

Dublinwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

A singular Dubliner

Proust questionnaire with Ireland's historic Prime Minister

{ PUBLIC INTEREST }

Cumden Street's Devitts pub is buzzy with evening loungers. Suddenly, the low-chattering turns into a murmur and, one by one, all the heads turn towards the main door. Ireland's former Prime Minister has just entered. Then in his late 30s, Leo Varadkar made history by becoming the country's first prime minister of Indian origin. He was also the country's first openly gay person to attain this position. And the youngest to hold the high office at the time.

The friendly waitress promptly serves the beer the former PM asked for, simultaneously handing him a bill of eight euros. Encoined in a corner table, Leo Varadkar agrees to become a part of our Proust Questionnaire series, in which citizens are nudged to make "Parisian parlour confessions", all to explore our distinct experiences. His responses form the concluding bookend to our week of Dublin dispatches. This reporter has been in Ireland's capital attending Bloomsday, the annual festival that celebrates James Joyce's great Dublin novel. Leo Varadkar casually remarks that he possesses the book's first UK edition. He is in fact looking forward to the September release of his own book—Speaking My Mind.

What is your present state of mind?
I'm enjoying life after politics—11th parliament in November this year. I have rediscovered personal and intellectual freedom. I did not realise how much I was missing it.

The principal aspect of your personality.
I'm an optimist who worries a lot.

Your favourite qualities in a person.
Energy, humour, kindness.

What do you appreciate the most in your friends?
Having the courage to tell me things that I need to hear.

Your main fault.
I'm probably too blunt. In Ireland, people can perceive that as being too insensitive.

Your favourite occupation.
Being a fitness enthusiast. I like running, weightlifting, swimming. I also love music.

Your idea of happiness.
Being free from desire.

Your idea of misery.
Being trapped and not being able to find a way out... that could be physical as well as spiritual.



Mayank Austen Soofi

Where would you like to live?
I live in Dublin, my hometown. The other place will have to be London. It is truly an international city, home to friends and family.

Your favourite prose authors.
Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is great fun. Read *Middlemarch* while a medical student spending a summer in Mumbai. Have loved it ever since. Yuval Noah Harari for *Sapiens*. Margaret Atwood for *Handmaid's Tale*—had the pleasure of dining with her in Dublin when I was Taoiseach (Prime Minister). It now feels that she predicted a possible future. I'm also fond of Maya Angelou. Like reading Martin Wolf of FT (Financial Times) as well.

Your favourite heroes in fiction.
The character of Lieutenant John J. Dunbar, played by Kevin Costner in *Dances With Wolves*.

Your favourite heroines in fiction.
Portia in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. She is smart, courageous, and is willing to defy social norms.

What characters in history do you most dislike?
Dermot MacMurrough—he invited the

Normans to Ireland.
Your favourite food.
Chicken legs, and I love mint chocolate ice cream. I also love pistachio kulfi.

Your favourite names.
Matthew, which is also my partner's name. But I always liked this name, even before meeting him. And I like the name Luke.

The reform you admire the most.
Introduction of pensions, which happened in different ways in different countries, giving people security in their vulnerable years.

How do you wish to die?
Hopefully quickly, but not soon—after a full life, hopefully avoiding a prolonged decline or illness.

Faults for which you have the most tolerance.
Have a lot of tolerance for people who make mistakes. Because that's the way one learns.

Your motto in life.
I would like to believe in reincarnation, but I think you live only once. So, you make the most of it, in what you do for other people, and for yourself.



READ: For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code

Blue signs given the green signal in 'Lutyens' Delhi

Paras Singh

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NEW DELHI Lutyens' Delhi is set to change colour. All road signs in the 52.7 sq km part of the Capital that houses offices and residences of top functionaries and officials of the executive, legislature, and judiciary are to now have a blue background, with white lettering, in keeping with norms laid down by the Indian Roads Congress, according to people familiar with the matter.

According to the guidelines issued by the national body which prescribes design standards for roads, green signboards of the sort currently found in the area, which is under the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), are to be used only on state and national highways. The signboards in the NDMC area are green, with names written in white in English, Hindi, Urdu and Gurmukhi. The council will also rectify any mistakes and add around 100 new signs to indicate schools, hospitals and community spaces.

Other parts of Delhi, where roads come under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and state Public Works Department (PWD), already have blue signboards. The project to install around 6,500 blue signboards is likely to cost around ₹18 crore and will begin in October.

A senior NDMC official said preparatory work for the project was recently completed after approvals were secured from the council members of the civic body.

"We will begin this project after the monsoon is over, around October, and the deadline of March 2026 has been fixed for its completion. We need to complete the road repair works after the monsoon rains and this project is likely to be run in parallel with road repaving and repair work," the official added, asking not to be named.

NDMC manages 1,298 km of roads in Central Delhi, along with 52 roundabouts, where 6,539 road signs are currently in place. Apart from colour, some of these signboards also differ from those in the rest of the city in terms of shape. NDMC signboards are both circular and triangular. In the rest of the city, the boards are rectangular.



While signboards across Delhi are blue, those in NDMC area are green, with names written in white in English, Hindi, Urdu and Gurmukhi.

The last major street sign replacement program was conducted by the civic body in 2009-10 in the run up to the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Since then, many of the boards have faded.

NDMC vice chairman Kuljeet Chahal said that a series of initiatives are being taken by the council to improve the road infrastructure as well as street furniture in the New Delhi area under which signage will also be soon upgraded.

S. Velmurugan, chief scientist and head of traffic engineering and safety division of Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), said that road signs, their colour and shapes play an important role in road safety and such glaring deviation should not have been allowed. "According to the Indian Road Congress (IRC) guidelines, signboards with blue background are meant for urban roads and green boards are used for state and national highways. There are no highways in the Lutyens' Delhi area. The uniformity of signs that are on a highway or in an urban environment."

