

**2**  
UPROAR IN LOK SABHA OVER US IMPOSING TARIFFS



**11**  
WHY SOUTH KOREA REMOVED PRESIDENT YOON



**16**  
MARSH MADNESS, LSG EDGE MI IN NAIL-BITER

## PM MODI MEETS YUNUS; HASINA, HINDUS' SAFETY FIGURE IN TALKS

■ This was first meeting between the two since Hasina's ouster last year

AGENCIES  
BANGKOK

In his first meeting with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged India's concerns over the safety of minorities, including Hindus, and conveyed that any rhetoric that vitiated the environment was best avoided.

During the 40-minute meeting that took place on the sidelines of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit here, PM Modi also underscored India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

At the meeting, Yunus also flagged the issues of the extradition of deposed Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina and border killings.

This was the first meeting between Modi and Yunus since Hasina's ouster in August last year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval were also present during the meeting.

The Prime Minister told Yunus that the strict enforcement of the law and prevention of illegal border crossings, especially



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit, in Bangkok on Friday. (ANI Photo)

### India's 21-point action plan includes UPI for BIMSTEC

AGENCIES  
BANGKOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday proposed a 21-point action plan that includes linking India's UPI with the payment systems of BIMSTEC nations and setting up a BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce to strengthen engagement among the grouping's members.

Prime Minister Modi was addressing the 6th



PM Modi arrives in Colombo; talks with SL Prez set to produce key outcomes. ANI

Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit, hosted

by hosted by Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, here. Modi said

at night, are necessary for maintaining border security and stability.

"Bangladesh has made a formal request regarding Sheikh Hasina. It will not be proper for me to say anything more on this matter," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra told reporters here.

"Met Mr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh. India remains committed to a constructive and people-centric relationship with Bangladesh," Modi said in a post on X.

"I reiterated India's support for peace, stability, inclusivity and democracy in Bangladesh. Discussed measures to prevent illegal border crossings and expressed our serious concern for the safety and well-being of Hindus and other minorities," the Prime Minister said.

Modi also enunciated India's people-centric approach to the relationship, and said that cooperation between the two countries has brought tangible benefits to the people of both the nations.

"In this spirit, he underlined to Professor Yunus India's desire to forge a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based

## Parliament adjourns sine die

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament, which began on January 31 has officially come to a close with both Houses being adjourned sine die on Friday.

Both Houses will now reconvene during the Monsoon session of Parliament; however, the dates have not been announced yet.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, during his valedictory remark in the 267th session of the Upper House, extended his gratitude towards the members of the House for their "active participation and valuable contribution".

"Hon'ble Members, we have come to the conclusion of a very productive 267th session of the Sabha. As we conclude the sitting of the session, I extend my gratitude to each one of you for your active participation and valuable contribution," Dhankhar said.

He noted that the House functioned for 159 hours during the session, bringing its productivity to 119 per cent.

He stated the House had its longest-ever sitting on Thurs-

RAJYA SABHA	
Functioned	159 hours
Productivity	119 per cent
House had its longest-ever sitting on Thursday, starting at 11 am on April 3 and continuing until 4:02 am on April 4 to debate Waqf Bill.	
49 private members' bills were also introduced	

LOK SABHA	
26 sittings from the commencement of the session on January 31.	
10 government bills were introduced	
16 bills passed.	
Waqf Amendment Bill of 2025 was the highlight.	

### Waqf Bill clears RS hurdle

NEW DELHI: Parliament early Friday approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate.

The discussion witnessed staunch objections from opposition parties, which termed the Bill "anti-Muslim" and "unconstitutional".

■ DETAILS P2

### Owaisi moves SC, Congress follows

NEW DELHI: Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Supreme Court, arguing that it violates constitutional provisions. Jawed's plea alleged that the bill imposes "arbitrary restrictions".

■ DETAILS P2

## Eight people die inhaling toxic gas in a well they were cleaning

AGENCIES  
KHANDWA [MADHYA PRADESH]

As many as eight people died due to suffocation from the poisonous gas in the well in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa on Thursday.

"During the festival of Gangaur Mata, some people went inside a well to clean it and the incident happened due to the formation of gas inside the well as the well was not being used for a long time... Around eight people were trapped inside the well and a rescue operation was carried out by po-

lice, SDRF, home Guards," Khandwa Collector Rishav Gupta told reporters.

The Khandwa Collector said that the administration has announced ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the families of all the deceased.

"All eight bodies have been recovered and sent for post-mortem to a nearby hospital," he added.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav confirmed that all eight persons died due to suffocation from the poisonous gas in the well.

"In a tragic incident in

Kondawat village of the Chhaigaon Makhana area under Khandwa district, one person who had descended into a well to clean it for the Gangaur immersion got trapped in the mire, and in an attempt to rescue him, seven others who entered the well one after another also got trapped inside. The sad news has been received that all eight individuals succumbed due to suffocation caused by poisonous gas in the well," Mohan Yadav posted on X.

The CM also announced

## Temp may touch 42°C in Delhi in next 2 days

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Northwest India is likely witness heatwave conditions over the next six days, with temperatures in Delhi expected to reach up to 42 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday.

Regions likely to be impacted include south Haryana, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan and west Madhya Pradesh.

The IMD said maximum temperatures in many parts of central and north-west India are expected to rise by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius during this period.

In Delhi, daytime temperatures could reach around 42 degrees Celsius at some places by April 6 or 7.



Earlier this week, the department said India is expected to see higher-than-usual temperatures from April to June, with more heatwave days in central and eastern India and the northwestern plains.

Normally, India records four to seven heatwave days between April and June.

States likely to experience more heatwave days

## Speaker chides Sonia Gandhi

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday chided former Congress president Sonia Gandhi over her Waqf (Amendment) Bill was "bulldozed through" remarks, and said a senior member casting aspersions on the House proceedings was "most unfortunate" as well as against the dignity of parliamentary democracy.

Without taking the name of Gandhi, who is a member of the Rajya Sabha, Birla took a stern view on her remarks after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju raised the issue and asked the Speaker to render a ruling on it.

Addressing party MPs at a meeting of the Congress



mentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju raised the issue and asked the Speaker to render a ruling on it.

Addressing party MPs at a meeting of the Congress

Parliamentary Party in Samvidhan Sadan here on Thursday, Gandhi had said, "Yesterday, the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha and today it is scheduled to come up in the Rajya Sabha. The bill was in effect bulldozed through. Our party's position is clear. The Bill is a brazen assault on the Constitution itself. It is very much part of the BJP's deliberate strategy to keep our society in a state of permanent polarization."

With

### No Centre's nod for TN's anti-NEET bill

CHENNAI: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday informed that the Assembly resolution seeking NEET exemption for the state that was sent for Presidential assent, has been declined and called the rejection a "dark chapter in federalism." AIADMK slammed the DMK over the development.

■ DETAILS P4

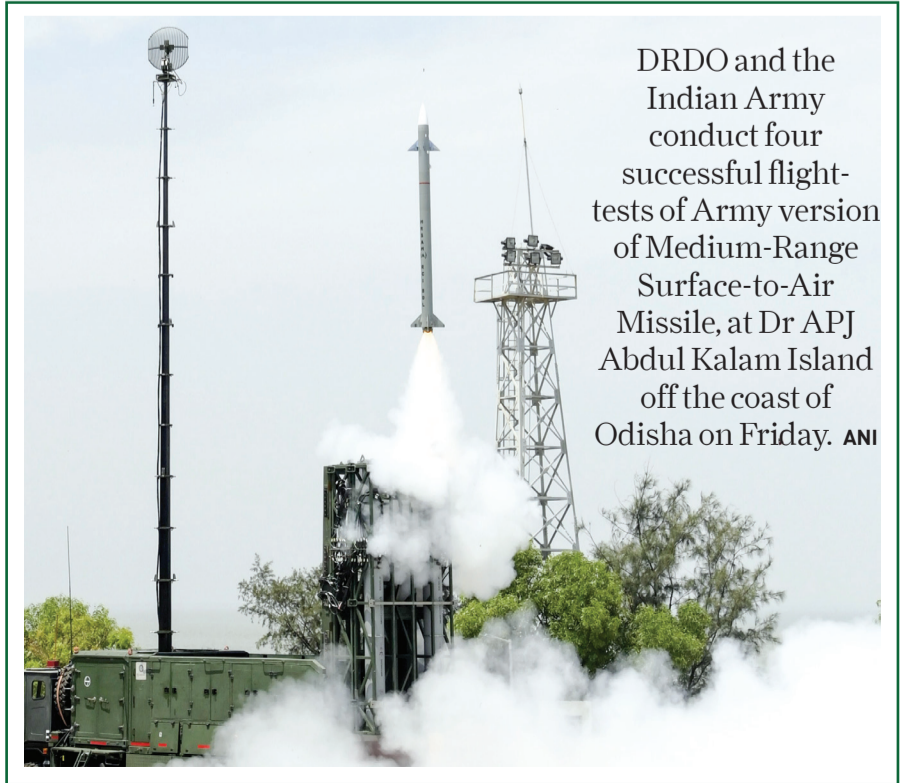
### Man who painted celluloid with patriotism no more

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Legendary actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar, a stalwart of Indian cinema, passed away on April 4, 2025, at the age of 87. The actor, affectionately known as "Bharat Kumar" for his portrayal of patriotic roles in numerous films, breathed his last at 4:03 am at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai

Ambani Hospital in Mumbai.

