collaboration with DRDO has resulted in a joint technology centre where several products and prototypes developed by researchers are now being transferred to industry.”

Looking ahead, the institute is laying the foundation for its next chapter through a strategic roadmap titled ‘IIT Delhi 2035’. “Every department is being reviewed as part of an external academic audit led by global experts, and the long-term vision will be finalised by next year,” a spokesperson reveals. Alongside academic restructuring, the institute is preparing for a major overhaul of its physical infrastructure—demolishing and rebuilding parts of the campus to meet modern needs. ■

BRAGGING RIGHTS

IIT Delhi and LG Electronics have joined hands to advance research and innovation in sustainable home appliance technologies

CAMPUS NOTES



BY JUWAYRIA
PhD scholar

From Lab Life to Life Lessons

IT Delhi is my home away from home. The postgraduate experience here is like no other; there is a culture and community that rewards the practice of excellence. This, in my opinion, is the primary purpose of any education.

The avenues and exposure that IIT Delhi offers are unparalleled. From hands-on work in world-class labs to collaboration with the most productive labs across the globe, the research environment helps students thrive in their respective fields.

"In every walk of life, IIT Delhi continues to reward focused effort, which is the most important lesson a student can take away from an institute"

Apart from the department-wise labs, the institute boasts three campus-wide facilities: the Central Research Facility (CRF), with 90+ working facilities and 8,500+ users; the Nanoscale Research Facility (NRF), with several state-of-the-art fabrication/thin film deposition instruments and characterisation laboratories; and the Makerspace, the one-stop shop for prototyping and end-to-end product development.

IIT Delhi actively encourages participation in domestic and international conferences through schemes like RETA (Research Excellence Travel Award) and RSTA (Research Scholar Travel Award), where students are given a Rs 2 lakh grant. I attended two such conferences in the UK and Italy.

The ribbon that ties the entire experience together is the personal and overall growth of students on campus. In my time here, I reconnected with my passion for basketball after a three-year hiatus, received the Best Speaker Award at the institute-level debate competition, participated in classical dance classes. There is a strong culture of sports; we even have our own Formula team. ■

TOP 5

TECH UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NO. OF PATENTS PUBLISHED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, MUMBAI*	591
2	UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT, JAIPUR	573
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI	358
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE	295
5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR	293

Note: For IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur, current publicly available data used

TOP 5

TECH UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NO. OF PATENTS GRANTED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, MUMBAI*	572
2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI	482
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR	463
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE	296
5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR*	294

Note: For IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur, current publicly available data used

TOP 5

TECH UNIVERSITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NO. OF PATENTS LICENSED IN THE PAST THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NO. OF PATENTS
1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PATNA	33
2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI	31
3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR	22
4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE	14
5	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HYDERABAD	5

Note: For IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur current publicly available data used

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LAW

NO. 1 NLSIU,
Bengaluru

ESTABLISHED IN
1986

STUDENT STRENGTH
1,734

AREA
23 ACRES



EXCELLENT LEGAL GROUNDS

A MIX OF PEOPLE AND INFRASTRUCTURE HELP THE NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY, BENGALURU REMAIN A LEADER OF LEGAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

By Ajay Sukumaran



N INFRASTRUCTURAL RE-VAMP IS UNDERWAY AT THE NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU)

to complement the academic expansion of the past few years during which it increased student intake. The number of students overall has increased from 550 in 2019 to 1,734 currently.

Now, two academic blocks on the 23-acre campus in Bengaluru will get an upgrade, while the university also plans to develop an adjoining 7 acre-parcel the Karnataka government granted it recently. The law school plans to spend Rs 100 crore towards the redevelopment of the two academic blocks over the next two years.

"What we are going through this year and which will be much more intense in the next two years is a comprehensive redevelopment of the campus," says

DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOLS
13 CENTRES

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AROUND 150**

**RESEARCH PAPERS
107 (2024)**



GOLD STANDARD
The National Law School of India
University, Bengaluru

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Linklaters, Herbert
Smith Freehills, MUFG,
Allen & Overy, Cyril
Amarchand Mangaldas,
Shardul Amarchand
Mangaldas, AZB &
Partners

PLACEMENTS

NLSIU does not
share figures. 50-60
percent students join
corporate law firms; 20-
30 percent do litigation;
others academia or
clerkships

TOP 5

LAW UNIVERSITIES

RANK 2025	RANK 2024	RANK 2023	RANK 2022	RANK 2021	UNIVERSITY
1	1	1	1	1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU
2	2	2	2	2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), KOLKATA
3	4	4	3	3	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY (NLIU) BHOPAL
4	3	3	4	4	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), GANDHINAGAR
5	5	5	5	5	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (RMLNLU), LUCKNOW



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GUEST COLUMN



PROF DR SUDHIR KRISHNASWAMY
Vice-Chancellor

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Sudhir Krishnaswamy, who believes that the ‘mix of people and infrastructure’ is what allows NLSIU to remain India’s top law university. “When we put together this mix of people and infrastructure, we back it up with teaching and learning practices that are among the most rigorous in the university space,” adds Prof. Krishnaswamy.

On the academic front, NLSIU marked a milestone in May 2025 with the graduation of the first batch of students from the three-year LLB course started in 2022. This batch also included a Rhodes Scholar, Vibha Swaminathan, who was one of the five recipients in India of the prestigious scholarship for the year 2025.

Another milestone pertains to the interdisciplinary Master’s in Public Policy (MPP) programme, which has completed a decade since its introduction in 2014. “The programme has been a significant step in NLSIU’s evolution toward a multidisciplinary university, because it has formed the basis for recruitment of faculty members in policy studies and social sciences,” noted the report of NLSIU’s School Review Commission for 2023-24, which has suggested further hiring for the programme. So far, the MPP

Elevating Our Higher Education

Over the past three years, NLSIU has transformed its PhD programmes. First, we reshaped the PhD (Law), PhD (Public Policy) and PhD (Interdisciplinary) around four core disciplines—Law, Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy. The PhD’s realignment along these lines will increase its rigour and improve professional opportunities for students. In 2025, we received nearly 70 per cent more PhD applications than in 2024, and made offers to

professionals in the field. The revised programme will ensure that students get a lot of exposure to the world of public policy through a more intensive internship process, a client-led project, as well as the option of a client-focused capstone project in the final year of the programme. In the past two years, we have improved our student intake with the help of a rigorous admission process, and enhanced opportunities for graduates through a revamped placement process.

In 2025, NLS will launch a

“We recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Master’s in Public Policy programme, designed to be globally competitive...”

students from different disciplines, including a historian, an economist, a sociologist and a lawyer.

Second, we introduced doctoral fellowships in 2025 for all selected full-time PhD scholars at NLSIU. These fellowships start at Rs 50,000 per month in the first year and include annual increments for the period of study. The fellowship stipend is higher than that received at many universities in India.

In 2024, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Master’s Programme in Public Policy (MPP). We undertook a curriculum review process with academics, the government, civil society and profes-

research fellowships programme. These fellowships will create the opportunity for the best research scholars in India and abroad to spend from six months to two years at the university, engaged in high quality research projects. These researchers will tackle the five grand challenges identified by the university—Labour and Work; Climate Justice; State Capacity and Reform; Law, Technology and Society; and Access to Justice and Legal System Reform—and other issues of urgent public concern. We will also invite applications to at least 15 research fellowship positions this July. ■

—as told to Ajay Sukumaran

CAMPUS CALLING

Strawberry Fields, the music festival, is a well-known annual event. Other activities include the inter-collegiate cultural fest LeGala and the annual theatre festival ADMIT ONE



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Gandhinagar, Gujarat, INDIA

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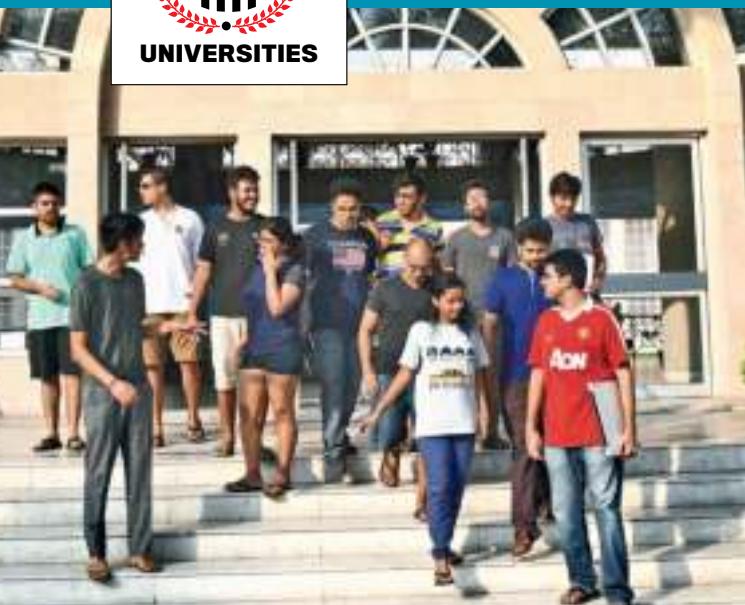
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- PDEU's semiconductor skilling model is a scalable blueprint for national ATMP and OSAT workforce readiness.



Knowledge Corridor, Raisan,
Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382426.



