



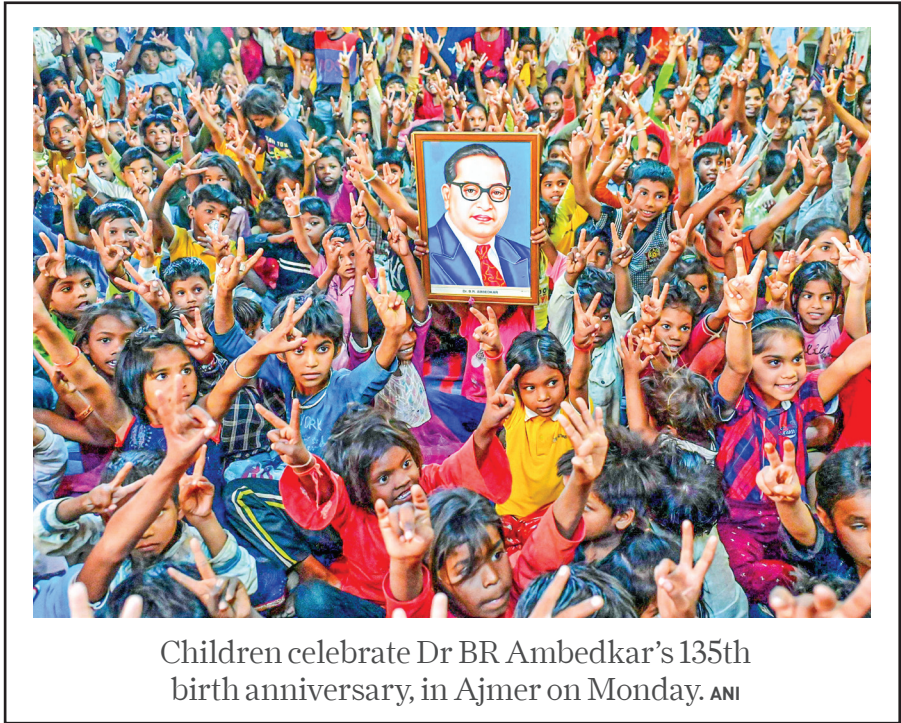
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Children celebrate Dr BR Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary, in Ajmer on Monday. ANI

# Mehul Choksi arrested in Belgium

ABHINANDAN MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

The Belgian government has arrested fugitive Mehul Choksi who had fled in January 2018 just days before the Rs 13,500 crore Punjab National Bank scam became came to the light.

Official sources in the Belgian federal public service of Justice confirmed to the Daily Guardian that Choksi was arrested on Saturday "in anticipation of further judicial proceedings". The authorities also told this newspaper that the Indian government has introduced an extradition request for Choksi, who along with his nephew Nirav Modi, is the prime accused in the PNB scam.

The Sunday Guardian, the sister publication of the Daily Guardian, was the first to report in December last year that "Mehul Choksi is suing GOI in the UK to delay extra-

*After successful extradition of Tabawwur Rana, India has requested extradition of Choksi, main accused in the 13,500 crore PNB scam*



dition" that the fugitive was currently based in Antwerp, Belgium, and receiving treatment at ZNA (Ziekenhuis Netwerk Antwerpen), a public hospital network in Belgium for multiple ailments that he has been suffering for a long time now.

Choksi, the youngest of six siblings, has a brother in Belgium. His brother-in-law, Hani, remarried after his sister's death and is also settled in Belgium. His brother, Chetan Chinu Bhai Choksi, also resides in Antwerp.

Choksi has already filed a case in the UK courts to sue India and five other individuals seeking a damage of Rs 3.60 crore for what he will allege was mental, physical, and psychological trauma caused due to Government of India's action.

The filing of Choksi's suit is being seen as a delay tactic to

Accuses the Congress of spreading "vote bank ka virus" over its opposition to Waqf Act

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress party, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday accused the grand old party of insulting Dr BR Ambedkar and misusing his legacy for vote bank politics.

Speaking at two big public rallies in Hisar and Yamunanagar, PM Modi said, "Congress made Dr Ambedkar lose elections twice. During the Emergency, they crushed the Constitution. Now, they carry it around to fool people and divide society."

Modi said his government has taken many steps to honour Dr Ambedkar's contribution and pass on his values to future generations. "But Congress has insulted places related to Baba Saheb and tried to wipe them from history," he added.

On Ambedkar Jayanti, PM Modi called poor people, Dalits, tribals and women the "soul of real social jus-



PM Modi waves to the gathering during an event to mark the launch of multiple projects in Yamunanagar, Haryana on Monday. Also seen are Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Manohar Lal, Rajya Sabha MP Kartikeya Sharma, among others. ANI

*Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted to bring equality, but the Congress spread the virus of vote bank (politics) in the country. He wanted every poor person to live with dignity, with heads held high, to dream and fulfil them. But the Congress made the SCs, STs and OBCs second-class citizens,"*

*The Congress insulted Babasaheb when he was alive and he was defeated in elections twice. The then Congress government wanted to throw him out.*

## PM recalls former Cong prez who took on British over Jallianwala Bagh

TDG NETWORK  
YAMUNANAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday remembered Kerala-born lawyer Chettur Sankaran Nair, and hailed him for taking on the British empire over the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation for a 800-MW 'ultra-super-critical' thermal power unit

at the Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant here, the Prime Minister urged people to learn about the contributions of Nair.

His remarks came ahead of the release of 'Kesari-2' – a film based on Nair's life – later this month.

Towards the end of his address, Modi spoke about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and said that in addition to those who died due to the

## RLJP quits NDA ahead of Bihar polls

AGENCIES  
PATNA

Pashupati Kumar Paras, the chief of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), announced on Monday that his party is quitting the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Speaking in Patna, Paras claimed that despite being a loyal ally since 2014, the party was treated unfairly during the Lok Sabha elections due to its Dalit roots. The development comes ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar.

The RLJP has started a membership drive and is preparing for the upcoming assembly elections, in which it will contest all 243 seats in Bihar.

Paras hinted that if the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) offers proper respect and a suitable position, the RLJP might consider joining them in the future.

"We were compelled... We are going amid the people and have started a membership drive. We are

## After Murshidabad, anti-Waqf violence rocks Kolkata outskirts

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA

Even as a tension-filled calm reigned in Murshidabad with Central forces staging flag marches, fresh anti-Waqf protests erupted in Bhangore, hardly 30 km from Kolkata. A police vehicle was overturned and police motorcycles burnt as protesters ransacked Sonpur village market and the protests spread to nearby Ghatakpukur. To prevent authorities from identifying the culprits, all CCTV cameras in the area were smashed.



A police vehicle was vandalised at Sodepur Bazar following a clash between ISF supporters and police during a protest. ANI

Local sources said that violence started in the area after supporters of a political party, the Indian Secular Front, were stopped by the police from reaching Kol-

kata where the party had lined up an Anti-Waqf protest programme.

Busloads of Indian Secular Force supporters from

## PM Modi gifts a pair of shoes to a fan who goes barefoot for 14 years

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Haryana on Monday turned into a life-changing moment for Rampal Kashyap of Kaithal, who ended a 14-year vow of walking barefoot—fulfilled only after meeting the Prime Minister in person, just as he had promised back in 2010.

The Prime Minister met Kashyap during his public

rally in Yamunanagar and also brought shoes for him. In 2010, Rampal made a promise: he would only wear shoes the day he met Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. That long wait finally ended at a rally in Yamunanagar, where Modi himself gave him a pair of shoes.

Sharing the moment on social media, the Prime Minister wrote, "At today's public meeting in Yamunanagar, I



met Shri Rampal Kashyap Ji from Kaithal. He had taken a vow 14 years ago—that he will only wear footwear after I became PM and he got to meet me."

But Modi also had a message for others who show such deep devotion. He said while he respects their love, they should try to use their energy for something bigger—like helping others or building the nation.

"I cherish your love... but

please focus on something that is linked to social work and nation building," he posted.

"I never imagined that the prime minister will meet me like this, I am really grateful", Kashyap said.

Rampal had walked barefoot through hot summers and cold winters for over a decade. Many people had offered him shoes, but he always said, "I'll wear shoes only after meeting Modiji."



# RJD, CONGRESS TO HOLD CRUCIAL MEET TODAY TO DISCUSS UPCOMING BIHAR POLLS

RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav is likely to meet Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejaswhi Yadav is going to meet Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on April 15 (Tuesday) to discuss seat-sharing talks and the alliance between the two parties for the upcoming Bihar elections, RJD MP Manoj Jha said on Monday. With the Bihar Assembly elections expected to take place in roughly six months, all the political parties have ramped up preparations. RJD, known as Congress's "oldest ally" in Bihar, is also part of the INDIA bloc. The RJD-Congress meeting is expected to take place at Kharge's residence. On April 20, the Congress president is also expected to address a public rally in Bihar's Buxar district. "This is a formal meeting. If we look at the allies of the Congress party, RJD has been the oldest ally as of now. In this formal meeting, the entire scenario will

**‘ENTIRE SCENARIO WILL BE DISCUSSED’**

■ “This is a formal meeting. If we look at the allies of the Congress party, RJD has been the oldest ally as of now. In this formal meeting, the entire scenario will be discussed,” RJD’s Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha said in Delhi

■ Earlier on March 30, while sounding the poll bugle for the party in Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah slammed former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav of presiding over a “jungle raj” and corruption between 1990-2005



be discussed,” RJD’s Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha said in Delhi. Saying that the “entire context” of Bihar will be discussed in the meeting, Jha added, “This meeting has been scheduled keeping in view the entire context of Bihar, and since the elections are now about 6-8 months away, it will be discussed.”

Notably, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar has raised the issue of migration in Bihar, taking out the ‘Naukri do’ rally to urge the state government to stop migration and facilitate job creation for the youth. On April 7, Kumar was joined by Rahul Gandhi in Begusair for the yatra. Earlier on March 30, while sounding the poll

bugle for the party in Bihar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah slammed former Bihar CM Lalu Prasad Yadav of presiding over a “jungle raj” and corruption between 1990-2005. Since his meeting on March 30, Shah is also going to spend two days a month in Bihar to prepare for the polls. “What did Lalu Yadav’s gov-

ernment do in Bihar from 1990 to 2005? Lalu Yadav’s government defamed Bihar in the country and the world by doing a fodder scam in the entire state. His government will always be known as ‘Jungle Raj’ in the history of Bihar,” the Home Minister said. On April 13, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the NDA meeting to discuss the assembly elections. Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary was also present. A high stakes battle is expected to take place in Bihar, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA); consisting of Janata Dal (United) led by Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, and the Bharatiya Janata Party fighting against the Mahagathbandan; consisting of Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and left parties. The elections in the state are expected to take place between October-November, however the dates for the polls have not been announced yet.

# AICTE forms panel to embed AI across academic courses

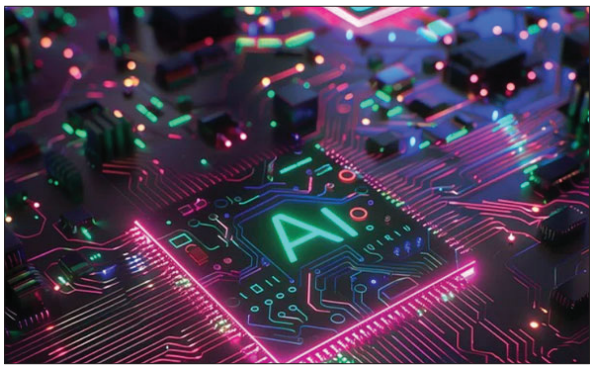
TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

In a move to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) across all streams of technical education, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has established a committee to explore the lateral expansion of AI and applied AI beyond conventional programmes like BTech in Computer Science.

AICTE chairman Prof TG Sitharam informed that the committee is chaired by Anand Deshpande, Managing Director of Persistent Systems, and comprises experts from IITs, NITs, and other premier institutions specializing in AI.

“We are putting one more committee to introduce AI laterally across the programmes, especially Applied AI. The committee is chaired by Anand Deshpande... There are experts from IIT and NIT who also work in AI. We wanted them to advise how we can spread AI laterally, spread the curriculum in all streams,” Sitharam said.

As part of this initiative, AICTE has introduced AI in programs like BBA, BCA,



and electrical engineering. The Chairman emphasized, “Everybody should understand Artificial Intelligence and data analytics. We have made a new curriculum for BBA and BCA. We have introduced AI in electrical engineering.”

AICTE is a national-level body responsible for accrediting and regulatory technical education in India. The Chairman noted that faculty training has been prioritised to ensure effective teaching of AI.

“Our teachers should be trained... because one is AI teaching itself, and another is what is going to change—for example, students will submit assignments. How do you change the question so that they don’t simply copy it? They will utilize AI as a tool,” he said.

Declaring 2025 as the ‘Year of Artificial Intelligence,’ AICTE has launched several initiatives to promote AI in education. According to reports, the initiative aims to integrate AI across 14,000 colleges and empower 40 million students.

Key elements include AI awareness campaigns, faculty development, and partnerships with leading tech companies.

AICTE currently revises its curriculum every two years through a structured process involving expert consultation.

The Chairman stated, “We do (curriculum revision) every two years. For that you have to prepare a committee, you have to sit down with experts, like the entire process is repeated.”

# Means nothing if people’s money not returned: Congress on Choksi’s arrest

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Following the arrest of fugitive Indian businessman Mehul Choksi in Belgium, Congress leader Supriya Shrinat said that all this means nothing till people’s money is not returned.

Referring to Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya, and Vinay Mittal, she questioned how such financial fugitives escaped from under PM Modi’s nose after 2014.

“The reality is that attempts were made earlier also to bring people back... A plane was sent to Dominic to bring Mehul Choksi back and Rs 44 crore were spent. Whether it is Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Vinay Mittal or Vijay Mallya, all such people who looted lakhs and crores of rupees and



left, have not been brought back,” Shrinat said.

“The way financial fugitives have escaped from under PM Modi’s nose after 2014, there should be accountability for that. All of this means nothing till people’s money is not returned,” Shrinat said. The Belgian Federal Public Service of Justice have confirmed that fugitive Indian businessman Mehul Choksi was arrested on April 12 and is currently

being held in detention. It further said that India has also introduced the request for his extradition. “The Belgian federal public service of Justice can confirm that Mr. Mehul Choksi was arrested on Saturday 12th of April 2025. He is being detained in anticipation of further judicial proceedings. Access to his legal counsel has been assured,” the Belgian federal public service of Justice told ANI. They also confirmed that Indian authorities have introduced an extradition request for Choksi. “Finally, the Belgian federal public service of Justice can confirm that the Indian authorities have introduced an extradition request for Mr. Choksi. As is standard in individual cases, no further details can be released at this stage,” they said.

# Global expert bats for India’s permanent UNSC seat, calls it vital for new multipolar world

ABHINANDAN MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

Jeffrey Sachs, a significant voice in global economics and policy, has issued a resounding call for India to be granted a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), arguing that its inclusion is pivotal to the birth of a new, multipolar world order.

In his article ‘Giving birth to the new international order’, Sachs contends that the current global system, rooted in a U.S.-led hegemony, is fading, and India’s rise—marked by its economic power, demographic weight, and diplomatic triumphs—makes it an indispensable player in reshaping international governance and without India being made a part of UNSC,

global affairs will not stabilize.

Sachs highlights India’s unmatched credentials: it is the world’s most populous nation, having surpassed China in 2024 with over 1.4 billion people, and its economy, valued at \$17 trillion in purchasing power parity terms, stands as the third largest globally, trailing only China’s \$40 trillion and the U.S.’s \$30 trillion. Citing official numbers, Sachs has said that India is growing at a brisk rate of 6% annually, and is poised to overtake the U.S. by mid-century. Its nuclear arsenal, cutting-edge digital innovations, and ambitious space program further cement its status as a great power, capable of contributing to global stability and progress, Sach contends.

# Yogi launches CAT in Lucknow, says ‘will provide timely justice’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath along with Union MoS Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in Lucknow.

Addressing the event, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of tribunals, stating that the role of CAT is to provide a platform to the officers and employees associated with government whose matters are pending in courts from long time and provide justice to them timely.

CM Yogi said, “Today is very important for us, because today is the birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution BR



Ambedkar... The government always had clear objective behind tribunals. The cases in our courts are pending for a long time. In order to not to waste courts’ necessary time on these long pending cases, these cases were being heard by tribunals. The government’s aim is that these tribunals should be able to provide justice to the concerned par-

ties on the basis of merit in a proper manner. With this clear intention, tribunals have started working in different parts of the country.”

“The role of CAT is to provide a platform for the problems of officers and employees associated with various government works and social system related to the central government, who felt that justice was not being done to them at any level and to provide them timely justice through this platform,” he added.

Hoping that the newly inaugurated CAT will provide timely justice, CM Yogi said, “Today, CAT has been established for the central employees of 16 janpadas. A huge building has been made and is dedicated for them.

# Want SC to adjudicate: JK CM Omar questions Waqf Act’s secular credentials

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday questioned the secular credentials of the Waqf Act and argued that the Act targets one religion, contradicting India’s secular principles.

He emphasised the importance of equal treatment for all religions and awaited the Supreme Court’s adjudication.

CM Omar also said that the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has filed a petition in the Supreme Court to



challenge the Waqf Act.

“My party has already filed a petition in front of the Supreme Court. Now leave it to the judges. We are among a number of organisations that have approached the Supreme

Court to look at this. Let them take a look at it. We believe that this piece of legislation has targeted one particular religion. We are supposed to be a secular state. All religions are supposed to be treated equally. We believe that we have a right to be treated equally. We want the Supreme Court to adjudicate on this. Now we will wait...,” he told reporters, explaining the position of the ruling party on the Waqf Act.

According to JKNC, the writ petition was filed on April 11 on the “directions” of Party President Farooq

Abdullah and in the “interest of the minorities of India.” The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, came into force on April 8 (Tuesday). After a 12-hour discussion, the Upper House cleared the bill with 128 members voting in favour, whereas 95 members voted against the legislation.

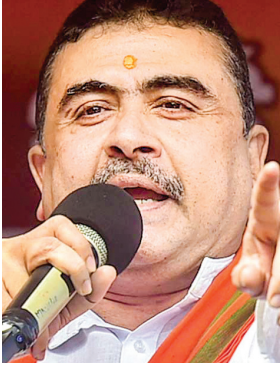
The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, was passed by Parliament and has received the President’s assent. The Act amends the Waqf Act, 1995, allowing the government to regulate Waqf properties and settle related disputes.

TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Leader of Opposition and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday demanded that elections be held under President’s Rule in areas where Hindus are in the minority, citing concerns over voting rights after the Murshidabad violence.

He also called for a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the violence, labeling it as “anti-national activities.”

Adhikari has petitioned the Calcutta High Court, seeking the deployment of



central forces in Murshidabad due to escalating violence. The violence erupted over protests against the Waqf Amendment Act, resulting in three deaths and multiple injuries.

Speaking to ANI, he said,

“I have this in my petition that after such explosions and firing incidents, the NIA should investigate (in Murshidabad) as these are anti-national activities... Wherever Hindus are in the minority, they don’t let Hindus vote, and hence, the Elections must be held under president rule for the sake of democracy...”

The BJP accuses the TMC government of inaction and appeasement, while the TMC accuses the BJP of stoking communal tension.

Earlier today, Union Minister and West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Ma-

jumdar launched a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government and stated that once the BJP forms the government in the state, strict actions will be taken against the perpetrators of the Murshidabad violence.

“The situation has improved a bit (in Murshidabad) after the deployment of central forces, but the situation is still not such that Hindus can live freely with their heads held high. People who fled from the Murshidabad district and went to Malda as refugees are still not ready to return,” Majumdar said.

# Modi slams Cong for blackouts during its reign, says country now exporting power

AGENCIES  
YAMUNANAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said there were blackouts under the Congress rule before 2014 but India’s power production has doubled in the last decade and it is now exporting electricity.

Addressing a gathering after laying the foundation stone of an 800-MW ultra-supercritical modern thermal power unit at the

Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant here, the prime minister said Haryana is seeing “double speed” of the BJP’s double-energy government.

The thermal power unit, spread across 233 acres and worth around Rs 8,470 crore, is expected to become operational by March 2029. It will significantly boost Haryana’s energy self-sufficiency and provide uninterrupted power supply across the state.

Earlier, state-owned BHEL had bagged the order to set up an 800 MW plant which will be Haryana’s first ultra-supercritical technology-based power project.

The unit shall be established adjacent to the existing 2x300 MW units, currently operational at Yamunanagar.

Taking forward the vision of ‘Gobardhan’ (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan), Modi also laid the foundation stone of



a compressed biogas plant in Mukarabpur here.

The plant, slated for completion by 2027, will have an annual production capacity of 2,600 metric tonnes and

will help in effective organic waste management while contributing to clean energy production and environmental conservation, a statement said. Modi also digitally inaugurated the 14.4-km Rewari Bypass project, worth around Rs 1,070 crore under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. It will decongest Rewari City, reduce Delhi-Narnaul travel time by an hour, and boost economic activity in the region. Before reaching

Yamunanagar, Modi addressed a public gathering in Hisar after he flagged off a commercial flight from Maharaja Agrasen Airport in Hisar to Ayodhya and also laid the foundation stone of the new terminal building at the airport. With this, the prime minister launched several development initiatives worth Rs 10,000 crore in the state on Monday to mark the birth anniversary of Bhim Rao Ambedkar, an iconic figure known for his

role in Dalit emancipation and preparing the Constitution. Addressing a gathering in Yamunanagar, Modi said there were blackouts when the Congress was ruling before 2014 but India’s power production has doubled in the last decade and it is now exporting electricity.

Electricity will have a big role in developing a ‘Viksit Bharat’. Our government is making all-round efforts in increasing electricity generation be it one nation,

one grid, new coal-powered plants, solar energy, expansion of nuclear sector, he said. We want electricity production should increase and shortage of electricity should not become a stumbling block in ‘Rashtra Nirman’, the prime minister said. “We should not forget Congress days. Before 2014 when there was a Congress government we had seen those days when blackouts used to take place in the country.



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON MEHUL CHOKSI ARREST

37% believe Choksi should be sentenced to life imprisonment

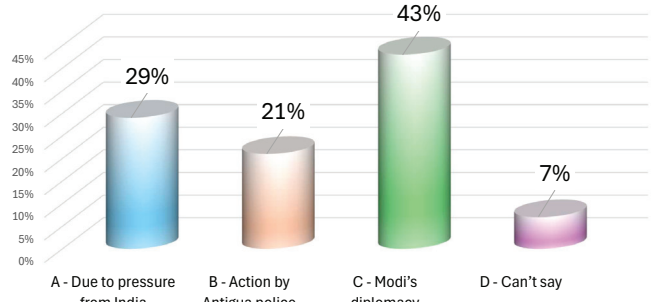
Fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi, wanted in the multi-crore PNB fraud case, has been arrested in Belgium following requests by

Indian agencies like the CBI and ED, based on Mumbai court warrants. Choksi, who fled India in 2018 and

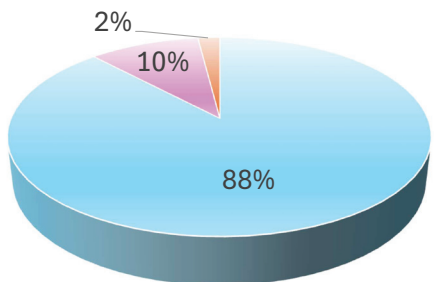
became an Antiguan citizen, is now preparing a legal battle, with his lawyers planning to seek bail and oppose extradition.

Q1.▶

On CBI's appeal, fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi was arrested in Antigua. What is your opinion?