He was admitted to the hospital on February 21, 2025, after his condition worsened. Born Harikrishnan Goswami on July 24, 1937, in Amritsar, Punjab, Kumar's son, Kunal Goswami, confirmed that his last rites will be performed tomorrow at 11 am at Pawan Hans in front of Nanavati Hospital in Vile Parle.



DRDO and the Indian Army conduct four successful flight-tests of Army version of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile, at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on Friday. ANI

## India ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in private investment in AI

AGENCIES  
UNITED NATIONS

India and China are the only developing countries in the world with significant private investments in AI in 2023, according to a UN report. India ranks tenth.

The 2025 Technology and Innovation Report, issued by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), also states that India ranked 36th in 2024 on the

US LEADS IN GLOBAL AI PRIVATE INVESTMENT	
US	\$67 billion (Rank 1)
China	\$7.8 billion (Rank 2)
India	\$ 1.4 billion (Rank 10)

'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' index, improving its position from 48th in 2022.

India ranks 36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring

a country's readiness for frontier technologies, improving its ranking from last year, according to the report.

The index combines indicators for ICT deployment, skills, research and development (R&D) activity, industrial capacity, and access to finance. India ranks 99th for ICT, 113th for skills, 3rd for R&D, 10th for industrial capacity, and 70th for finance. Bhutan, India, Morocco, the Repub-

lic of Moldova, and Timor-Leste improved their positions in human capital due to more years of schooling and a greater share of high-skill employment in their working populations, the report said.

The report also notes that China, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States show scientific strength in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

■ P3

WHO SAID WHAT  
IN PARLIAMENT



Those who were misleading the Muslims of the country regarding the Citizenship (Amendment) Act are doing the same thing today. Just as no one lost their citizenship, people will similarly see how this bill is useful for the Muslim community. Only those people who were looting have a problem [with this bill],” he said.

- Giriraj Singh, Union Minister



One important milestone that we have achieved in Rajya Sabha... Yesterday, in the Rajya Sabha, we created a new record. The earlier record was in 1981 when the Parliament discussed the Essential Service Maintenance Act... We created a new record - we discussed for 17 hours and 2 minutes in Rajya Sabha [over the Waqf Amendment Bill]. It seems extremely difficult to break this record... There was not a single disruption during the discussion over the Waqf amendment Bill...”

- Kiren Rijju, Union Minister



The Waqf Bill was brought to address the mismanagement of Waqf properties. In the caste census conducted in Bihar - Pasmanda Muslims, Ansari, and Mansuri communities are included, and they will benefit from this bill because their representatives will also be on this board. This has been done to improve Waqf’s management,”

- Sanjay Jha , JD(U), MP



“I am severely obsessed with anything that hurts the Indian interest and, particularly, the Indian economic interest. This is what brings me to the house, and I will continue to raise every issue that hurts my country passionately. If you had heard my question, you would have known that my question is only about India. We offered unflinching loyalty, but in return, the Trump Administration has imposed the Trump Tariff that could wreck the Indian economy.”

- Raghav Chadha, AAP, MP

PARLIAMENT PASSES WAQF BILL AS RS GIVES ITS NOD

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

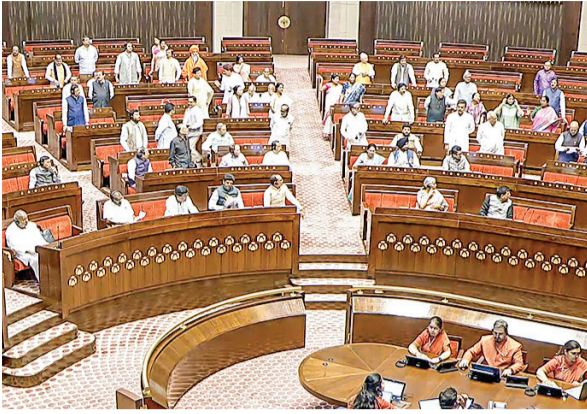
Parliament early Friday approved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, after the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the contentious legislation following an over 13-hour debate.

The discussion witnessed staunch objections from opposition parties, which termed the Bill “anti-Muslim” and “unconstitutional” with the government responding that the “historic reform” would benefit the minority community.

The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it. It was passed in the Lok Sabha early Thursday, with 288 members supporting it and 232 against it.

Parliament also approved the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod. The Lok Sabha has already given its assent to the Bill.

Participating in the discussion, Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju accused



Proceedings of the Rajya Sabha get adjourned after treasury benches raise slogans over SC invalidating teachers' jobs in West Bengal during the Budget Session of Parliament, in New Delhi. ANI

the Congress and other opposition parties of scaring the Muslim community with the Bill and asserted that the central government worked for all with the motto of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’.

Rijju said the Waqf Board is a statutory body and, as such, like all government bodies, it should be secular. He said the inclusion of a few non-Muslims on the Waqf Board would not alter the decisions of the body and instead would add value.

The minister also claimed that the Bill brought by the government has incorporated several suggestions made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) as well as the stakeholders.

The Opposition INDIA bloc parties opposed the Bill, alleging that it was “unconstitutional” and aimed at targeting Muslims. They claimed that the aim of the legislation was to take over the properties of Muslims and hand them to corporations.

Owaisi moves SC against Waqf Bill, Cong to follow

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Mohammad Jawed and AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday challenged the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, in the Supreme Court, arguing that it violates constitutional provisions.

Jawed’s plea alleged that the bill imposes “arbitrary restrictions” on Waqf properties and their management, undermining the religious autonomy of the Muslim community. The petition, filed through advocate Anas Tanwir, claimed that the proposed law discriminates against the Muslim community by “imposing restrictions that are not present in the governance of other religious endowments.”

The bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favor and 95 opposing it. It was earlier passed in the Lok Sabha on April 3, with 288 members



supporting it and 232 voting against it.

Jawed, a Lok Sabha MP from Kishanganj in Bihar and a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the bill, alleged in his plea that the bill “introduces restrictions on the creation of Waqfs based on the duration of one’s religious practice.” He argued, “Such a limitation is unfounded in Islamic law, custom, or precedent and infringes upon the fundamental right to profess and practice religion under Article 25.”

In his separate plea, Owaisi said the bill removes various protections that were previ-



ously accorded to Waqfs as well as to Hindu, Jain, and Sikh religious and charitable endowments. His petition, filed through advocate Lzaf-eer Ahmad, argued, “This diminishing of the protection given to Waqfs while retaining them for religious and charitable endowments of other religions constitutes hostile discrimination against Muslims and is violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion.”

The petition also claimed that the amendments “irreversibly dilute” the statutory protections afforded to Waqfs

while giving undue advantage to other stakeholders, undermining years of progress and setting back Waqf management by decades.

Owaisi further argued that “appointing non-Muslims on the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Boards disturbs this delicate constitutional balance and tilts it to the detriment of the right of Muslims as a religious group to remain in control of their Waqf properties.”

Jawed’s plea raised concerns that the bill discriminates against individuals who have recently converted to Islam and wish to dedicate property for religious or charitable purposes, violating Article 15 of the Constitution. It also argued that including non-Muslims in the administrative composition of the Waqf Board and the Central Waqf Council constitutes “unwarranted interference” in religious governance.

PM starts ‘maun vrat’ when economy is in trouble: Gogoi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Deputy Leader of Opposition Gaurav Gogoi on Friday launched a blistering attack on the BJP-led Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US, stating that whenever Indian economy gets into trouble, the PM starts his “maun vrat.” The Congress MP stated that these tariffs would negatively impact the Indian economy and demanded an explanation from the Government. He further accused the BJP-led Centre of “polarization politics” when there is an economic crisis.

‘House turning into Modi’s darbar’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday took strong objection to the manner in which Parliament was run during the Budget Session as well as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chiding Sonia Gandhi over her remarks on Waqf Bill, alleging that it seems the House is slowly turning into Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “darbar”. Congress’ deputy leader in the Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the party’s top leadership would be consulted on what appropriate steps were to be taken over the Lok Sabha Speaker taking a stern view on Sonia Gandhi’s remarks after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju raised the issue and asked Birla to render a ruling on it.

Uproar in Lok Sabha over US imposing tariffs

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Amid Opposition uproar over the issue of the United States imposing ‘reciprocal’ tariffs, Congress MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally address the issue in the House.