LAW



STILL LEADING

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences

BRAGGING RIGHTS

NLSIU is setting up a University Press that will publish monographs, textbooks, readers and new dissertations across Law, Social Sciences, Humanities and Public Policy

TOP 5

UNIVERSITIES WITH BEST FACULTY STUDENT RATIO

RANK	UNIVERSITY	RATIO
1	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLNU), CUTTACK	1.75
2	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU	1.34
3	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), GANDHINAGAR	1.34
4	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), KOLKATA	0.78
5	DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (DSNLU), VISAKHAPATNAM	0.76

Note: Only LLM student count was taken to calculate the ratio

TOP 5

UNIVERSITIES OFFERING HIGHEST PhDs IN PAST 3 YEARS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (RMLNLU), LUCKNOW	33
2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), KOLKATA	27
3	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), GANDHINAGAR	21
4	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU	17
5	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLNU), CUTTACK	12

FAMOUS ALUMNI



JUSTICE ANANDA BHATTACHARYA
Former judge, Supreme Court of Nepal
LLM 1996, PhD (2000)



K. VIJAY KUMAR
Former Tamil Nadu IPS Officer
Master's in Business Law (2010)



JAYSHREE MISRA TRIPATHI
Writer and Poet
Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights Law (2001)

TOP 5

UNIVERSITIES WITH LOWEST TUITION FEES

RANK	UNIVERSITY	TUITION FEES
1	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (RMLNLU), LUCKNOW	₹45,000
2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), KOLKATA	₹80,000
3	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), GANDHINAGAR	₹1,20,000
4	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLNU), CUTTACK	₹1,56,890
5	CHANAKYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (CNLU), PATNA	₹1,66,000

Note: For LLM course. LLM in law universities are of one year only

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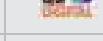
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CAMPUS NOTES

OMYA JOSHI
Postgraduate Law student doing a Master's in Public Policy

A New Window to the World

What attracted me to the NLSIU MPP programme, alongside the fact that it is one of the oldest in the country, were the professors. They have truly been the biggest highlight of the programme for me. Not only are they highly accomplished; a lot of them are policy practitioners and activists. This has really enhanced the learning experience for me as it allows for a deeper interrogation of theories that we learn in class, and an active engagement with real problems persistent in the world today.

Oftentimes, the faculty will be working on interesting projects that you can become part of. I have approached a few myself and worked with them. Along with this, the mandatory rural immersion internship was an important part of the programme for me, as it allowed me to really engage with realities of development on ground.

"The mandatory rural immersion programme allowed me to engage with realities of development on the ground..."

on assignments in the library and long debates at the dinner table with my classmates on something in the news. The cohort of students in the programme is intentionally very diverse, which has allowed me to approach policy from various viewpoints I would have never considered.

Another great thing about NLSIU is that there is always an interesting conference or guest lecture happening where scholars at the forefront of their fields come and interact with students.

Apart from academics, while Master's students often don't get enough time to engage in student events on campus, I did get to participate in the Uni Week singing competition and other events with my batchmates. It was a great experience sharing those moments with them. ■

TOP 5

UNIVERSITIES WITH MAXIMUM VICTORIES IN INTER-UNIVERSITY MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS

RANK	UNIVERSITY	COMPETITIONS WON
1	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (RMLNLU), LUCKNOW	18
2	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), BENGALURU	10
3	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), GANDHINAGAR	9
4	DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (DSNLU), VISAKHAPATNAM	5
5	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), KOLKATA	3

Note: For AY 2023-24

has yielded about 500 alumni.

In the current academic year, the university plans to strengthen its research initiatives with a new programme offering fellowships of varying duration and scope to researchers with different levels of academic and professional experience. According to NLSIU, the goal is to stimulate the creation of original knowledge in law, social sciences, public policy and connected disciplines, and to nurture a robust research community. ■



THE COMPLETE RESULTS

GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
			208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↑ 1	2	UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, New Delhi	166.5	174.4	139.9	117.6	190.3	788.7	991.4	1,780.1
↓ 2	1	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, New Delhi	168.8	172.7	145.5	121.2	169.8	778.0	993.5	1,771.5
↔ 3	3	ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, Aligarh	162.0	172.6	144.3	76.3	155.0	710.2	952.9	1,663.1
↔ 4	4	UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, Hyderabad	160.5	151.9	147.4	117.2	119.8	696.8	948.4	1,645.2
↔ 5	5	OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, Hyderabad	163.0	144.7	115.9	85.4	151.6	660.6	961.3	1,621.9
↔ 6	6	GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY, New Delhi	157.7	150.4	116.1	100.4	148.8	673.4	922.6	1,596.0
↔ 7	7	COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, Kochi	161.5	172.7	117.8	89.9	165.5	707.4	851.3	1,558.7
↑ 8	9	DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, PUSA, Samastipur	139.0	174.8	134.9	101.8	122.1	672.6	862.2	1,534.8
↓ 9	8	BHARATHIAR UNIVERSITY, Coimbatore	167.7	149.4	136.0	97.7	98.2	649.0	884.1	1,533.1
↑ 10	12	ACHARYA NAGARJUNA UNIVERSITY, Guntur	157.7	161.1	117.0	107.2	123.6	666.6	840.3	1,506.9
↑ 11	14	UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW, Lucknow	162.9	149.2	111.8	64.2	155.1	643.2	855.9	1,499.1
↓ 12	11	GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, Amritsar	155.0	145.2	111.2	93.5	103.4	608.3	890.6	1,498.9
↓ 13	10	ANNA MALAI UNIVERSITY, Annamalainagar	161.1	161.9	115.4	72.2	106.7	617.3	879.5	1,496.8
↑ 14	15	UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD, Prayagraj	153.6	152.0	127.3	92.9	140.6	666.4	828.3	1,494.7
↓ 15	13	THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN, Burdwan	153.7	155.2	124.8	67.0	146.1	646.8	836.8	1,483.6
↔ 16	16	UNIVERSITY OF KERALA, Thiruvananthapuram	182.5	170.8	141.4	98.2	119.7	712.6	744.8	1,457.4
↑ 17	18	CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, Meerut	158.1	134.7	117.8	99.2	100.8	610.6	840.8	1,451.4
↓ 18	17	MANGALORE UNIVERSITY, Mangaluru	130.0	162.5	138.8	113.6	93.9	638.8	800.5	1,439.3
↔ 19	19	UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE, Mysuru	150.7	150.2	118.1	90.4	152.8	662.2	774.7	1,436.9
↔ 20	20	UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT, Malappuram	169.0	159.4	110.1	69.1	88.2	595.8	837.0	1,432.8
↑ 21	22	GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA, Bilaspur	165.3	161.6	121.3	92.4	109.6	650.2	658.8	1,309.0
↑ 22	23	GOA UNIVERSITY, Panjim	129.7	124.4	97.9	71.8	125.5	549.3	720.8	1,270.1
↑ 23	25	TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Coimbatore	147.4	195.7	132.7	99.7	135.4	710.9	540.7	1,251.6
↔ 24	24	CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY, New Delhi	141.4	101.9	93.1	53.9	78.7	469.0	777.1	1,246.1
↑ 25	26	MIZORAM UNIVERSITY, Aizawl	147.5	152.0	109.6	57.0	97.8	563.9	589.8	1,153.7
↑ 26	27	CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB, Bathinda	142.1	122.3	78.7	56.1	67.9	467.1	674.5	1,141.6
↑ 27	28	KUMAUN UNIVERSITY, Nainital	133.7	141.6	128.2	62.1	74.5	540.1	591.1	1,131.2
↑ 28	30	VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY, Midnapore	120.0	140.8	99.8	60.5	139.1	560.2	443.4	1,003.6
↔ 29	29	CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, Dharamshala	137.3	127.2	107.8	69.5	83.0	524.8	472.0	996.8
↑ 30	31	JUNAGADH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Junagadh	125.4	157.2	131.5	92.9	142.0	649.0	333.0	982.0
-	31	ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Anand	142.2	156.7	131.8	74.6	110.2	615.5	284.4	899.9
↔ 32	32	DR. Y.S.R. HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Venkataramanagudem	101.7	147.6	125.8	66.9	155.1	597.1	294.6	891.7
↑ 33	34	MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE ROHILKHAND UNIVERSITY, Bareilly	157.5	153.0	114.0	80.6	111.8	616.9	238.0	854.9
↑ 34	35	CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA, Mahendergarh	124.5	128.3	104.4	64.2	66.4	487.8	325.0	812.8
-	35	BUNDELKHAND UNIVERSITY, Jhansi	146.1	101.9	90.9	42.7	136.3	517.9	291.0	808.9

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THE COMPLETE RESULTS

GENERAL (GOVERNMENT)