A - Yes  
B - No  
C - Cannot say



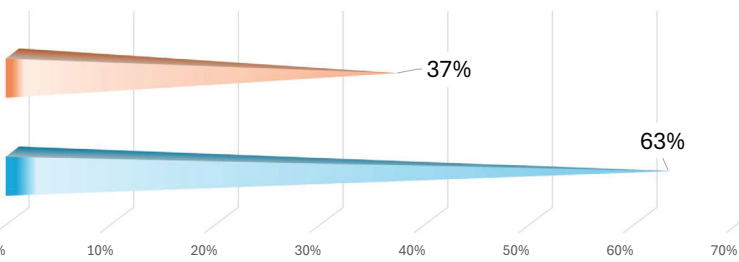
Q2.◀

Will Choksi be brought back to India soon?

Q3.▶

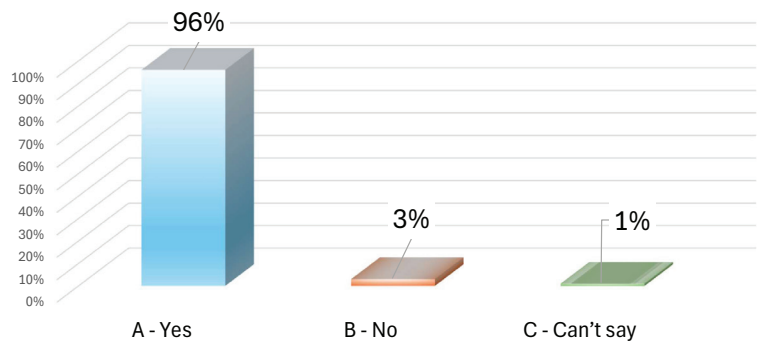
If Choksi is brought back to India, what should be done with him, in your opinion?

A - Recovery of the scam money  
B - Life imprisonment



Q4.◀

Will all fugitives like Choksi be arrested?



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON OPPOSITION TO WAQF ACT IN BENGAL

64% believe President's rule should be imposed in Bengal

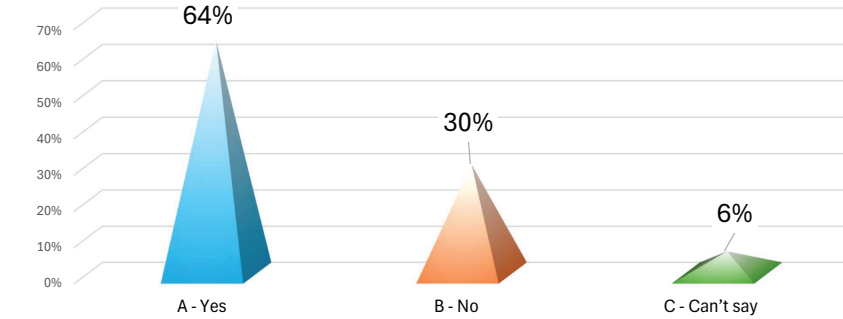
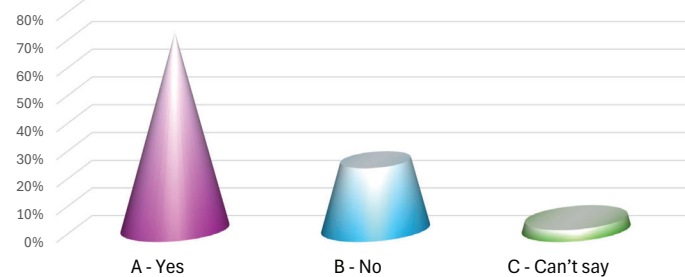
Following the killing of three people in West Bengal's Murshidabad, a plea was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a Special Investigation Team

(SIT) probe into alleged communal and political violence. Filed by Advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, the petition cites lawless-

ness, attacks on BSF, and train disruptions, urging the state government to prevent further escalation.

Q1.▶

Murders are taking place in Bengal in the name of protests against the Waqf Bill. Has the Mamata government failed to stop the violence?

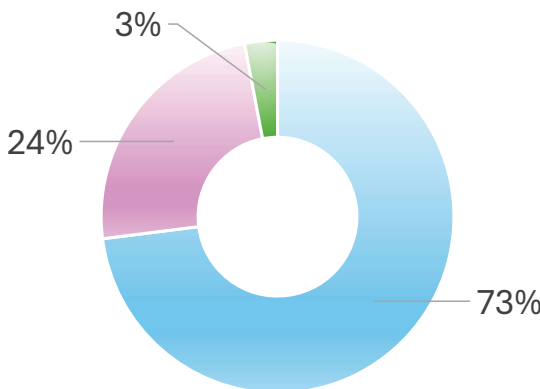


Q2.◀

Considering the violent situation in Bengal, should President's Rule be imposed?

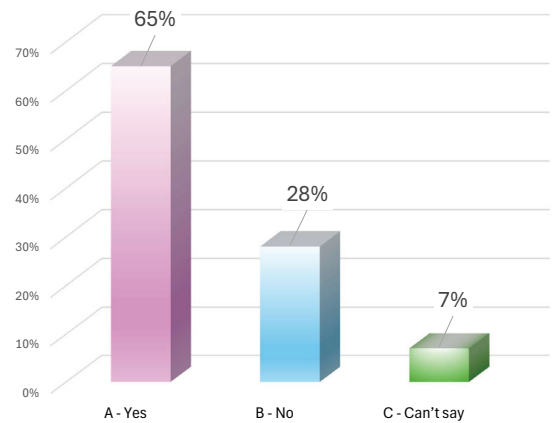
Q3.▶

Are Hindus being targeted in Bengal in the name of opposition to the Waqf Bill?



Q4.◀

After the murder of Hindus in Murshidabad, Hindu families are fleeing. Is Mamata failing to provide them security?



Mehul Choksi arrested in Belgium

CONTINUED FROM P1

avoid his extradition to India by invoking the UK courts and unleashing a media blitzkrieg in his favour by using psychiatric evaluation reports, backed by a well-funded PR campaign and bringing in lawyers and law firms who have a track record of first delaying and then completely denying the extradition of their clients.

However, his arrest by Belgian authorities has likely thwarted this.

It is pertinent to mention that India and Belgium have an active extradition treaty, signed and ratified in March 2020, which replaced a pre-independence treaty from 1901 (extended to India in 1958). The treaty provides a legal framework for extraditing individu-

als accused or convicted of offenses punishable by at least one year of imprisonment in both countries, including serious crimes like fraud, money laundering, and corruption—relevant to cases like Choksi's. Extradition of nationals is discretionary, and nationality is determined at the time of the offense. Grounds for refusal include political or military offenses, prosecution based on race, religion, or political opinion, or if the offense is time-barred. The treaty also covers fiscal offenses like taxation fraud.

Nirav Modi is currently imprisoned in the United Kingdom, at Wandsworth Prison in London. He has been detained there since his arrest in March 2019 on an extradition warrant.

India and Belgium are ac-

tively strengthening their mutual trade cooperation to unlock its full potential. In the fiscal year 2023-24, bilateral trade reached approximately USD 15.07 billion, a robust figure yet below the optimal level both nations aim to achieve. India exported goods valued at USD 7.84 billion to Belgium, while importing USD 7.23 billion, maintaining a balanced trade relationship with a modest surplus for India.

After fleeing India, Mehul Choksi settled in Antigua and Barbuda, obtaining citizenship there. An Interpol notice against him was subsequently withdrawn. The majority of the public funds allegedly misappropriated by Choksi and Nirav Modi belonged to millions of Indian working-class individuals and blue-collar workers.

Dalits, tribals, women are 'soul of real social justice': PM

CONTINUED FROM P1

“Our government is making sure that the poor get their land rights and that land mafias don't grab Waqf land,” he said adding true empowerment means giving Muslim women and youth their rights, not just

fake promises. He alleged that the Congress was “crushing the spirit of the Constitution to stay in the power” and treating “SC, ST, OBC communities as second-class citizens”.

PM Modi criticized Congress leaders for enjoying luxuries while the poor lacked basic needs. “They had swimming pools. But we gave clean tap water to 80% homes—up from just 16% when we took office. That's our real tribute to Baba Saheb,” he said.

During his visit, the Prime Minister launched the first flight between Hisar and Ayodhya and laid the foundation of a new terminal at

Hisar Airport. He also laid the foundation stone for the 800-MW third unit of Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar.

“Haryana is not just a land of soldiers and farmers. It's also a land of progress and harmony,” Modi said, referring to the region's history from Maharaja Agrasen to Agroha Dham.

Highlighting the rise in air travel, Modi said India had only 74 airports before 2014, but now has over 150. “Under the UDAN scheme, even those wearing hawai chappals can fly,” he said, slamming Congress for ignoring this progress.

He announced that Indian

airlines had ordered more than 2,000 new planes, which would create many jobs, especially in Haryana. In Yamunanagar, he emphasized the need for reliable electricity. “With solar, coal, nuclear, and One Nation-One Grid, we are working to ensure round-the-clock power,” he said.

Modi also praised Yamunanagar's role in India's industry—from plywood to brass and steel—and recalled Ambedkar's belief that industrial growth was key for uplifting Dalits.

He appreciated Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's government for transparent recruitment and accused Congress of

corruption in government job hiring. “Earlier, youth had to sell family land or jewellery to get jobs. Today, merit decides your future,” he said.

Calling Haryana a land of culture, strength, and brotherhood, PM Modi thanked the people for their support even during the busy harvest season.

He said the flight from Hisar to Ayodhya connects the lands of Shri Krishna and Lord Ram and more flights will start soon.

Modi also spoke emotionally about his connection with Yamunanagar, remembering his visits from Panchkula when he was in charge of the state.

Cong rallies behind Bajwa

CONTINUED FROM P1

Meanwhile, Gurdaspur MP and former Deputy CM Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa questioned the selective targeting of Bajwa. He pointed out that when gangster Lawrence Bishnoi gave a live interview from jail, no questions were raised about the news channel's source.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, in a video message, demanded that Bajwa reveal his source. He questioned whether Pakistani terrorists were in direct contact with the Congress

leader and accused him of either spreading panic or withholding vital security intelligence. “If this is false, it's fear-mongering; if true, why wasn't it shared with the authorities?” Mann said, warning of strict action.

Bajwa, however, stood his ground. “I am the CLP leader, and I made a responsible statement based on information from a source I will not disclose. The government can intimidate me, but I won't back down,” he said. He reiterated that he belongs to a family that has suffered

from terrorism and emphasized the importance of staying alert.

Punjab Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring condemned the FIR, calling it an act of dictatorship. He announced a statewide protest, saying, “Let's see tomorrow who has the courage to stand up.” He also noted that Bajwa has been charged under non-bailable sections simply for raising an issue on a TV channel, a move he said exposes the government's intolerance towards dissent.

PM recalls former Cong prez Sankaran Nair

CONTINUED FROM P1

cruelty of the British, there was one aspect which was kept in the dark.

“This aspect relates to the spirit of humanity and standing with the country. His name was Sankaran Nair,” he said.

“None of you would have heard his name. But these days, he is widely talked about. Nair Ji was a famous lawyer and he occupied a very high position in the then British government. He could have enjoyed power and all luxuries,” Modi told the gathering.

But Nair chose to raise his voice against British cruelty after he was moved by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the prime minister said.

“He raised his voice against the British and left his post. He belonged to Kerala and the incident happened in Punjab. He decided to fight a case on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He fought and he shook the foundation of the British empire,” Modi said.

RLJP quits NDA ahead of Bihar polls

CONTINUED FROM P1

preparing for all 243 seats...If Mahagathbandhan gives us proper respect at the right time, we will definitely think of politics in future...,” said Pashupati Kumar Paras.

He said the BJP and JD(U) state chiefs repeatedly referred to themselves as the “5 Pandavas” in Bihar without mentioning RLJP's name in any NDA meetings over the

past 6-8 months.

“Whenever NDA meeting was held in Bihar, BJP state chief and JD(U) state chief issued statements that they are ‘5 pandavas’ in Bihar, they didn't mention our party's name anywhere...,” said the RLJP chief.

Despite supporting the NDA in the elections, Paras felt that his party was not given due respect, leading to the decision to leave the alliance.

Violence rocks Kolkata outskirts

CONTINUED FROM P1

Bhangar, Minakha, Sandeshkhali, and nearby areas were stopped by the police, sparking protests, road-blocks and arson. When stopped, protesters surrounded the police. The police had to baton charge to disperse the protesters.

The ISF – the only non-Trinamool, non-BJP party to have a member in the State Assembly – blocked the Basanti expressway when cops stopped their vehicles coming from Bhangar from proceeding towards Ramlila Maidan in Kolkata.

Nawshad Siddique, the ISF legislator, accused the Trinamool Congress Government of “intentionally provoking” his supporters to divert attention from the jobs-for-cash scandal. “We have not forgotten the sins committed by the Mamata Banerjee Government however much it tries to cover up the crimes. From selling jobs to the RG Kar rape and murder of our sister, we shall not forgive or forget.”

Reacting to the news of the fresh violence, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said: “We live once and die once. So, why is there a riot? Every caste and religion has the right to protest, but do not take law into your hands...Some people are trying to mislead you, do not pay attention to them.”

Even as the BSF patrolled Murshidabad district to maintain peace, the Trinamool Congress mouthpiece, Jagobangla, blamed the BSF for smuggling in trouble-makers from across the borders.

“The situation is getting normal now. Since last Friday, we, the BSF, have been working closely with the local police and doing whatever is required to normalise the situation. Now the CRPF has also come. Yesterday also, the situation was relatively very peaceful, and wherever we are getting any input about any tension or trouble, we are responding effectively. So I am very sure that soon the situation will get normal

and we are working closely with the local police and other sister agencies,” ADG Eastern Command of BSF, Ravi Kumar Gandhi.

Addressing the media, Jawed Shamim, Additional Director General (Law and Order), West Bengal Police, said that both the Malda and Murshidabad administrations are working in coordination to ensure peace and facilitate the safe return of those who had fled their homes.

“So far, 19 families have returned. Shops are opening and people are slowly resuming their normal routine,” Shamim said, adding that law enforcement agencies are focused on restoring calm in the affected regions.

Emphasising the need to curb misinformation, Shamim warned residents against spreading or acting on unverified news. “We've arrested 210 individuals so far. Rumours can reignite tensions — I urge everyone to stay calm and check facts before reacting,” he said.



# TELANGANA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO IMPLEMENT SC SUB-CATEGORISATION

Comes into force on April 14, aims equitable quota benefits among SC sub castes

TDG NETWORK  
HYDERABAD

Telangana government on Monday issued a notification, officially enforcing Scheduled Caste (SC) sub-categorization for all future recruitment and education-related decisions, following a detailed legal and administrative process.

The Act comes into force on April 14, making Telangana the first state in the country to implement SC sub-categorisation after the Supreme Court's green signal.

Telangana Minister for Irrigation, Food & Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy, who also heads the cabinet subcommittee on the matter, said the policy aims to equitable distribute reservation benefits among SC subcastes.

"SCs in Telangana have

## PANEL FORMED TO STUDY INDICATORS ACROSS SC SUB CASTES

- This classification or categorisation is not against any community, said Minister
- The Act aims to rationalise the existing 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes by categorising 59 SC sub-castes into three groups based on inter-se backwardness
- The Shamim Akhtar Commission, appointed in October 2024 was tasked with studying socio-economic indicators across SC sub-castes.



a 15% reservation, there always has been a feeling that some of the SC sub-castes are getting more benefit than the others. So when the Supreme Court gave a judgement about 6-7 months back, giving the power of reservation of sub-castes to states, Telangana was the first state which announced in the as-

sembly that we will not do any further job notification or filling up of job vacancies till we finish the categorization," he said.

"So we went through an elaborate process, I am the cabinet sub-committee chairman, we also appointed a retired high court judge as a one-man judicial commission, we went through a

very meticulous, systematic, legally valid process and we completed it and today we have issued the necessary orders and the law will be enforced from today in Telangana where all further issues in employment and education will be done as per SC categorization," Reddy added.

He further informed that

a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday to compile all departmental vacancies. "We are also having a meeting tomorrow to call for all the vacancies in all the departments, and we will give a notification in the next few days. In all of them, SC categorization will be applicable," he said. Supporting the move, Telangana Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha stated, "We are committed to social justice. This classification or categorisation is not against any community. It is for those communities among the Dalits who are most backward."

Meanwhile, on Sunday, chairing the final meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on SC Categorisation at the Secretariat, Uttam Kumar Reddy confirmed that a Government Order outlining the modalities of the Act will be issued on Ambedkar Jayanthi.

# Cabinet meeting on Caste Census report on April 17: Karnataka CM

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that a special cabinet meeting has been called on April 17 to discuss the Caste Census report. Siddaramaiah also told the media persons that their government will work hard to "build the kind of society that Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted to build."

"Our government will work hard to build the kind of society that Babasaheb Ambedkar wanted to build...A special cabinet meeting has been called to discuss the Caste Census report on 17th April. It will be a single-subject discussion," Siddaramaiah said. Yesterday, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy accused Siddaramaiah of using the caste census as a political gimmick to divert public at-



tention from the Congress government's failures. Speaking to media persons near Freedom Park, Kumaraswamy said, "There is no meaning to the caste census report that is now being brandished.

The Kantharaj Commission's report was prepared a decade ago. Why wasn't it implemented all this while? Now, with the public outrage over failed guarantees, rampant corruption, and price hikes reaching a boiling point, the government is trying to mislead people with the

drama of the caste census." "If you truly want a caste census, then conduct a fresh survey and submit a new report.

The last 10 years have brought significant demographic changes," Kumaraswamy stated. He accused the Congress of exploiting caste for political gain, warning that this divisive agenda could create social unrest.

Earlier in the day, Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), calling its members "stooges of RSS" in reference to their stance on minority rights and caste-based allocation, following a report on the state's caste census. He accused the BJP leaders of not understanding the Constitution and aligning with the RSS ideology, which he claimed does not prioritise equality.

# Majoritarian muscle flexing: DMK hits back at Guv over 'Jai Shri Ram' chant row

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

DMK spokesperson Saravanan Annadurai on Monday hit back at Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi after he asked students to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' during an event in Madurai. Annadurai said the Governor's actions reflect "majoritarian muscle-flexing" that undermines the country's secular fabric.

"The governor has gone beyond his stay in Tamil Nadu. If he had some shame left in him, he would have resigned from the Governor's post. He is trying to stroke controversy one after the other. Imagine if there was a governor from the Muslim Community who asked students to chant Allahu Akbar. What kind of uproar it would have created?" Annadurai said.



"You go to a religious gathering and do whatever you want to do, nobody will question you.

But in a college, there are students of every faith. This is flexing the majoritarian muscle. That does not work well for our democracy and secular fabric of the country," he said. Calling him a "Hindutva fanatic," the



DMK leader asserted that such behaviour is unacceptable in Tamil Nadu. "The governor is a constitutional functionary, and we expect him to uphold the Constitutional values. But what he has done here, he has trampled upon them. We never expected that the Governor would stoop so low. He is like a Hindutva fanatic.

# International standard infra must for country to become 'Vishwaguru': Gadkari

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Union Minister of Road and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday said that India can become 'Vishwaguru' only after we build an international-standard infrastructure.

"If we want to develop our country, if we want to make our country a Vishwaguru, if we want to make our country the third largest economy in the world, if we want to make our country a five billion dollar economy which our Prime Minister wants to fulfill, the first requirement is to build international standard infrastructure in the country," Gadkari said at 78th Vasant



Vyakhyanmala organized by Amar Hind Mandal.

He further said that if India wants to make our country 'Vishwaguru,' we have to import less, and exports should be increased, trying to bring logistics costs on a single digit.' "Mumbai is also in the red zone and therefore, in the coming time, there is a need

*Gadkari further said that he has warned the contractor to not compromise with the quality.*

to work in Mumbai on both air and water pollution," he added.

Gadkari further said that he has warned the contractor to not compromise with the quality. "We never compromised with quality, I said the contractor will put you in prison or black-list. The quality

must be excellent. There are no corruption allegations yet, all transparency. I won't talk much about the toll, but within 15 days, such a policy will come, You will not have any complaints about tolls, I am not talking about Maharashtra tolls, I am talking about national highways," Gadkari said. On April 10, Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 10 National Highway projects and related infrastructure construction works worth over Rs 5,800 crore for the state at a program held in Badnawar, Dhar district.

# Got offer to do 'encounter' of sarpanch murder case accused: Suspended cop

AGENCIES  
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR

A suspended police sub-inspector from Beed on Monday claimed some persons had offered him to carry out an "encounter" of Walmik Karad, accused in sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh murder case.

Ranjeet Kasle, the suspended cop, also said he had mentioned the names of the persons who made the offer in a local police station diary.

A senior police official from Beed, however, dismissed Kasle's claims as baseless and said he should submit a proof of his statements.

Kasle was suspended earlier when he was a sub-inspector in the local cyber crime department.

Deshmukh, the sarpanch of Massajog village in Maharashtra's Beed district, was abducted and tortured to death on December 9 last year allegedly for attempt-

ing to stop an extortion bid targeting an energy company.

Karad is among the eight persons arrested so far and booked under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

The state Crime Investigation Department (CID) last month filed a more than 1,200 pages chargesheet at a court in Beed in Deshmukh's murder and two related cases.

Talking to a regional news channel, Kasle claimed some persons had approached him with an offer to carry out the "encounter" of Karad.

"I was given this offer by a team of a few people and I have mentioned their names in the station diary. The offer was only for Walmik Karad and was given to me before I was suspended. I refused, saying I cannot commit such a sin," he said.

# Bihar migrant rapes, murders 5-year-old girl, killed in police encounter in K'taka's Hubballi

TDG NETWORK  
HUBBALLI

A 35-year-old Bihar migrant man accused of raping and murdering a five-year-old girl in Karnataka's Hubballi was shot dead in an encounter with the police on Sunday, officials said. The accused, identified as Nitesh Kumar, allegedly attacked the police team when they attempted to apprehend him.

Despite a warning shot, he tried to flee, prompting police to open fire. He was later declared dead at KMC-IR Hospital, police said, adding that three police personnel were injured during the operation. The incident occurred hours after the child was allegedly kidnapped and killed in Hubballi's Vijayanagar area. Her body was found in an abandoned building. Outraged by the incident, a



large number of residents from the locality gathered in front of the Ashok Nagar police station on Sunday morning and staged a protest, demanding justice for the victim's family.

Later, Karnataka government's Chief Whip Saleem Ahmed stated that the police firing in Hubballi, which resulted in the death of an accused in a POCSO and murder case, was carried out in self-defence after the man tried to assault a woman police officer. Clarifying that there was no lapse in law and order, Ahmed said the police handled the situation efficiently.

"The commissioner has given me the information that the accused tried to hit the lady inspector, and in self-defence, she had to fire at him. It is not a failure of law and order.

Our police are competent enough to take action, so have they," he said. "In the Ashok Nagar PS area, a 5-year-old girl was found in one of the abandoned buildings. She was shifted to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival...we have taken up the complaint of the girl's parents, legal action will be taken...the mother of the girl works as a housemaid,

# Also providing quota to SC/ST: DKS after PM slams minority quota in K'taka

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks criticising the quota for minority contractors, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday defended the state government's reservation policy and said that they are also giving reservations to Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs). "We are also giving reservation to SC/ST, our aim is to uplift those who are not financially capable and bring them into the mainstream, this is our intention, the deputy chief minister said. Congress party is paying attention to every section of the society, DK Shivakumar told reporters. Earlier today in Hisar, the PM Modi attacked Congress for not fulfilling the vision of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

# Andhra govt distributes house titles to 354 beneficiaries in Manglagiri

TDG NETWORK  
AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh on Sunday distributed house site title documents to 354 beneficiaries under the Mana Illu-Mana Lokesh (Our House-Our Lokesh) programme organised in Mangalagiri. The beneficiaries are from Tadepalli Drivers Colony, Salam Centre, Vundavalli Centre, Seethanagaram and Padmashali Bazar, according to a release.