The Congress leader insisted that the government must clarify its stance and explain the implications of the tariff move on India’s trade interests. “The Prime Minister should come to the House and give an answer on the issue of tariffs,” Amarinder Warring said. The Congress party, along with other Opposition leaders, accused the BJP-led government of failing to protect India’s economic interests and demanded that the Centre clarify what steps it is taking to address the trade dispute with Washington.



Earlier in the day, Congress MPs staged a protest against the Centre after the US President Donald Trump administration imposed a 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on India. They staged a protest near the Makar Dwar in the Parliament premises.

Congress MP Manish Tewari gave notice to move an adjournment motion to discuss India’s “deteriorating” diplomatic relations with the United States in light of recent visa revocations affecting Indian students and the imposi-

tion of a 26 percent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods.

The Congress Rajya Sabha MP has sought permission from the Chair to raise this matter for urgent discussion in the House. Tewari said in the motion that the recent actions by the United States have raised serious concerns about the treatment of Indian interests in bilateral engagements. The Congress MP further stated that the reports indicate that a significant number of Indian students have faced abrupt visa revocations, leading to uncertainty, financial distress, and the threat of deportation and the absence of a transparent grievance redressal mechanism has exacerbated anxiety among affected students and their families, many of whom have made substantial financial commitments, often through educational loans, for higher education in the US.

Opposition boycotts tea by Speaker

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

With the Budget Session of Parliament concluding on Friday, Congress Lok Sabha MP Manickam Tagore said that all opposition leaders have decided to boycott the customary tea organised by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

“Again in Lok Sabha, all the opposition leaders boycotted the tea by Hon Speaker. Hope neutrality comes back in the session,” Tagore posed on X.

Opposition MPs, including that of Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), DMK, etc had earlier staged a protest against the Centre after the US President Donald Trump administration imposed 26 per cent

reciprocal tariff on India.

They staged a protest near the Makar Dwar on Parliament premises.

The Budget Session of Parliament, which began on January 31, 2025, officially concluded today with both Houses getting adjourned sine die today. Both houses will now reconvene during the Monsoon session of Parliament; however, the dates have not been announced yet. Rajya Sabha Chairman Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, during his valedictory remarks in the 267th session of the Upper House, extended his gratitude towards the members of the House for their “active participation and valuable contribution”.

GLIMPSES FROM PARLIAMENT



Congress members stage a protest over 'US reciprocal tariff on India' issue during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi. ANI



Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at Parliament premises during the Budget Session, in New Delhi. ANI



Tirunamool Congress (TMC) MPs Kirti Azad, Ritabrata Banerjee, Derek O'Brien, Sagarika Ghose, Mahua Moitra and other party MPs stage a protest over the alleged duplicate voter ID card issue, at the Parliament premises in New Delhi. ANI

‘ASI taking proactive measures to mitigate any damage to Aurangzeb’s tomb’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India has been continuously taking “proactive measures” in coordination with district administration to “mitigate” any damage to the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Maharashtra’s Khuldabad, Parliament was informed on Thursday.

Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said this in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha.

He was asked whether it is a fact that tomb of Aurangzeb is an ASI-protected monument, and if so, whether these details have been “mentioned in the ASI website or removed on the pretext of recent threats.”

“The tomb of Aurangzeb at Khuldabad, district Aurangabad, Maharashtra is



an ASI-protected monument. The details are available at ASI’s website,” Shekhawat said.

The tomb of Aurangzeb is under jurisdiction of Aurangabad Circle of the ASI.

The Union minister was also asked whether it has come to notice of the ASI that this particular protected monument is under threat of demolition from extremist groups and if so, the actions taken up by the ASI to protect this monument.

“ASI has been continuously taking proactive measures in coordination with District Administration to mitigate any damage to the protected monument. Further, action taken includes providing 12 feet high metal sheet around the tomb, concertina wire over the surrounding walls to check the trespassers, deployment of private security personnel in addition to Multi Tasking Staff and inspection on regular intervals by ASI officials,” he said.

No proposal under consideration for electoral bond scheme: Govt

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said there is no proposal under consideration to have an “alternative mechanism” to the now-scrapped electoral bond scheme. The law ministry was asked in the Rajya Sabha about “details of the alternative mechanism that is being considered after the

Supreme Court’s verdict on electoral bonds”.

Citing the Department of Economic Affairs (in the finance ministry), Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a written reply that “there is no such proposal under consideration”.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections last February, the Supreme Court scrapped the Centre’s electoral bonds

scheme of anonymous political funding, calling it “unconstitutional” and ordering disclosure of the bond’s donors, amount and recipients by March 13 that year.

The top court held that the 2018 scheme was “violative” of the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON ATTACK ON BANGLADESHI HINDUS

75% believe Yunus supports radical fundamentalists in B'desh

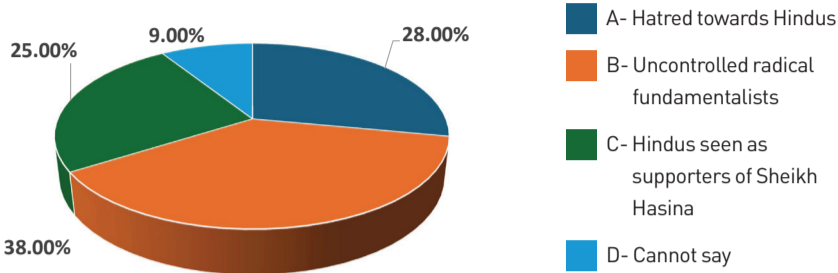
The Indian government has raised concerns over rising human rights violations against Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, Minister

of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh informed the Rajya Sabha on April 3. Citing Indian assessments and Bangladesh's data,

he noted that 70 people were arrested in 88 cases related to attacks on minorities as of December 10, 2024.

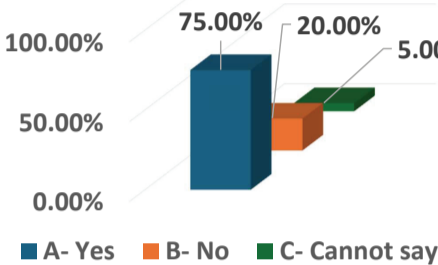
Q1.▶

Why are Hindus continuously being attacked after the rise of the Yunus government in Bangladesh?



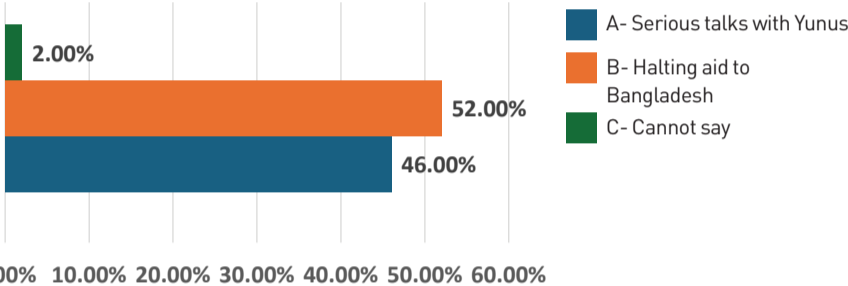
◀Q2.

Is Yunus supporting the radical fundamentalists attacking Hindus in Bangladesh?



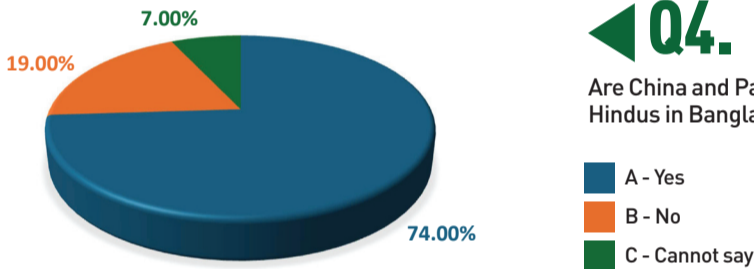
Q3.▶

What should be done to protect Hindus in Bangladesh?



◀Q4.

Are China and Pakistan behind the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh?



THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON LEGAL BATTLE OVER WAQF BILL

54% believe Waqf Bill is beneficial for Muslims

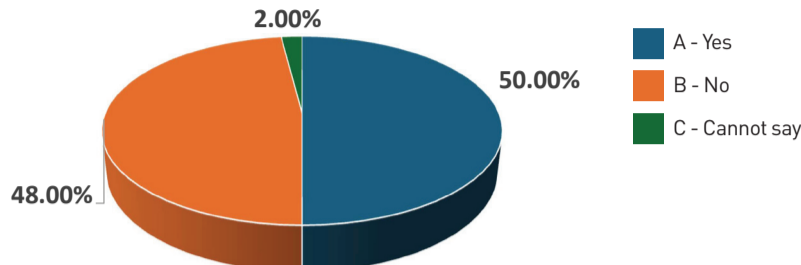
Opposition MPs Mohammad Jawed (Congress) and Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) have moved the Supreme Court against the Waqf (Amend-

ment) Bill, calling it discriminatory towards Muslims and a violation of fundamental rights. Passed in Rajya Sabha past midnight, the bill awaits

presidential assent. Jawed argues it breaches Articles 14, 25, 26, 29, and 300A of the Constitution.