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
				208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↓	36	33	SRI PADMAVATI MAHILA VISVAVIDYALAYAM (WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY), Tirupati	137.6	161.8	90.4	67.7	48.2	505.7	302.1	807.8
-	37	NP	DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GORAKHPUR UNIVERSITY, Gorakhpur	163.2	122.6	78.3	52.8	117.8	534.7	270.8	805.5
↓	38	36	MAHATMA GANDHI KASHI VIDYAPITH, Varanasi	128.9	122.9	85.8	43.2	98.2	479.0	267.3	746.3
↓	39	38	CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KARNATAKA, Kalaburagi	104.8	124.5	114.8	34.2	100.5	478.8	245.0	723.8
↔	40	40	UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES RAICHUR, Raichur	130.9	157.6	135.4	74.2	123.4	621.5	99.5	721.0
-	41	NP	HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI, Mumbai	77.2	105.3	79.2	91.4	131.3	484.4	225.6	710.0
↑	42	43	SRI KONDA LAXMAN TELANGANA STATE HORTICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, Siddipet	55.2	144.4	130.6	98.6	88.0	516.8	188.1	704.9
↓	43	41	MAKHANLAL CHATURVEDI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATION, Bhopal	110.4	70.5	78.2	34.2	52.6	345.9	349.9	695.8
↓	44	42	BABA GHULAM SHAH BADSHAH UNIVERSITY, Rajouri	108.9	121.8	113.7	76.1	85.0	505.5	160.1	665.6
↓	45	44	NAGALAND UNIVERSITY, Lumami	122.2	146.7	96.0	45.0	100.8	510.7	149.6	660.3

GENERAL (PRIVATE)

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
				208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
-	1	NP	SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, KATTANKULATHUR, Chennai	160.1	180.9	139.3	108.6	167.3	756.2	914.0	1,670.2
↓	2	1	SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY), Pune	141.5	171.2	130.6	107.4	166.8	717.5	916.1	1,633.6
↓	3	2	AMITY UNIVERSITY UTTAR PRADESH, Noida	134.1	168.4	148.3	93.4	137.1	681.3	903.2	1,584.5
↔	4	4	CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Bengaluru	139.8	160.3	125.0	112.9	158.2	696.2	834.3	1,530.5
↓	5	3	KONERU LAKSHMAIAH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Guntur	144.4	160.4	146.0	92.1	146.3	689.2	817.2	1,506.4
↓	6	5	BANASTHALI VIDYAPITH, Banasthali Vidyapith	154.1	134.5	143.1	117.2	136.9	685.8	798.7	1,484.5
↔	7	7	SATHYABAMA INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Chennai	153.9	150.4	138.9	103.1	114.1	660.4	807.4	1,467.8
↓	8	6	JAIN (DEEMED-TO-BE UNIVERSITY), Bengaluru	131.6	156.5	110.2	85.3	144.3	627.9	815.7	1,443.6
↔	9	9	GALGOTIAS UNIVERSITY, Greater Noida	117.6	171.2	122.0	93.2	133.4	637.4	796.8	1,434.2
↓	10	8	XIM UNIVERSITY, Bhubaneswar	96.8	121.8	112.3	100.0	168.8	599.7	784.9	1,384.6
↓	11	10	NIRMA UNIVERSITY, Ahmedabad	137.0	150.4	124.3	93.9	144.9	650.5	727.6	1,378.1
↓	12	11	MANIPAL UNIVERSITY JAIPUR, Jaipur	110.2	157.7	142.0	81.8	143.7	635.4	721.2	1,356.6
↓	13	12	ICFAI FOUNDATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, Hyderabad	122.2	99.0	126.0	112.2	159.4	618.8	682.5	1,301.3
↓	14	13	MANAV RACHNA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES, Faridabad	131.4	148.5	139.6	111.3	83.9	614.7	682.0	1,296.7
↓	15	14	CHITKARA UNIVERSITY, Patiala	111.1	161.3	126.7	105.4	148.0	652.5	621.2	1,273.7
↓	16	15	MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), MULLANA, Ambala	134.2	145.4	124.6	92.6	97.9	594.7	660.5	1,255.2
↓	17	16	GLA UNIVERSITY, Mathura	127.1	141.1	117.6	91.6	96.2	573.6	662.6	1,236.2
↓	18	17	AMITY UNIVERSITY HARYANA, Gurugram	116.3	160.1	144.4	89.2	115.0	625.0	600.9	1,225.9
↓	19	18	SHOOLINI UNIVERSITY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES, Solan	116.5	117.1	123.9	104.2	123.5	585.2	606.2	1,191.4
-	20	NP	JAYPEE INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NOIDA, Noida	107.0	153.5	141.0	89.9	145.9	637.3	528.4	1,165.7



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THE COMPLETE RESULTS

GENERAL (PRIVATE)

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
				208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↓	21	19	AMITY UNIVERSITY RAJASTHAN, Jaipur	123.1	119.3	133.3	90.0	116.2	581.9	554.2	1,136.1
↓	22	21	VELS INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCED STUDIES (VISTAS), Chennai	136.7	141.0	110.8	92.6	110.6	591.7	500.7	1,092.4
-	23	NP	BENNETT UNIVERSITY, Greater Noida	110.2	140.2	141.8	103.9	145.6	641.7	417.4	1,059.1
↓	24	20	SIKKIM MANIPAL UNIVERSITY, Gangtok	129.1	117.1	132.0	82.0	89.6	549.8	485.4	1,035.2
↓	25	22	B.S. ABDUR RAHMAN CRESCENT INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Chennai	132.0	118.9	143.7	108.5	87.9	591.0	441.4	1,032.4
↓	26	23	AVINASHILINGAM INSTITUTE FOR HOME SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WOMEN, Coimbatore	155.9	116.4	106.3	85.6	58.4	522.6	488.8	1,011.4
↓	27	25	SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY, Meerut	138.2	144.7	135.6	84.5	103.7	606.7	399.7	1,006.4
↓	28	27	REVA UNIVERSITY, Bengaluru	112.1	133.5	110.6	106.6	130.7	593.5	400.0	993.5
-	29	NP	JAYPEE UNIVERSITY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, SOLAN, Solan	135.8	133.5	123.3	82.6	130.6	605.8	336.9	942.7
↓	30	24	SHOBHIT INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Meerut	113.5	123.3	109.7	99.2	112.1	557.8	379.0	936.8
↓	31	30	PARUL UNIVERSITY, Vadodara	140.1	104.7	99.3	92.8	121.5	558.4	362.0	920.4
↓	32	28	AMITY UNIVERSITY MADHYA PRADESH, Gwalior	109.6	123.8	135.8	85.4	88.7	543.3	368.1	911.4
↓	33	29	IIMR UNIVERSITY, Jaipur	80.7	79.0	96.5	45.2	147.2	448.6	439.5	888.1
↓	34	31	SRI SRI UNIVERSITY, Cuttack	113.1	129.0	137.4	73.6	128.2	581.3	304.8	886.1
↓	35	33	DR. C.V. RAMAN UNIVERSITY, BILASPUR, Bilaspur	109.0	103.8	97.8	77.2	92.2	480.0	405.4	885.4
↓	36	32	VINAYAKA MISSION'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Salem	124.3	101.4	116.1	84.8	129.2	555.8	320.7	876.5
↔	37	37	SRI SIDDHARTH ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, Tumkur	119.4	132.4	142.0	103.9	131.2	628.9	246.5	875.4
↓	38	36	INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY, Lucknow	127.7	118.6	105.7	69.0	85.3	506.3	361.1	867.4
↑	39	40	PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, Bengaluru	91.3	132.5	105.6	52.7	125.0	507.1	338.7	845.8
-	40	NP	SANSKRITI UNIVERSITY, Mathura	75.2	138.9	129.1	72.5	102.2	517.9	323.2	841.1
-	41	NP	MODY UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, Sikar	128.5	110.4	133.6	90.6	120.3	583.4	231.6	815.0
↓	42	34	JECRC UNIVERSITY, Jaipur	82.0	100.4	62.7	79.0	127.6	451.7	356.4	808.1
↓	43	35	ICFAI UNIVERSITY, TRIPURA, Agartala	100.7	100.3	141.3	80.9	61.2	484.4	322.5	806.9
↓	44	39	JAIPUR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, Jaipur	128.7	93.5	118.4	65.5	81.5	487.6	263.0	750.6
↓	45	43	IIMT UNIVERSITY, Meerut	97.3	114.3	131.5	60.7	105.5	509.3	236.0	745.3
↓	46	41	RABINDRANATH TAGORE UNIVERSITY, Raisen	62.1	88.9	124.2	113.6	77.2	466.0	262.6	728.6
↔	47	47	AMITY UNIVERSITY MAHARASHTRA, Mumbai	79.1	116.9	123.6	68.1	118.9	506.6	221.2	727.8
↔	48	48	SAGE UNIVERSITY, Indore	107.9	76.3	81.4	64.3	91.7	421.6	305.9	727.5
↓	49	46	AMITY UNIVERSITY KOLKATA, Kolkata	79.6	129.4	107.6	124.8	129.2	570.6	156.3	726.9
↓	50	44	QUANTUM UNIVERSITY, Roorkee	56.2	142.0	135.5	70.9	128.9	533.5	191.7	725.2
-	51	NP	KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (KISS) DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY, Bhubaneswar	94.0	82.0	108.3	49.2	100.5	434.0	285.3	719.3
↓	52	45	ICFAI UNIVERSITY, DEHRADUN, Dehradun	84.8	87.9	109.9	64.8	141.7	489.1	229.6	718.7
↓	53	49	JAGRAN LAKECITY UNIVERSITY, Bhopal	59.5	110.3	131.1	108.7	83.8	493.4	217.0	710.4
↓	54	50	LINGAYA'S VIDYAPEETH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Faridabad	98.3	114.1	132.3	87.2	111.7	543.6	155.9	699.5
-	55	NP	VIVEKANANDA GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, Jaipur	111.0	134.9	93.3	82.8	83.0	505.0	189.2	694.2
↓	56	52	ARKA JAIN UNIVERSITY, Gamharia	101.9	106.4	103.1	93.1	116.1	520.6	171.6	692.2