Addressing the gathering, he said that at the second cabinet meeting after the TDP-led NDA came to power, he got sanctioned the 100-bedded hospital for which he laid the foundation on Sunday.

Lokesh said he would ensure that this hospital is completed in 365 days and dedicated to the people of Mangalagiri. The IT Minister promised



the people that underground drainage, drinking water, and power projects would be launched in June.

He also said that he has launched the first park in Mangalagiri, as promised, to develop tanks and parks. Several people have requested community halls, and as promised during electioneering, land has been identified for 17 such community halls, while the construction of two buildings has already been taken up.

"We will complete the construction of community halls in the next 18 months," Lokesh said

# Eyeing to become Drone Capital of India, Andhra invites proposals to shape industry

TDG NETWORK  
GUNTUR

The Andhra Pradesh government has invited proposals from industry leaders in the drone industry for the empanment of drone-as-a-service providers.

"Andhra Pradesh is rapidly progressing with the aim of becoming the Drone Capital of India. The state's

vision is to develop world-class drones using indigenous technologies and to emerge as a significant player in the global drone industry," as per a release from Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation.

Aspiring entrepreneurs and industry leaders are invited to submit proposals and shape the future of the drone industry. In alignment with the vision of



Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the AP

Drone Corporation is executing strategic initiatives

to foster rapid growth in the drone sector and is working to make drone services widely available in administration and to the public. "The corporation has extensively studied how drones can be beneficial and in which sectors they can be effectively used. It has identified over 100 practical drone use cases across sectors and continues to explore new

applications. Proposals are welcomed from startups, established companies, and individuals eager to innovate in this space," the release read. A state-of-the-art Drone City is being developed over 300 acres in Orvakal, Kurnool district. A master plan and land acquisition are already completed.

The AP Drone Corporation invites enthusiastic

investors and companies to come forward and invest in this project. An Expression of Interest (EOI) has already been released. The Drone City aims to become one of the best in the world, with designated zones for drone manufacturing, component production, testing, startups, import-export facilities, payload testing airstrip, exhibition centre, audito-

rium, and more - all in one place.

The government calls this the most suitable location in the country for investment in drone manufacturing and services, offering multiple incentives to investors. "To connect investors, businesses, and the public in the drone sector, the AP Drone Corporation is launching a dedicated portal named AP Drone Mart.



# SONIA, KHARGE JOIN CM GUPTA IN PAYING TRIBUTES TO AMBEDKAR

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday paid her tributes to Dr BR Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary.

Gupta was one of the several dignitaries with Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Kiren Rijiju, JP Nadda, paid floral tributes at the statue of Ambedkar at Prerna Sthal on Parliament premises.

Earlier in the day, she attended another event in Ambedkar's memory held in north Delhi's Shalimar Bagh, her constituency.

She later accompanied Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijendra Gupta and other ministers to pay tribute at the statue of Ambedkar in the Vidhan Sabha premises.

Gupta remembered Ambedkar as a pioneer of equality, social justice, and



Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh with Union Minister JP Nadda, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Sonia Gandhi, and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta during a ceremony to pay tribute to BR Ambedkar on his birth anniversary, at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi. ANI

human rights. He mentioned Ambedkar's "unparalleled contribution" in framing the Indian Constitution.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the BJP bows be-

fore B R Ambedkar "out of compulsion" but fails to uphold his ideals, particularly in the field of education.

There was no immediate response from the BJP to the former chief minister's

remarks. Speaking at an event at the AAP headquarters here to commemorate Ambedkar's birth anniversary, Kejriwal said, "We try to follow Babasaheb's path while running our party

and government. Today, many parties and leaders commemorate him merely for show, they don't follow his ideals. For instance, no other party prioritises education, which was one of his core principles."

## Excise dept conducts surprise checks to curb liquor sale irregularities

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The excise department of Delhi government has initiated a series of surprise inspections to curb irregularities in retail liquor sale, including from unauthorised premises, officials said on Monday.

At a meeting with excise officials last week, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta issued instructions to stop smuggling of illicit liquor and ensure an increase in government's revenue collections. The excise department, after receiving information that liquor was being served at unli-

censed premises in various parts of Delhi in violation of the Delhi Excise Act and Rules, conducted a series of surprise inspections across West and South-West Delhi, an excise official said. The enforcement teams of the department last Friday registered four FIRs at different police stations for violations of excise laws detected during the inspections, the official said.

Similar surprise checks will continue in the coming weeks to bring more such establishments under the licensed regime and deter unlawful practices, he added.

## PWD forms 4-member unit to overlook projects

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Public Works Department has constituted a four-member monitoring unit for the timely completion of several projects recently assigned to it, officials said on Monday. The committee, which will have an executive engineer, an architect and two assistant engineers, will submit a fortnightly report.

"The unit will monitor the timeline of various important tenders, issues related to air quality monitoring and dust mitigation measures," PWD said in an order.

## Police nabs two auto drivers who robbed IB officer

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested two auto-rickshaw drivers, Akhtar Raja (41) and Ghulam Raza (25), for robbing a Security Assistant Executive with the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Manish Pandey.

The incident occurred on April 11 at around 1:00 AM at the RK Ashram Marg traffic signal. Both accused are TSR drivers by profession.

According to police, Pandey was waiting for an auto-rickshaw when Raja and Raza, who were driving a TSR, approached him. Raza allegedly threatened Pandey with a knife

and snatched his wallet containing important documents and Rs 1,500.

The police registered a case under sections 309(4)/3(5) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) at Police Station Mandir Marg.

The police analysed the CCTV footage from the crime scene and surrounding areas and identified Raja's TSR as suspicious.

The driver of the TSR, Akhtar Raja (41 years), residing in Aram Bagh, Delhi, was apprehended. On sustained interrogation, he confessed to conspiring with an associate, Ghulam Raza, to rob the complainant.

## Gadkari: Staying in Delhi for 3 days can lead to infections

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said pollution levels in Delhi are so high that staying in the city for three days can lead to infections.

Informing that Delhi and Mumbai are in the red zone due to pollution levels, Gadkari said a lot of work needs to be done in the coming period with regards to air and water pollution.

"In Delhi, pollution is very high. If you stay in Delhi for three days, you will get some infection. As per a medical conclusion, Delhi pollution is reducing the average life of a citizen by 10 years," Gadkari said at an event here.

He asserted that addressing environmental concerns is critical to national development alongside infrastructure growth.

"Ethics, economy, ecology and environment are important for Indian society but we have not taken the environment issue seri-



*The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said road development is a key strategy to address pollution and reduce logistics costs.*

ously," he rued.

The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways said road development is a key strategy to address pollution and reduce logistics costs.

"We import nearly Rs 22 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel. Petrol and diesel are major contributors to pollution. Traffic jams need

to be solved. There is need for change in fuel used in vehicles. I am supporting alternative fuels like a crusader. I want to save on the Rs 22 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel imports and put Rs 10-12 lakh crore into the pockets of farmers," he said.

Gadkari said India's aim of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy would require world-class infrastructure across water, power, transport, and communication and asserted the government is working to reduce logistics costs, which currently stand at 14-16 per cent.

"China's logistic cost is 8 per cent, US and EU 12 per cent, but we have 14-16 per cent. We want to bring it down to single digit. By January next year, logistics cost would come down to 9 per cent from 16 per cent," he said.

Talking about major infrastructure projects, he said a direct road will connect to Pune bypass from JNPT near the Atal Setu.

## Six new air monitoring stations to come up in city

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will set up six new air monitoring stations at key locations, including JNU, IGNOU and Delhi Cantt, Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has said. With this, the number of such stations will rise to 46. The move is part of the newly formed BJP government's strategy to expand its air monitoring infrastructure to ensure better preparedness to battle yearly smog and overall poor air quality.

The stations will come up at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Indira Gandhi National



Open University (IGNOU), Delhi Cantonment, Netaji Subhash University (West Campus), and the Commonwealth Games Sports Complex, Sirsa told PTI.

"These new stations will help us track pollution patterns more accurately and guide our response with

real-time data. The installation process is underway and we are targeting completion by June 30," the minister said.

He said the government is addressing pollution at every level from large-scale industrial emissions to localised sources.

Last month, Sirsa in an interview said that the city government will ensure that Delhi sees more clean air days in winter.

"We will not wait until winter to take action. Our work to purify Delhi has already started, and as part of this, we will also add new ambient air quality monitoring stations," Sirsa told PTI.

## Police arrests gang member in attempted murder case

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Southern Range of the Crime Branch, Malviya Nagar, has arrested a wanted criminal involved in an attempt to murder case in South Delhi's Tigri area. The accused, identified as Mohd Asif alias Hakla (28), is a known member of the notorious Deepak Pandit Gang, a release said.

According to Crime Branch, the incident happened on the intervening night of April 9-10 in Tigri. Asif and his associates were allegedly caught attempting to siphon petrol from a parked motorcycle near Chhoti Masjid. When Mohd Shaan, a local, con-

*A local, Salman, who tried to call the police, was then allegedly shot in the neck by the group. Both victims were rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Salman remains in a coma.*

fronted them, the accused allegedly poured petrol on Shaan and set him on fire.

A local, Salman, who tried to call the police, was then allegedly shot in the neck by the group. Both victims were rushed to the hospital in critical condition. Salman remains in a coma. A case was registered at Tigri police station, the release added.

Following the incident, Aditya Gautam, Deputy Commissioner of Police

(Crime Branch), Delhi, said that a team was formed to trace the accused.

Using technical surveillance, intelligence gathering, and field investigation, the team zeroed in on Asif's movements and tracked him to the Prahlad Pur-Surajkund border near Faridabad. He was apprehended during an operation.

During interrogation, Asif confessed to his role in the attack and named his as-

sociates Faizan, Bhuri, and Arman as co-conspirators. He was arrested under appropriate sections of law, and further investigation is underway, the DCP of Crime Branch added.

Police revealed that Asif had a history of criminal behavior and had become a habitual offender after associating with the Deepak Pandit Gang.

He began with petty crimes and was previously involved in two other cases registered at PS Tigri—one for robbery and another for attempt to murder.

Authorities have been notified of his arrest. Efforts to apprehend his associates are ongoing.

## 2 criminals, wanted for firing at constable, held after encounter

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Two men, wanted for shooting at a Delhi Police constable, were arrested following an exchange of fire with police here in Dwarka area, an official said on Monday. The duo sustained bullet injuries in the leg in the encounter in the early hours of Sunday near Nala Road under Urban Extension Road-II corridor and are currently undergoing treatment at a hospital, he said.

Kailash alias Bhola (20)



and Deepak alias Haddi (21) were wanted in connection with a recent firing incident in Tilak Nagar in which a constable, Sandeep, sustained two bullet injuries on March 28 during a raid

to arrest them.

"Based on specific inputs, a team laid a trap late Saturday night and around 12.40 am, two suspects on a scooter were intercepted. Instead of stopping, they

opened fire at the police team. Two police personnel were hit on their bulletproof jackets," said the senior police officer.

In retaliation, police fired back and the two men were eventually overpowered and arrested, he added.

Two pistols of .32 bore, three bullets, nine empty shells, and a scooter used in the crime were recovered from their possession.

The two men were previously involved in multiple cases, including a knife attack during a robbery in Sultanpuri on March 22.

## Trial run of Namo Bharat trains begins

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) initiated trial runs between New Ashok Nagar and Sarai Kale Khan Namo Bharat stations, according to a statement. This marks a significant milestone in the effort to operationalise the entire Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Namo Bharat corridor.

The NCRTC team brought the Namo Bharat train from New Ashok Nagar to Sarai Kale Khan on the downline at a minimal speed.

As part of the trial, the Namo Bharat train was operated manually to test

the compatibility of the signalling system. As the trials progress, NCRTC will conduct a comprehensive evaluation to assess the train's integration and coordination with various subsystems, including the track, platform screen doors (PSDs), and the overhead power supply system. In the coming days, extensive trial runs featuring high-speed tests will also be carried out.

During this trial, the Namo Bharat train crossed the Yamuna River for the first time, continuing its journey over the Barapullah flyover and the Ring Road before entering Sarai Kale Khan station. Constructing this 1.3 km long bridge over the Yamuna River to enable



this crossing was a complex and challenging task, but NCRTC overcame all challenges and completed the construction of this bridge as per the scheduled timelines. Supported by 32 pillars, about 626 metres of this bridge lies directly over

the Yamuna River and the remaining portion extends into the floodplain areas on both sides. This bridge has been built parallel to the existing DND Yamuna Bridge.

Similarly, reaching Sarai Kale Khan station required the construction of a viaduct

- **Total Corridor Length:** The entire corridor spans 82 kilometres, connecting Delhi to Meerut.
- **Number of Stations:** Once fully operational, the corridor will feature 24 stations, including existing operational ones and upcoming stations like Sarai Kale Khan.
- **Current Operational Stretch:** As of now, 55 kilometres of the corridor are operational, running from New Ashok Nagar (Delhi) to Meerut South.
- **Travel Time:** Upon full completion, the travel time from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram (Meerut) will be less than one hour.
- **Major Interchange & Hub:** Sarai Kale Khan station will serve as a key multi-modal hub, offering seamless integration with:
- **The station will connect directly to Delhi Metro's Pink Line:** Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station Veer Haqiqat Rai ISBT Ring Road Bus Stand
- **Engineering Highlights:** A 1.3 km bridge over the Yamuna River supported by 32 pillars A viaduct over Barapullah flyover and Ring Road Installation of Platform Screen Doors (PSDs), 12 escalators, and 4 lifts at Sarai Kale Khan station for commuter convenience

over the congested Barapullah flyover and Ring Road, another complex task successfully completed by

NCRTC. The section between New Ashok Nagar and Sarai Kale Khan spans approximately 4.5 kilomet-

res. Once operational, this stretch will enable comfortable, reliable and fully air-conditioned Namo Bharat

train service from Sarai Kale Khan to Meerut, offering seamless connectivity for commuters traveling to and from Meerut city. Recently, Overhead Equipment (OHE) was energised for the section between Sarai Kale Khan and New Ashok Nagar stations.

Sarai Kale Khan station is the originating point of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

Work on the station's facade, including the roof structure, is progressing rapidly.

To facilitate commuter movement from the concourse to the platform levels, 12 escalators and four lifts have been installed and are ready for operation.



# DELHI SPEAKER TO VISIT ODISHA TODAY TO STUDY E-VIDHAN ROLLOUT

The visit aims to learn from Odisha’s fully paperless legislative mode, digital transformation through NeVA.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Assembly delegation led by Speaker Vijender Gupta will visit Odisha from April 15-17 to study the Odisha Assembly’s successful implementation of the National e-Vidhan Application. The visit aims to explore the model of paperless governance and digital transformation adopted by Odisha, which recently became fully paperless, according to a statement on Monday.

Gupta will be accompanied Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, senior assembly officials, and other key personnel from the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project.

The delegation’s goal is to

## DELEGATION VISIT

- The delegation includes Deputy Speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, senior officials, and key NeVA personnel.
- Gupta has committed to making the Delhi Assembly paperless within 100 days, following Odisha’s example.
- The delegation will meet Odisha’s governor, chief minister, Assembly speaker, and NeVA committee members.
- The Union parliamentary affairs ministry is expected to fund NeVA’s rollout in Delhi to support its tech-driven, transparent governance initiative.



learn from Odisha’s experiences, focusing on the technological frameworks, best practices and operational models that contributed to the successful rollout of NeVA.

Announcing the Delhi Assembly’s move towards

a paperless system during the budget session, Gupta committed to completing the transition within 100 days.

The Union parliamentary affairs ministry is expected to release the necessary funds for implementation

of NeVA in Delhi, according to the statement.

Expressing his optimism, Gupta said the visit would be crucial in accelerating the Delhi Assembly’s digital transformation, helping it evolve into a more modern and transparent legisla-

tive body.

The delegation will begin its tour by paying courtesy visits to the Odisha governor and the chief minister in Bhubaneswar.

On April 16, the delegation will attend meetings with the NeVA committee and meet the Odisha Assembly speaker.

The final day’s agenda includes wrap-up meetings and discussions with stakeholders involved in the NeVA’s implementation.

The Delhi Assembly is committed to adopting a more transparent, tech-enabled and citizen-centric approach to its operations, with the swift implementation of NeVA a key step in this transformation, according to the statement.



Delhi has 62 locations that are prone to traffic congestion, according to a Delhi Traffic Police survey. Several of these areas are near railway stations, ISBTs and metro stations and remain under consistent stress due to mixed vehicular and pedestrian load. These include Bhavbhuti Marg and Chelmsford Road near New Delhi Railway Station, ISBT Kashmere Gate, and the Anand Vihar railway and bus terminal zone.

“These areas see not just private and public vehicles but also auto-rickshaws, taxis and e-rickshaws jostling for space throughout the day,” a senior traffic police officer said.

The survey, conducted over the past few weeks, is part of an internal study and includes inputs from field staff and CCTV analysis.

Currently, the traffic police is refining the list before writing to various civic and infrastructure agencies to initiate coordinated decongestion measures.

Once the assessment is finalised, they may share it

with agencies, such as the PWD, MCD, DDA and others, with location-specific suggestions, the officer told PTI.

The identified locations have further been categorised based on the nature of traffic movement they handle, such as office-hour congestion, border bottlenecks and high-volume commercial traffic zones, a senior traffic police officer said.

Many arterial roads in central and south Delhi witness sharp surges in vehicular volume during office hours. Shadipur Chowk, Chirag Delhi, Khanpur, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg near Moolchand and Neela Gumbad are among the noted trouble spots. In east Delhi, the stretch from Nizamuddin Bridge to Sarai Kale Khan

and the nearby Ring Road sections remain chronically clogged in the mornings and evenings.

Heavy congestion is also seen at entry and exit points connecting Delhi to adjoining states. These include Kalindi Kunj and DND approaches (towards Noida) and Kapashera Border (towards Gurugram).

“These border points often get choked due to a mix of long-distance goods vehicles, local traffic and inadequate road capacity or signal planning,” the official said. Markets and wholesale areas continue to be major congestion hubs, especially during business hours. Sadar Bazar, Azadpur Mandi, Karol Bagh, Gandhi Nagar market and Lajpat Nagar feature prominently in the list.

## BJP’s ‘double-engine’ govt fails on power, city faces long cuts: Atishi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Delhi Assembly, Atishi, attacked the Delhi government regarding power outages in the national capital and said that the BJP government and its Power Minister continue to deny the existence of electricity cuts in Delhi.

On Monday, Delhi Assembly LoP Atishi visited the Madhu Vihar area in Vishwas Nagar Assembly and interacted with residents struggling with daily power cuts. “The BJP’s double-engine government has completely failed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply in the nation’s capital. Under the AAP government, Delhi had become a city with 24x7 electricity. Now, the same city is suffering from prolonged and frequent power cuts,” Atishi said.

Residents in Vishwas Nagar expressed their frus-



tration to Atishi, stating that power cuts have become a daily ordeal-multiple outages lasting for hours.

“Shops are unable to function, children’s studies are disrupted, and elderly citizens are suffering in this sweltering heat. If this is the state of power supply in early summer, what will happen in May and June?” Atishi asked. During her visit, Atishi encountered citizens deeply agitated by the worsening power situation. At a local flour mill, a worker recounted how power cuts lasting for hours have become routine. “This

hasn’t happened in the last 10 years. Earlier, electricity was stable. Now, the power goes every day, multiple times. Our business is suffering, and it’s hard to run our households,” he said.

Another resident shared, “The BJP has destroyed a perfectly functioning system. We didn’t vote for them to bring back these dark days. Every day, the electricity is gone for 2-3 hours.”

Multiple residents voiced concern about their children’s education. “Due to these frequent outages, it’s impossible for children to study. They can’t focus in the heat and darkness,” one resident said. Several residents lamented that after 2015, uninterrupted power supply had become the norm in Delhi—even in the peak summer months. “We sold our inverters because they were no longer needed. But now, after two months of non-stop outages, we’re being forced to buy them again,” a resident said.

## Couple held for Rs 2.70 cr property fraud

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police’s Economic Offences Wing (EOW) arrested a couple for allegedly duping a businessman of Rs 2.70 crore on the pretext of promising commercial space in an unbuilt project, an official said on Monday. Those arrested have been identified as Vinay Jain (55) and his wife Asha Jain (52), they said.

According to the statement, the couple lured the complainant, Virender Kathuria, into booking three shops in the proposed commercial complex.

They falsely claimed that the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had handed over vacant possession of the land for development. Trusting their representations, Kathuria paid Rs 2.70 crore on January 1, 2016, with an agreement to pay the balance of Rs 74.6 lakh upon getting possession, it said. “However, it later emerged that the accused



had mortgaged the property to a finance company on April 8, 2016. After they defaulted on loan repayments, the property was auctioned and eventually demolished, resulting in massive financial loss to the complainant,” the statement said.

Despite repeated summons, the accused never cooperated with the investigation and were declared Proclaimed Offenders by a Delhi court on April 25, 2023. After sustained efforts, the couple was arrested on April 7, the police said.

Vinay is a Class 8 grade dropout, while Asha is a graduate. They got married in 1993 and have allegedly been running several companies. They are said to be repeat offenders in multiple cases of financial fraud, the statement said.

## Police busts interstate gang stealing telecom equipment; 4 held

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police busted an organized interstate gang which was involved in the theft and illegal trade of critical telecom infrastructure. The Central Range of the Crime Branch, Delhi Police, has busted a sophisticated racket operating across states.

The operation, a result of continuous surveillance and covert ground intelligence, led to the arrest of four accused, including a key receiver, and the recovery of 12 high-value RRU’s, tools and equipment used for the thefts, and a taxi used for transportation.

A Remote Radio Unit (RRU), commonly referred to as a Remote Radio Head

(RRH), is a transceiver installed on wireless base stations or mobile Towers. These transceivers connect wireless devices with wireless networks, making it possible to send and receive text messages, among other things. A Base Band Unit (BBU) receives a signal from Mobile users via an Antenna, which transfers the signal to RRU’s for further processing of voice calls and data services like internet, etc.

Any site going down due to the theft of RRU or BBU impacts the nearby Mobile users’ services, including emergency services like 112, 102, etc. As a result, customers suffer both when making calls and when using Internet services. Once RRU and BBU are stolen,

the Mobile Operator has to reinstall this equipment to resume services, and a huge loss is incurred. These articles are vital components required for a mobile network tower.

Delhi being a transit/storage location for stolen RRU’s/BBU’s, it was a great challenge for Delhi Police to apprehend these receivers/middlemen, as these gang members never used to stay in one place and also changed their locations and storage facilities frequently. To unearth the syndicates involved, various teams from the Crime Branch were deployed. Many operations were carried out by various teams of Crime Branch throughout the country, and huge success was accomplished.

## Woman, her son held for attacking live-in partner with knife

TDG NETWORK  
GURUGRAM

More than a month after a woman’s body was found in a wheat field in a village here, police arrested her live-in partner on Monday for allegedly killing her over suspicion that she was having an affair, officials said.

The woman, originally from Bihar, was living separately from her husband of 11 years after a rift between the two. They had moved to Naharpur village where she was killed five years back.

Police said Shivshankar Sharma alias Kalicharan, a native of Ballia in Uttar



Pradesh, was her live-in partner who allegedly carried out her murder on February 23 and wrapped her body in a blanket, which he dumped in a field in the village.