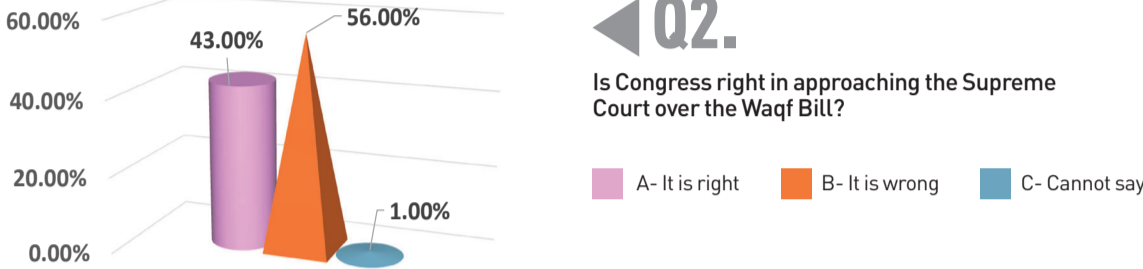
Q1.▶

Congress has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the new Waqf Bill. Should the Supreme Court hear it?



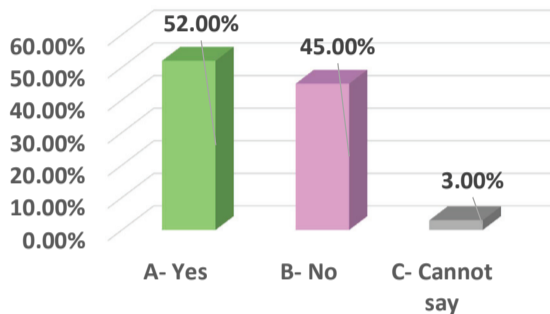
◀Q2.

Is Congress right in approaching the Supreme Court over the Waqf Bill?



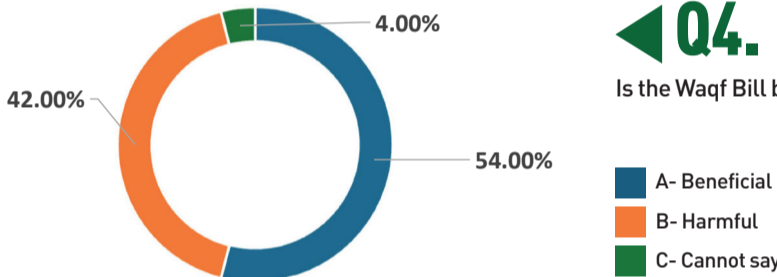
Q3.▶

Is going to the Supreme Court against the Waqf Bill a political stunt?



◀Q4.

Is the Waqf Bill beneficial or harmful for Muslims?



PM Modi meets Yunus

CONTINUED FROM P1

on a spirit of pragmatism," Misri said on Modi's conversation with Yunus.

On the issue of attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, Modi said that he expected the Bangladeshi government to ensure their security and thoroughly investigate cases of atrocities against them.

The Prime Minister also congratulated Yunus on Bangladesh assuming the Chair of BIMSTEC and looked forward to the forum further advancing regional cooperation under its leadership.

"The leaders agreed to enhance consultations and cooperation to advance regional integration, including under the BIMSTEC framework," an official

statement said.

Modi also expressed his conviction that all issues of mutual interest between the two countries would continue to be addressed and resolved bilaterally through constructive discussions, in the interest of their long standing and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

Soon after the meeting, Yunus' official X handle posted a photo that showed the interim government chief presenting a photo to Prime Minister Modi. "The photo is about Prime Minister Narendra Modi presenting a gold medal to Professor Yunus at the 102nd Indian Science Congress on January 3, 2015," the post on X said.

A student-led mass protest resulted in the ouster

of Hasina's over 15 years of rule on August 5 last year. Three days later, Yunus assumed charge as the Chief Adviser of the Interim government.

Since then, the ties between India and Bangladesh have seen a slump amid Delhi's concerns over the violence targeting Hindus and a rise of hardline Islamist forces there.

During his visit to China last week, Yunus urged Beijing to extend its economic influence to Bangladesh, controversially mentioning that India's northeastern states being landlocked could prove to be an opportunity.

Yunus said the seven northeastern states of India are a landlocked region and have no way to reach out to the ocean.

India's 21-point action plan

CONTINUED FROM P1

the grouping is an important forum to further global good and asserted that it was imperative for the BIMSTEC nations to strengthen and deepen their engagement.

"In this context, I proposed a 21-point Action Plan covering different aspects of our cooperation," Modi said and proposed a range of initiatives from offering scholarships to students and researchers to giving a boost to business by announcing the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and annual business summits among member nations.

For the youth of the region, Modi announced that India will host a

BIMSTEC Athletics Meet this year and proposed to organise the BIMSTEC Games in 2027 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the regional grouping.

The BIMSTEC Summit, which had a theme of 'BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open', also adopted the Bangkok Vision 2030 and a Maritime Transportation Agreement to boost connectivity and engagement between member nations. The BIMSTEC Summit – the first in-person meeting in seven years – was attended by Modi, Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Bhutan Prime Minister Tsering Tobgay, Bangladesh chief advisor Muhammad Yunus and Myanmar

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The chairmanship of the regional grouping was handed over to Bangladesh at the Summit.

The action plan proposed by Prime Minister Modi also includes the BIMSTEC for Organised Development of Human Resource Infrastructure initiative (BODHI), which aims to train 300 youth from BIMSTEC countries in India every year. "BIMSTEC has the potential to be a shining example of capacity-building frameworks. We will all learn from each other and grow," Modi said.

Under the plan, he also proposed a pilot study to understand the needs of BIMSTEC countries to

share the experience of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

"Additionally, I propose linking India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) with the payment systems in the BIMSTEC region. This will benefit trade, industry, and tourism at all levels," Modi said.

Building on India's strides in the space sector, Modi offered to build nano satellites for the BIMSTEC member nations and also explore setting up of ground stations and promote the use of remote sensing data. At the outset, the Prime Minister offered his condolences for the loss of lives and property in Myanmar and Thailand in the devastating earthquake on March 28.

Parliament adjourns sine die

CONTINUED FROM P1

day, starting at 11 am on April 3 and continuing until 4:02 am on April 4. He further stated that a record 49 private members' bills were also introduced in the upper house.

"Overall, House functioned for a total of 159 hours, including more than 4 hours after midnight. The productivity of this session stood at 119 per cent. On 03.04.25, Rajya Sabha began its proceedings & held its longest-ever sitting from 11 AM to 4:02 AM the next day, marking a historic milestone," the Rajya Sabha

Chairman said.

"Record 49 private member's bills were introduced in the Upper House. Rajya Sabha Chairman thanks everyone and appreciates the efforts taken by members and staff alike," he added. Meanwhile, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the lower house of Parliament underwent 26 sittings from the commencement of the Session on January 31.

"We are at the end of the fourth session of the 18th Lok Sabha. This session started on January 31, 2025. In this session, we had 26 sittings, and the total number was about 118 per cent,"

Birla said while addressing the lower house during his closing remarks.

During the session, 10 government bills were introduced, and 16 bills, including the Waqf Amendment Bill and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, were passed.

One of the standout points of this session was the passing of the Waqf Amendment Bill of 2025. The Parliament passed the bill in the early hours of Friday after a marathon and heated debate. Dhankhar said, "Ayes 128 and Noes 95, Absent zero. The Bill is passed."

Eight people die inhaling toxic gas

CONTINUED FROM P1

an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of the deceased.

"In this hour of grief, I extend my deep condolences to all the bereaved families. Instructions have been given to provide finan-

cial assistance of Rs 4-4 lakh to the families of all the deceased. I pray to Almighty God to give all pious souls a place in his holy feet and give strength to the family members to bear this immense sorrow," he said.

A joint rescue operation was conducted by teams of the state police and administration.

India ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in private investment in AI

CONTINUED FROM P1

The US leads the world in terms of private investment in AI, at USD 67 billion in 2023, or 70 per cent of global AI private investment.

The only developing countries with significant investments were China in second position, with USD 7.8 billion, and India in tenth position, with USD 1.4 billion, according to the report.

The report noted that AI is expected to reach

members of various parties participated.

"There was division thrice on the bill and it was passed as per the rules of the House. That is why it is highly unfortunate that despite the House sitting till late night and passing the bill after a long debate, a senior member is casting aspersions on the House proceedings which is not appropriate," Birla said.

"It is not in accordance with the dignity of parliamentary democracy," he said.