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THE COMPLETE RESULTS

GENERAL (PRIVATE)

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
				208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↓	57	51	AMITY UNIVERSITY JHARKHAND, Ranchi	70.2	142.4	113.8	94.5	134.6	555.5	122.3	677.8
↓	58	53	AMITY UNIVERSITY PATNA, Patna	60.6	120.8	105.4	111.5	140.6	538.9	132.8	671.7
-	59	NP	THE ASSAM ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, Guwahati	90.5	103.5	119.6	81.0	111.0	505.6	149.9	655.5
-	60	NP	WORLD UNIVERSITY OF DESIGN, Sonepat	52.8	130.9	141.7	77.1	88.7	491.2	162.2	653.4
↓	61	54	SIKKIM PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY, Gangtok	67.8	95.8	115.5	83.5	89.3	451.9	160.4	612.3
↓	62	56	POORNIMA UNIVERSITY, Jaipur	73.4	116.0	90.8	81.3	73.1	434.6	175.6	610.2
↓	63	55	AVANTIKA UNIVERSITY, Ujjain	57.7	100.7	103.7	95.1	97.7	454.9	150.7	605.6
↔	64	64	LNCT UNIVERSITY, Bhopal	60.9	101.5	105.5	63.0	88.0	418.9	181.2	600.1
↓	65	57	RAYAT BAHRA UNIVERSITY, Mohali	104.3	108.5	96.3	81.7	65.6	456.4	116.1	572.5
-	66	NP	CT UNIVERSITY, Ludhiana	59.5	86.0	119.3	104.8	52.4	422.0	147.5	569.5
↓	67	59	AMITY UNIVERSITY CHHATTISGARH, Raipur	64.5	97.4	119.1	77.8	96.2	455.0	113.8	568.8
↓	68	58	ORIENTAL UNIVERSITY, Indore	64.2	94.1	93.6	79.9	106.2	438.0	128.6	566.6
-	69	NP	ITM UNIVERSITY, RAIPUR, Raipur	75.9	88.2	87.0	80.8	92.2	424.1	141.8	565.9
↓	70	62	SHRI RAMSWAROOP MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, Barabanki	87.8	66.7	120.2	79.4	66.7	420.8	144.4	565.2
-	71	NP	MANGALAYATAN UNIVERSITY JABALPUR (MUJ), Jabalpur	60.1	112.6	122.0	90.6	82.4	467.7	97.1	564.8
-	72	NP	CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ UNIVERSITY, Navi Mumbai	69.8	112.1	90.3	98.2	101.8	472.2	69.6	541.8
↓	73	66	BHAGWANT UNIVERSITY, Ajmer	73.8	71.8	103.2	61.4	96.9	407.1	119.0	526.1
↓	74	69	MARTIN LUTHER CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, Shillong	53.0	61.6	50.1	46.1	79.2	290.0	129.1	419.1
↓	75	70	AISECT UNIVERSITY, Hazaribag	51.3	28.5	19.9	20.0	113.7	233.4	164.9	398.3
↓	76	72	DR. C.V. RAMAN UNIVERSITY, Vaishali, Vaishali	49.0	34.6	57.4	19.8	54.9	215.7	120.7	336.4
↓	77	73	MANSAROVAR GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, Sehore	47.5	22.5	82.4	24.6	71.8	248.8	86.5	335.3

MEDICAL

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	G= GOVT./ P=PVT.	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
					225	225	200	150	200	1,000	1,000	2,000
↔	1	1	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), NEW DELHI, New Delhi	G	208.2	201.5	195.4	140.2	198.5	943.8	1000.0	1,943.8
↔	2	2	JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (JIPMER), Puducherry	G	186.3	185.1	181.6	117.2	193.5	863.7	985.9	1,849.6
↔	3	3	KING GEORGE'S MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, Lucknow	G	180.6	169.5	168.1	115.6	160.2	794.0	974.6	1,768.6
↔	4	4	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROSCIENCES (NIMHANS), Bengaluru	G	190.4	181.2	157.5	99.8	171.3	800.2	935.2	1,735.4
↔	5	5	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), JODHPUR, Jodhpur	G	180.6	161.5	150.2	106.5	156.2	755.0	915.5	1,670.5
-	6	NP	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHOPAL, Bhopal	G	184.1	183.4	168.8	125.7	137.9	799.9	794.4	1,594.3
↓	7	6	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), RISHIKESH, Rishikesh	G	179.9	146.4	132.5	80.7	171.1	710.6	853.5	1,564.1
↔	8	8	INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES, New Delhi	G	170.5	144.0	131.4	107.4	142.9	696.2	842.3	1,538.5



ENGINEERING THE FUTURE: HINDUSTHAN'S TWIN PILLARS OF INNOVATION

Founded by the visionary industrialist and philanthropist Thiru T.S.R. Khannaiyann, the Hindusthan College of Engineering and Technology (HICET) and the Hindusthan Institute of Technology (HITECH) in Coimbatore stand as two distinguished institutions shaping India's educational and innovation frontiers. Rooted in tradition yet future-driven, they aim to nurture ethical, skilled, and globally competent professionals.

Hindusthan College of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore: Turning Potential into Purpose

Established in 2000, HICET is an autonomous institution affiliated with Anna University, Chennai, approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), and certified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2015. With over 6,000 students and 300+ faculty members, HICET offers 17 undergraduate, 6 postgraduate, and 14 doctoral programs. It holds an 'A++' grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) (CGPA 3.69/4), and 13 UG

and 2 PG programs are accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) Tier-1.

Ranked in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024 within 201–300 (Engineering) and 11–50 (Innovation), HICET stands tall with a tech-savvy, research-focused campus. Facilities include an AICTE-IDEA Lab, DGCA-approved drone pilot training centre, and participation in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) Virtual Labs scheme. It houses an MSME Incubation Centre

and an IPR Cell funded by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST).

Recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and a recipient of the Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST) from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), HICET has secured over ₹5 crore in research grants from premier bodies like ISRO, AICTE, and the Australian National Research Foundation.

Hindusthan Institute of Technology, Coimbatore: A Launchpad for Future Thinkers

Established in 2007, HITECH is a NAAC 'A' grade accredited institution ranked within the 151–300 band in NIRF Innovation. Offering six undergraduate and three postgraduate programs, it is known for excellence in Aeronautical, Computer Science, Electronics and Communication, Mechanical, Information Technology, and Management education.

HITECH's innovation ecosystem includes a ₹90 lakh AICTE-IDEA Lab, ₹22.5 lakh StartupTN Pre-Incubation Centre, and over ₹1 crore in funded research projects. More than

75 patents have been filed, and the institution maintains 62 strong industry linkages to ensure real-time exposure and relevance.

Expanding Horizons: Hindusthan in Erode

In 2025, the Hindusthan Educational and Charitable Trust is expanding its vision by launching a new Hindusthan College of Engineering at Ingur, Perundurai, Erode. This rural campus will begin with four undergraduate engineering programs, continuing the legacy of quality education,

innovation, and industry focus under the Hindusthan name.

Guided by Visionary Leadership

All three institutions function under the leadership of the Hindusthan Educational and Charitable Trust, helmed by Smr. T.R.K. Saraswathi (Managing Trustee), Dr. K. Priya (Executive Trustee & Secretary), and Shri K. Sakthivel Raja (Trustee). Their foresight and values drive Hindusthan's legacy of excellence, sustainability, and student-centric progress.