Rita’s body was found on

March 11 and it remained unidentified for 20 days. On March 31, her father identified the body. Police said an FIR of murder was registered at Manesar police station based on the father’s complaint.

In his complaint, the father said Rita got married 11 years ago and about five years ago, his daughter and her husband came to Naharpur village and rented a place.

Due to a rift between them, the husband left her. After this, his daughter started living with Sharma, he added. “I last spoke to Rita

on February 23 when I came to Naharpur to meet her,” he said.

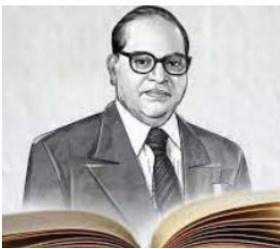
Police said Sharma was arrested on Monday and confessed to killing Rita over suspicion that she was having an affair. “During interrogation, he revealed that he and Rita were in a live-in relationship. He used to work as a labourer and Rita worked in a company in IMT, Manesar,” a Gurugram Police spokesperson said.

“We will take the accused on police remand after being produced in a city court tomorrow,” the spokesperson said.

## Ambedkar brought fundamental changes in India’s social system: RSS

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The RSS Delhi unit on Monday paid its tributes to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary, saying he brought fundamental changes in the social system of India. Paying his tribute to the architect of the Constitution at his memorial at 26 Alipur Road here, the RSS Delhi ‘prant’ chief Anil Agarwal said Ambedkar’s contribution to social harmony and nation-building is invaluable.



“Swayamsevaks (volunteers) and karyakartas (workers) present on this occasion took a pledge to imbibe the thoughts of Baba Saheb and follow the path shown by him,” RSS’ Delhi unit media and publicity department

head Ritesh Agrawal said in a statement.

Ambedkar, who was a great thinker and social reformer, dedicated his life to bringing fundamental changes in the social system of India, the statement said.

His inspiring thoughts and work brought a change in the lives of crores of people and his struggle led us towards building an equal and just society, it added.

“On this auspicious occasion of Dr Ambedkar Jayanti, Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS) pays tribute to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar ji, who fought an incomparable struggle for social justice and equality,” the statement said. “This day inspires us to imbibe his thoughts and raise our voice against the inequality prevailing in the society. Let us all together establish a society where every person gets his rights and respect. Keeping in mind the vision of Dr Ambedkar ji, let us pledge that we will build an inclusive India for all,” the statement added.

## 16-year-old driver hits elderly in Rohini

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A 72-year-old man was injured after being hit by a car allegedly driven by a minor in Delhi’s Rohini, police said Monday. The incident took place near a cafe around 5.30 pm, following which a PCR call was received at KNK Police Station, they said.

Police said a car, reportedly driven by a 16-year-old boy with another teenager in the passenger seat. He struck the Deveder’s scooter.



er.

The injured, identified as Deveder, was taken to BSA Hospital where his is said to be in a stable condition. Police have initiated legal action based on Deveder’s statement and are investigating further.

## Security upped in Gokulpuri as Hindu groups threaten protest

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Security was beefed up in northeast Delhi’s Gokulpuri area after different Hindu outfits announced a protest over the fatal stabbing of a 19-year-old boy. Himanshu, a local, was allegedly stabbed by two brothers over their sister’s affair with him.

Police arrested the siblings, Shahrukh Khan and Sahil Khan, aged 19 and 20, just few hours after the inci-



dent on April 8.

“We got to know that some Hindu outfits announced a protest in the Gokulpuri area. To avoid any tension, we have deployed additional police force and paramili-

tary there,” a senior police officer said.

The stabbing took place in the Sanjay Colony of the area around 9.14 pm on April 8. The victim’s mother has claimed receiv-

ing threats since the arrest of the siblings. “There was another person who helped the brothers with the crime who is still absconding. We are getting threats every day. Police must arrest everyone who was behind the killing of my son,” she said.

According to a police source, Himanshu was in a romantic relationship with a local girl, which reportedly did not sit well with her brothers and they killed Himanshu by stabbing him multiple times.

## 20-year-old held for stabbing girl over death threats in Cantt

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 20-year-old youth who allegedly stabbed a minor girl after she threatened him with death in southwest Delhi’s Cantt area, an official said on Monday. The accused, identified as Amit, was arrested on April 12 after he was discharged from the hospital. He also stabbed himself in the stomach after killing the girl, police said.

A senior police officer had earlier said that when Amit asked the victim not to take

gifts from other boys, the girl allegedly said, “Tum kya kar loge agar mai lu? Zyada bologe to tumhe marwa dunga (What will you do if I take it? If you talk too much, I’ll get you killed.)”

Enraged and intimidated by the threat, Amit killed the girl with a knife.

The 17-year-old girl died on Saturday last week after she was stabbed on the evening of April 6. The girl succumbed to stab injuries on her neck and abdomen, including a cut on her windpipe.



# NIFTY EARNINGS MAY SEE FURTHER CUT AMID TARIFF TENSION: REPORT

Expected earnings growth for FY25 to FY27 is 12.7% annually

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The earnings targets of the Nifty index in the first half of FY26 are expected to be reduced further amid the ongoing trade tensions due to the US tariff policy, according to a report by PL Capital.

The report has further lowered the targets after cutting Nifty's expected earnings per share (EPS) for FY26 and FY27 by 6.2 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively since October 2024. It stated, "NIFTY EPS has seen a cut in EPS by 6.2% and 5.6% for FY26/27 since Oct 24, and tariff wars and the uncertain environment can result in further cuts in 1H26."

The report now values the Nifty at a 7.5 per cent discount to its 15-year average price-to-earnings (PE) ratio of 18.9 times. Based on an expected EPS of Rs 1,460 for March 2027, it has set a 12-month target for the Nifty

## KEY POINTS



- Nifty EPS cut by 6.2% (FY26) and 5.6% (FY27) amid US tariff tensions.
- 12-month Nifty target lowered to 25,521; valuation 7.5% below 15-year average PE.
- Earnings growth trimmed to 12.7% (FY25-27); below market consensus.
- Domestic sectors like pharma, banks, defence to outperform in near term.

at 25,521, slightly lower than its earlier target of 25,689.

Nifty's EPS estimates for FY25, FY26, and FY27 now stand at Rs 1,150, Rs 1,286, and Rs 1,460. These represent changes of 0.5 per

cent, -1.5 per cent, and -0.9 per cent compared to earlier forecasts. The expected earnings growth for the Nifty over FY25 to FY27 is now 12.7 per cent annually, down from 13.3 per cent ear-

lier. The estimates are also lower than market consensus by 1.7 per cent for FY25, 3.5 per cent for FY26, and 4.5 per cent for FY27.

The report also outlined three possible scenarios. In

*The report now values the Nifty at a 7.5 per cent discount to its 15-year average price-to-earnings (PE) ratio of 18.9 times.*

the base case, with a PE of 17.5 times, the Nifty could reach 25,521 in the next 12 months.

In the bull case, if valuations return to the long-term average of 18.9 times, the Nifty could rise to 27,590.

In the bear case, if the index trades at a 10 per cent discount, it could drop to 24,831.

The report also stated that in the near term, sectors focused on the domestic market are likely to perform better. These include hospitals, domestic pharma, retail, select consumer staples, banks, defence, and power.

## ‘Lower inflation, healthy rabi output to boost demand’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India's domestic demand is showing signs of recovery, supported by several positive developments, according to a recent report by Crisil.

The report highlighted that healthy rabi output and easing inflation in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025 are likely to boost consumption demand further. It said "Improved growth in capital, infrastructure and construction goods' output in the second half points to a gradual pick-up in construction /capital expenditure activity in the latter part of the fiscal. Finally, other high-frequency indicators show growth prospects improving in the fourth quarter".

One of the key contributors to the improving demand is the better performance of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for manufacturing.

The report noted that IIP manufacturing showed stronger growth in the second half of the fiscal year. This improvement helped

lift production in sectors such as petroleum products, machinery, and textiles.

Additionally, the output of capital goods, infrastructure goods, and construction goods also increased in the second half. According to the report, this indicates a gradual pick-up in construction activities and capital expenditure by businesses, which are crucial for long-term economic growth.

It also noted, "All these factors corroborate recovery in domestic demand. Healthy rabi output and easing inflation in the fourth quarter also bode well for consumption demand".

High-frequency indicators are also showing positive signs, especially in the fourth quarter. These indicators suggest that the economy is gradually gaining momentum and that the outlook for demand is improving.

The report also pointed to findings from the Reserve Bank of India's latest surveys. The RBI's Quarterly Industrial Outlook

survey shows a sequential strengthening of demand in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, the Consumer Confidence Survey conducted in March suggested improvement in sentiment among consumers in both rural and urban areas. Putting together all these indicators, the report said that the domestic demand is on the path of recovery. The combination of strong rabi crop output and falling inflation is expected to support consumer spending going forward.

However, the report also highlighted risks to India's growth outlook.

One major concern is the increase in tariffs by the United States.

The report warned that slower global growth and possible reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods, expected in the next three months, could impact exports. Moreover, the uncertainty around the duration and frequent changes in tariffs could discourage investments. Overall, while the domestic side of the economy is improving, external risks remain a challenge.

## Despite fluctuations, 11.3 lakh investors joined market in Feb

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Despite the recent decline seen by Indian stock markets in tune with global trends, the number of registered investors has continued to grow.

According to a National Stock Exchange (NSE) report, the total number of registered investors crossed 11.2 crore by the end of February 2025. This includes 11.3 lakh new investors who joined during the month alone. "The registered investor base stood at 11.2 crore in Feb'25, with 11.3 lakh new investors added during the month. The total number of client codes registered with the exchange stood at 21.9 crore (219 million), reflecting all client registrations to date, as

investors can register with multiple trading members," the report said.

This participation rise reflects strong investor interest growth over the past year. The investor base crossed nine crore in February 2024 and reached 10 crore just five months later in August 2024. By January 20, 2025, it had already crossed the 11-crore mark. In terms of regions, North India had the highest number of registered investors at 4.1 crore, followed by West India with 3.4 crore, South India with 2.3 crore, and East India with 1.3 crore. In the last year, North and East India saw the highest growth, with increases of 27.7 per cent and 27.3 per cent respectively. South India registered a 23.7 per cent rise, while West In-

dia grew by 20.1 per cent. Looking at changes over the past five years, North India's share of the total investor base has grown significantly--from 28.7 per cent in 2020 to 36.3 per cent in February 2025, a rise of 7.5 percentage points. The report data also stated that East India's share also went up from 9.9 per cent to 12 per cent. On the other hand, West and South India's shares have declined. West India's share fell from 35.4 per cent in 2020 to 30.3 per cent in 2025, while South India dropped from 24.6 per cent to 20.6 per cent in the same period.

The overall trend shows that more people across the country are taking an interest in the stock markets, especially in North and East India.

## ‘Domestic jewellery market to surge to \$145 bn by 2028’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India's domestic jewellery market is projected to grow at a strong compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16 per cent between FY24 and FY28, reaching a market size of USD 145 billion by FY28, according to a report by Minerva Capital Research.

The report highlighted that the Indian jewellery industry is undergoing a significant transformation, with a steady shift from unorganized to organized players. It said, "India's domestic jewellery market expected to register a 16 per cent CAGR from FY24E to FY28E." Currently, the unorganized sector holds around 62 per cent of the market share. However, this is expected to drop to 57 per cent by FY28, while the share of organized



jewellers will rise to 43 per cent. This transition is driven by increasing consumer preference for transparency, quality, and branded products. Region-wise, the southern states dominate the Indian gold jewellery market, contributing about 40 per cent to the total demand in FY23. This is followed by the western region, which accounts for 25 per cent of the market. The average jew-

ellery demand during weddings across India stands at around 225-250 grams. The report also noted a difference in consumer preferences across regions. Southern consumers largely prefer traditional plain gold jewellery, while the northern and western parts of the country show a higher demand for lightweight and diamond-studded jewellery, particularly in 14k and 18k categories.

In terms of profitability, the report mentioned that the gross margins range between 10 per cent to 14 per cent for plain gold jewellery and 30 per cent to 35 per cent for diamond-studded jewellery. In FY23, fine jewellery made up nearly 90 per cent of the total jewellery market, valued at approximately USD 63 billion. This includes both gold and non-gold segments.

Several government initiatives are supporting the growth of the organized jewellery sector and promoting exports. These include the reduction in customs duties on gold and silver from 15 per cent to 6 per cent, and on platinum from 15.4 per cent to 6.4 per cent--as announced in the Union Budget 2024.

Additionally, gold hallmarking was made mandatory from April 1, 2023, and PAN

cards are now required for jewellery purchases over Rs 2 lakhs. These measures are aimed at enhancing transparency and domestic value addition.

The jewellery industry is also seeing increasing participation from organized players in rural areas, which account for 58 per cent of the total jewellery demand.

Demand patterns remain seasonal, peaking during wedding seasons (May-June and September-January), harvest periods (September-November and January-March), and festive occasions such as Diwali, Dhanteras, Akshaya Tritiya, and Ugadi.

Another advantage of the gold retail industry is the absence of inventory obsolescence, as old jewellery can be melted and reshaped into new designs, making it a sustainable business model.

## Edible oil industry body flags trade distortions from Nepal under SAFTA

TDG NETWORK  
LUCKNOW

The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA), an industry body representing India's edible oil refining industry, has submitted a formal representation to the central government departments, highlighting their concerns around the surge in duty-free edible oil imports from Nepal under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) framework.

According to IVPA, imports from Nepal rose sharply in early 2025, reaching over 1.80 lakh metric tons between January and March--up from 1.25 lakh tons in the whole of 2024.



IVPA said most of the 1.25 lakh tons of imports in 2024 arrived in India only during the October-December quarter, following a hike in Indian duties, possibly due to the re-routed soya imports to India via Nepal. Under the SAFTA Agreement and the India-Nepal Trade Treaty, vegetable

oil imports from Nepal enjoy duty-free access to the Indian market.

In September 2024, India reportedly imposed a 20 per cent basic customs duty on crude and refined vegetable oils.

"This growth, which is not backed by Nepal's own oilseed production capacity, raises serious questions around the effective enforcement of Rules of Origin and the risk of third-country routing," the edible oil industry body said in a statement Monday.

IVPA believes that the surge in edible oil exports to India from Nepal proves that all exporting countries are routing exports to India through

Nepal to avail themselves of the zero-duty benefit.

The Association has noted that this surge is distorting the domestic edible oil market by creating an uneven playing field for Indian processors and refiners, impacting farm-gate oilseed prices and leading to underutilisation of domestic capacity.

Due to the prevailing fear of further zero-duty inflows, market sentiment around oilseed prices has also weakened, resulting in farmers receiving significantly lower prices--despite the sharp increase in import duties and other corrective measures, the industry body said.

"The trend also has broader fiscal implications, including

the potential loss of revenue and erosion of the intended benefits of duties such as the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC)," it added.

Against this backdrop, IVPA has submitted a detailed proposal to the Union agriculture ministry outlining actionable recommendations to ensure that SAFTA provisions are implemented in both letter and spirit, without adversely impacting India's farmers, processors, or its agricultural economic interests.

India is the world's second-largest consumer and number one vegetable oil importer, and it meets 60 per cent of its needs through imports.

## UP economy: Per capita income doubled, says Yogi Adityanath

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the growth engine of India, contributing to the country's development and realising the vision of a developed India, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Monday.

Addressing the FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting, the chief minister said Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country

to have succeeded in more than doubling its GSDP and per capita income.

He targeted the previous governments, alleging that they had destroyed the state's economy, reducing per capita income to below the national average.

"Over the past 8 years, people in India and overseas have seen how the state is changing," he said. He attributed the recent growth to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"Uttar Pradesh is no more an ailing state. It is now the second biggest state in terms of economy," he said. "Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the growth engine of India for the development of the country and realising the vision of a developed India. This is probably the first state in the country that has succeeded in more than doubling its GSDP and per capita income," the chief minister said. He noted that this growth



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addresses the gathering on laying the foundation stone of 181 development projects worth Rs 579 crores, at Shringerpur Dham in Prayagraj on April 3. ANI

*"Leakages of funds have been stopped, technology has been used, reforms introduced at various points, garnered people's confidence," he said.*

has only been possible due to investor-friendly policies, abolishing unwanted

norms, and providing congenial law and order for investors.

He also claimed that his state has become a revenue surplus state, which, under the previous government, was unable to pay its employees' salaries on time.

"Leakages of funds have been stopped, technology has been used, reforms introduced at various points, garnered people's confidence. Uttar Pradesh is marching forward in all the

fields today," the CM told the FICCI meeting.

In his address, the chief minister also said his government is putting special emphasis on infrastructure building. Uttar Pradesh today has the longest expressway, the longest rail network, and India's first rapid metro, he supplemented.

The chief minister also announced that the Jewar Airport will be functional in 2025.



# BRIDGING DIVIDES: AMBEDKAR'S LEGACY AND THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL HARMONY

## OPINION

GOPAL GOSWAMI



Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's life and work remain a powerful testament to the struggle for social justice in India. While his experiences with the caste system deeply shaped his perspective, a closer look reveals a complex figure whose legacy can inspire unity and collaboration in the ongoing pursuit of equality.

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow (now Dr. Ambedkar Nagar), Madhya Pradesh, experienced a childhood marked by the social stigma of the Mahar caste, considered "untouchable" at the time.

### CHILDHOOD AND SURNAME

- Born as Bhimrao Ramji Sakpal, his family hailed from Ambadawe town in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra.
- His father, Ramji Maloji Sakpal, was a Subedar in the British Indian Army.
- Bhimrao faced severe discrimination in school due to his caste. He and other "untouchable" children were segregated, not allowed to sit inside the classroom, and often denied necessities like water.
- His original surname was Ambavadekar, reflecting his ancestral village.

However, his Brahmin teacher, Krishnaji Keshav Ambedkar, who was fond of him, changed his surname to Ambedkar in the school records.

### EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

- After completing his matriculation, he attended Elphinstone College in Bombay (now Mumbai), becoming the first from his community to do so.
- A significant turning point came when Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad III of Baroda recognized his potential and awarded him a scholarship in 1913 to pursue higher studies in the United States at Columbia University.
- He excelled at Columbia University, earning his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics.
- Further support came from the Maharaja of Kolhapur, Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, who also provided financial assistance for Ambedkar's further studies in London at the London School of Economics and Gray's Inn for law.
- While the primary financial support for his higher education abroad came from Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad and later the Maharaja of Kolhapur, it's important to note that his initial schooling and progress were also supported by his father's efforts and as mentioned, the kindness of his teacher Krishnaji Keshav Ambedkar, who gave him his surname. The Mahar community also celebrated his academic achievements, signifying their collective aspiration.

It is crucial to acknowledge the profound impact of caste discrimination Ambedkar faced throughout his early life and education. While individuals like Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad and his teacher played a vital role in facilitating his access to education, their support arose in a context of widespread social prejudice that Ambedkar had to constantly overcome. His journey to becoming a towering figure was marked by both the generosity of some and the systemic oppression he fought against.

### CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Ambedkar's appointment to chair the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, a body dominated by upper-caste members, stands as a significant moment. It demonstrates a willingness to engage with his experience, expertise and vision for marginalised, acknowledging his unique understanding of social inequalities. This act of inclusion contradicts the narrative of a monolithic, anti-Dalit upper caste Hindu Society, suggesting a more nuanced reality.

The Dalit movements and their patriarchs are often seen ranting against RSS and their leadership of being Brahmanical and pro upper caste, but the fact of the matter is- The Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has also articulated a commitment to eradicating the caste system. There is no caste mention in a Shakha, every senior worker visit home of a SC/ST Swayamsevak each year with family and vis a versa. The approach may differ from Ambedkar's, the shared goal provides a foundation for potential collaboration. Many Hindu organizations and individuals actively work towards dismantling caste-based discrimination, reflecting a widespread desire for social reform.



*It's vital to remember that Ambedkar's primary focus was on achieving social justice and equality within India. His concerns about potential divisions were rooted in his deep commitment to national unity.*

Instead of perpetuating divisions, fostering dialogue and cooperation among those working towards a common goal is crucial. By acknowledging the shared objective of abolishing the caste system, we can create space for constructive engagement and build bridges across communities. This approach honours Ambedkar's vision of a just society while promoting unity and harmony.

Today a group of ST community is seen showing affiliation towards Muslims but what Dr Ambedkar had expressed about Islam and Christianity is evident of what they are doing today in Bengal.

Ambedkar's concerns about Islam and Christianity, particularly regarding their potential impact on national loyalty, should be understood within the

context of his time. He expressed reservations about the concept of brotherhood being limited to Muslim males in Islam and criticized Christianity's perceived unscientific fervour. His decision to embrace Buddhism stemmed from his belief that it shared same ethos of inward path to liberation of soul rooted in Indian soil, without the hierarchical structures he found problematic in other religions.

His ultimate conversion to Buddhism was driven by his desire for a path that promoted equality and social justice within the Indian context. Ambedkar sought a spiritual framework that aligned with his vision of a unified and equitable nation.

It's vital to remember that Ambedkar's primary focus was on achieving social justice and equality within

India. His concerns about potential divisions were rooted in his deep commitment to national unity. By emphasizing shared goals and promoting dialogue, we can work towards a society where all citizens feel a sense of belonging and equality.

Rather than focusing on past grievances and quarrelling, we should channel our energy into strengthening the efforts of individuals and organizations working towards social harmony. This requires acknowledging the progress made while recognizing the ongoing challenges. By fostering a spirit of collaboration, we can create a society where Ambedkar's vision of equality becomes a reality.

By acknowledging the positive actions and shared goals of various groups, we can move towards a more inclusive and harmonious society, honouring Ambedkar's legacy by building a future where all citizens are treated with dignity and respect would be a great tribute to his hardship and wish.

*Gopal Goswami, Ph. D is a Researcher, Columnist and Social Worker*

## PERSPECTIVE MATTER OF SECURITY

# BENGAL VIOLENCE MAMATA GOVERNMENT'S FAULT

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made a very valid point when he posted on X that in spite of having a higher percentage of Muslim population than Bengal's, his state saw barely any protests over the passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament. This was in context of the violence unleashed by the radicalised members of the minority community over the majority population in Bengal's Murshidabad district, where the so-called majority, the Hindus are actually in a minority. Things are so bad in the violence-torn areas that the local Hindu population has started fleeing to neighbouring districts, with open threats being issued against them by the marauding mobs. Some of the slogans are eerily similar to those issued by the jihadis to the Kashmiri Pandit community before they fled the Valley in 1990. The question is if Assam can control the situation, why cannot Bengal? The answer, sadly, is simple: it is because the Chief Minister and her administration are either inefficient, or unwilling to control the situation, or both. The serious charge that the BJP is hurling at Mamata Banerjee is that the anti-Waqf violence has her blessings. Even if that is not the case, she is anyway being belligerent and claiming that an Act passed by Indian Parliament will not be implemented in Bengal—it is as if she is the potentate of her own kingdom. In fact, one of her ministers, who is at the forefront of the Waqf protests, Siddiqullah Chowdhury, went to the extent of claiming that the Chief Minister was happy that members of the Muslim community had gathered in such large numbers to protest against the amended Waqf Act. Meanwhile, trouble started in the interiors of Murshidabad district, with mayhem unleashed on Hindus. But the administration did nothing about it. It was only intervention by the Calcutta High Court that led to the deployment of Central forces in the violence hit areas, bringing the situation under control. With the state failing to do its duty, it is being alleged that the violence suits the interests of the Trinamool Congress, for it diverts attention from one the biggest jobs scams that the country has seen, where 26,000 teachers have lost their jobs because of corruption by the ruling party in the hiring process. With the teachers' protest getting relegated to the background, it is but natural that questions will arise on the role the state played in the violence getting out of hand.