USD 4.8 trillion in market value by 2033, becoming a prominent force in digital transformation. However, access to AI infrastructure and expertise remains concentrated in a few economies. Only 100 firms, mainly in the US and China, account for 40 per cent of global corporate R&D spending. AI could impact 40 per cent of jobs worldwide, offering productivity gains but also raising concerns about automation and job displacement. The ben-

Temperature may touch 42°C in Delhi in next 2 days

CONTINUED FROM P1

than usual include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and northern parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Some states such as Uttar Pradesh (its eastern region), Jharkhand, Chhat-

tisgarh, and Odisha may see 10 to 11 heatwave days during this period.

India had an extremely harsh summer last year, recording 536 heatwave days, the highest in 14 years. The year 2024 was also the warmest recorded in India and globally.

This year, heatwaves hit parts of India as early as February 27-28. The year 2024 recorded its first heatwave on April 5.

Although heatwaves are

The report further noted that Brazil, China, India, and the Philippines are developing countries outperforming in technology readiness. "It might be expected that countries with higher per capita GDP are better prepared for frontier technologies. Overall, this is true but... some countries perform far better than their levels of income may suggest, as indicated by their distance from the regression line of the index score on GDP per capita," it said.

Developing countries need to prepare themselves for a world that is rapidly being reshaped by AI and other frontier technologies. A useful measure in assessing national preparedness to use, adopt, and adapt frontier technologies is the UNCTAD Frontier Technologies Readiness Index.

"Developed countries lead the ranking, but some developing countries, notably Singapore, China, and India, hold prominent positions."

# VERDICT IN MOGA SEX SCANDAL CASE ON MONDAY

All four police officials involved have already been convicted and are now awaiting sentencing

TARUNI GANDHI  
CHANDIGARH

The verdict in the infamous 18-year-old Moga sex scandal case, which was scheduled to be pronounced on Friday by the special CBI court in Mohali in Haryana has been postponed until Monday. However, both sides presented their final arguments during the hearing. All four police officials involved have already been convicted and are now awaiting sentencing.

Those convicted include the then SSP of Moga, Davinder Singh Garcha, and former SP (Headquarters) Moga, Parmdeep Singh Sandhu, under Sections 1 and 2 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. Former SHO Moga, Raman Kumar, and ex-Inspector Amarjit Singh from Moga police station have been convicted under Section 384 of the IPC for extortion. Amarjit Singh has also been found guilty under Section 511 of the IPC.

Out of the 10 individuals originally accused in the case, two — Barjinder Singh alias Makkhan Brar, son of senior Akali leader Tota Singh, and Sukhraj Singh — have been acquitted due to lack of evidence.

The case first came to light in 2007, during the Akali-BJP government's tenure in Punjab. A gang rape FIR was filed at Moga City police station based on the com-



## 18-YEAR-OLD CASE

- Former SSP Davinder Singh Garcha and SP Parmdeep Singh Sandhu found guilty under the Prevention of Corruption Act, while two ex-officers convicted for extortion.
- The case, which surfaced in 2007, involved police officials allegedly manipulating a gang rape FIR for extortion, leading to a High Court-monitored CBI probe.
- While Akali leader's son Barjinder Singh was acquitted due to lack of evidence, a key witness Manjit Kaur was later murdered in 2018.

plaint of a girl from a village in Jagraon. After recording her statement under Section 164, the case began to take a controversial turn when police officials allegedly manipulated it, naming several businessmen and political figures.

The turning point came when one politician secretly recorded audio of police officers allegedly demanding money, bringing the case into public and media attention.

As political leaders and businessmen began being implicated, the Punjab and

Haryana High Court took suo motu cognizance of the case on November 12, 2007. It demanded a report from the Punjab Police and later handed over the investigation to the CBI. At the time, the High Court remarked that the case seemed no less serious than the Jammu sex scandal.

Investigations revealed that two women, in collusion with police officials, would entrap innocent businessmen, extort large sums of money from them, and later have them cleared during the investigation.

# Comrades from China send greetings to CPI(M) party congress in Madurai

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of China expressed that better India-China relations benefit both nations and the region. The CPC conveyed this in a message to the CPI(M) during its congress in Madurai. Multiple Left parties from around the world have also sent their support. The strengthening of China-India ties and regional peace and stability were emphasized.

Improving India-China ties serves the common interest of both the countries and the region, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has said in a message to the CPI(M), extending wishes

for the party congress underway in Madurai. According to a document shared by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), 34 Left parties from across the world have sent it messages wishing success to its 24th party congress.

Besides the CPC, they include Workers' Party of Korea, Communist Party of Vietnam, Communist Party of Cuba, Communist Party of Australia, Workers' Party of Belgium, Palestinian People's Party, besides communist parties from the US, France and Germany among others.

The CPC in its message said in the present international landscape, an improving China-India relationship

serves the common interest of both countries and the region.

"The international landscape and world order are now in a new round of transformation. An improving China-India relationship serves the common interests of both countries and the region," CPC said.

While noting that the two parties have long maintained friendly exchanges, the CPC said it is ready to strengthen exchanges and strategic communication as well as experience sharing of party and state governance with the CPI(M) and other Indian political parties to promote continued progress of China-India re-

lations as well as peace and stability of the region.

In a recent interview, CPI(M) Interim Coordinator Prakash Karat had advocated improving relations with China without actually becoming allies, saying it will improve India's position in a multipolar world and balance the challenges posed by Donald Trump's presidency.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in its message claimed the "aggressive continuation of the Hindutva drive" and the "passing of various laws targeting Muslim minorities explicitly exposed violation of federal character of the Indian Constitution and heavily disrupt the commu-

nal harmony in India".

It also said Bangladesh is passing through a very critical period, and the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami regime fell by a popular uprising led by united students and common masses in which the Left parties also participated. However, due to lack of organizational strength in the party and Left Democratic Alliance, they missed the leadership of this uprising.

"Taking the advantage of this vacuum, communal fundamentalist forces are fully carrying forward their anti-national agenda of reverting our country back to the abandoned reactionary Pakistani ideology," the party alleged.

## Annamalai: 'I am not in BJP state leadership race'

TDG NETWORK  
COIMBATORE

Tamil Nadu BJP chief BJP K Annamalai on Friday triggered speculations about him stepping down as the chief of Tamil Nadu BJP after he claimed that a "leader will be selected unanimously" and he is "not in the race."

"There is no contest in Tamil Nadu BJP, we will select a leader unanimously. But I am not in the race. I am not in the BJP state leadership race," Annamalai said while speaking to reporters here today.

His remarks today come days after a meeting of AIADMK leader Edappadi

Palaniswamy with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi along with other party leaders. Assembly elections in the State are slated to be held in Tamil Nadu in 2026.

The meeting gave rise to speculations about the return of the BJP-AIADMK alliance ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections. However, leaders from neither side confirmed the real objective of the meeting.

Edappadi K Palaniswami had addressed the media on the issue on March 26 and stated that the decision on the alliance will be made once the elections nears.

## Amid controversy over 'Empuraan', ED raids producer's Chennai premises

TDG NETWORK  
CHENNAI

The searches were conducted at the chit fund office of Gokulam Gopalan in Kodambakkam as well as his residence at Neelengarai

Officers from the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in Chennai on Friday (April 4, 2025) conducted searches at the chit fund office of Gokulam Gopalan, one of the producers of the Malayalam film L2: Empuraan starring Mohanlal, in Kodambakkam as well as his residence at Neelengarai in the city.

Officers from the Kochi unit of the ED, meanwhile, questioned the promi-



nent Kerala businessman at his corporate office in Kozhikode. Sources said he appeared before the team at around 11.30 a.m as part of the continuing investigation in an alleged foreign exchange violation case. Ahead of the interrogation, the ED squad carried out extensive searches at his house in Va-

dakara and other regional offices in Kozhikode.

The searches were conducted in connection with a case registered under the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) against Gopalan and his company Sree Gopalan Chit and Finance Company Limited.

# BIMSTEC Summit: PM holds talks with leaders of Myanmar, Nepal 'India prioritises Nepal'

TDG NETWORK  
BANGKOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of Myanmar, on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok.

The two leaders discussed the situation in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, including India's ongoing efforts under "Operation Brahma" to provide humanitarian aid, disaster relief and medical assistance to Myanmar, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

In response, the Senior General expressed his gratitude for India's assistance efforts.

"PM Modi conveyed that, as the First Responder, India stands with Myanmar in this time of crisis and is ready to deploy more material assistance and resources if required," the statement added.

PM Modi underlined the importance of early restoration of a democratic process through inclusive and credible elections, adding that India supported efforts aimed at fostering trust and advancing a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led transition towards a peaceful, stable and democratic future.

Further, PM Modi underlined that there was no military solution to the conflict and stressed that enduring peace could only be achieved through an inclusive dialogue.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets as he departs for Sri Lanka from Bangkok, in Thailand on Friday. (ANI Photo)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls on Maha Vajiralongkorn, the King of Thailand, in Bangkok on Friday. (ANI Photo)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi accompanied by the Prime Minister of Thailand, Paetongtarn Shinawatra during his visit to the Wat Pho Temple, in Thailand on Friday. (ANI Photo)

## 'BIMSTEC serves as vital bridge'

TDG NETWORK  
BANGKOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a dynamic speech at the BIMSTEC Summit, which concluded in Thailand, highlighting key areas for further cooperation and announcing initiatives to strengthen collective commitment toward building a prosperous, secure, and inclusive Bay of Bengal region.