MEDICAL

THE COMPLETE RESULTS

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	G= GOVT/ P-PVT.	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
					225	225	200	150	200	1,000	1,000	2,000
↓	9	7	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), Raipur, Raipur	G	172.8	140.4	134.3	87.3	121.8	656.6	873.2	1,529.8
↓	10	9	ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), Patna, Patna	G	159.7	131.0	140.2	75.2	162.9	669.0	819.7	1,488.7
↓	11	10	SRI RAMACHANDRA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Chennai	P	175.5	135.5	164.6	122.1	141.4	739.1	687.3	1,426.4
↓	12	11	JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH, Mysuru	P	167.5	147.5	156.4	120.7	132.4	724.5	667.6	1,392.1
↓	13	12	NITTE (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Mangaluru	P	150.8	172.8	140.3	110.1	129.4	703.4	678.9	1,382.3
↓	14	13	BLDE (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Vijayapura	P	166.8	113.4	134.1	49.9	119.4	583.6	662.0	1,245.6
↓	15	14	KLE ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Belagavi	P	149.8	133.7	162.0	125.8	143.9	715.2	495.8	1,211.0
↓	16	15	MGM INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES, Nav Mumbai	P	153.4	97.8	130.3	97.9	137.9	617.3	439.4	1,056.7
↓	17	16	D.Y. PATIL EDUCATION SOCIETY (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Kolhapur	P	143.0	117.7	150.2	66.4	92.3	569.6	481.7	1,051.3
↓	18	17	SRI GURU RAM DAS UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, Amritsar	P	147.9	104.1	141.2	55.7	96.5	545.4	371.8	917.2
↓	19	18	SRI BALAJI VIDYAPEETH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Puducherry	P	138.4	107.0	135.8	80.2	121.5	582.9	307.0	889.9
↓	20	19	CHETTINAD ACADEMY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, Kelambakkam	P	135.5	109.3	126.6	76.0	106.3	553.7	242.3	796.0

TECHNICAL

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	G= GOVT/ P-PVT.	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
					208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↔	1	1	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI, New Delhi	G	183.9	206.1	155.5	132.2	183.6	861.3	1000.0	1,861.3
↔	2	2	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR, Kanpur	G	162.3	184.1	162.7	128.3	194.7	832.1	979.1	1,811.2
↔	3	3	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY, Mumbai	G	165.9	192.5	146.8	133.7	188.3	827.2	983.2	1,810.4
↔	4	4	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR, Kharagpur	G	148.0	178.7	148.5	102.8	186.8	764.8	962.2	1,727.0
↔	5	5	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY RORKEE, Roorkee	G	172.8	168.6	130.3	121.5	178.5	771.7	941.3	1,713.0
↔	6	6	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI, Guwahati	G	142.6	153.7	151.5	114.3	160.7	722.8	945.4	1,668.2
↔	7	7	DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, New Delhi	G	145.6	154.5	142.8	97.9	151.9	692.7	920.2	1,612.9
↔	8	8	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MANDI, Mandi	G	138.4	181.8	149.0	106.9	123.7	699.8	899.5	1,599.3
↔	9	9	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BANGALORE, Bengaluru	P	134.7	168.6	132.4	105.7	163.5	704.9	890.8	1,595.7
↔	10	10	BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI, Pilani	P	138.3	177.9	148.9	108.5	153.1	726.7	861.5	1,588.2
↔	11	11	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, HYDERABAD, Hyderabad	P	134.6	182.0	128.3	114.3	159.9	719.1	836.5	1,555.6
↔	12	12	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINagar, Gandhinagar	G	150.5	179.3	139.5	75.6	149.3	694.2	752.3	1,446.5
↔	13	13	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PATNA, Patna	G	135.3	176.6	120.0	99.1	166.6	697.6	739.9	1,437.5
-	14	NP	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI, New Delhi	G	126.7	142.5	144.6	108.3	133.8	655.9	752.1	1,408.0

*Make
every moment a
Magic Moment*





TECHNICAL

THE COMPLETE RESULTS

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	G= GOVT/ P-PVT.	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
					208	250	175	150	217	1,000	1,000	2,000
↓	15	14	INDIRA GANDHI DELHI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN (IGDTUW), New Delhi	G	113.8	155.2	118.1	103.8	124.2	615.1	735.5	1,350.6
-	16	NP	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY HAMIRPUR, Hamirpur	G	114.3	131.2	125.1	64.3	116.8	551.7	739.7	1,291.4
↓	17	16	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SILCHAR, Silchar	G	130.7	120.9	131.2	74.4	108.9	566.1	676.4	1,242.5
↓	18	17	JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY HYDERABAD, Hyderabad	G	133.8	150.3	107.2	62.8	103.5	557.6	668.3	1,225.9
↑	19	20	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY UTTARAKHAND, SRINAGAR, Pauri (Garhwal)	G	119.3	138.9	127.4	54.5	124.5	564.6	647.3	1,211.9
↓	20	19	GUJARAT TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY, Ahmedabad	G	139.1	107.4	126.2	64.4	105.5	542.6	664.2	1,206.8
↑	21	22	JSS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY, Mysuru	P	128.4	161.3	145.9	137.2	124.0	696.8	496.6	1,193.4
↓	22	21	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR, Srinagar	G	112.1	169.8	110.5	102.3	101.8	596.5	567.4	1,163.9
↔	23	23	INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BHAGALPUR, Bhagalpur	G	103.4	111.5	122.1	77.6	123.1	537.7	593.8	1,131.5
↑	24	25	VIGNAN'S FOUNDATION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY), Guntur	P	129.6	165.3	138.7	113.7	87.5	634.8	489.5	1,124.3
↑	25	26	MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, Gorakhpur	G	131.8	143.4	122.1	84.4	111.6	593.3	471.3	1,064.6
-	26	NP	NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MEGHALAYA, Sohra	G	105.9	148.9	122.9	57.0	104.7	539.4	484.0	1,023.4
↔	27	27	UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT, JAIPUR, Jaipur	P	114.8	166.4	144.0	100.3	126.8	652.3	356.6	1,008.9
↔	28	28	NOORUL ISLAM CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, Kanyakumari	P	107.5	135.9	116.1	98.1	85.8	543.4	237.6	781.0

LAW

RANKS & SCORES OF UNIVERSITIES

	OVER-ALL RANK 2025	OVERALL RANK 2024	UNIVERSITY & CITY	G= GOVT/ P-PVT.	REPUTATION & GOVERNANCE	ACADEMIC & RESEARCH EXCELLENCE	INFRASTRUCTURE & LIVING EXPERIENCE	PERSONALITY & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CAREER PROGRESSION & PLACEMENT	OBJECTIVE SCORE	PERCEPTUAL SCORE	OVERALL SCORE
					175	250	150	200	225	1,000	1,000	2,000
↔	1	1	NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY (NLSIU), Bengaluru	G	152.3	218.9	130.7	166.6	186.4	854.9	994.8	1,849.7
↔	2	2	THE WEST BENGAL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES (NUJS), Kolkata	G	150.8	211.6	126.4	178.0	180.2	847.0	907.8	1,754.8
↑	3	4	NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY (NLIU) BHOPAL, Bhopal	G	142.4	221.7	129.2	173.7	175.7	842.7	833.9	1,676.6
↓	4	3	GUJARAT NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (GNLU), Gandhinagar	G	150.2	224.5	131.3	192.2	150.9	849.1	827.0	1,676.1
↔	5	5	DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHYI NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (RMLNU), Lucknow	G	145.5	161.9	132.3	150.0	183.5	773.2	791.3	1,564.5
↑	6	7	NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA (NLUO), Cuttack	G	140.1	184.9	141.5	158.8	140.6	765.9	617.4	1,383.3
-	7	NP	CHANAKYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (CNLU), Patna	G	139.2	162.7	123.0	147.3	168.1	740.3	547.8	1,288.1
↑	8	9	DAMODARAM SANJIVAYYA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY (DSNLU), Visakhapatnam	G	117.8	164.5	113.4	133.6	131.4	660.7	521.7	1,182.4

1. Ranking is based on objective data and perceptual survey data;
2. Only universities that submitted their objective data have been ranked. Universities such as IIT Madras, BHU, IISc Bangalore, NALSAR, NLU Delhi that either did not submit their objective data on time or did not participate have not been ranked. IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur could not submit their data. Hence, they were ranked on the basis of previously submitted data and current publicly available data;
3. Only universities with a minimum of three graduated batches and offering a full-time postgraduate programme were considered eligible for ranking;
4. All scores have been rounded off to one decimal place. This may result in rounding off errors while adding the parameter-wise score;
5. Universities not ranked during the perceptual survey have got 0.0 marks in perceptual score

LE! SURE

KBC: STILL ROLLING PG 111

BOOKS: INSIDE THE INDIRA GANDHI YEARS PG 112



PULL OF SATIRE
Julius Hay's
The Horse
looks at the
"absurd circus
of power"

FILMMAKER ▲

HORSING AROUND

THEATRE DIRECTOR SUNIL SHANBAG'S LATEST PLAY IS AN ABSURDIST SATIRE SET IN ANCIENT ROME

Photograph by MANDAR DEODHAR

H

In a tiny, sparse studio in Versova with no props and sets, theatre director Sunil Shanbag is busy imagining first-century Rome. There's some neighing and galloping, a bit of singing, and excitable parents who want to marry their daughter off to a horse. Shanbag watches, giving directions to actors like Akash Khurana and Neil Bhoopalam on entry and exits, bringing to life Hungarian playwright Julius Hay's *The Horse*.

It's a play that has stayed with him since he first read it in 1982. When Aadyam, an initiative of the Aditya Birla Group, approached him to develop a play for its seventh season, Shanbag found himself returning to the political satire which, as per the synopsis, offers an "unsettling look at ambition, delusion, herd mentality, and the absurd circus of power". "One had to look for a play that allows scale and still lets you explore ideas," says Shanbag. Only, he had misplaced the book amidst many house moves. Little did Shanbag know that finding the text and acquiring its rights would be an adventure in itself, taking him on a virtual journey from a bookstore in Spain to Oxford to Los Angeles, and finally culminating at a second-hand bookshop in a small town in British Columbia, Canada. It's here he'd get a lead to Hay's son, Peter, who had translated the play into English and from whom he'd finally obtain the rights. "He was happy that we had made this effort," says Shanbag.