The larger point is about the radicalisation of a particular community, and the attendant muscle flexing, with open calls being given for conversion—convert or die. Nightmarish situations like this exist in Pakistan and Bangladesh. That this can take place in West Bengal, a mainstream Indian state, is a matter of concern. In fact, there is no justification for this in a secular country. Every Muslim is treated equally as every Hindu by the Indian state. There is no state-mandated discrimination against them, unlike in Muslim countries, where minorities are often treated as second class citizens. So where is the angst coming from? Obviously, it is a case of brainwashing by painting pictures of imagined horrors. What is anti-Muslim about the Waqf Amendment Bill/Act? It is actually about streamlining the administrative process to close the loopholes that make the usurpation of Waqf properties easy. The amended Act has support from many Muslim individuals and groups. But, from all accounts, in Bengal at least the amended Waqf Act has been identified as an attempt to obliterate Muslim identity and existence. But then this suits the state's ruling party, for it enables it to paint itself as the only saviour of the community, in the face of a supposedly "communal" BJP. Hence, even if Muslims are angry with Mamata's party—which many of them are, with the rampant corruption and lawlessness on the ground—they do not have any option but to band together behind the Trinamool. Appeasement too has been another tool in the arsenal of Bengal's political parties—the Left, the TMC and the Congress—to keep the Muslim community happy. It is well known that Mamata Banerjee has prioritised this community over Hindus in more occasions than one. Hence, today, when they turn around and say that Mamata Banerjee is in power because of them, and would dare not take any action against them, it is case of her appeasement policy coming back to haunt her. In the process, it is increasingly looking like that Mamata Banerjee is losing control of the ground to criminals, who run their writ in their respective areas of influence, where even the state apparatus bends to them. This was seen with the now jailed musclem Sheikh Shajahan during the Sandeshkhali case. Then there is the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh, which is changing the demography of Bengal's border areas, with the full backing of local politicians. Given the radicalisation that has resurfaced in Bangladesh with the rise of Muhammad Yunus and his band of Jamaatis, the possibility of jihadi elements coming into India to cause trouble has increased manifold. It would not be wrong to say that Bengal is sitting on a powder keg. The present violence is a curtain raiser to what may come if the situation is not brought under control. Worse, the situation in Bengal might endanger the whole country. Mamata Banerjee may be ruling West Bengal, but she cannot treat the state as her personal fiefdom, with zero accountability. She cannot be allowed to play politics with the security of the country.

JOYEETA BASU

# The Waqf Act 2025: My heart's cry for a fairer tomorrow

## OPINION

SHAYAN ALI KRISHNA

This morning, I burned my toast. Black crumbs scattered on the counter, and I laughed—a small, shaky sound that reminded me I'm still here, still human. The rain outside my window patterned like old memories, pulling me back to Pakistan's crowded alleys, where fear chased me like a stray dog. My name is Shayan Ali Krishna, and I'm writing today because something stirs in me—a fire kindled by the Waqf Amendment Act 2025. This isn't just a law to me. It's a lifeline for the Pasmandas, the Ajlafs, the forgotten Muslims of India, and it sings of justice in a voice I can't ignore. I know what it's like to be silenced. In Pakistan, I watched a handful of Punjabi Sunnis hold the country like a tightly

wound kite string, while Baloch, Sindhi, and Pashtun dreams fluttered out of reach. I was a social media influencer then, young and stubborn, posting truths that pricked the wrong egos. The ISI didn't like that. They cornered me, called me a Jewish agent, an Indian spy, demanded I spin their story about Kashmir into a song. I said no. That one word cost me everything. By 2019, I was running—heart pounding, bag slung over my shoulder, leaving behind a life I'd barely begun. Exile tastes like ash, let me tell you, but it sharpens your eyes. I saw the same pattern here in India, among Muslims, where Ashraf elites—Syeds, Sheikhs, barely a fifth of the community—clutch Waqf boards like their birthright.

Waqf properties—mosques, orchards, schools—are meant for all Muslims. They're treasures, holding crores in value, promising homes for the poor, books for the young. But too often, they're locked away, their profits trickling into Ashraf pockets while Pasmandas—tailors, potters, sweepers—watch their kids go to bed hungry. I heard about a Pasmanda man once, standing outside a grand mosque, told to pray in the back because his caste wasn't "pure" enough for the front. That story hit me like a stone. It was my story, too—pushed to the edges in Pakistan for daring to be me. The Waqf Amendment Act 2025 feels like a shout against that shame, a chance to smash the old hierarchy.

This law's got guts. It says Waqf boards can't be Ashraf-only clubs anymore. It pulls in Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, and—here's the part that makes my heart leap—backward Muslims like the Ajlaf and Arzal. Pasmandas, the 85% who've carried the weight of labor and scorn, get to

step up now. I close my eyes and see it: a Pasmanda weaver, fingers cracked from work, voting on funds to build a clinic. An Arzal girl, bright as dawn, knowing Waqf money might send her to school. The act even lets non-Muslims

wrapping their privilege in words like "autonomy" to keep Pasmandas quiet. Autonomy for who? The elite sipping tea in big houses, or the majority scraping by in slums? This act doesn't break the community—it stitches it together, giving

*Waqf properties—mosques, orchards, schools—are meant for all Muslims. They're treasures, holding crores in value, promising homes for the poor, books for the young.*

help manage things—not to meddle, but to keep an eye out, to stop the land sharks and elite games that've drained Waqf for too long.

Not everyone's clapping, though. I've seen the protests, heard the whispers calling this law a betrayal, a grab at Muslim rights. I get the fear—real is scary. But I've lived real betrayal. In Pakistan, they said I'd turned my back on faith when I only wanted honesty. Here, I see the Ashrafs doing the same dance,

every sect, every caste, a say.

Krishna's with me as I write this. I found Him in my darkest days, when Pakistan's shadows nearly swallowed me. Not in a temple's glow, but in the stubborn beat of my own heart, in a stranger's smile when I had nothing. His flute plays for everyone—highborn, lowborn, Muslim, Hindu. This law's like that flute, calling us to lift the weak, to share the load. I don't hate the Ashrafs.



# SANKARAN NAIR’S SILENT REBELLION ECHOES AGAIN

*Nair hailed from Kerala and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in Punjab. Nair fought to bring the British perpetrators to court – exemplifying India’s unity across regions.*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought Sir Chettur Sankaran Nair into the spotlight during an address on April 13, 2025 – the 106th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Speaking at a public event in Haryana, he highlighted Nair as an “unsung hero” of India’s freedom struggle and praised Nair’s bold stand against the British in the massacre’s aftermath. Modi recounted that Nair, “a prominent lawyer holding a high post in the British government... could have enjoyed all the perks and luxuries, but he chose to give it all up” in protest of colonial atrocities. He noted that although Nair hailed from Kerala and the atrocity took place in Punjab, Nair fought to bring the British perpetrators to court – exemplifying India’s unity across regions.

Modi urged that “every adult and child” in states like Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh should know of Nair’s contributions. The Prime Minister’s tribute not only honoured Nair’s legacy but also carried political overtones. He accused the long-ruling Congress party of having “abandoned a brave nationalist because he didn’t fit their narrative,” suggesting that leaders like Nair (and even B.R. Ambedkar) were deliberately sidelined in favour of the Nehru-Gandhi family’s prominence. Modi asserted that the contributions of figures like Nair had been “buried” in official history. The context also coincided with the upcoming release of Kesari: Chapter 2, a historical film (starring Akshay Kumar as C. Sankaran Nair) dramatizing Nair’s legal battle in the



Punjab, which experienced a series of great tragedies in the last century, will perhaps never forget the one that happened on the day of Baisakhi, April 13, 1919. Picture source: Wikimedia Commons



Colonel Reginald Dyer. Picture source: Wikimedia Commons

wake of Jallianwala Bagh. While Modi did not explicitly mention the film, his remarks just days before its release helped shine a spotlight on Nair’s story for the broader public.

## NAIR’S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Nair began practising law in 1880 at the High Court of Madras and quickly made a name for himself in the legal arena. By 1906, he had risen to become the Advocate-General of Madras, the first Indian to hold that prestigious post. He served

as Advocate-General from 1906 to 1908, during which time he was occasionally appointed an acting judge. In 1908, Nair was elevated as a permanent Justice of the High Court of Madras, again breaking barriers as one of the first Indian judges on that court. He served on the bench until 1915, earning respect for his jurisprudence. In one notable judgment, Justice Nair upheld the right of converts to Hinduism to not be treated as outcasts, a progressive decision for its time that underscored his reformist instincts. He

also founded and edited legal journals (the Madras Law Journal and Madras Review), contributing to intellectual and social debates in the Madras Presidency.

Parallel to his legal career, Nair was active in politics. He joined the Indian National Congress (INC) and quickly rose in influence due to his intellect and oratory. In 1897, he was elected President of the Indian National Congress at its annual session in Amaravati – becoming the first person from Kerala (and at age 40, one of the youngest) to preside over the Congress. In his presidential address, Nair spoke boldly against the “high-handedness” of colonial administration and advocated for reforms, including self-government for India on par with the rights British citizens enjoyed in England. This constitutionalist approach defined Nair’s political philosophy: he championed civil rights and incremental self-rule (Dominion Status within the Empire, at least as a start) through legal and legislative means, rather than mass agitation.

Nair’s legal acumen and moderate nationalist credentials earned him respect even among the British. He was appointed to several important posts and committees aimed at reforms. Notably, in 1902 Viceroy Lord Curzon picked him as Secretary to the Raleigh University Commission, which was set up to evaluate higher education in India. For his services, Nair was honoured by the British Crown – made a Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE) in 1904, and knighted in 1912, henceforth being known as Sir C. Sankaran Nair. In 1915, he reached one of the highest positions an Indian could attain under the Raj: he was appointed to the Viceroy’s Executive Council, the small governing cabinet of the Governor-General. There, he was given charge of the Education portfolio, effectively serving as British India’s education

minister. This appointment made Nair the sole Indian representative in the top echelons of the colonial government at that time.

While in the Viceroy’s Council (1915–1919), Nair continued to push for progressive changes. He authored two influential “Minutes of Dissent” in 1919, critiquing the proposed Montagu–Chelmsford reforms for not going far enough in giving Indians a say in governance. In these minutes, Nair pointed out systemic defects in British rule and recommended substantive constitutional reforms – many of which were eventually accepted by the British government. His work helped shape the Government of India Act 1919, which introduced a limited measure of self-governance (dyarchy) in provinces. Despite being part of the establishment, Nair did not hesitate to speak truth to power. This balancing act between cooperating with reform-minded colonial authorities and voicing nationalist critique defined his political career up to 1919.

## ROLE IN THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

As both a jurist and an activist, C. Sankaran Nair played a unique role in India’s freedom movement. Within the Indian National Congress, he represented the liberal, moderate strand of nationalism that sought to achieve self-rule through constitutional means and negotiations. His tenure as INC President in 1897 was marked by calls for expanding Indians’ political rights and for holding the colonial government accountable. Even after he entered judicial service (which required a degree of political neutrality), Nair remained sympathetic to the national cause. He briefly served in the Madras Legislative Council around 1900, and later, after leaving the Viceroy’s Council, he re-engaged in nationalist politics in the 1920s.

Nair consistently advo-



Bullet holes remain at the site of the massacre. Picture source: Shutterstock



C Sankaran Nair. File photo

cated Dominion Status for India – that is, autonomy similar to what Canada or Australia had – as an intermediate step toward full independence. Decades before the demand for Purna Swaraj (complete independence) became mainstream, Nair argued that Indians should at least immediately enjoy the same self-governing status within the Empire as other British dominions. He also presided over the Indian Central Committee formed to cooperate with the all-British Simon Commission in 1928, using it as an opportunity to press for constitutional concessions (even as the Congress officially boycotted the Commission). The committee led by Nair prepared a well-argued report reiterating the demand for Dominion Status, and indeed by 1929 the British publicly acknowledged Dominion Status as the eventual goal for India.

Within Congress circles, Nair was something of a maverick. He did not always see eye-to-eye with the emerging Gandhian wing of the freedom movement. He valued reasoned debate and often criticized policies he disagreed with, even if it meant dissenting from his colleagues. For example, Nair opposed the idea of mixing religion with politics; he was critical of Gandhi’s support for the Khilafat Movement (an Islamic caliphate protest) in the early 1920s, warning that it could politicize religion in harmful ways. His independent stances sometimes isolated him within Congress. However, Nair’s commitment to India’s freedom was never in doubt – he simply believed in pursuing it through constitutional agitation and legal challenges rather than through mass civil disobedience. He viewed the Indian National Congress as a “representation of the masses” but felt it should uphold internal accountability and rational methods. This principled – if occasionally contrarian – approach made him an atypical freedom fighter, one who leveraged his prominence in the legal-administrative sphere to further the nationalist cause.

## STAND AGAINST BRITISH RULE AFTER JALLIANWALA BAGH (1919)

The narrow passage leading into Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar (pictured) became a death trap on April 13, 1919, when British troops blocked the exit and opened fire on unarmed civilians. The ensuing Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a turning point for many Indian leaders, including C. San-

karan Nair.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of April 1919 marked the most defining moment in Nair’s political life. As a member of the Viceroy’s Executive Council at the time, Nair was in a high-ranking position within the colonial government when Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire on a peaceful gathering in Amritsar, killing hundreds of men, women, and children. The atrocity – carried out under Punjab’s Lieutenant Governor Sir Michael O’Dwyer’s brutal policies – horrified Nair. While outrage swept India, Nair took an extraordinary step: he resigned from the Viceroy’s Council in protest, sacrificing his top post as a matter of principle. He was the only Indian on the Council, and his resignation sent shockwaves through the British establishment. Fellow nationalist leaders (including moderate colleagues like Motilal Nehru) were astonished by Nair’s boldness – Motilal had even urged him to stay and fight from within, but Nair refused to be complicit after the colonial government’s gross misconduct.

Nair’s resignation letter forcefully condemned the massacre and the Government’s refusal to hold the guilty accountable. It was not a mere token gesture: by giving up his powerful seat, Nair publicly aligned himself with the Indian people’s anguish. Upon returning to Madras, he received a hero’s welcome from the public for his stand. The Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford, reportedly asked Nair to suggest his own successor on the Council – in a display of defiance, Nair cheekily nominated his personal servant for the job, as if to say that any common Indian would do, since Indians were treated with such disdain by the regime. This anecdote became legendary and underscored Nair’s disdain for British hubris.

Determined to expose the Raj’s brutality, Nair turned to writing. In 1922 he published a book titled “Gandhi and Anarchy.” While the title seemed to criticize Mahatma Gandhi, the book’s content also held colonial officials to task. Nair used the book to excoriate O’Dwyer (the Punjab administrator) for his role in fomenting the violence at Jallianwala Bagh. He argued that responsibility for the massacre did not lie with General Dyer alone, but just as much with O’Dwyer’s repressive regime in Punjab. Nair’s forthright accusations did not go unanswered: Sir Michael O’Dwyer filed a defamation (libel) suit against him in Britain, taking exception to

Nair’s claims. Instead of backtracking or apologizing, Nair accepted the challenge and went to England in 1924 to fight the case in the King’s Bench – a remarkable instance of an Indian nationalist directly challenging a top British official in a British court.

The trial of O’Dwyer v. Nair in 1924 became a sensation. For five weeks, a London courtroom heard testimonies about the Punjab atrocities. Nair stood firm, defending his remarks as truth. The odds of an Indian winning a case of this nature in the imperial heartland were slim, and indeed the deck was stacked against him – contemporary accounts noted the judge’s bias in favor of O’Dwyer. In the end, the jury was not unanimous, but the verdict went against Nair. He was ordered to either tender a formal apology or pay a fine of £500 as damages. Unwilling to apologize for telling the truth, Nair paid the £500 fine – effectively a symbolic price for bringing the horrors of Jallianwala Bagh to the world’s notice. “If all the judges of the King’s Bench together were to hold me guilty, my reputation will still not suffer,” Nair reportedly said, asserting that an unjust verdict in an imperial court could not tarnish his integrity.

Although he “lost” the libel suit on paper, Nair achieved his broader objective. The trial garnered extensive press coverage, airing details of the Jallianwala massacre before an international audience. British public opinion was divided – some defended Dyer and O’Dwyer, but many in Britain were appalled at the revelations, with even Winston Churchill condemning the massacre as “monstrous” in Parliament. In India, Nair’s stance was celebrated; newspapers praised his courage for standing up to the British establishment despite the legal defeat. Historian Sir Alfred Draper later noted that through this case, “the world [became] aware of what had happened in the Bagh”, underscoring how Nair’s fight helped ensure the massacre would not be buried in secrecy. Indeed, Modi in 2025 lauded that “Sankaran Nair ensured that the British government was brought to the court of law” over Jallianwala Bagh – a nearly unprecedented feat at the time. Nair’s principled opposition to colonial brutality, especially post-Jallianwala, cemented his place as a fearless voice of conscience in India’s independence movement.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS IN C. SANKARAN NAIR’S LIFE
<b>1857:</b> Born on July 11 in Mankara village, Palakkad (Malabar), Madras Presidency.
<b>1877–1879:</b> Completes B.A. at Presidency College, Madras (1877) and earns law degree from Madras Law College (1879).
<b>1880:</b> Enrolls as a lawyer at the Madras High Court and begins legal practice.
<b>1897:</b> Presides over the Indian National Congress session at Amaravati – becoming the first Malayali and youngest INC President at that time. Calls for equal rights and self-government in his address.
<b>1902:</b> Appointed Secretary to the Raleigh University Commission by Viceroy Curzon, recognizing his expertise in education reform.
<b>1904:</b> Honored by the British with Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) for his services.
<b>1906–1908:</b> Serves as Advocate-General of Madras – the first Indian to hold that post.
<b>1908:</b> Knighted by the British (receives the title “Sir”). Also in 1908, became a permanent Judge of the Madras High Court (served until 1915).
<b>1915:</b> Appointed as a member of the Viceroy’s Executive Council, in charge of Education – effectively joining the top governing body of British India as its sole Indian member.
<b>1919:</b> Authors minutes of dissent on the Montagu–Chelmsford constitutional reforms, many of whose recommendations are accepted by the British. On April 13, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurs. Nair resigns from the Viceroy’s Council in protest shortly after (becoming the only Indian to resign such a post over this atrocity). His act of protest gains national acclaim.
<b>1920–21:</b> Serves as a counsellor to the Secretary of State for India in London (the British-appointed council advising on Indian affairs).
<b>1922:</b> Publishes Gandhi and Anarchy, a book criticizing British policies (and expressing misgivings about some of Gandhi’s methods) while highlighting the truth of Jallianwala Bagh. The book triggers a libel suit from Sir Michael O’Dwyer.
<b>1924:</b> The O’Dwyer vs. Nair libel trial takes place in London. Nair boldly fights the case but the British court rules against him; he pays £500 rather than apologise. The trial publicizes British atrocities in Punjab globally.
<b>1928:</b> Leads the Indian Central Committee to cooperate with the Simon Commission, and as its president submits a report demanding Dominion Status for India.
<b>1934:</b> Passes away on April 22 (or 24), 1934, in Madras at the age of 76.
<b>2001:</b> The Government of India releases a commemorative stamp in his honour, acknowledging his contributions to the freedom struggle.
<b>2025:</b> A Bollywood biographical film (Kesari: Chapter 2) and public tributes (including by the Prime Minister) bring Nair’s story back into national consciousness.



# GERIATRIC CANCER: UNDERSTANDING, MANAGING, AND PREVENTING CANCER IN OLDER ADULTS

TDG NETWORK

Cancer is a condition that affects people of all ages, but it is significantly more common among older adults. As life expectancy increases globally, the number of elderly people diagnosed with cancer is also rising. This demographic shift requires a specific focus on the health challenges of older individuals, especially when it comes to detecting, treating, and managing cancer.

Geriatric cancer care involves a different approach compared to that for younger individuals. Older adults often have unique health concerns such as slower metabolism, chronic illnesses, reduced mobility, and a generally decreased tolerance for aggressive treatments. Understanding these complexities is key to providing effective, compassionate, and appropriate care for elderly cancer patients.

## UNDERSTANDING CANCER IN THE ELDERLY

Aging affects every system in the body. As we grow older, our immune system weakens, making it harder to fight off diseases, including cancer. In addition, our cells are exposed to years of environmental stress, toxins, and wear-and-tear, increasing the chances of abnormal cell growth that leads to cancer.

While cancer is not an inevitable part of aging, the risk certainly increases. The most common types of cancer in older adults include:

- Breast cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Colorectal cancer

### Skin cancer

The key challenge in geriatric oncology lies in balancing the need for effective treatment with the physical and emotional limitations that often accompany aging.

## SYMPTOMS OF CANCER IN OLDER ADULTS

Recognizing cancer in elderly individuals can be more complicated. Many symptoms may overlap with those of aging or chronic diseases, making early detection difficult. However, some common signs to look out for include:

### Unexplained weight loss

Sudden weight loss without changes in diet or activity could be a red flag.

### Fatigue and weakness

While tiredness is common with age, persistent fatigue that doesn't improve with rest may indicate cancer.

### Changes in bowel or bladder habits

Constipation, diarrhea, blood in the stool, or frequent urination may be signs of underlying issues.

### Pain or discomfort

Persistent aches, especially in the bones, back, or abdomen, should not be ignored.

### Lumps or unusual swelling

New growths or lumps in the body can be indicators of tumors.

### Difficulty swallowing or persistent indigestion

These symptoms may relate to cancers of the throat, esophagus, or stomach.

### Coughing or hoarseness that won't go away



This could be a sign of lung or throat cancer.

### Changes in the skin

New moles, unusual spots, or sores that don't heal can be signs of skin cancer.

It's important for caregivers and families to remain observant and encourage routine health check-ups for the elderly.

## CHALLENGES IN DIAGNOSING AND TREATING CANCER IN THE ELDERLY

Treating cancer in older adults isn't just about addressing the disease; it also involves assessing the overall health of the person. Many elderly patients live with other conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, or dementia. These coexisting conditions can complicate diagnosis, delay treatment, and affect outcomes.

Moreover, the body's ability to heal and handle strong treatments like chemotherapy or radiation declines with age. For instance:

Liver and kidney functions, which help process and remove medications, may not work as efficiently.

Bone marrow, which produces blood cells, becomes less active, increasing the risk of anemia or infections.

Recovery from surgery can take longer and involve more complications.

Another major challenge is communication. Some elderly patients may downplay their symptoms, struggle with hearing or memory, or feel anxious discussing their health. Effective and empathetic communication between doctors, patients, and families is essential.

## CARE AND INTERVENTIONS FOR ELDERLY CANCER PATIENTS

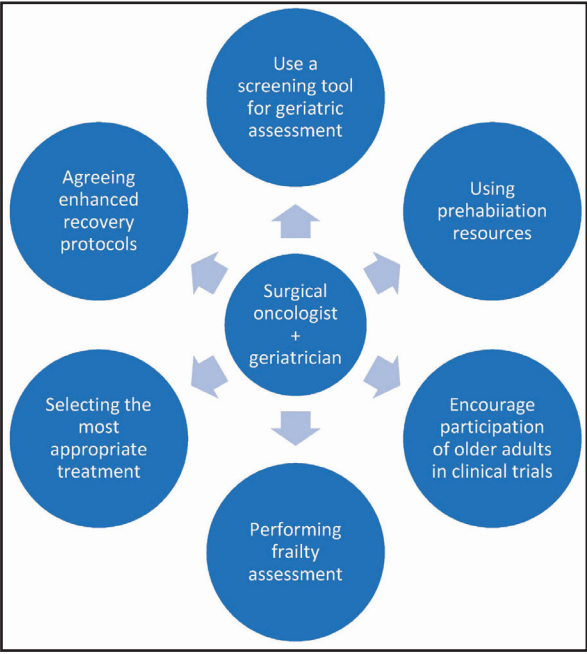
Managing cancer in older adults requires a personalized and holistic approach. Here are some of the major areas of focus:

### 1. Comprehensive Health Evaluation

Before deciding on treatment, doctors usually conduct a full evaluation of the patient's physical and mental health. This includes:

- Nutritional status
- Cognitive abilities
- Emotional well-being
- Social support systems
- Existing medications
- Mobility and independence

This evaluation helps determine how much treatment the patient can handle and what adjustments may be needed.



