

**TIMES Personal**

**NOVENA PRAYERS**

WHEN things seemed impossible, you came to my aid and answered my prayer. Thank you St Jude for favor received.

# PM to Birla: Oppn can't bear rise of new person

## Speaker Writes To Parties, Calls For Discipline

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** PM Narendra Modi said on Sunday political parties driven by self-interest and arrogance have been targeting the position of Lok Sabha Speaker since 2014, when he first came to power and Sumitra Mahajan occupied the chair, and accused them of being unable to digest the ascendancy of a new leader.



"Some people with nepotistic and feudal mindset look at democratic institutions through their narrow mindset. They cannot easily accept the rise of any new person," he wrote to **Om Birla** days after an opposition-supported motion for his removal was defeated and painted his opponents as antagonistic to occupants of high offices unaffiliated to them.

While Modi took aim at Congress and its allies for turning their democratic disagreement into disrespect for institutions and praised Birla's emphasis on no one being above rules in his statement after the motion's defeat, the Speaker, in

turn, lauded the PM's commitment to democratic values.

With the governing NDA rallying to his defence and Modi himself taking lead, Birla also wrote a letter to leaders of political parties, underlining his concern over protests inside and outside Parliament in violation of rules and calling for discipline, in a message pointedly aimed at opposition MPs who have been bringing banners and placards to Lok Sabha and demonstrating at the main entrance of the House. Some members, he said, are dealing a blow to the dignity of parliamentary democracy.

"The time has come when we need to do serious reflection and introspection to maintain the dignity and prestige of our democratic institutions. In particular, the leadership of all political parties and their leaders in the House will have to make special efforts to ensure discipline and high moral conduct inside the House and within the Parliament complex among their members," he said.

### Row as NU taekwondo team player 'pushed in train, slaps passenger'

**Nagpur:** A scuffle broke out between a member of the girls' taekwondo team of Nagpur University (NU) and some passengers in an overcrowded Falaknuma Express (train No. 12704) near Bahanaga Bazar station in Odisha on Sunday morning, reports **Sarfraz Ahmed**. According to university officials, one of the girls slapped a passenger, alleging that he pushed her while she was standing near the door in the moving train. The team had reached Bhubaneswar earlier and was on the way to Balasore for a national-level tournament from March 16, but they did not have confirmed tickets.

### 3 held for killing man missing since 40 days

**Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:** The body of Rajabhai Subharao Londhe (60), former head of the department (HoD) with the govt engineering college in the city reported missing since Feb 5, was traced and exhumed on Sunday afternoon from a pit in a forested area of Gevrai Tanda in rural Sambhajnagar. A bullet injury was found on the victim's head, suggesting he was shot dead before being buried, police said. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar police arrested three suspects — Vishal Vikas Rathod (24), Aakash Vinod Pawar (32) and Karan Vilas Ade (22), all residents of Gevrai Tanda. Police commissioner Pravin Pawar told TOI, "Our investigation has revealed that murder was a pre-planned crime. Suspect had engaged a JCB operator to dig two pits nearly 200m apart at Gevrai Tanda, claiming they were searching for hidden treasure. These pits were dug three days before the murder." **TNN**

### ₹2cr jewellery stolen from Kerala palace

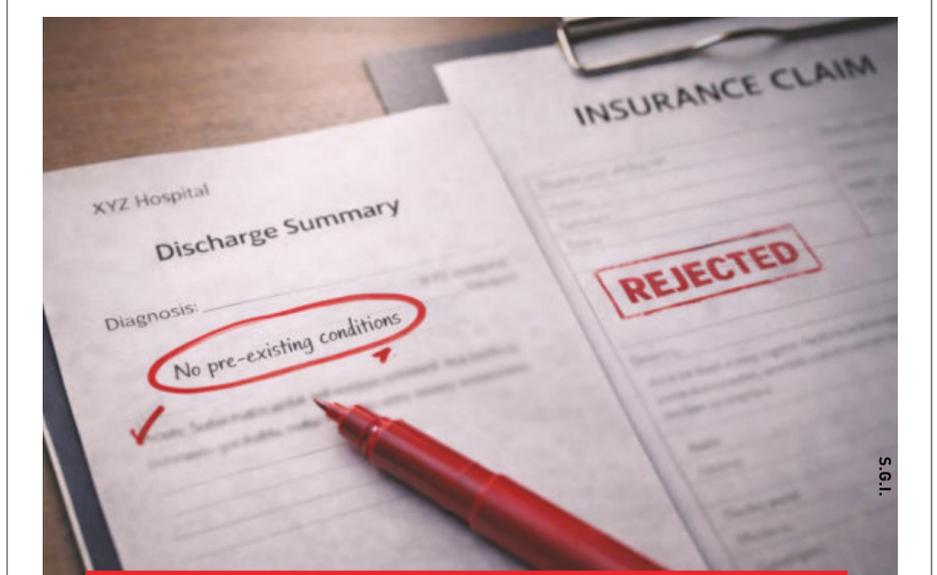
**Thiruvananthapuram:** Jewellery worth over Rs 2 crore has allegedly been stolen from Kowdiar Palace, official residence of Travancore royal family. Based on a complaint filed by senior family member Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bai, police registered a case of theft and began an investigation. The ornaments, reportedly kept in an iron cupboard in the complainant's bedroom, are suspected to have been stolen between Oct and Nov 2025. The family initially believed the jewellery had been misplaced and approached police only after it could not be traced, the complainant told officers. The stolen jewellery included several traditional gold ornaments — heirlooms of the royal household. Among them were gold chains embedded