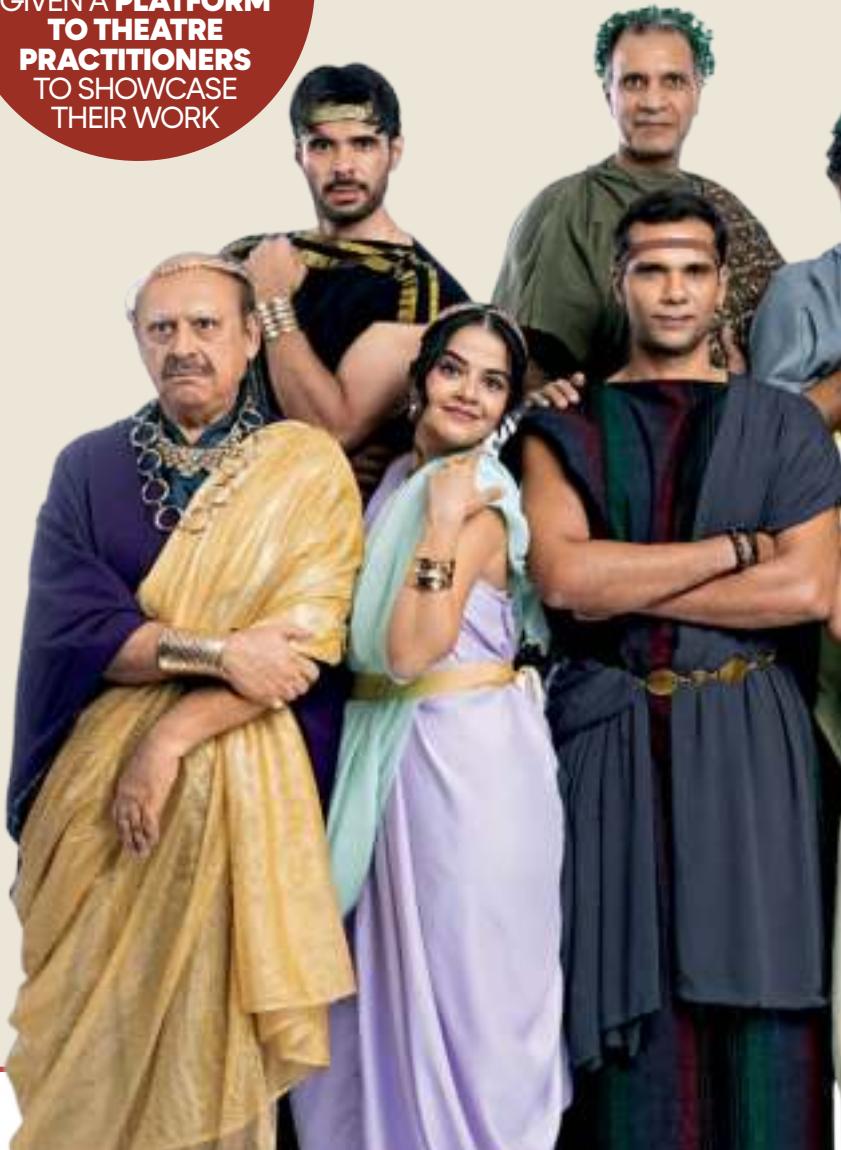
Transporting audiences to significant events and different periods and compelling them to think is what Shanbag himself has been doing for nearly five decades now with his company, Arpana. Plays like *Sex, Morality & Censorship*, *Cotton 56*, *Polyester 84* and *Stories in Song* are among the works that have added to the 68-year-old's aura. Shanbag stands out as someone who has used his clout to help others in an industry where survival is a daily struggle. He set up Tamaasha Theatre a decade back to address an urgent need. Says Shanbag, "I felt that, as Arpana's scale grew, spontaneity and impulsive exploration were becoming difficult. I was also uncomfortable with not having a relationship with the audience.

The idea was to build a system where a connection could be built." Producing plays under the banner of Tamaasha has allowed Shanbag to do that with works like *Same, Same, but Different*, which while low on scale, are heavy on ideas. With Studio Tamaasha, an alternative space in Mumbai, he has given a platform to theatre practitioners to showcase their work. "It's a lot easier for someone like me to make a play; we have built a corpus and

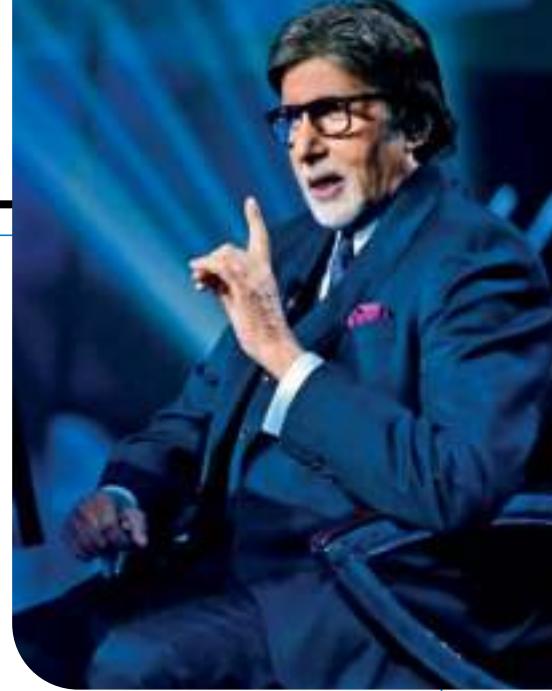
have a standing. But it's hard for a young theatre practitioner even today to make a play," says Shanbag. "Those who have a body of work need to step up and create support systems for young theatre creators." In addition, for the past two years, Shanbag has headed Us Paar, a residency for creators in Kashid, Maharashtra, which has given a refuge to many theatre groups, and now even artists, to create new works.

Amidst it all, Shanbag remains prolific. His 2024 work *Barricade*, set in Nazi Germany yet eerily relevant today, continues to have shows. Still, he admits being seized by "more and more self-doubt. There's

WITH THE ALTERNATIVE SPACE OF STUDIO TAMAASHA, SHANBAG HAS GIVEN A PLATFORM TO THEATRE PRACTITIONERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORK



LEISURE



KBC ▶

Still Rolling

The new season of **KAUN BANEGA CROREPATI** is all set to premiere on August 11

When it arrived on our telescreens on July 3, 2000, *Kaun Banega Crorepati* changed the face of Indian television. Amitabh Bachchan, seemingly on the last leg of his superstardom, stormed into our homes in a brand-new avatar as a game show host, extending his career by a quarter century. Suddenly, a knowledge-based quiz show became the most watched television programme in India.

"KBC isn't just an entertainment show, but a show that gives Indians hope, a belief that they too can make it big in life on the basis of the knowledge and life lessons they have accrued," says Arun Sheshkumar, the show's director. "Because, unlike other reality shows, KBC is not casted. The contestants have to go through a rigorous competition to make it to the hot seat."

Sheshkumar has been directing each episode of *KBC* for the past 18 years. Just weeks away from its 17th season's premiere in the show's 25th year, he is busy prepping with Amitabh. Sheshkumar worked closely with the show's creator Siddhartha Basu, until he passed on the baton in the 2010s.

The machine behind *KBC* is

so well-oiled that the shoot for a show due for an August 11 premiere begins on August 6. "The shooting is such that we're good to go live, but we bank episodes for up to five days before airing. On the edit table, we make the episode's flow tighter," says Sheshkumar. "Mr Bachchan is pretty much the creative director of *KBC*. He will be available with us up till November-

"MR BACHCHAN IS PRETTY MUCH THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR.... YOU WILL BE SEEING THE BEST OF 25 YEARS OF KBC," SAYS DIRECTOR ARUN SHESHKUMAR

December, so expect more than 100 episodes easily."

What's new? While Sheshkumar cannot divulge much, he promises, "You'll see the best of 25 years of *KBC*. All that we have learned up until now is going into this season. While we are not changing the basic format, which has become like a mantra, the packaging around it, such as the contestants' stories, will have freshness." ■

—Devarsi Ghosh

STABLE CONCERN

The cast of Sunil Shanbag's production of *The Horse* in Mumbai



an inner turmoil of anyone who creates stuff. I don't think I have adapted. It's a crisis I will have to confront very soon."

It's perhaps this insecurity that compels him to create, to carry on, to get out of the bubble. With *The Horse*, he gets to do exactly that. "It's important to occupy the mainstream space," he says. Only, in Shanbag's case, the mainstream isn't just playing to the gallery, but intellectually engaging it. ■

—Suhani Singh

The Horse will be staged at Bal Gandharva Rang Mandir, Mumbai, on Aug. 9 and 10

INSIDE THE INDIRA YEARS

A NEW BOOK BY HISTORIAN **SRINATH RAGHAVAN** CHARTS INDIRA GANDHI'S POLITICAL CAREER AND HOW IT SHAPED POSTCOLONIAL INDIA

It is not easy to find words that will do justice to Srinath Raghavan's book on how the decisions that Indira Gandhi took during her two stints as India's prime minister—from 1966 till 1977, and 1980 till October 31, 1984—shaped India's development as a democracy. Mrs Gandhi became PM when the country was in the grip of an unprecedented crisis. India had run out of foreign exchange a decade earlier, suffered a severe failure of the southwest monsoons in 1965, and a second failure in 1966 was on the way.