### 2. Tailored Treatment Plans

Older patients may not always benefit from aggressive treatments. Treatment plans are often modified to balance effectiveness with comfort and safety. Options include:

comfort and dignity. This includes:

- Pain management
- Emotional counseling
- Nutrition support
- Assistance with mobility and daily tasks
- Hospice care, when appropriate

### 4. Psychological and Emotional Support

Cancer can be emotionally overwhelming, especially for the elderly who may already feel isolated or dependent. Counseling, therapy, and support groups can help patients cope with anxiety, fear, and depression. Family support also plays a vital role in emotional recovery.

## PREVENTION OF CANCER IN OLDER ADULTS

While not all cancers can be prevented, there are many steps that older adults can take to lower their risk:

### 1. Healthy Diet

Eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins,

and whole grains supports the immune system and overall health. Reducing consumption of processed foods and sugar is also beneficial.

### 2. Regular Physical Activity

Staying active improves blood circulation, boosts energy levels, and supports healthy body weight. Gentle exercises like walking, yoga, and swimming are ideal for seniors.

### 3. Avoiding Tobacco and Alcohol

Smoking is one of the leading causes of cancer, and excessive alcohol intake also increases risk. Quitting these habits at any age has significant health benefits.

### 4. Routine Screenings and Check-ups

Early detection greatly increases the chances of successful treatment. Regular screenings for breast, colon, prostate, and skin cancers can help catch the disease before it spreads.

### 5. Sun Protection

Using sunscreen, wearing protective clothing, and avoiding peak sun hours can help reduce the risk of skin cancer.

### 6. Immunizations

Vaccines like the HPV vaccine and Hepatitis B vaccine can help prevent infections that may lead to cancer.

## TREATMENT AND RECOVERY: WHAT TO EXPECT

Recovery from cancer treatment in the elderly can vary based on the type of cancer, stage of diagnosis, and overall health. Many elderly pa-

tients recover well with the right care and support, but others may experience longer recovery times or complications.

After treatment, rehabilitation and regular monitoring are important. Physical therapy, dietary changes, and mental health care can help patients regain their strength and independence. Family involvement during recovery is often essential, as emotional support speeds up healing.

It's also important for patients and families to engage in open discussions with healthcare providers about treatment goals, side effects, and expectations. In some cases, patients may choose comfort-focused care over aggressive treatment, and that decision should always be respected.

Cancer in older adults is a growing concern and requires a thoughtful, personalized approach to care. The aging process brings unique challenges that must be considered at every stage—from diagnosis to treatment and recovery.

Understanding symptoms, promoting early detection, choosing suitable treatments, and offering strong emotional and physical support can dramatically improve the quality of life for elderly cancer patients. As families, caregivers, and communities, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that our elders are not just living longer—but living well.

The road to healing may be longer for older individuals, but with compassion, communication, and the right medical care, they can face cancer with strength and dignity.

# The Double-Edged Sword: Gadget Use and Emerging Health Disorders

TDG NETWORK

In today's digitally connected world, gadgets have become an inseparable part of daily life. From smartphones and tablets to smartwatches and laptops, technology has reshaped the way we work, communicate, learn, and even relax. While the benefits of gadgets are undeniable—offering convenience, speed, and access to vast information—excessive or improper use has begun to reveal a darker side. Increasingly, healthcare professionals and psychologists are raising alarms about the rising number of health disorders linked to gadget overuse.

This article explores how gadgets are affecting human health—both mentally and physically—and discusses symptoms, types of disorders, intervention strategies, and preventive measures.

## THE UBIQUITY OF GADGETS

Modern life revolves around gadgets. Smartphones wake us up, guide us through our calendars, and keep us connected throughout the day. Laptops and tablets are essential for education and work. Smart TVs and gaming consoles offer endless entertainment. Even our fitness routines are now closely tied to wearable gadgets.

However, the more deeply gadgets become embedded in our routines, the more we see the consequences of overdependence.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND GADGET OVERUSE

### Digital Addiction

Much like substance abuse, digital addiction—particularly to smartphones, social media, and gaming—is now recognized as a behavioral issue. People feel compelled to check notifications, scroll endlessly, and stay plugged in even when there's no necessity. This constant engagement disrupts attention spans and creates a dependency that can affect relationships, productivity, and sleep quality.

### Anxiety and the "Phantom Vibration Syndrome"

A growing number of users report feeling phantom phone vibrations—believing their phone has vibrated when it hasn't. This is often tied to anxiety and the need to constantly stay connected.

The fear of missing out (FOMO) on messages, updates, or emails leads to heightened stress levels and restlessness.

### Depression and Social Comparison

The curated and idealized lives shown on social media can lead users to compare themselves unfavorably, fostering feelings of inadequacy, loneliness, and low self-esteem.

Over time, this pattern may contribute to depressive symptoms, especially among teenagers and young adults.

### Sleep Disorders

The blue light emitted by



screens suppresses melatonin, a hormone that regulates sleep. Late-night gadget use disturbs circadian rhythms, leading to insomnia or poor-quality sleep.

Sleep deprivation has cascading effects, contributing to fatigue, mood swings, and reduced cognitive performance.

### Physical Health Issues

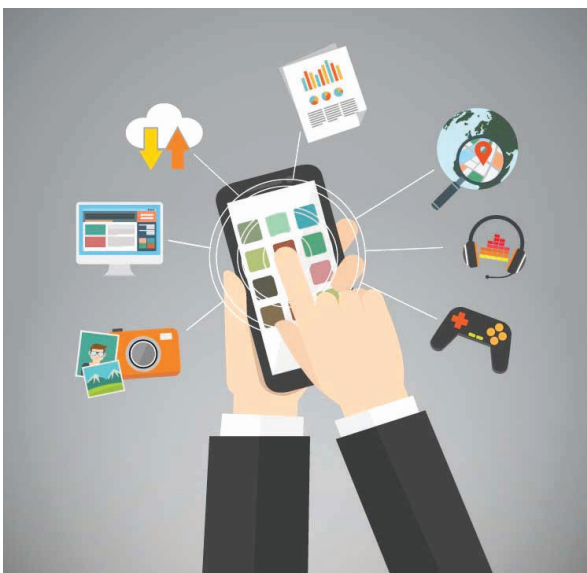
Eye Strain and Vision Problems (Digital Eye Strain)

Long hours of screen time can cause dry eyes, blurred vision, headaches, and eye fatigue—a condition known as Computer Vision Syndrome.

Children are especially vulnerable, as their eyes are still developing, and excessive gadget use can lead to early onset of myopia (nearsightedness).

### Text Neck and Posture Issues

Continuously bending the neck to look at screens leads to muscular strain and



stiffness—a condition often termed "text neck."

Poor posture while using gadgets contributes to back pain, neck pain, and even spinal issues in severe cases.

## OBESITY AND SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE

Prolonged gadget use often means reduced physical activity. Whether it's

binge-watching shows or marathon gaming, the sedentary behavior contributes to weight gain and related health risks like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

### Repetitive Strain Injuries

Constant typing, swiping, or gaming can cause strain injuries to fingers, wrists, and hands. Conditions like

"texting thumb" or carpal tunnel syndrome are increasingly common, even among the youth.

## GADGETS AND CHILDREN: A SPECIAL CONCERN

Children and adolescents are especially susceptible to the adverse effects of gadgets. Their brains and bodies are still developing, and overuse can interfere with social skills, emotional development, and learning abilities.

Reduced Attention Span: Fast-paced media trains young brains to expect instant gratification, making traditional learning seem boring or slow.

Language Delays: Excessive screen time among toddlers is linked to slower language development due to reduced verbal interactions with caregivers.

Aggression and Behavioral Changes: Exposure to violent or fast-moving digital content may increase irritability, aggression, and impulsivity in children.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND INTERVENTIONS

While gadgets are here to stay, responsible use and mindful habits can help prevent health problems. Here are some strategies:

1. Set Screen Time Limits Use built-in digital wellbeing tools on devices to monitor and limit usage.

Encourage screen-free zones or hours at home, especially during meals and before bedtime.

2. Follow the 20-20-20 Rule

Every 20 minutes, take a 20-second break and look at something 20 feet away to reduce eye strain.

3. Maintain Proper Ergonomics

Keep screens at eye level, use supportive chairs, and avoid slouching to prevent posture-related issues.

4. Blue Light Filters and Night Modes

Use blue light filtering glasses or enable night modes on devices in the evening to protect your sleep cycle.

5. Digital Detoxes

Designate one day a week or a few hours a day as a gadget-free period to reconnect with offline life.

6. Encourage Outdoor Activity

Make physical movement a part of your daily routine to counter sedentary habits. Encourage children to engage in outdoor games.

7. Counseling and Therapy For those dealing with digital addiction, anxiety, or depression related to gadget use, therapy and professional counseling can help break harmful patterns.

## MINDFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The key lies in balancing the benefits of gadgets with awareness of their risks. Mindful use means being present and intentional in how and when we engage with devices. It involves:

Turning off non-essential notifications to reduce distractions. Engaging in real conver-

sations instead of always texting.

Using gadgets as tools, not substitutes for human connection or emotional coping.

## THE WAY FORWARD

As technology evolves, so must our approach to using it. Governments, educators, parents, and tech companies all have roles to play in promoting healthier digital habits. Apps that remind users to take breaks, platforms that limit scrolling time, and educational campaigns about screen-time risks are small but meaningful steps.

In workplaces and schools, awareness sessions about the risks of excessive gadget use can instill healthier behaviors from a young age. Meanwhile, parents must model balanced use themselves to positively influence children.

Gadgets are powerful tools that enhance our lives in countless ways. But, like any tool, their value lies in how they're used. When we become overly dependent on screens, we risk harming our mental and physical well-being. Understanding the potential disorders linked to gadget overuse—from anxiety and depression to eye strain and obesity—is the first step in building healthier digital habits.

Ultimately, it's not about abandoning gadgets, but about reclaiming control—so that technology serves us, not the other way around.



# LABOUR MP VS BANGLADESH ACC: A LEGAL AND DIPLOMATIC FLASHPOINT

*Siddiq denies all allegations and condemns the move as politically motivated.*

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

British Labour MP Tulip Siddiq faces an arrest warrant issued by a Bangladeshi court. The country's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) accuses her of illegally obtaining land while her aunt Sheikh Hasina, the former Prime Minister, was in power. The warrant targets Siddiq and over 50 others, including her mother and Hasina. After Hasina resigned in August 2024 and left Bangladesh, the government broadened its investigation into corruption during her tenure.

Siddiq denies all allegations and condemns the move as politically motivated. However, the case has raised complex diplomatic and legal issues. Since Bangladesh and the UK lack a formal extradition treaty, any potential legal action faces significant obstacles. As tensions grow, observers closely monitor Siddiq's political future and the UK government's response.

Tulip Siddiq, a member of the British Labour Party, has represented Hampstead and Highgate in Parliament since 2015. Born in London in 1982, she is the daughter of Sheikh Rehana and the niece of Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister. Her grandfather, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was the founding father and first president of



Labour MP Tulip Siddiq threatened with Interpol red alert if she skips Bangladesh court corruption hearing - as she breaks cover to deny charges. Picture source: X post.

## TDG EXPLAINER

Bangladesh.

Siddiq studied at University College London and King's College London before beginning her political career as a Camden councillor. She later became a Member of Parliament and served as Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister from July 2024 until January 2025. She resigned amid the corruption investigation involving her family in Bangladesh.

Siddiq faces corruption charges in Bangladesh. She allegedly participated in land transactions during her aunt Sheikh Hasina's rule. The ACC claims that Siddiq and her relatives

acquired valuable plots of land in Dhaka illegally.

According to the ACC, Hasina and her family received a half-acre plot in Purbachal, a proposed township near Dhaka, without proper documentation. Siddiq has also been accused of using her political influence to secure three plots of land in Dhaka's diplomatic area for her mother Sheikh Rehana, brother Radwan, and sister Azmina, all of whom reside in the UK.

These allegations form part of a broader investigation into Hasina's government. The ACC is also investigating the alleged embezzlement of £3.9 billion (Rs 44,148 crore) from



Tulip Siddiq, a British parliamentarian, is the niece of the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina. Picture source: X

national infrastructure funds during Hasina's tenure.

On April 13, 2025, Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge Zakir Hossain Galib issued the arrest warrant after reviewing three ACC cases. The warrant targets Siddiq, her aunt Hasina, her mother Rehana, and other individuals connected to the previous government.

The ACC asserts that it has gathered substantial documentary evidence to support its case. ACC chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen told the BBC that the corruption charges are serious and that Siddiq must face legal proceedings in Bangladesh. However, Siddiq's lawyers

deny any wrongdoing. They argue that the ACC has not contacted her nor provided any evidence to support the charges. Siddiq's legal team points out that she does not own property in Bangladesh and has never used her political influence to secure land.

The case presents significant legal and diplomatic challenges. Siddiq is a British citizen and a sitting MP, and Bangladesh and the UK lack an extradition agreement, making it unlikely that Bangladesh can force her to return for trial.

The UK classifies Bangladesh as a 2B extradition country, meaning any request for extradition would require approval from UK

ministers and judges. To proceed, Bangladesh would need to present credible evidence.

Siddiq's lawyers argue that she has not received formal notification of the arrest warrant and contend that the charges are part of a political strategy aimed at damaging her reputation and distracting from Bangladesh's internal problems following Hasina's departure.

The arrest warrant has sparked strong political reactions in the UK. Siddiq, who served as anti-corruption minister under Keir Starmer, resigned in January 2025 amid the Bangladesh corruption probe. The resignation followed

an investigation by Starmer's ethics adviser, Sir Laurie Magnus, who found no evidence of direct wrongdoing but criticized Siddiq for failing to consider the reputational risks posed by her family's political involvement in Bangladesh.

Magnus emphasized that, as a minister promoting ethical standards in UK finance, Siddiq should have been more cautious. Her resignation aimed to prevent any distractions for the government.

The Conservative Party quickly seized the political opportunity. A spokesperson criticized Keir Starmer for not immediately removing Siddiq from her position as MP in light of the inter-

national arrest warrant.

"If it's true that Keir Starmer's anti-corruption minister is the target of an arrest warrant, she must resign immediately as Labour MP," the spokesperson stated. They also condemned Starmer for suggesting that Siddiq could return to a government role.

In addition to the land allegations, Siddiq has faced questions about her involvement in a nuclear deal with Russia. Opponent Bobby Hajjaj accused Siddiq of negotiating an inflated contract for a nuclear power plant in Bangladesh in 2013. While this charge has not led to formal legal action, it has fueled perceptions that Siddiq used her political influence for personal and foreign benefit.

Tulip Siddiq now finds herself at the center of an international controversy. She denies the allegations, but the association with corruption and land deals threatens her political career.

The case also strains UK-Bangladesh relations, especially given the absence of an extradition treaty and the political sensitivities surrounding the matter.

As the case unfolds, both nations will need to carefully navigate legal processes while managing the potential diplomatic fallout. For Siddiq, the fight for her reputation and political future may prove just as critical as any legal battle.

## Murder, extremism, and a Presidential hit list: The Casap case explodes

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Nikita Casap, a Wisconsin teenager, has been charged with the brutal murder of his parents and is now accused of plotting to assassinate US President Donald Trump. Federal court documents have revealed disturbing plans for political violence, making this case one of the most shocking to emerge recently. Here's a breakdown of the case and its alarming details.

### THE CRIME: DOUBLE HOMICIDE

In February 2025, Nikita Casap allegedly killed his mother, Tatiana Casap, and stepfather, Donald Mayer. Their bodies were discovered nearly two weeks later, decomposing in their home after a welfare check was requested due to Casap's extended absence from school. According to investigators, the mother's body was found under a pile of clothes and blankets, while Mayer's body was discovered in the home office. Both had sustained gunshot wounds, and authorities suspect the killings were part of a larger, more sinister plan.

Federal affidavits detail that Casap's actions weren't just about the double homicide. Instead, they were the first step in a much larger plot involving political violence. Law enforcement believes the teenager intended to gain financial resources and autonomy to fund his eventual assassination of



Federal warrant says 17-year-old Nikita Casap bought a drone and explosives and told other people about his plans. Picture source: X post.

## TDG EXPLAINER

President Trump. Text messages, handwritten notes, and images found during the investigation further illustrated his intent to destabilize the government.

Casap allegedly joined a neo-Nazi extremist group called "The Order of Nine Angles," which espouses racially motivated violence and terrorism. A manifesto found by the FBI reportedly included disturbing references to Adolf Hitler, calls for the assassination of the president, and plans for terrorist attacks.

### THE ASSASSINATION PLOT

Documents obtained from Casap's phone outlined plans to assassinate Presi-

dent Trump. The motive, according to a chilling manifesto, was to spark a political revolution and "save the white race." Casap believed that eliminating Trump and possibly the vice president would cause widespread chaos, aligning with his extremist views.

Authorities also discovered that Casap was in the process of acquiring explosives and a drone to carry out the assassination. He had reportedly begun financing these purchases, using his stepfather's financial resources.

Casap's alarming intentions were not kept secret. A classmate revealed that Casap had shared disturbing "gore edit" videos via

Snapchat, featuring violent war imagery and references to political violence. The classmate also disclosed that Casap had previously confided in him about his plans to kill his parents and the larger conspiracy to overthrow the US government. Casap allegedly told him that if there were news of ten coordinated attacks, it would have been his doing.

Casap has been charged with multiple felonies, including two counts of first-degree intentional homicide and charges related to hiding a corpse. Federal authorities are also pursuing charges related to attempting to assassinate a US president, conspiracy, and the use of weapons of mass destruction. Casap is facing a long road ahead, with his next court hearing scheduled for May 7, 2025.

The question on many people's minds is: why President Trump? According to Casap's manifesto, he intended to create chaos and initiate a political revolution by targeting the leader of the United States. He believed that killing Trump would accelerate his desired revolution, drawing from his extremist beliefs. The Nikita Casap case has shocked many with its chilling details, including plans for assassination and political violence. As the legal process continues, the case remains a significant example of how extremist ideologies can drive disturbing actions. Casap's next court date is expected to provide further insights into the extent of his intentions and the motivations behind his crimes.

## What April 14 attack on Sumy signals about Russia's war strategy

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Russia launched a deadly missile strike on the Ukrainian city of Sumy on April 14, 2025. This attack killed at least 10 civilians and injured over 25 others. Ukrainian officials said the strike damaged several residential buildings, a school, and key power infrastructure. The scale of destruction and civilian deaths has raised fresh questions about Russia's changing strategy in its war against Ukraine. While Sumy had previously been spared from frequent attacks, this strike indicates a deliberate attempt to expand the scope of war beyond the heavily targeted eastern and southern regions.

### WHY DID RUSSIA TARGET SUMY?

Sumy lies just 30 kilometres from the Russian border in northeastern Ukraine. Although not a central part of the ongoing front-line battles, the city plays a strategic role in Ukraine's defence and supply networks. It is part of the transportation route used for moving humanitarian aid and military supplies. Moreover, its railway connections link northern cities to other key areas in Ukraine. By hitting Sumy, Russia seems to be trying to disrupt these supply routes and create panic in border areas that were previously considered relatively safe. The attack may also be an attempt to divert Ukrainian military attention from the eastern and southern battlefronts by opening pressure



A building in Sumy, where the awards ceremony of the 128th Transcarpathian Mountain Assault Brigade was held, was hit by a Russian military ballistic missile. At least 40 people died. Picture source: X

points in the north.

The Sumy strike is not an isolated incident. It is part of a larger trend where Russia has begun attacking Ukrainian cities outside the main conflict zones. In recent weeks, missile and drone attacks have hit Kharkiv, Chernihiv, and other border areas. This shows that Russia is e

in the attack was likely an Iskander short-range ballistic missile, which is known for its destructive power. Emergency crews described the aftermath as "devastating." Many residents had to be rescued from beneath the rubble, and hospitals became overwhelmed with injured victims.

### PATTERN OF ESCALATION IN 2025

The Sumy attack adds to a growing list of Russian strikes targeting Ukrainian cities far from the front lines. Earlier this year, a drone attack hit Kharkiv's train station, injuring dozens of civilians. Russia also attacked Odesa's grain export facilities, affecting Ukraine's agricultural trade. In Chernihiv, a missile destroyed a part of a hospital. These attacks suggest that Russia's strategy now includes creating chaos across Ukraine, not just gaining

## TDG EXPLAINER

territory in the east.

Military experts say that this expansion of the war zone is meant to complicate Ukraine's military planning. If Ukraine has to defend more cities across a wider area, it becomes harder to organize strong counter-offensives in the east and south. This could help Russia slow down Ukrainian advances and buy time on the battlefield.

The missile strike on Sumy on April 14 could signify a major change in the trajectory of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Several key developments are likely to follow in the coming months. In response to the strike, Ukraine may need to strengthen its defences in the northern regions, which would require significant resources and military personnel. This could divert valuable troops and equipment from other fronts, weakening its overall defence strategy.

Russia may attempt to carry out more limited ground attacks near border areas like Sumy. These strikes could force Ukraine to stretch its defences even further. This could also be part of a broader Russian strategy to gain political leverage in future peace talks or negotiations. As attacks on cities far from active combat zones increase, the risk to civilians in areas once thought to be safe rises. This will place immense pressure on Ukraine's emergency services, heightening concerns over civilian morale and safety.



# XI PLEDGES STABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Xi highlighted Asia as a new centre for global cooperation and development.

AGENCIES  
BEIJING

Visiting Vietnam to enhance political and trade ties amid a major tariff row with the US, Chinese President Xi Jinping Monday said that China will ensure continuity and stability in its neighbourhood diplomacy and jointly advance the modernisation of Asia.

Xi arrived in Hanoi on his first visit abroad after US President Donald Trump slapped steep tariffs against China while pausing levies on a host of other countries, including Vietnam, Malaysia and Cambodia - the three countries on the Chinese president's current itinerary.

In an article published in Vietnam's Nhan Dan newspaper ahead of his visit, Xi said China would deepen friendly cooperation with neighbouring countries by ensuring continuity and stability of its neighbourhood diplomacy.

"We will stay committed to the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness," he wrote. "We will continue to pursue the policy of forging friendship and partnership with our neighbours," he added.

Xi, who is under pressure after Trump's unpre-

### XI JINPING'S VISIT

- First overseas visit by Xi after US President Donald Trump imposed 145% tariffs on Chinese exports worth over \$438 billion.
- Visit aims to strengthen political and trade ties with Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations (Malaysia and Cambodia) amid trade tensions with the US.
- Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia were exempted from US tariffs, increasing their strategic significance.



cedented 145 per cent tariffs against Chinese exports to the US which amounted to over USD 438 billion last year, spoke of focussing on joint modernisation of Asia along with China's neighbours as part of its new policy to reduce trade dependence on the US and the EU. While Beijing hit back with 125 per cent tariffs against US goods in tit-for-tat retaliation, foreign trade-dependent China looks to fast-paced diversion of its commerce to make up the losses.

"Asia represents a new elevation in global cooperation and development. At a new starting point toward revitalisation of the

whole region, Asia faces both unprecedented opportunities and challenges", Xi said.