with orange coral beads and gold pearls and anklets featuring traditional 'pichipoo mottu' design. Cops said the missing items also included several gold bangles and large gold earrings studded with red stones and ornaments embedded with precious stones such as rubies, coral, and diamonds. Many of the ornaments had high historical and cultural value, reflecting traditional Travancore craftsmanship and designs that are rarely made today, cops said. Among them is a gold pendant engraved with the image of Lord Padmanabha, attached to a gold chain. Police suspect the theft was carried out by persons familiar with the palace premises, adding that videos from inside the palace recently surfaced on social media, suggesting that outsiders might have entered the premises.

### Maya demands Bharat Ratna for Kanshi Ram

**Lucknow:** BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday urged the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna on party founder Kanshi Ram and not make the same mistake Congress made with B R Ambedkar. In a statement on Sunday on the birth anniversary of Kanshi Ram, Mayawati attacked Samajwadi Party, Congress and BJP, saying they only talk about Bahujans, but rarely work for their uplift. "The Muslim community has significantly dissociated itself from these parties, and with the Brahmins associating with BSP, it seems that SP's political and caste-animosities have intensified," she said. Mayawati hailed Kanshi Ram for his work for an egalitarian society and urged BJP-led Centre to bestow the highest civilian award on him.

**Rahul too writes to PM**  
Rahul Gandhi too has written to PM Narendra Modi to confer Bharat Ratna on Kanshi Ram. **TNN**



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# Currents of Commerce

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

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India's maritime logistics sector is evolving as trade volumes grow and large infrastructure projects demand more sophisticated cargo movement. What is changing today is not just the scale of maritime trade but the systems that support it. Ports and logistics operators are moving beyond conventional cargo handling towards digital coordination platforms that improve visibility, scheduling and operational efficiency.

cargo (ODC)—large industrial equipment that cannot be transported through standard containers. These shipments are critical for sectors such as power generation, oil and gas, petrochemicals and large

## Buoyed up

**With rising trade and large industrial shipments, India's ports are adopting digital systems and engineering-led logistics to handle growing cargo volumes, including break bulk and heavy cargo, more efficiently**

infrastructure projects. Moving such cargo requires specialised vessels, heavy lift cranes and carefully engineered logistics planning. Ports handling ODC shipments must be equipped with reinforced berths, high-capacity lifting equipment and customised transport arrangements.

**HIGH SEAS**

At Jawaharlal Nehru Port, break bulk cargo rose from 217,471 tonnes in FY2023-24 to 493,412 tonnes in FY2024-25, reflecting increasing movement of non-containerised industrial cargo such as machinery, wind turbines, or steel beams that cannot fit into standard shipping containers

around 200 non-major ports, creating a wide network that supports domestic and international trade. As cargo volumes grow and industrial projects become more complex, maritime logistics is moving towards a more technology-driven model. Digital port systems, improved cargo visibility and specialised heavy lift capabilities are helping the sector handle both everyday trade flows and the logistical demands of large-scale infrastructure development.

### DIGITAL SYSTEMS RESHAPE PORT OPERATIONS

Across India's major ports, digital technologies are becoming an integral part of daily operations. Integrated cargo management systems now allow shipping lines, port authorities, customs departments and logistics providers to share information through common digital platforms. This transition is particularly important as cargo volumes continue to grow. According to India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), India's major ports handled around 855 million tonnes of cargo in FY25, up from 819 million tonnes in FY24, reflecting the steady expansion of maritime trade. Digital monitoring tools allow port operators to track cargo movement in real time, manage berth allocation and streamline documentation. Automated scheduling systems can also reduce delays by coordinating vessel arrivals with available berths and cargo handling capacity. These improvements help minimise turnaround time for ships and improve overall port productivity.

### HEAVY LIFT LOGISTICS AND PROJECT CARGO

Alongside containerised trade, another segment gaining importance is the movement of over-dimensional

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