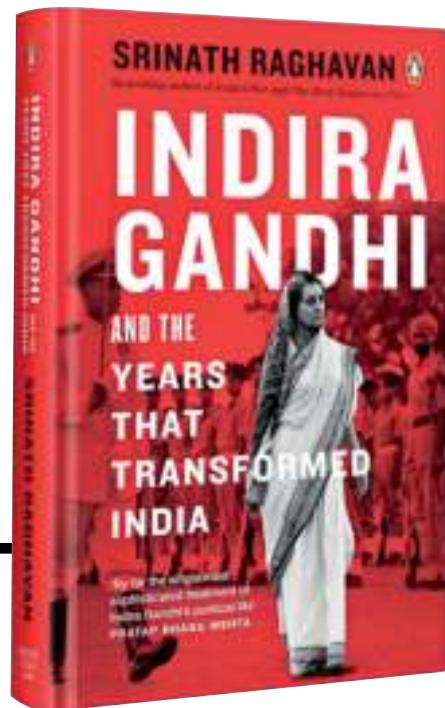
The decisions she had to take—a 57 per cent devaluation of the rupee, and asking the US to back a loan of almost a billion dollars—put her at odds with the seasoned leaders of the organisational wing of the party, known as the Syndicate.

These leaders, who later became the Congress (O), did not understand the magnitude of the crisis and resented her taking critical decisions without consulting them. This led to the party splitting in 1969. Raghavan's description of how and why this took place—based on a penetrating study of recently declassified documents and Mrs Gandhi's personal correspondence—will probably never be bettered. This is also true of his analysis of Mrs Gandhi's reasons for declaring the Emergency in 1975. Although he disapproves of her decision, he is scrupulous in de-

scribing the chain of events, beginning with the drought of 1972, and culminating in the assassination of railway minister L.N. Mishra in Bihar in January 1975.

Of infinite value is Raghavan's detailed description of the correspondence between Mrs Gandhi and her principal advisors, and her correspondence with various opposition leaders, particularly Jayaprakash Narayan. These highlight her keenness to work with, rather than against him. It was JP's failure

INDIRA GANDHI AND THE YEARS THAT TRANSFORMED INDIA
By Srinath Raghavan
PENGUIN/ ALLEN LANE
₹899; 384 pages



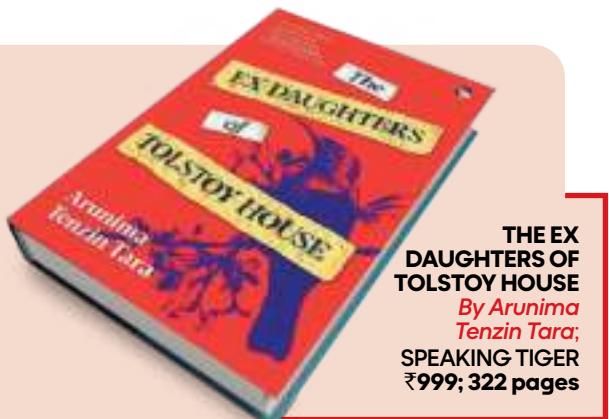
to suggest a way to meet the students' demands without endangering the State's stability, and his admonition to the army and police to disobey "illegal orders" that pushed her to declare the Emergency.

Raghavan's analysis of the four years of Mrs Gandhi's rule that ended with her assassination is less compelling. This could be because the documents and correspondence of this period have not yet been de-classified. Hence, Raghavan did not know that it was not army commander General Vaidya who instigated the army's invasion

of the Golden Temple but the Western Command chief, General Sundarji, who persuaded Mrs Gandhi that 'his' army would clean out the Bhindranwale rebels in hours.

Nor did Raghavan find that, in January 1984, Mrs Gandhi had set up a 'high level' committee headed by her former intelligence chief R.N. Kao, to find a way to clear the Golden Temple with minimum casualties to civilians, and that this committee had almost finalised its plan when Kao was ordered to abandon it as the army had been given the job. That plan was used to drive Khalistani rebels out of the Golden Temple after they occupied it a second time in 1988. It succeeded after causing only 14 deaths. ■

—Prem Shankar Jha



BOOKS ▼

A BLOODY AFFAIR

For all its macabre overtones, *The Ex Daughters of Tolstoy House* is about WOMEN TACKLING PATRIARCHY

The central conceit of *The Ex Daughters of Tolstoy House*, Arunima Tenzin Tara's debut novel, is a compelling one—a family of women who have a supernatural ability to absorb blood into their bodies, and how this "gift" is exploited by their relatives to make them complicit in decades of violent crime and murder. As a metaphor, this works neatly for how women tend to take on the pain, invisible labour and guilt of their families, particularly on behalf of the men. Is the metaphor a little too on the nose? Maybe, because there's nothing particularly supernatural about the rest of the story. But I enjoyed the writer's bold choices, and her pushing of the boundaries of imaginative fiction.

The story is told from the perspective of two women: the mother, Meera, and the youngest daughter, Naina. Both are caught in the web of the husband and father, Ambarish, a character I wish had been fleshed out more. Ultimately, the story is about women, and their position in society and in families—and, to that end, it does not really do the strength of women justice. I was waiting for at least one of the younger women to rebel against the patriarch. Despite these quibbles, *The Ex Daughters of Tolstoy House* was a thought-provoking read, asking tough questions about the impact of generations of misogyny on women today, the choices they make, the lives they lead—and what they choose to pass on. ■

—Samyukta Bhownick

BOOKS ▼

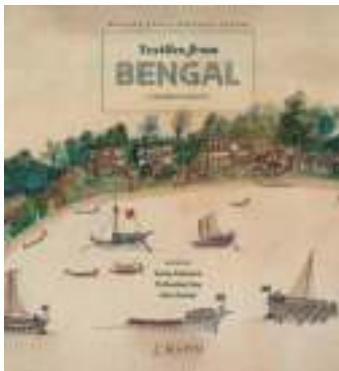
Into a Fabric OF TIME

TEXTILES FROM BENGAL IS A SEMINAL COLLECTION OF ESSAYS ABOUT THE STATE'S TEXTILE HERITAGE

Lucknow may only be left with kebabs to claim as its own. Chikankari—synonymous with the city—may have originated in Murshidabad and travelled there, writes historian Rosie Lewellyn-Jones in her essay in *Textiles from Bengal: A Shared Legacy*. The editors of this book, Sonia Ashmore, Tirthankar Roy and Niaz Zaman, are unafraid to iron out a few creases in the

other wonders—like Balaposh, the winter shawl from Murshidabad “soft like wool, warm like a lap”. The perfumed quilt was still made till the 1930s by artists Manohar Khalifa of Berhampore and his son Golap Dhunia of Jiaganj. If only for listing names of craftsmen, patrons, etc.—making the invisible visible—the book is essential reading.

The essays conjure up a



**TEXTILES FROM
BENGAL**
*Edited by Sonia
Ashmore, Tirthankar
Roy and Niaz Zaman*
MAPIN
₹4,950; 360 pages

fabric history of India. The coffee-table book aims to restore Bengal fabric's reputation rightfully as that which once 'clothed the world'. Written by historians and practitioners, and retrieved from archives and collections, this is a public history of cloth from Bengal that dominated the world.

Muslin might have been the original power dressing for the world. Marie Antoinette was clad in a muslin chemise from Bengal in her portrait by artist Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun in 1788. She didn't survive the revolution of 1789, but muslin did. Littered with such gems, the book encompasses the epic sweep of this fabric. But it goes beyond the gossamer Dhaka muslin that has come to define Bengal to introduce

complex story stitched together like kantha, cramming in the universe of memory, and of the lived experience of the textile. And especially of women who wove them—their stories, their dreams found in poetry and wrapped in the warp and weft of the cloth. So famed were they for their deftness that some were transported as slaves by the Dutch, another shocker the book delivers. The Iziko Slave Lodge in Cape Town has on display a baby cap and a fragment of lace knitted by Melati, a Bengali slave, with a caption “knitted by a slave of my grandmother worn by me in 1838”. Lost in history, Melati never came home, but she can be remembered now. ■

—Mandira Nayar

GURU KASHI UNIVERSITY

A QUIET REVOLUTION IN EDUCATION FROM THE HEART OF PUNJAB



S. GURLABH SINGH SIDHU
Founder & Chancellor, Guru Kashi University

In the heart of Talwandi Sabo, Guru Kashi University (GKU) is redefining the future of education in Punjab. Under the visionary leadership of its founder and chancellor, Gurlabh Singh Sidhu, the university has grown into a powerful centre of learning, innovation, and opportunity—especially in a region where placement options are often limited due to the lack of industry. Today, GKU stands as Punjab's first private university to receive dual agricultural accreditations—from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Punjab State Council of Agriculture Education. It also holds the highest NAAC accreditation grade of A++ and 'Category 1' status from the University Grants Commission (UGC), placing it among the most prestigious institutions in the country.

TURNING EDUCATION INTO OPPORTUNITY

At GKU, education isn't just about theory—it's about preparing students for real life. To help students gain practical skills and earn while they learn, the university has launched an innovative 'Learn and Earn' model. One of its most exciting projects under this model is a collaboration with companies in Holland and Canada to grow ornamental plants using just leaves, inside highly controlled lab environments. This research not only supports sustainable agriculture but also trains students in modern plant regrowth technologies that can open doors to entrepreneurship.