Amid the tariff war with the US, Xi is visiting the three Southeast Asian countries which are part of the ASEAN bloc with which Beijing has its largest foreign trade, totalling over USD 962 billion.

The ASEAN countries, Vietnam in particular also faced a major crisis as the US tariffs targeted the country which prospered by reshoring Chinese industries and products and exporting them to the US, benefiting from Trump's tariffs against China in his previous term.

Vietnam became the

biggest beneficiary of the China Plus One strategy of several multinational firms like Apple besides Chinese companies moving their investments there to escape the US tariffs, becoming one of the key trade routes for exports to America.

Last year alone, Vietnam's exports to the US amounted to over USD 142 billion.

Trump last week hit Vietnam with 46 per cent tariffs, one of the highest besides China, in an apparent bid to target Hanoi's reshoring policy.

After fervent appeals from Vietnam, Trump agreed to negotiate a new tariff deal during the 90-day pause in

the levies on many countries except China.

Before the key visit to three Southeast nations, Xi pledged to strengthen strategic bonds with neighbouring nations by "appropriately" managing differences and enhanced supply chain ties as the tariff war with the US escalated.

In his first public speech after Trump's tariffs, Xi called for breaking new ground for China's neighbourhood diplomacy at a meeting of the ruling Communist Party of China in Beijing on April 9.

China sought to improve ties with several countries in its fraught neighbourhood.

Beijing in recent months winded down border tensions with India and sought to improve its relations with other major neighbours like Japan and South Korea, bracing for tough times under the Trump presidency on trade and strategic fronts.

The India-China relations, which remained frozen for over four years over the Eastern Ladakh military standoff, showed signs of improvement after the meeting between Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Kazan in Russia last October.

# 10 terrorists including two Sikh men arrested in Pakistan's Punjab

AGENCIES  
LAHORE

Two Sikhs are among 10 terrorists arrested by the law enforcers in Pakistan's Punjab province, police said on Monday.

According to a spokesperson of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police, it foiled a major terrorist plan by arresting 10 terrorists during operations in different areas of Punjab.

"Among the arrested terrorists are two Pakistani Sikhs -- Suraj Singh and Badal Singh. Both Sikhs have been arrested from Rawalpindi. They hail from Nankana Sahib district of Punjab and are active members of Jaey Sindh Muttahida Mahaz, a separatist political party advocating separation of Sindh province from Pakistan."

The spokesperson further said it conducted 189 intelligence-based operations in different districts of the province last week and arrested the 10 terrorists and recovered weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials. He said the other eight arrested terrorists are from banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).



Two Pakistani Sikh separatists among 10 terrorists arrested in Punjab.[file photo]

## Pak PM Shehbaz extends greetings of Baisakhi

Thousands of Sikhs, including from India, on Monday attended the main event of the Baisakhi festival at the Gurdwara Janamas-than Nankana Sahib as Pakistan's top leadership extended greetings to the community on the occasion. Baisakhi marks the Sikh new year and commemorates the formation of Khalsa Panth (saint-warriors) under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. According to the Evacuee Trust Property Board

(ETPB), which looks after the holy places of minorities in Pakistan, some 10,000 foreign Sikhs were among a large number of local ones who attended the celebrations of the 326th birth anniversary of Khalsa at the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev. "Of the 10,000 foreign Sikhs, 6,700 came from India and others from Canada, the US, the UK, Australia and other countries," ETPB spokesperson Ghulam Muhayuddin.

"The terrorists had planned to target important buildings in Rawalpindi and other cities of Punjab," he said and added that

nine separate cases have been registered against the arrested terrorists and further investigation is underway.

# Six people dead in New York plane crash

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

Six people, including two surgeons, two of their children and the children's partners, were killed after a small twin-engine plane crashed in a muddy field near the town of Copake, New York on Saturday, The New York Times reported.

According to a family member's statement, the plane, a Mitsubishi MU-2B headed to Columbia County Airport near Hudson, was carrying the three couples for a 25th birthday celebration and Passover Seder.

The pilot, Michael Groff, was a neurosurgeon and experienced flyer, and his wife, Joy Saini, was a pelvic surgeon. Their daughter, Karenn Groff, was a medical student at New York University Langone and a former star soccer player at MIT, where she was named



A twin-engine Mitsubishi MU-2B crashed into a field near Copake.(Agency)

NCAA Woman of the Year in 2022.

According to the statement, Groff's partner, James Santoro, was an investment banker and had planned to propose marriage this summer. Karenn Groff's brother, Jared Groff, was a parale-

gal at a New York hedge fund who was planning to attend law school in the fall, while his partner, Alexia Couyutas Duarte, planned to attend Harvard Law School this fall, The New York Times reported.

Their family member, Jona-

than Becker, who works as a vice president for academic affairs at Bard College, confirmed the death of six people. In a statement, he said, "We will remember them as the six brilliant, dynamic and loving people that they were."

# IDF dismantles 'underground terrorist route'

AGENCIES  
TEL AVIV

Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) shared on Sunday that its troops had dismantled a 1.2 kilometres long "underground terrorist route" in northern Gaza.

Sharing the details of the operation in a post on X, the IDF noted that a weapons storage facility was located near the route, which allegedly contained around 20 explosive devices, and an anti-tank guided missile amongst other weapons.

As per the IDF, Israeli Air Force Aircraft struck "several terrorists" who were



identified to be planting an explosive device near the troops during the operation.

The IDF wrote on X, "IDF troops identified and dismantled a 1.2 kilometre-long underground terrorist route in northern Gaza. A weapons storage facility was

located near the route, containing a stockpile of around 20 explosive devices and an anti-tank guided missile, amongst other weapons. In swift and precise coordination, an IAF aircraft strike eliminated several terrorists who were identified planting an explosive device near

the troops during the operation."

The post also contained a video which showed three people on the ground.

Previously on Sunday, Israel launched missiles at Gaza's al-Ahli Hospital, causing damage to its emergency unit and putting the only remaining operational hospital in northern Gaza inoperative, Al Jazeera reported.

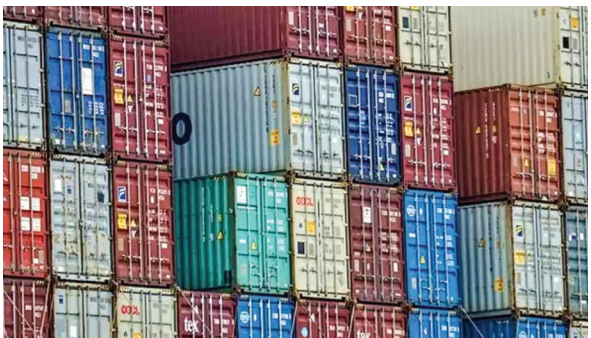
Health officials evacuated patients, with some, including those in critical condition, being evacuated under a prior warning issued by the Israeli military before the strike.



Monday stated, "Today, at the occasion of the first-ever High-Level Political Dialogue between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority, the Commission is proposing a multiannual Comprehensive Support Programme worth up to EUR1.6 billion to foster Palestinian recovery and resilience. With this Programme, the EU reiterates its unwavering support for the Palestinian people and its commitment to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the Two-State solution."

sustainability, democratic governance, private sector development, and public infrastructure and services, contributing to sustainable state-building across Palestinian territories."

For support to recovery and stabilisation of the West Bank and in Gaza, around EUR576 million in grants are proposed to support concrete projects on the ground to foster economic recovery and resilience in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and in Gaza, once the situation on the ground allows.



AGENCIES  
SHANGHAI

Major ports and provinces engaged in foreign trade in China are beginning to show the initial effects of the ongoing tariff conflict between the two biggest economies in the world, as reported by Radio Free Asia.

By Thursday, hardly any cargo ships were headed to the US from the once-bustling ports of Shanghai and Guangdong, while export factories in provinces vital to China's export economy have largely come to a standstill, according to sources within the country, as highlighted by RFA.

Local business owners stated that stacks of shipping containers, which did not make it onto ships bound for the US by the April 9 deadline, are now accumulating at the ports of Shanghai and Guangdong, as per RFA reports.

Inside warehouses, goods that were originally planned for export to the US are left unattended, while factory production has halted in Zhejiang and Guangdong, which are the two provinces contrib-

ing the most to China's exports in 2024, the RFA report emphasized.

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump declared he would increase "reciprocal tariffs" on China to 125 per cent, stating that this would take effect immediately. The White House subsequently clarified that the total tariffs on Chinese imports amount to 145%, factoring in a prior 20% tariff placed on Beijing regarding fentanyl trade, as reported by RFA.

The back-and-forth tariff exchange that has occurred between Washington and Beijing over the past two months was instigated when Trump enforced a 10% tariff on China on February 4, pointing to its involvement in the fentanyl trade, a potent opioid contributing to a significant number of deaths in America, according to the RFA report.

Just days prior, Shanghai's Yangshan and Waigaoqiao terminals were bustling with activity as ships hurried to load containers in a frantic attempt to finish shipments and depart before the new tariffs took effect, as noted in the RFA report.

# WHO extends travel restrictions on Pakistan for three more months

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD

The World Health Organization (WHO) has decided to extend travel restrictions on Pakistan for another three months due to concerns over polio, ARY News reported.

The decision was taken during the WHO Emer-

gency Committee's 41st meeting held on March 6. Authorities from polio-affected countries attended the meeting virtually.

According to WHO, the committee reviewed the global spread of polio, the situation in Pakistan, and the government's efforts to control the spread of the virus.



The committee's findings state that Pakistan and Afghanistan continue to pose a threat to polio eradication efforts being made globally. The two nations have been held responsible for the global spread of the poliovirus.

The WHO expressed satisfaction with Pakistan's anti-polio initiatives.

However, the committee stressed that there is still room for improvement at the provincial and district levels, ARY News reported.

Recently, there has been an increase in polio-positive environmental samples in Pakistan, with a 12-fold rise in cases reported between 2023 and 2024. As many as 628 polio-positive envi-

ronmental samples have been reported in Pakistan in 2025, with new districts also impacted by the wild poliovirus The active circulation of the YB3A4A B-cluster of the poliovirus in Pakistan, especially in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Balochistan provinces, remains a concern. Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetta have

become hotspots for the wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), which continues to spread in central parts of Pakistan and southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The WHO voiced concern over the spread of WPV1 in both Pakistan and Afghanistan, stressing that the virus is now confined to two nations globally.



# KHER'S 'TANVI THE GREAT' TO PREMIERE AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2025

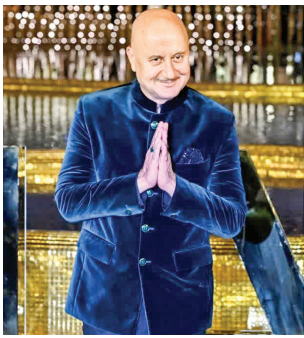
TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Anupam Kher's much-anticipated directorial, 'Tanvi The Great', is all set to put Indian cinema on the global stage with its world premiere at the upcoming Cannes Film Festival.

The film will have its world premiere at Cannes, within the Marche du Film, during the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. The screening will be attended by the cast and crew.

Numerous A-listers are expected to attend the screening of the film, which will be introduced by actor Anupam Kher at the event.

Kher took to his Instagram handle to announce



the world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival's Marche du Film.

The Cannes premiere will kick off a world tour of screenings in major cities, including London, New York, and Los Angeles, which is expected to help the film 'Tanvi The Great' reach a global audience.

While talking about taking 'Tanvi The Great' world

premiere, the 'Saaransh' actor said that the story of the film was born from deep passion and purpose. He believes that the emotions of the film will deeply resonate with the audience of America as well as India.

"I've always wanted to create a film with a universal theme--one that transcends boundaries and connects with hearts ev-

erywhere. Tanvi The Great is a story born from deep passion and purpose. It's a film from our hearts, and I believe it will resonate just as deeply with audiences in Ahmedabad as it will in America," shared Anupam Kher, as quoted by a press note.

He also lauded the music skills of Oscar-winner MM Keeravani in the film. Kher said,

"Having Oscar-winner M.M. Keeravani bring this story to life with his musical genius has been a true blessing. His artistry has elevated Tanvi The Great in ways I had only dreamt of. I am truly humbled to present 'Tanvi The Great' our labour of love to the world."

## Prithviraj Sukumaran joins Kareena in Meghna Gulzar's 'Daayra'

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan will share screen space with Prithviraj Sukumaran in Meghna Gulzar's 'Daayra'.

On Monday, they all met for a brief meeting and officially announced the film.

Excited to work with "dream team", Kareena on Instagram wrote, "I've always said that I'm a director's actor...and this time I cannot wait to work with one of the finest director's we have, @meghnagulzar and alongside the magnificent @therealprithvi, whose work I deeply admire. To my dream team,



#Daayra (red heart emoji) let's do this."

They also posed for a couple of pictures. Have a look at them. In one of the images, both the actors are sitting opposite each other as they seemingly go through script narration

In a press note, Kareena further stated, "As I celebrate 25 incredible years

in Hindi cinema, I'm thrilled to announce my next film, Daayra, with the incredible Meghna Gulzar in the director's chair. I've long admired her work, from Talvar to Raazi, and to be directed by her is a dream come true. The opportunity to collaborate with the talented Prithviraj is also a highlight, and I'm drawn to the film's

bold, thought-provoking narrative."

Prithviraj, too, expressed his excitement about working with Meghna Gulzar and Kareena.

"Some stories stay with you from the moment you hear them. DAAYRA is that for me. Excited to work with Meghna Gulzar, the incredible Kareena Kapoor Khan and Team Jungle Pictures! Wish you all a very happy Vishu! #Daayra," he posted on Instagram.

Earlier, Ayushmann Khurrana was supposed to play the male lead in the film. However, due to certain reasons, he could not do the film.

## 'Kesari 2': Akshay, Madhavan, Ananya offer prayers at Golden Temple

TDG NETWORK  
AMRITSAR

Amid the ongoing promotions for 'Kesari 2', Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan, and Ananya Panday on Monday offered prayers at the Golden Temple.

Sharing a picture from the sacred visit, Akshay took to Instagram and wrote, "Sir jhukaya, sukun paya (Head bowed, found peace)," Akshay captioned the post.

The image shows Akshay, Madhavan and Ananya could be seen expressing gratitude to God with folded hands.

Ananya, too, shared a picture with her 'Kesari 2' co-stars from the Golden Temple and captioned it, "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh #KesariChapter2."

Kesari Chapter 2 will focus on the untold story of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The lead star, Akshay Kumar, will play the legendary advocate C Sankaran Nair in the film, which will be released on April 18. It is directed by Karan Singh Tyagi and produced by Karan Johar



Ananya, too, shared a picture with her 'Kesari 2' co-stars from the Golden Temple and captioned it, "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh #KesariChapter2."

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place on April 13, 1919, remains one of the darkest chapters in India's colonial history. According to the Ministry of Culture, the massacre marked a turning point in India's freedom struggle and is remembered as a symbol of courage and resistance.

The massacre occurred in Amritsar, Punjab, where thousands had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh during the festival of Baisakhi.

The gathering was also meant to peacefully pro-

test against the Rowlatt Act and demand the release of leaders Dr Satyapal and Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew. British officer Brigadier General Reginald Dyer, without issuing any warning, ordered his troops to fire on the unarmed crowd. According to the Ministry of Culture, "1650 rounds were fired. The firing ceased only after the ammunition had ran out." While official British records put the death toll at 291, Indian leaders like Madan Mohan Malviya estimated over 500 deaths.

## Emmy-winning art director E Jay Krause passes away at 98

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON DC

E. Jay Krause, the Emmy-winning art director and set designer of Hollywood films and television shows, passed away in Los Angeles, California, on Saturday at the age of 98, reported Deadline.

Over the course of his three-decade career, from the 1950s through the 1980s, Krause designed sets for over 180 productions, garnering appreciation from the filmmakers for his inventive and elegant visual style.



Krause was the mind behind the look of TV specials featuring iconic performances by the likes of Bob Hope, Diana Ross, Mitzi

According to its website, this independent prop house offers an unlimited selection of residential, institutional, and commercial props, including furniture, accessories, and lighting fixtures of all periods and styles.

Gaynor, the Jacksons and Rudolf Nureyev, reported Deadline.

According to the outlet, the original sets for NBC's '60s-era daytime game show The Hollywood Squares were immortalized at NBC Studios,

while his '70s-style psychedelic patterns emblematic of sketch comedy show Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In have cemented their place in the pop culture lexicon.

Krause has received two Primetime Emmy Awards



Shraddha Kapoor poses for her picture. (ANI)

## Ranbir, Alia celebrate three years of marriage

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt, one of Bollywood's most beloved couples, began their love story in 2018 while shooting for Brahmastra. Their bond grew stronger over time, and on April 14, 2022, they tied the knot in a private ceremony held at their Mumbai residence. The wedding was intimate, attended by only close friends and family, and was filled with warmth and simplicity.

Both Ranbir and Alia have gained admiration for their performances in the film industry. Along with their successful careers, they've also become fan favorites for their real-life chemistry



and supportive relationship.

Back in 2022, Ranbir openly expressed his admiration for Alia during

an interview with NDTV. His praise wasn't just about love—it came from deep respect for her as an artist and a person.

## 'Jewel Thief – The Heist Begins' trailer out

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Netflix released the thrilling trailer of 'Jewel Thief – The Heist' Begins on Monday, giving a fascinating glimpse into the land of glamour, risk, and lies. The trailer, lasting 2 minutes and 13 seconds, hints at a high-octane mission of a heist of Rs. 500 crore.



for Outstanding Art Direction: one for Mitzi's 2nd Special in 1970 and another for Diana! in 1972.

After gaining a name for himself, Krause founded Omega Cinema Props, which grew to become one of the industry's largest independent prop houses, reported Deadline.

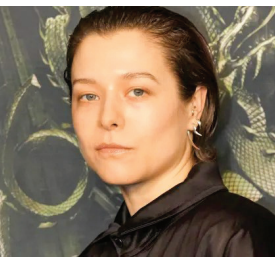
According to its website, this independent prop house offers an unlimited selection of residential, institutional, and commercial props, including furniture, accessories, and lighting fixtures of all periods and styles.

## Emma D'Arcy joins Tom Cruise in Alejandro G Inarritu's project

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

'House of the Dragon' star Emma D'Arcy has joined Tom Cruise in Oscar-winning filmmaker Alejandro G Inarritu's untitled feature film.

D'Arcy confirmed the news in a statement, "I am delighted to be working with such extraordinary and exacting artists as Alejandro and Tom," adding, "They are the masters of their craft, and witnessing them in combina-



tion has been a privilege," reported Deadline.

In December, Warner Bros. and Legendary Entertainment made an announcement that Inarritu's film would premiere on October

2, 2026.

As per the synopsis, the film is about "the most powerful man in the world who embarks on a frantic mission to prove he is humanity's saviour before the disaster he's unleashed destroys everything," reported Deadline.

Inarritu won Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture Academy Awards in 2016 for 'Birdman' and was honoured with a second Best Director Oscar the following year for 'The Revenant', as per the outlet.



# WHAT CAUSES WARTS AND HOW TO GET RID OF THEM?



DR. KARUNA MALHOTRA

An unpleasant and unattractive skin condition is warts. Skin warts typically seem like little blister-like growths on a person's hands or feet. It might also manifest in other areas of the body. The human papillomavirus, or HPV, which is what causes it, is an infection. More than 15,000 viruses make up the HPV virus category. Actually an STD/STI, HPV is a sexually transmitted infection or disease. Anyone who engages in sexual activity has the risk of contracting HPV if their partner has the virus. Skin-to-skin contact is how it is spread. Warts can appear in different body parts or on the genital areas of those who have HPV.

Dr. Karuna Malhotra, Aesthetic Physician and Cosmetologist at Cosmetic Skin and Homeo Clinic, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi explains that "the distinctions between warts, moles, and skin tags are often unclear. Despite the fact that each of the three of them is unique in nature and arises for distinct reasons. Warts



are typically little blisters or skin lesions that are the same colour as the person's skin."

## HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

Apart from HPV which is sexually transmitted infection warts are also spread through skin contact by shaking hands, turning door knobs or typing on keyboards used by many; sharing common shoes or towels also causes warts. Yes, people do get warts from other people with warts; they don't get them from anywhere else. If you

have any type of skin wart, it means that you came in contact with a wart-causing virus sometime in the past, though it could have been months ago.

## WHO ARE AT RISK?

Any person who has very sensitive or damaged or wet skin is more prone to catch the infection. Apart from this person being sexually active, having weak immune system, under prolonged stress, having hormonal disorders and being exposed to external effects such as radiation, chemical emissions of industrial cities,

oily or junk food is at risk to get warts once in a lifetime. Also, the wart virus is transmitted most rapidly in areas having warm and humid air like spas, saunas, swimming pools, gyms or clubs.

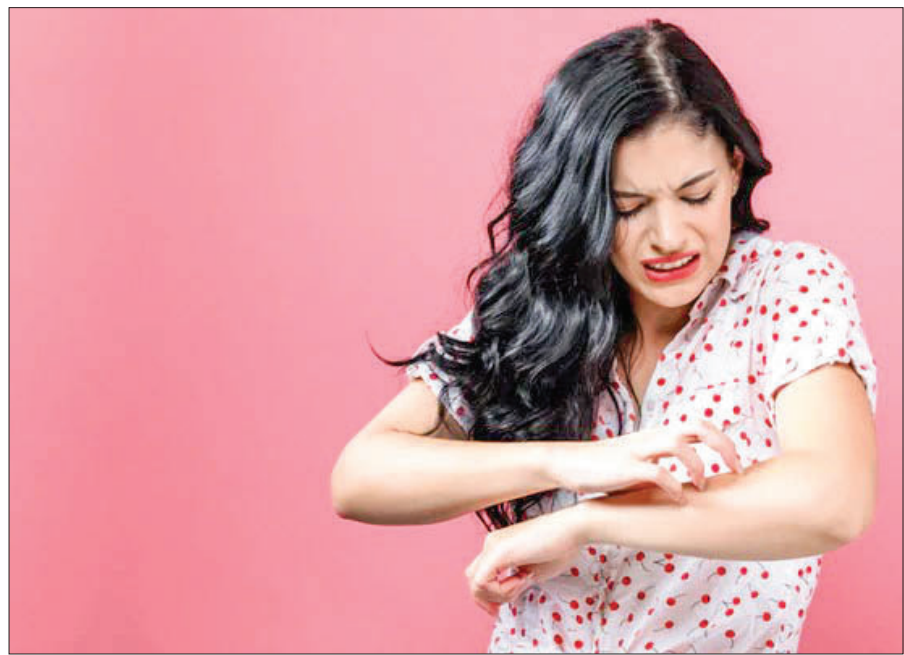
## PRECAUTIONS

- The first and foremost way to prevent skin warts is to avoid coming into contact with the virus.
- Make sure you wash your hands properly each time before you touch anything.
- Do not share your shoes or towels with anybody, also do not use anybody else's towels or shoes.

- Keep your skin healthy and well moisturized in all seasons be it winter or summer; do not keep your skin dry for long.
- Do not bite your fingernails; also while shaving make sure that you use a sharp razor that won't tear or cut your skin.

## TREATMENT FOR WARTS

Dr. Malhotra stated that some warts need not to be medically treated; it may go on their own. If your warts cause bleeding or pain then do see the good dermatologist. Options of removing



warts are:

- Chemical treatment where warts are removed with acids, alkalis or medications containing salicylic acid which works by removing layers of the wart a little bit at a time.