He thanked PM Shinawatra for Thailand's capable and effective leadership in steering BIMSTEC over the past three years.

"BIMSTEC serves as a vital bridge between South and Southeast Asia, and is emerging as a powerful platform for advancing regional connectivity, cooperation, and shared

prosperity", PM Modi said in his statement.

"It is a matter of great satisfaction that the BIMSTEC Charter came into force last year. I am confident that the Bangkok Vision 2030, which we are adopting today, will further our collective commitment to building a prosperous, secure, and inclusive Bay of Bengal region", he further added.

PM Modi highlighted that the BIMSTEC Energy Centre, based in Bengaluru, has commenced its operations.

He noted that India would be happy to share its experience in Digital Public Infrastructure with BIMSTEC member states and proposed the establishing of connectivity between India's Unified Payments Interface

(UPI) and the payment systems of BIMSTEC member states. "Such integration would bring substantial benefits across trade, industry, and tourism, enhancing economic activity at all levels", he said.

PM Modi also proposed the establishment of a BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce. "Additionally, an annual BIMSTEC Business Summit will be organized to foster greater economic engagement.

I would also suggest conducting a feasibility study to explore the potential for trade in local currencies within the BIMSTEC region", he said.

In light of the recent earthquake, PM Modi proposed the establishment of a BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence for Disaster Management in India.

TDG NETWORK  
BANGKOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal, KP Sharma Oli, in Bangkok on the sidelines of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

As per the MEA, the two leaders reviewed the "unique and close relationship" between India and Nepal. The meeting in Bangkok marked the second meet between the two leaders since PM Oli took charge last year.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction at

the progress in enhancing physical and digital connectivity, people-to-people linkages, and in the domain of energy. PM Modi and PM Oli agreed to continue working towards further deepening the multifaceted partnership between our two countries and peoples.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took on X to share the details of the meeting with his Nepal counterpart. He highlighted how India and Nepal discussed the different aspects of their relationship in areas such as energy, connectivity, culture and digital technology.

He noted that they dis-

cussed the key positive outcomes from this year's BIMSTEC Summit in the fields of disaster management and maritime transport. "Had a productive meeting with Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli in Bangkok.

We discussed different aspects of India-Nepal friendship, especially in sectors like energy, connectivity, culture and digital technology. We also talked about some of the key positive outcomes from this year's BIMSTEC Summit, especially in areas of disaster management and maritime transport", PM Modi said on X.

## India, Thailand agree to strengthen existing defence cooperation

TDG NETWORK  
BANGKOK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Thai counterpart, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, agreed to strengthen the existing mechanisms of defence cooperation and promote further collaboration between the defence sectors of the two nations.

The two leaders held a meeting on Thursday and discussed various areas of bilateral cooperation including defence and security, trade and investment, connectivity, science and technology, innovation, space, education, health, culture, tourism and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders also agreed to elevate the bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership.

India and Thailand also exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)

across various sectors. The Strategic Partnership is based on mutual commitment to strengthen bilateral relations for the continuing peace, stability and prosperity of the two countries and their respective regions.

The Strategic Partnership will serve as an important foundation for India and Thailand to chart a future-oriented and mutually-beneficial path towards increasing opportunities, closer cooperation and to jointly respond to common challenges.

The Joint Declaration on the Establishment of India-Thailand Strategic Partnership said, "Strengthen the existing mechanisms of defence cooperation, as well as to promote further collaboration between the defence sectors of the two countries, with particular emphasis

on defence technology, defence industry, research, training, exchanges, exercises and capacity building including by establishing appropriate mechanisms." "Enhance security cooperation through regular dialogues and exchanges between the respective security and law enforcement agencies/ organisations, also by including a Deputy National Security Adviser/ Secretary General level strategic dialogue between the Thai National Security Council and the National Security Council Secretariat of India, to address the increasingly challenging global and regional security environment and cooperate on both traditional and non-traditional security issues such as defence, maritime security, cybersecurity, counter terrorism, law enforcement issues.

# GOVT ANNOUNCES RS 500 CR ELEVATED ROAD PROJECT IN SONIA VIHAR

A 5.5 km elevated road in Pushta Sonia Vihar is to reduce traffic congestion, enhance connectivity.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has announced the construction of a 5.5-kilometer-long elevated road in the Pushta Sonia Vihar area, aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity in the trans-Yamuna region. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 500 crore, has received approval from the Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, according to Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma.

“The local MLA and Minister Kapil Mishra has been pushing for this project. Due to the presence of many trees in the area, we have decided to construct a flyover instead of a conventional road. After discussions with the chief minister, the project has



been approved, and work will commence following deliberations with the Flood Department,” Verma said.

The elevated road will stretch from Nanaksar Gurudwara to Shani Mandir (UP border), offering relief to thousands of daily commuters.

Karawal Nagar MLA Kapil Mishra emphasised the

project’s significance, stating, “The BJP government is working at a fast pace, and this project is a testament to that. This road has been a major issue for trans-Yamuna residents, and today, we have resolved it. Lakhs of people use this route daily.”

PWD Minister Verma, along with Delhi’s Water Minister and Tourism and

Culture Minister Kapil Mishra, inspected the area, including Nanaksar Gurudwara Chowk in Wazirabad, to review ongoing improvements and assess the project’s feasibility. Meanwhile, Delhi University (DU), the alma mater of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, felicitated her at the Vice Regal Lodge in the national capi-

tal on Friday.

Addressing the programme, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, “Daulat Ram College is where I transformed into a leader. When I joined, the college was on strike for an entire year--there wasn’t a single class held. You can imagine the academic impact that had on students. Eventually, we connected with DUSU, and that’s when my journey into leadership truly began.” “My mother had insisted I join a girls’ college. The following year, classes resumed, but by then, we had become accustomed to attending programs and actively participating in ABVP. This led to attendance shortages, making it difficult to appear for exams--even getting a roll number was a struggle,” said Gupta.

## Govt to build road corridor along Sahibi river, hand over 4 key road stretches to NHAI

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has decided to construct a road corridor on both sides along the Sahibi river and hand over four PWD roads to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for expansion and maintenance, according to an official statement issued on Friday. Earlier in the day, it was decided at a high-level coordination committee meeting chaired by Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma that dedicated road corridors will be constructed along both sides of the Sahibi river, from Dhasa to Wasai Darapur, the statement said.

The move will reduce traffic congestion and provide an alternative route to commuters with seamless connectivity to key areas of the city, it added.

Further, the meeting decided to relocate a police outpost near the Dhaula Kuan metro station and create a dedicated slip road from National Highway-48

*Additionally, the transfer of key road stretches to the NHAI will ensure faster expansion, better maintenance and a more efficient commuting experience for Delhiites, the minister added.*

towards Naraina. This will eliminate a major traffic bottleneck in the area, improving connectivity with the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport and Delhi Cantonment areas.

The four key road stretches that will be handed over to the NHAI are -- the Delhi-Rohtak road or NH-10 (a 13.2-km stretch from Peeragarhi to the Tikri border and a 6.8-km stretch from Peeragarhi to Zakhira), NH-2 or Mathura Road (a 7.5-km stretch from Ali village to Ring Road, Ashram Junction) and an 8-km stretch of NH-148A (M G Road), the statement said.

Verma said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the Delhi government is committed to transforming the capital’s road infrastructure into a world-class, seamless and

future-ready network.

The Sahibi river corridor will be a game-changer for the city, offering an alternative traffic route and significantly reducing congestion, he said.

Additionally, the transfer of key road stretches to the NHAI will ensure faster expansion, better maintenance and a more efficient commuting experience for Delhiites, the minister added.

“Our government is working relentlessly to make Delhi a modern, well-connected and congestion-free city, with infrastructure that meets global standards,” he said.

The meeting was attended by top officers of various government departments, the NHAI and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

## AAP claims fee hike by private schools, charges BJP govt of inaction



TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) sought to corner the BJP on Friday, claiming private schools have hiked fees and the Rekha Gupta-led government is doing nothing about it.

After power cuts, the fee hike shows how the BJP treats the middle class, Delhi AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj said in a press conference.

“Some schools have increased fees up to 20 per cent, some 40 per cent, some 65 per cent and some even up to 82 per cent. The BJP government is, however, not taking any action

even as parents of the children are protesting outside the schools,” Bharadwaj charged.

“The BJP used to accuse the previous AAP government in Delhi of doing nothing for the middle class, and this is how they themselves are treating (middle class) after coming to power.” No immediate reaction was available from the BJP over the AAP leader’s claims.