He added that rectangular signs are informative in nature and provide details like road names. The triangular signs are cautionary in nature and indicate upcoming curves or signals and the circular signs are regulatory in nature. Besides colour, the replacement should also weed out other flaws. "Velmurugan said that normally the triangular and circular boards should have no coloured background as per IRC guidelines except in certain circumstances like construction zones and blue background in case of no parking zones."

A second NDMC official, aware of the matter, said that the survey of all signs in New Delhi was completed by the executive engineers of the road division in 2024 and an approval from the council was secured last year. "All signage in the NDMC area will be designed through a software for uniformity and consistency as per IRC guidelines." He added that the corporation will raise the frames of signs that are in good shape.

According to civic officials, the change was supposed to take place ahead of the G20 summit in 2023 but the project was delayed. In the annual budget for 2024-25 presented in December last year, the NDMC chairman stated that road signages were "installed mainly in 2009-10 with reflective sheets and have outlived their life."

Headed "Indian Roads Congress has revised the specifications with reflective sheets. To achieve proper safety, it is proposed to replace road signages in the NDMC area in next 2024-25. The project has finally secured the green signal now."

NEW DELHI: Delhi has recorded its highest ozone (O3) levels this summer in around four years, with readings breaching the safe mark for 14.2 hours on an average in a day, a report shows.

This eight-hour rolling average has gone up from 12 hours in a day from the last two summers. 11.7 hours in 2022 and 12.2 hours in 2021, according to the report released by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Tuesday.

The eight-hour safe standard for the pollutant is 100 µg/m³. The analysis also shows that Delhi recorded its widest geographical spread of ozone excess in the past five years this summer, with south Delhi and northwest Delhi being the worst impacted.

CSE said ground-level ozone levels exceeded the national safety standards on all 92 days in the summer period—considered as March 1 till May 31, while it exceeded the safe standards on 83 out of the 92 days in the summer.

Ground-level ozone pollution remained consistently high across the region, with the maximum concentration exceeding 100 µg/m³ on eight of the 92 days between March 1 and May 31, highlighting the persistent and widespread nature of the problem. The worst day in terms of spatial spread was April 25, when 32 out of 58 monitoring stations across the region reported ozone levels above the safe limit. The highest regional intensity was recorded on April 15, with the Delhi-NCR average reaching 135 µg/m³, it said.

Unlike primary pollutants (emitted directly from sources), ozone is not emitted directly from any source, but is formed through chemical reactions involving nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and carbon monoxide—pollutants released by vehicles, power plants, factories and other combustion sources. In the presence of sunlight, these substances undergo a series of cyclic reactions that result in the formation of ozone near the ground.

From
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
GTB Hospital, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0909/25-26
Dilshad Garden, Delhi

HT Homage

In Loving Memory of



Smt. Purnima Agrawal
(Wife of Late Udai Krishna Agrawal)

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform you of the sad demise of

Smt. Purnima Agrawal

on Sunday 15th June, 2025

We request you to join us for a prayer meeting to honor her life and pray for the eternal peace of her noble soul.

Date: Wednesday, 19th June 2025

Time: 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Venue: Shri Sathya Sai Auditorium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi



Your presence will be a source of strength and solace to the bereaved family.

Ranjit Kumar-Ritu
Sr. Ady
Aakanksha
Ayush-Svetlana

Sarita-Akhil Kumar
Ashutosh-Kiran, Himanshi
Shashvati-Ashutosh, Sarishi

Condolences at ranjit13@hotmail.com or 9810184723

Omi Shanti

Hindustan Times

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN), OPP. CAR SCAN CENTER, RAMGHAT ROAD, ALGARH-202001
Letter No.: 471/NW/2020
Dated: 16.06.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online e-tenders on turn-key percentage rate basis or Two-bid system are invited for execution of "Etah Nagar Palika Parichad Reorganization Water Supply Scheme Under AMRUT 2.0 Programme" are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidder. E-bid documents will be available for download from 21.06.2025 by 17:30 hrs. Pre-bid meeting will be held on dated 25.06.2025 at 15:30 hrs. E-bids can be submitted till 07.07.2025 upto 17:30 hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 08.07.2025 at 15:30 hrs. in the Office of The Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Algarh in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is Rs. 2000.00+GST @ 18% for tender. Details are available on U.P. Govt. e-procurement portal <http://e-tender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam website www.jn.up.nic.in.

Unforgettable



Remembering you with love and greatest pride, Lumba Family, Relatives & Friends. M: 9811756562



Ranjana Seth (Retd.), Grand & Great Grand Children.

In Loving Memory of
Pradeep Lumba
Sarvjit Singh
4th Death Anniversary
You were patient, kind, helpful, and a great father. You were our strength, inspiration, and guiding light. We miss your presence every moment. Fondly remembered by Anupama & Deepak Talwar, Prachi & Chaiti

10th Death Anniversary
USHA TALWAR
30.11.1927 - 13.01.2015

You were our strength, inspiration, and guiding light. We miss your presence every moment. Fondly remembered by Anupama & Deepak Talwar, Prachi & Chaiti

ADVERTISEMENT/NOTIFICATION

WHEREAS, Smt. Kavita Pillai, Nursing Officer, has been unauthorizedly absent from duty since 21st January 2021, and despite repeated communications from this hospital, has neither resumed duty nor provided any response in this regard;

NOW, THEREFORE, under Rule 14(2) of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, Smt. Kavita Pillai is hereby given a final opportunity to submit a response or resume duty within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action being initiated against her with retrospective effect.