Research and innovation are a major focus at the university. This year alone, GKU students and faculty have published over 150 research papers in reputed SCOPUS and high-impact journals and filed 147 patents. The university has also secured research grants worth ₹2 crore from top government bodies including DST, AICTE, ANRF, DBT, and ICSSR. One of the flagship projects in progress is a ₹5 crore Honey and Bee Hive Product Processing Centre, backed by the National Bee Board, which will create hands-on learning and commercialisation opportunities for students.

The university is also conducting research in protected cultivation, vermicompost, mushroom farming, dragon fruit



orchards, and other sustainable agricultural technologies—turning its rural setting into a living innovation lab.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS FOR A BORDERLESS EDUCATION

Recognising the importance of global exposure, GKU has built strong international partnerships with renowned institutions such as McGill University (Canada) for environmental research, Friends University (USA) for academic collaboration, and Gambella University (Ethiopia) for faculty and student exchange. It has also tied up with Kathmandu University (Nepal) and Dhaka International University (Bangladesh) to promote regional cooperation and cultural learning.

Through these partnerships, students can now pursue programs where they study one year in India and complete the remaining abroad, especially in countries like Canada and the United States. This makes global education more accessible, especially for students from

Research and innovation are a major focus at the university. This year alone, GKU students and faculty have published over 150 research papers in reputed SCOPUS and high-impact journals and filed 147 patents.

Punjab who may not have the resources to study entirely overseas. Currently, GKU proudly hosts students from more than 25 countries and almost every Indian state, creating a truly global and inclusive campus culture.

"Our mission is simple: provide world-class education, right here in Punjab, without losing our culture or values."

— says Gurlabh Singh Sidhu, Chancellor.

EXCELLING IN SPORTS AND CULTURAL LIFE

Alongside academics and research, Guru Kashi University has built a strong reputation in sports. The university's athletes won over 150 medals in national and international championships during 2024–25. Student Gurindervir Singh set a national record in the 100-meter sprint at 10.2 seconds and won gold. In a proud achievement, Mr. Sumit, a kabaddi player from the university, secured a sports placement package of ₹1 crore in the Pro-Kabaddi League—among the highest in the country.

The university teams have consistently won overall championships in boxing, wrestling, kabaddi (NS), archery, fencing, gatka, kayaking, and canoeing. For its unmatched achievements, GKU has become the only private university in Punjab to receive a dedicated Sports Wing from the Punjab Sports Department.

On the cultural side, GKU has taken a bold step by welcoming Padma Shri Hans Raj Hans, internationally acclaimed Punjabi Sufi singer and

GURU KASHI UNIVERSITY Key Highlights

- NAAC A++ Grade and UGC 'Category 1' status – among the highest recognitions for any private university in India
- First private university in Punjab with ICAR and Punjab State Council of Agriculture Education accreditations
- Over 150 research papers published; 147 patents filed; 2 crore+ in research grants from top national bodies
- Innovative research in AI, Quantum Computing, sustainable farming, 5 crore Honey & Beehive Processing Centre being set up with National Bee Board support.
- Global tie-ups with universities abroad.
- Strong sports achievement: student secured ₹1 crore placement in Pro-Kabaddi
- Home to students from 25+ countries and nearly every Indian state

Member of Parliament, as a Professor of Practice in the Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts.

SHAPING A FUTURE WITH PURPOSE

As the world rapidly changes, Guru Kashi University is ensuring its students are not left behind. It has launched new programs in Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing, while also partnering with Garuda Aerospace to create a Centre for Drone Excellence on campus. Students now have access to cutting-edge training in drone technology—skills that are increasingly in demand in agriculture, defence, and logistics.

With support from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) under the SARRA Project, the university has also installed Punjab's second Automatic Agromet Lab, funded under the C-WET scheme. This lab will help in climate research and provide real-time data to improve farming practices.

"We want our students to do more than just study. We want them to build skills that can earn them a livelihood and make them proud of their roots," says Chancellor Gurlabh Singh Sidhu.

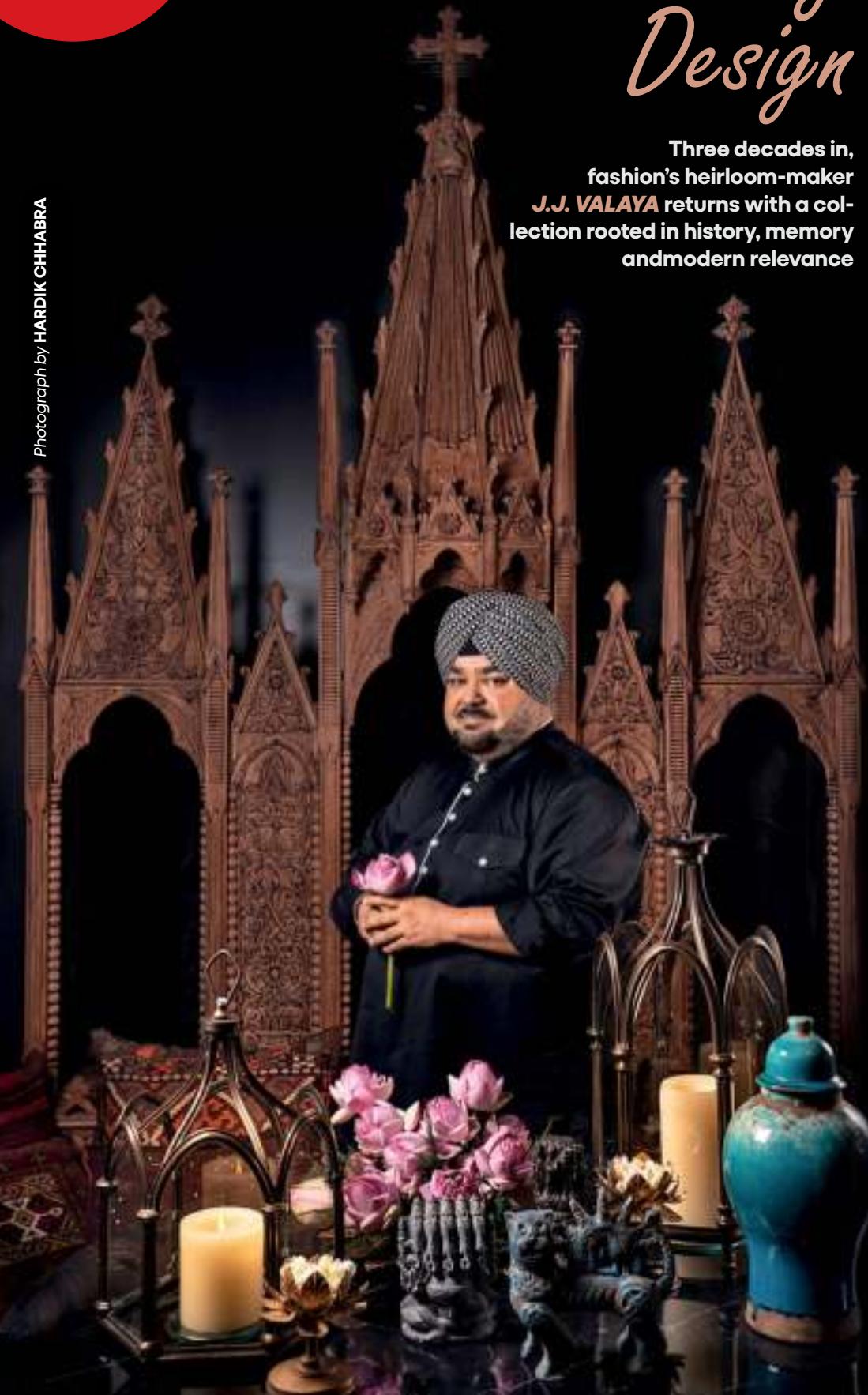
His work has also been acknowledged globally—with honors from the Asian-African Chamber of Commerce and a Certificate of Recognition from the Mayor of Brampton, Canada, for his remarkable contributions to education.



Timeless by Design

**Three decades in,
fashion's heirloom-maker
J.J. VALAYA returns with a collection rooted in history, memory and modern relevance**

Photograph by HARDIK CHHABRA



Q. Take us through the inspiration and creative process behind your upcoming couture collection, 'East'.

'East' draws from the romance of the 18th century, when the West viewed the East as a land of mystery and cultural depth. I explored the heritage of the Balkans, the artistry of the Far East, and India's legacy.

Q. Much of your work feels timeless yet rooted in the present. How do you maintain that balance between heritage and relevance?

True luxury isn't driven by trends, it's meant to endure. Brides often return with decades-old Valaya ensembles once worn by their mothers, asking us to simply resize or refresh them. The quality remains impeccable.

Q. You've spoken before about taking a hard reset in 2017, closing everything down. How did that moment change your creative journey?

After celebrating 25 years of the brand, I vanished just to introspect. When we returned in 2019, it was with a renewed spirit and intent.

Q. You're also known for your prowess in photography and interiors. How do these creative pursuits influence your design language?

Photography is my alter ego. I travel to photograph and, through that lens, I absorb the world—its textures, stories, smells and silences. All that gets stored somewhere within me and, eventually, it translates into my fashion mood boards. As for interiors, I've always had a keen eye for spatial aesthetics.

—with Geetika Sachdev



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