- But nowadays Laser wart removal is unique and quite an effective method of getting rid of warts very fast and is less painful as it leaves almost no scars, the doctor can easily control the intensity of exposure, re-

covery from the procedure is fast but do go to a certified doctor for the removal.  
*Inputs by Dr. Karuna Malhotra, Aesthetic Physician and Cosmetologist at Cosmetic Skin and Homeo Clinic, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi*

## Vision Protection in Diabetes: With Nutraceuticals Help

ANISH DESAI

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is a leading cause of vision loss among individuals with diabetes. It results from chronic hyperglycemia-induced damage to the retina's microvascular system, leading to oxidative stress, inflammation, and neurovascular dysfunction. While conventional treatments like anti-VEGF injections and laser therapy target advanced stages, early intervention through nutraceuticals—bioactive compounds found in food—offers a promising natural strategy for preventing and managing DR.

### How Nutraceuticals Help in Diabetic Retinopathy

Nutraceuticals exert antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, and vasoprotective effects, helping to combat key mechanisms driving DR progression. They neutralize reactive oxygen species (ROS), reduce inflammation, and support retinal function, potentially delaying disease progression.

### Key Nutraceuticals for Diabetic Retinopathy

**1. Omega-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs)**  
Omega-3 PUFAs, particularly docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) play a crucial role in retinal structure and function. Studies suggest that DHA supplementation can help lower oxidative stress



and inflammation, potentially reducing the severity of DR. Natural sources include fatty fish, flaxseeds, and walnuts.

### 2. Carotenoids (Lutein and Zeaxanthin)

These powerful antioxidants accumulate in the retina, protecting against oxidative stress and light-induced damage. Lutein and zeaxanthin have shown promise in reducing retinal inflammation and improving vascular integrity in DR. Foods rich in these carotenoids include spinach, kale, and egg yolks.

### 3. Polyphenols

Polyphenols are potent anti-inflammatory and neuroprotective agents. Curcumin,

found in turmeric, helps suppress inflammatory pathways and protects retinal cells from damage.

Resveratrol, present in grapes and red wine, supports vascular health and reduces oxidative stress.

Quercetin, abundant in onions and apples, aids in stabilizing blood sugar levels while protecting retinal capillaries from degeneration.

### 4. Anthocyanins

Anthocyanins, found in blueberries, blackberries, and black currants, possess anti-angiogenic properties, meaning they help prevent abnormal blood vessel growth a key issue in advanced DR.

### 5. Saponins

Ginsenosides, the active compounds in ginseng, have been shown to reduce inflammation, prevent vascular leakage, and support retinal cell survival.

Nutraceuticals offer a promising adjunctive strategy for preventing and managing diabetic retinopathy by reducing oxidative stress, inflammation, and vascular damage. While more clinical trials are needed to confirm their long-term benefits, incorporating nutrient-rich foods into the diet may help support retinal health and delay DR progression. However, individuals with diabetes should consult a doctor before adding nutraceutical supplements to their regimen.

## The Role of Genetics in Pediatric Cancer: What Every Parent Should Understand



DR. ABHISHEK VAISH

Pediatric cancer is a heart-wrenching diagnosis that no parent ever wants to hear. While most cancers in children are not directly inherited, recent research has shed light on how genetics can play a role in the development of cancer in young patients. Understanding the genetic factors behind pediatric cancer can help parents make informed decisions and advocate for the best possible care for their child. In this article, we will explore the role of genetics in pediatric cancer, how genetic mutations contribute to cancer development, and what every parent should know.

### What Is Pediatric Cancer?

Pediatric cancer refers to cancers that occur in children and adolescents, typically under the age of 18. While cancer is more common in adults, pediatric cancers, even though rare, can be equally devastating. Common types of pediatric cancer include leukemia, lymphoma, brain tumors, neuroblastoma, Wilms tumor, and bone tumors. Unlike adult cancers, which are often linked to environmental factors or lifestyle choices, pediatric cancers tend to have different causes and may sometimes involve genetic factors.

### The Genetic Link to Pediatric Cancer

Genetics plays a significant role in the development of cancer. In children, certain genetic mutations or inherited conditions can increase the risk of developing cancer. In most cases, these cancers are not passed down directly



from parent to child, but rather arise from spontaneous genetic mutations. However, some children inherit genetic mutations that predispose them to certain types of cancer.

Genetic mutations are changes in the DNA sequence, which can disrupt normal cell function. These mutations may affect genes that control cell growth, repair damaged DNA, or regulate cell death. If these genes are damaged or altered, cells can begin to grow uncontrollably, leading to the development of cancer.

### The Role of Genetic Testing

Genetic testing can play a crucial role in identifying children at higher risk for cancer. Through a blood test, doctors can screen for inherited genetic mutations and provide insight into the risk of developing certain cancers. If a child has a family history of cancer or presents with symptoms of a genetic syndrome, genetic testing may help guide medical decisions.

In cases where a genetic mutation is detected, parents can work with genetic counselors and oncologists to understand the risks and determine the best course of action. Genetic testing can also help doctors tailor treatment plans for children diagnosed with cancer by identifying specific genetic changes in tumor cells. This type of testing, known as tumor profiling, allows doctors to choose therapies that are more likely to be effective based on the genetic makeup of the tumor.

### The Role of Genomics in Pediatric Cancer

Genomics has revolutionized the understanding of pediatric cancer by studying both the child's and tumor's genetic makeup. Tumor profiling helps provide a precise diagnosis and tailor treatments to target specific genetic mutations, improving treatment efficacy and reducing unnecessary interventions. Additionally, genomic testing aids in early detection by identifying children at higher cancer risk, enabling closer monitoring and earlier interventions for better outcomes.

### What Every Parent Should Know

As a parent, it's important to understand that the majority of childhood cancers are not directly inherited. However, some genetic conditions do increase a child's risk, and early detection through genetic testing can help identify potential risks. Here are a few key takeaways for parents:

Not all pediatric cancers are genetic: Most childhood cancers occur due to spontaneous mutations, not inherited conditions. However, inherited genetic mutations can increase the risk for certain types of cancer.

Genetic testing can provide valuable information: If your child has a family history of cancer or exhibits signs of a genetic syndrome, genetic testing may help identify potential risks and guide treatment.

Genetic counseling is important: If your child is diagnosed with cancer or if there's a family history of cancer, genetic counseling can provide support and guidance. A genetic counselor can help you un-

*Pediatric cancer refers to cancers that occur in children and adolescents, typically under the age of 18. While cancer is more common in adults, pediatric cancers, even though rare, can be equally devastating.*

derstand the results of genetic tests and help make informed decisions about your child's care.

Early intervention improves outcomes: Inherited genetic syndromes can sometimes be detected early, leading to closer monitoring and earlier interventions, which can improve the chances of successful treatment.

Understanding the genetic factors involved in pediatric cancer can be a game-changer for both prevention and treatment. While genetic mutations may not always be the root cause of childhood cancers, recognizing the role of inherited conditions and spontaneous mutations is essential. Early detection through genetic testing offers opportunities for more precise and effective treatment plans, which could significantly impact a child's chances of recovery. For parents, staying proactive and seeking genetic counseling when appropriate can make a real difference in navigating the complexities of pediatric cancer. By equipping themselves with the right knowledge, parents can ensure that they are making the most informed decisions for their child's health and future.

The majority of childhood cancers are curable, especially if detected early and managed in an appropriate manner.

*Dr. Abhishek Vaish. The author introduces Dr. Intezar Mehdi.*



# VVAC: Wellness Journey Through Ayurveda



NAMRATA KOHLI

Forty-five-year-old Kiran Kaur from Panchkula spent Rs 1.5 lakhs and 15 days at a nearby Ayurvedic centre to address her chronic respiratory issues. “We don’t think twice before spending the same amount on a branded bag that offers only momentary joy,” she says. “But this was a life-changing investment.” Suffering from allergic sinusitis and rhinitis that worsened into asthma post-COVID, Kaur turned to Vaidyaratnam Vrindavan Ayurveda Chikitsalayam (VVAC) in the serene Shivalik foothills near Baddi, Himachal Pradesh. Tired of steroids and inhalers, she opted for therapies focused on lung immunity, under the guidance of an Ayurvedic BAMS specialist.

Blending Kerala’s classical Ayurveda with modern infrastructure, VVAC is not a hospital or resort but a holistic healing space set across 25 acres of forested land. Treatments range from 7 to 21 days and cost approximately Rs 7,800 per day, inclusive of accom-



modation, meals, nursing, and therapy. The centre offers three residential blocks with Studio, Standard, and Premium options. Ac-

cording to senior physician Dr VM Gopal Menon, Ayurveda addresses health issues at the root, especially chronic and lifestyle diseases



es like arthritis, stress, and spondylitis. Raj Rishi Garg, VVAC’s promoter, says the centre bridges a gap by bring-

ing authentic Ayurveda to North India. Clients include urban professionals, NRIs, and international wellness seekers. Panchakarma—



Ayurveda’s signature detox programme—is tailored per individual, explains Dr Pratima Guleria, and involves intensive cleansing to eliminate toxins and restore dosha balance. VVAC’s standout features include a three-story treatment block with therapies like Abhyanga and Shirodhara, a 7,500 sq ft yoga hall,

and temples that enhance the spiritual ambiance. The centre is NABH-certified and empaneled with CGHS, Haryana Government, and CAPF, offering insurance and cashless options. However, it’s not without flaws—access involves a bumpy ride, meals are fixed with limited variety, mosquitoes are an is-

sue, and there’s a lack of utensils despite kitchen facilities. Room service also needs improvement. Despite these, VVAC is emerging as a go-to wellness destination for those seeking long-term relief and preventive care through authentic Ayurvedic practices in a peaceful, spiritual setting.

## HEAVEN AND HELL



MYSTIC MUSING  
RAJESH M. IYER

The warrior rode his horse rather aimlessly. It was apparent that he was in a foul mood. That’s when he saw a sage deep in meditation. The sight added to his anger as he spoke with contempt, ‘Why waste time sitting with eyes closed when you can contribute to the society in a better way?’ When he realised that the sage was still deep in meditation, the warrior pulled his sword out of the scabbard and poked the sage. There was still no response from the sage. When the sage finally came out of his meditative state, he was surprised to

see the warrior, that too with a sword drawn out. ‘With your shenanigans, you pretend to be wise,’ the warrior started on a fiery note. ‘Since you seem to know everything, tell me: what are heaven and hell?’ ‘First, I don’t claim to know everything,’ the sage started on a sharp note, taking the warrior by surprise. ‘Two, I don’t think I need to answer a filthy, uncouth man like you. Now get lost.’ The warrior was taken aback. The sage’s words stoked his rage as the warrior brought his sword

close to the sage’s neck and shouted, ‘One swish and your neck would be on the ground. How dare you call me filthy? I’ve killed thousands of people on the battlefield. One more won’t make any difference.’ The sage smiled and said, ‘Now, that’s hell, since you wanted to know.’ The words took the warrior’s breath. He stood rooted for a moment. Then, shaking himself out of this unexpected reply, the warrior threw his sword and went down on his knees and begged the sage, ‘Please forgive me.

I have no idea what took control of me. I have temper issues, but this was really unwarranted. I beg you to forgive me for my abominable behaviour.’ ‘And that’s heaven,’ the sage said and laughed heartily. The multiple stories we hear of heaven being in the sky and hell below the earth are all symbolic representations. In reality, they are two states of mind. When our mind is agitated and controlled by desires, we create a state of hell. Likewise, when the mind is calm and we make sensible



decisions, we dip into the heaven in us. And remember, the energy we activate inside us is the kind of world we create.



When our mind is agitated and controlled by desires we create a state of hell. Likewise, when the mind is calm, we dip into the heaven in us. And remember, the energy we activate inside us is the kind of world we create.



# CSK PIP LSG IN LAST-OVER THRILLER

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW

The 2025 Indian Premier League delivered yet another edge-of-the-seat contest as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) clinched a dramatic five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Sunday. In a game that remained finely balanced until the final over, Chennai chased down a target of 167 with just one ball to spare.

Electing to bowl first after winning the toss, CSK managed to restrict the home side to a par score of 166 for 7 in 20 overs. Lucknow's innings saw a cautious start, and early breakthroughs put the hosts under pressure. Despite the setbacks, LSG consolidated through sensible partnerships in the middle overs, anchoring the innings while keeping the scoreboard ticking. However, CSK's bowlers applied pressure at crucial junctures, especially in the death overs, preventing a



Chennai Super Kings' Matheesha Pathirana and teammates celebrate the wicket of Lucknow Super Giants' captain Rishabh Pant during their IPL 2025 match, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, in Lucknow on Monday. (ANI Photo)

late surge in scoring.

The Lucknow pitch, known for aiding slower bowlers and making stroke-making difficult in the latter half of an innings, lived up to its reputation. Spinners and medium-pacers used variations effectively, and CSK's fielders backed them

up with tidy work in the deep. Chasing 167, Chennai came out with positive intent. Their top order looked to make the most of the fielding restrictions, scoring freely during the powerplay. However, regular wickets through the middle overs ensured that LSG remained

in the hunt. The equation became increasingly tense as dot balls and pressure mounted, and the match appeared to be heading toward a photo finish.

With five wickets down and the required run rate creeping upwards, the final overs saw some nervy

moments. CSK, however, showed the value of experience and composure, making smart choices between risk and rotation. Quick running between the wickets and the ability to capitalize on loose deliveries kept them in contention.

The penultimate over swung momentum slightly in Chennai's favour, leaving them needing just eight runs off the final six balls. Despite a couple of well-executed deliveries by the LSG bowlers, CSK managed to scamper through for singles and twos before sealing the match with a boundary on the fifth delivery of the last over. The win adds to Chennai's consistent campaign this season, with the team showing a good balance between bat and ball. For Lucknow, it was a case of what might have been. While their bowlers fought hard, a few lapses in execution during the closing stages ultimately cost them the game. As the league stage enters a critical phase, such close encounters highlight the tournament's competitive edge.

## Dube steers CSK to victory

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW

In a gripping IPL 2025 encounter at Lucknow, Shivam Dube rose to the occasion, guiding Chennai Super Kings to a five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants and snapping their five-match losing streak. Chasing a competitive 167, Dube's calm and calculated unbeaten 43 off 37 deliveries formed the backbone of CSK's successful chase, which was sealed with just three balls to spare. The match, played under lights at the Ekana Stadium, started with CSK opting to field first. LSG's innings never quite got the momentum it needed early on. Aiden Markram was dismissed for 6 in the first over by Khaleel Ahmed, and Nicholas Pooran departed for 8, trapped leg-before by young Anshul Kamboj. Mitchell Marsh looked promising with a fluent 30 but fell to Ravindra Jadeja just when he seemed set. Skipper Rishabh Pant brought some much-needed stability to the innings with a well-crafted 63 off 49

balls, while Abdul Samad chipped in with a quickfire 20 off 11 to push LSG to a respectable 166/7. Matheesha Pathirana, although expensive

early on, redeemed himself at the death with two crucial wickets, including Pant.

In reply, CSK had a bumpy ride. The top order faltered, and pressure mounted during the middle overs. That's when Shivam Dube

stepped up, showing remarkable

temperament under pressure. Anchoring the chase with maturity, Dube kept the scoreboard ticking, combining strike rotation with timely boundaries to keep CSK in the hunt. With 58 needed off 36 balls, in walked MS Dhoni, whose cameo reminded fans of his vintage finishing prowess. Staying unbeaten on 26 off just 11 balls, Dhoni played the perfect foil to Dube, hitting the winning runs with a trademark flourish—a boundary over point that sent the yellow army into celebration. But the night belonged to Dube, who not only held the innings together but also ensured that CSK's campaign is back on track with a crucial away win. With this knock, he has underlined his growing stature as a dependable middle-order force for Chennai.



## India wraps up Archery World Cup with four medals

AGENCIES  
AUBURNDALE

India concluded their campaign at the Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 1 in Auburndale, USA, with a total of four medals, highlighted by a silver in the men's recurve team event and a bronze secured by Dhiraj Bommadevara in the men's individual recurve on Sunday.

With one gold, one silver and two bronze medals, India finished fourth on the Archery World Cup 2025 Auburndale medals table. Mexico topped the standings with six (three gold, two silver and one bronze), as per Olympics.com.

The Indian men's recurve team, featuring Olympians Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das, went down 5-1 to the People's Republic of China's Wang



Yan, Li Zhongyuan and Kao Wencho in the final.

Chinese Taipei beat Spain 5-1 for the bronze medal in the men's team recurve archery event.

In the earlier rounds, India defeated Spain 6-2 in the semi-finals, got the better of fourth-seeded Indonesia 6-2 in the quarter-finals and beat Brazil 6-2 in the first round.

Later in the day, Dhiraj Bommadevara, who made it to the bronze medal match in the recurve mixed team event with Ankita Bhakat at

the Paris 2024 Olympics, beat Spain's Andres Temino 6-4 to win the bronze medal in style. Trailing 4-2, Dhiraj bounced back in the final two sets to upstage the Spaniard.

Dhiraj reached the bronze medal match after losing 7-1 to Florian Unruh, the Paris 2024 mixed team silver medalist from Germany.

In the quarterfinals, Dhiraj defeated the Paris 2024 men's team silver medalist Thomas Chirault 6-4 after getting the better of Atanu Das 7-3 in the quarterfinals.

India's two other medals in the USA came in compound archery. Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam secured India's only gold of the meet in the LA 2028-bound mixed team event, while Rishabh, Abhishek Verma and Ojas Deotale added a bronze in the men's compound team event.

Meanwhile, four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari missed out on a podium finish in the individual as well as team events. She made it to the quarterfinals in the women's individual recurve but lost to Paris 2024 mixed team bronze medalist Casey Kaufhold of the USA with a 6-2 scoreline.

The Indian women's recurve team, comprising Ankita Bhakat, Anshika Kumari, and Deepika Kumari, lost to the USA 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

## Momentum meets rivalry: PBKS & KKR lock horns in Mullanpur

SUNIL YASH KALRA  
NEW DELHI

Cricket fans are in for a thrilling evening as the 31st match of IPL 2025 brings a high-voltage contest between Punjab Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders at the scenic Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh. For the first time this season, the two sides will lock horns at this venue, and with both teams looking to strengthen their playoff chances, the stakes couldn't be higher.

Punjab Kings have played five matches so far this season, winning three and losing two. With six points on the board, they currently



sit sixth on the points table. However, they'll be looking to bounce back after a tough loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in their previous outing. Kolkata Knight Riders, on the other hand, have played six matches, also winning three. Their recent win over Chennai Super Kings by 8 wickets has pushed them to fifth place and given them a boost in momentum ahead of

this key clash.

Over the years, these two franchises have faced off 33 times in the IPL, with Kolkata holding a clear edge, winning 21 matches compared to Punjab's 12. However, the last time they met in the 2024 season, it was Punjab that came out on top with a dominant 8-wicket win. In their last five encounters, Kolkata has won three, while

Punjab has managed to win two. Interestingly, this will be the first time these two teams face each other at the Mullanpur venue, adding an element of the unknown to the contest.

Senior sports journalist Taus Rizvi, speaking on the special Cricket Predicta show presented by IxBAT, shared his thoughts: "Mullanpur is a stage ready for new stories to unfold. While Punjab may benefit from familiar conditions, KKR's balanced playing XI makes them dangerous on any pitch. With dew and toss becoming key factors, this match could swing in either direction."

The pitch at Mullanpur has shown itself to be friendly for batters.

## ITTF World Cup 2025: Manika, Sreeja start with wins

AGENCIES  
MACAU

Paris Olympians Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula kick-started their International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Cup campaign with wins on Monday.

While the world number 30th Manika defeated the world number 186 Maylis Giret of New Caledonia 4-0 (11-1, 11-2, 11-6, 11-4) in the Group 16 match, the world number 34 Akula beat Australia's Constantina Psihogios, 68th in the women's singles table tennis rankings, 3-1 (11-9, 11-4, 11-8, 6-11), as per Olympics.com.

Manika's next challenge will be the Brazil's Bruna Takahashi, while Akula will lock horns with three-time Olympic and current European Games champion Ber-



nadette Szocs of Romania in her final group stage match.

The World Cup is held in two stages, group stage and knockouts. The men's and women's players have been divided into 16 groups featuring three players each and the group toppers will make it to the knockouts.

India does not have any participants in the men's draw. The group stage matches have four games each and players will be ranked based on the overall win-loss ra-

tio across both fixtures and players with the best ratio in terms of games won across both their matches will qualify for the knockouts.

Manika and Sreeja are the only Indian representatives at the ITTF World Cup.

The knockout stage will kickstart from Thursday and will be held in best-of-seven games. The World Cup will continue on Sunday. India would be aiming for their first-ever medal win in the tournament.

## Indian shooters look to continue good run in ISSF World Cup

AGENCIES  
LIMA

Indian shooters will look to maintain their impressive form when they take to the range in the ISSF World Cup beginning here from Tuesday. The Indian team finished a creditable second in the year's first World Cup for rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters in Buenos Aires last week.

On the first competition day in the capital city of Peru, the likes of Manu Bhaker, Suruchi and Sainyam will be in action in the women's air pistol competition, while Saurabh Chaudhary, Varun Tomar and Ravinder will take another shot at gold in the men's air pistol event at the Las Palmas range. Both



the men's and women's 10m air pistol finals are scheduled for Tuesday.

Close to 400 shooters from 43 countries, including a 35-member Indian contingent, will compete across 15 events in the three disciplines of rifle, pistol and shotgun over the next week, to establish early supremacy with the blue-riband ISSF World Championships coming up at the end of the year.

## Hockey India announces women's squad for Australia tour

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Monday announced a 26-member Indian Women's Hockey Team squad for the upcoming tour of Australia, scheduled to take place from April 26 to May 4 at the Perth Hockey Stadium. The five-match series will see India take on Australia A in the first two games, followed by three matches against the senior

Australian team.

The squad will be led by dynamic midfielder Salima Tete, with experienced forward Navneet Kaur serving as the vice-captain. The tour will be a crucial preparatory assignment ahead of the team's European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25, set to be held in June, as per the Hockey India press release.

Seasoned goalkeeper Savita and young talent Bichu Devi Kharibam will share respon-

sibilities between the posts, providing a strong last line of defence, Hockey India said. Jyoti Singh, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Sujata Kujur, Suman Devi Thoudam, Jyoti, Ajmina Kujur, and Sakshi Rana will feature in the defensive lineup, reflecting a mix of experience and promising young talent.

In the midfield, captain Salima Tete will marshal the centre with support from



Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Neha, Sharmila Devi, Manisha Chauhan, Sunelita Toppo, Mahima Tete, Pooja Yadav, and Lalremsiami,

bringing depth and creativity to the side, Hockey India said.

The forward line comprises of Navneet Kaur, Deepika,

Rutaja Dadaso Pisal, Mumtaz Khan, Baljeet Kaur, Deepika Soreng, and Beauty Dungdung. Notably, five players—Jyoti Singh, Sujata Kujur, Ajmina Kujur, Pooja Yadav, and Mahima Tete - have earned a call-up to the senior team and will be eager to make their senior team debuts, an official release read. Sharing her thoughts on the squad, Harendra Singh, Chief Coach of the Indian Women's Hockey Team said,

"This tour to Australia is an important opportunity for us to test our skills and strategies against top-level competition. We've selected a balanced squad that combines experience with fresh energy. It's great to see young players earning their spots through consistent performances in national level tournaments and senior camps. It will be exciting to see how they adapt and rise to the challenge at the international

level."

Additionally, Bansari Solanki (goalkeeper), Anjana Dunderung and Lalthantlangi (defenders), Sakshi Shukla and Khaidem Shileima Chanu (midfielders), and Dipi Monika Toppo and Sonam (forwards) have been named standby players, it added.

"We've had a solid block of training at the national camp in Bengaluru, and the team is in good shape--both mentally and physically.