Bharadwaj also charged that some students whose parents have been unable to pay the increased fee were facing harassment as they are being made to sit in libraries instead of classes.

## Hunt on CM house in Lutyens’, Atishi yet to get official home

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Former Delhi chief minister Atishi has requested the public works department (PWD) to allow her to retain the AB-17, Mathura Road bungalow as the leader of opposition in the Assembly or allot another one to her at Ansari Road in Daryaganj.

According to PWD officials, Atishi continues to occupy the Mathura Road bungalow that was allotted to her when she was the chief minister. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader has requested that she be allowed to retain the bungalow as the LoP in the Assembly but no decision has so far been made in this regard, the officials said.

However, sources in the AAP claimed that Atishi had written to the Delhi government’s PWD about retaining the Mathura Road bungalow but was informed that it was a central-pool accommodation.



“Her request to retain the Mathura Road bungalow has been refused, after which she has written to the PWD for the allotment of the Ansari Road bungalow that was earlier occupied by party leader Jasmine Shah as the vice-chairman of the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission,” one of the sources said.

The AB-17, Mathura Road bungalow, situated opposite the Bharat Mandapam, was earlier occupied by former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia for years. When he went to jail in connection with the excise policy case, the bungalow was allotted to Atishi. The PWD officials



also said an official residence is yet to be allotted to new Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, even though more than a month has passed since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government was sworn in.

Sources said a suitable bungalow for the chief minister is being searched in Lutyens’ Delhi, keeping in view its proximity to the Secretariat, near the ITO.

“The new chief minister has not been allotted a government residence yet. The decision is pending at the top level of the government. She continues to reside at her personal residence,” the PWD officer said.

## River Yamuna to be guarded by Territorial Army in Delhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

In a significant move to protect the Yamuna River, the Delhi Government has requested the Territorial Army to safeguard the river from dumping, mining, encroachment, and theft.

This decision aims to preserve the river in its natural form and achieve the government’s target of cleaning the Yamuna within three years.

Delhi’s Water Minister, Parvesh Verma, emphasised that the focus is on educating people rather than imposing fines.

“Delhi government has requested Territorial Army to protect Yamuna,” Water Minister Parvesh Verma said on Thursday. “We don’t want to put fines but want to educate people that why they should not throw garbage in Yamuna or why they should save water,” he added.

The Yamuna has been a key focus of the newly formed Delhi Government. The proposal has been extensively discussed, and a formal re-



quest to the Territorial Army is expected soon. Alongside this, a citywide campaign will be launched to educate people on the importance of protecting the river.

The Territorial Army’s Ecological Task Force is capable of protecting the Yamuna River, and their deployment is anticipated in the coming months. While speaking on the issue, a senior official from the Ministry of Defence also said, “An official communication regarding such is not known to us yet, but yes, if asked, Territorial Army’s arm, Ecological Task Force, is dedicated to such tasks and

is capable of protecting the River Yamuna.”

This move is crucial, given the severe pollution of the Yamuna River, which is attributed to untreated sewage discharge, industrial effluents, garbage dumping, illegal sand mining, water theft, and encroachment.

In a related development, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena launched an intensive campaign to clean the Yamuna floodplains, which included inducting a 94-member company of the territorial army to ensure the cleaned stretches remain encroachment-free.

## NGT directs Greater Noida Authority to act against projects violating norms

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) to act against constructions or projects continuing in violation of the environmental norms. The green body was hearing a plea alleging that in violation of the environmental norms, various illegal constructions of houses, shops and other commercial establishments were in progress in Greater Noida and Noida.

In an order dated March 27, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said that in its



interim order passed in December last year, the tribunal had directed the authorities concerned to stop constructions not having the mandated green clearances from proceeding further.

The bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert

member A Senthil Vel noted the submissions of the petitioner’s counsel, advocate Akash Vashishtha, that despite the direction, several illegal constructions were still actively proceeding in Greater Noida.

“Respondent number 4 (GNIDA) should ascertain all such constructions/

projects within its territorial jurisdiction which are in progress in violation of the environmental norms and should take action against them,” the bench said.

The GNIDA’s counsel assured the tribunal of action and filing a comprehensive report.

The petition has been filed by Rajendra Tyagi, a BJP leader and former municipal councillor, naming 56 villages of Greater Noida and 18 villages in Noida where illegal or unauthorised colonies and townships were coming up in complete contravention of the provisions of the air and water laws.



Security personnel stand guard during a protest by students after the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha, at the Jamia Millia Islamia University campus, in New Delhi. ANI

## Delhi airport to start trials of full body scanners in May

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi airport will start trials of full body scanners in May, with the airport operator DIAL saying that the scanners will generate a standardised 2D image on a preset human avatar so that no personal images are stored in the system. Four scanners have been pro-

cured, with two installed at Terminal 1 (T1) and two at Terminal 3 (T3). These scanners are expected to reduce the waiting time for passengers at the airport.

“The IT interface for these machines is being finalised, and upon completion of the three-to-four-month trial, a BCAS-led committee will evaluate the findings and establish

a Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for full-scale implementation,” Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said in a release on Friday.

The scanners will be using millimeter-wave technology operating between 70 to 80 GHz. DIAL said that unlike conventional X-ray scanners, they do not emit radiation, making

them safe for all travellers, including pregnant women and individuals with medical implants.

The trials of the scanners will start in May following the latest guidelines from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

“These advanced scanners detect both metallic and non-metallic threats, including explosives, sig-



nificantly improving upon traditional metal detectors.

“The technology, already in use at major interna-

tional airports in the US, Canada, and Australia, enables rapid screening, with each scan taking just three seconds and a maximum throughput of 1,200 scans per hour,” the release said.

According to DIAL, the scanners generate a standardised 2D image on a preset human avatar, ensuring no personal images are stored.

They will be equipped with four touch screen monitors for image evaluation and passenger guidance and can scan individuals between 3.3 feet to 6.7 feet in height.

“All scan data is stored securely with access restricted to authorised agencies, ensuring both security and convenience for travellers,” the release said.

# CABINET APPROVES RAILWAY MULTITRACKING PROJECTS ACROSS MAHA, ODISHA, CHHATTISGARH

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved four major railway projects covering three states, with a total cost of Rs 18,658 crore.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters at a press conference on Friday that the four projects covering 15 districts in three states—Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh—will increase the existing Indian Railways network by about 1,247 km.

These projects include the Sambalpur–Jarapda 3rd and 4th Lines, the Jharsuguda–Sason 3rd and 4th Lines, the Kharsia–Naya Raipur–Parmalkasa 5th and 6th Lines, and the Gondia–Balharshah doubling.

The enhanced line capacity will improve mobility,



providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways.

These multi-tracking proposals will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways.

With these projects, 19 New Stations will be constructed, enhancing

connectivity to Two Aspirational Districts (Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh). The multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approximately 3350 villages and about 47.25 lakh people.

Kharsia–Naya Raipur–Parmalkasa will provide direct connectivity to new areas such as Baloda Bazar, which will create possibilities

## NGT ISSUES NOTICE

- Projects will add 1,247 km to the Indian Railways network.
- Includes Sambalpur–Jarapda, Jharsuguda–Sason, Kharsia–Naya Raipur–Parmalkasa, and Gondia–Balharshah lines.
- Projects will reduce congestion and boost service reliability.
- 19 new stations to enhance connectivity to 3350 villages and 47.25 lakh people.
- Supports industrial growth, increases freight capacity, and reduces emissions.

ties for setting up new industrial units, including cement plants, in the region.

These are essential routes for the transportation of commodities such as agricultural products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone, etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 88.77 MTPA (million tonnes per

annum).

The Railways, being an environment-friendly and energy-efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing the logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (95 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (477 Crore Kg), which is equivalent to the planting of 19 Crore trees.

# Rahul urges law for budget share for Dalit, Adivasi schemes

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday called for a national law which guarantees a significant share of the budget to schemes designed, targeted, and dedicated to meet the needs of Dalit and Adivasis.

He also accused the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre of allocating only a miniscule share of the budget to these communities.

“I met a delegation of researchers, activists and social workers from Dalit and Adivasi communities who demanded a national law dedicating a share of the Union Budget to Dalits and Adivasis. Such a law is in place in Karnataka and Telangana and has led to significant benefits flowing to communities,” Rahul Gandhi said in a post on X.

Rahul Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said that the UPA government had introduced the concept of “sub-plans” for Dalits and Adivasis.

“At a national level, the UPA government had also introduced the concept of ‘Sub-Plans’ for Dalits and Adivasis. However, the Modi government has weakened this provision and has been allocating only a miniscule share of the budget to



these communities,” he said.

“Dalits and Adivasis have long struggled for representation. Today, we must ask - what additional steps can be taken to ensure that Dalits and Adivasis have a meaningful share in power and a voice in governance? We need a national law which guarantees a significant share of the budget to schemes designed, targeted, and dedicated to meet the needs of Dalit and Adivasis,” he added.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, Rahul Gandhi said that the United States’ decision to impose reciprocal tariffs will “completely devastate our economy” with the auto industry, pharmaceuticals and agriculture among sectors expected to face the brunt.

He asked the government

*Rahul Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said that the UPA government had introduced the concept of “sub-plans” for Dalits and Adivasis.*

what it is doing about this tariff.

“Our ally has suddenly decided to impose a 26 per cent tariff, which is going to completely devastate our economy—our auto industry, pharmaceutical industry, and agriculture are all on the line,” Rahul Gandhi said in Lok Sabha

US President Donald Trump announced new import tariffs on Wednesday, outlining the rates to be imposed on countries around the world, with India facing a 26 per cent tariff.

Rahul Gandhi contrasted the foreign policy of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to that of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

“I am wondering, someone once asked Indira Gandhi ji in the matter of foreign policy whether she leans left or right.

# ‘BSP will support Muslims if govt misuses bill’

TDG NETWORK  
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati on Friday morning registered her opposition to the recent passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill, saying that the central government’s attempt to clear the bill in “haste” was “inappropriate”.

She said that her party would support the Muslim community if the government “misuses” the legislation.

“The sad thing is that the government brought this bill in great haste and got it passed, which is not appropriate, and now that this bill has been passed, if governments misuse it, then the party will fully support the Muslim community, meaning that in such a case, the party does not agree with this bill,” Mayawati posted on X.

The BSP chief argued that the central government should have introduced the bill after giving the public additional time to under-



stand it and addressing their doubts beforehand.

“After listening to both the ruling party and the opposition on the Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament, the conclusion that emerges is that it would have been better if the central government had given the public some more time to understand this bill and had also addressed all their doubts before introducing it,” Mayawati said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill of 2025 was a “watershed moment” and that this would help the marginalised, who have been “denied both voice and opportunity.”

“The passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill by both Houses of Parliament marks a watershed moment in our collective quest for socio-economic justice, transparency and inclusive growth. This will particularly help those who have long remained on the margins, thus being denied both voice and opportunity,” PM Modi posted on X.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha leader of opposition (LoP) and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge attacked the union government after the parliament passed the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025, saying that the government had taken a “negative stand.”

“It is their interpretation,

we kept our views on the bill in front of them (government). They have taken a negative stand, and they are taking it forward,” Kharge told reporters.

Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan said that it is “unfortunate” that the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 has been passed.

“The bill is not in the best interests of the nation, constitution...The intention with which they have made amendments to the waqf amendment bill shows that they are not helping. They are just targeting a particular community...The bill is not right,” Ranjan said.

The Parliament passed the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 in the early hours of Friday after a marathon and heated debate.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said, “Ayes 128 and Noes 95, Absent zero. The Bill is passed.” The House sat beyond midnight to pass the legislation.

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju accused the opposition parties

of trying to mislead people on the Waqf Amendment Bill and said it will benefit crores of people from the Muslim community.

Replying to the over 12-hour debate on the bill in the Rajya Sabha, Rijju said several suggestions made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee had been incorporated into the revised bill.

Rijju said that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, will be renamed as the UMEED (Unified Waqf Management Empowerment Efficiency and Development) Bill.

The Lok Sabha, which discussed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill on Wednesday, passed it past midnight after a marathon debate.

The government introduced the revised bill after incorporating the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which examined the legislation introduced in August last year. The bill seeks to amend the Act of 1995 and improve the administration and management of waqf properties in India.

# ‘Cong demanding clarity from Centre on its stand over US tariffs’

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday said that the Opposition’s protest against the Centre on the issue of US tariffs was about demanding clarity from the government regarding its stand on the reciprocal tariff.

Speaking to ANI, Shashi Tharoor said, “The Congress party is demanding clarity from the government on their stand on this issue because many reports are stating that the US is objecting to various tariffs. For example, complaining



about the agricultural subsidies given in the form of MSPs and so on. But India knows that our farmers are already living in desperate conditions and that if their products are swamped by

agricultural imports, then it could have some consequences.”

“What the Congress party leadership was trying to accomplish today was to demand of the government to come and make a clarificatory statement in the Lok Sabha, because Parliament is the platform where the nation gets to hear from the government as to what they are planning to do. So some clarity as to the government’s stand is what the party was asking for,” he added.

Opposition MPs, including those of Congress, Shiv

Sena (UBT), DMK, etc., earlier staged a protest near the Makar Dwar on Parliament premises against the Centre after the US President Donald Trump administration imposed a 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on India.

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Deputy Leader of Opposition Gaurav Gogoi also attacked the BJP-led Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US, stating that whenever the Indian economy gets into trouble, the PM starts his “maun vrat.” The Congress

MP stated that these tariffs would negatively impact the Indian economy and demanded an explanation from the government. He further accused the BJP-led Centre of “polarisation politics” during an economic crisis. Earlier today, Congress MP Manish Tewari gave a notice to move an adjournment motion to discuss the “deteriorating” diplomatic relations of India with the United States in light of recent incidents of visa revocations affecting Indian students and the imposition of a 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods.

# SC refuses production of Yasin Malik before Jammu court; orders cross-examination from Tihar

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ordered separatist leader Yasin Malik to cross-examine prosecution witnesses in cases against him by video-conferencing from Tihar jail to a special court in Jammu.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan declined physical production of Malik before a Jammu court for the trial of the cases related to the assassination of four Indian Air Force officials and the kidnapping of Rubayya Sayid in 1989.

The top court noted that in

December 2025, the central government passed an order under Section 303 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act restricting the movement of Malik from Delhi for one year.

The bench, in its order, noted that, according to the reports of the Registrar General of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court and the Tihar Jail Superintendent, both the trial court and Tihar Jail here have video-conferencing facilities.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the bench that there were security concerns regarding the physical production of Malik.

The apex court was hearing a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking the transfer of the trials against Malik and others in the 1989 Rubaiya Sayeed kidnapping and the 1990 Srinagar shootout cases from Jammu to New Delhi.

During the hearing, Malik, who is lodged in Tihar jail, appeared before the bench through video-conferencing



ing and said that he was not a terrorist and was only a political leader.

*CBI had also challenged the order of Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu (TADA/POTA) passed on September 20 and September 21, 2024 issuing a production warrant against Malik in two different cases.*

To this, Justice Oka replied that apex court was not deciding the merits of the case and was only on the issue whether he should be allowed to cross-examine witnesses through video-

conferencing.

“We are not deciding the issue whether you are a terrorist or a political leader. The only issue is whether you should be permitted to cross-examine the witnesses

by video conference,” said the bench.

Earlier, the apex court had directed the Registrar General of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court to ensure proper video-conferencing facilities at a special court in Jammu where Malik’s trial will take place.

CBI had also challenged the order of Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu (TADA/POTA) passed on September 20 and September 21, 2024 issuing a production warrant against Malik in two different cases.

A Jammu court had sought Malik’s physical appearance for cross-examination of witnesses in relation to the killing of four IAF personnel and abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in 1989.

The apex court had stayed the order of Jammu court in April 2023.

It had earlier suggested exploring the idea of setting up a makeshift courtroom in jail to conduct the trials against terror convict Malik in two cases and remarked that Ajmal Kasab was also given an opportunity for a fair trial.

*CBI had also challenged the order of Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu (TADA/POTA) passed on September 20 and September 21, 2024 issuing a production warrant against Malik in two different cases.*



the NEET Exam. Even after long time, government have not given nod and returned to reconsider it. On February 5, 2022, an all-party meeting was held, and the resolution was passed unanimously against the NEET Exam. February 8, 2022 again, an anti-NEET bill passed in TN Assembly. Through the Governor, it was sent to the president. Tamil Nadu government have given clarification to all the union departments which asked us. I am saying with a heavy heart to this assembly that despite all our clarifications, the Union government has denied to give exemption for NEET exam to us (Tamil Nadu).” Calling this move a “black page” in the history of the federal system of democracy, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister accused the BJP-led Centre of “disrespecting” the people of the state.

He said, “It’s a black page in the history of the federal system in democracy that the people’s elected as-

sembly is disrespected by the Union government act. People’s thoughts and assembly resolutions are not considered by the Union Government, and people are watching it. The Union Government may have denied our request, but our protest to abolish the NEET Exam will never end.”

CM Stalin announced that they would approach the legal experts on this matter. Also, a meeting of all political parties of the state has been organised on April 9 at the Secretariat to discuss the issue of the NEET exam. “In the next stage of our protest against NEET Exam, we will discuss with the legal experts to move on in the legal way.

TRUMP TARIFFS SHOCK

# GLOBAL STOCK MARKETS TUMBLE AMID ESCALATING US-CHINA TARIFF TENSIONS

Global trade war rattles markets, hits exports, boosts gold demand.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Global stock markets extended their losses as China responded to US import taxes with retaliatory tariffs, deepening fears of an extended trade war.

Major US indexes opened nearly 3% lower on Friday, while European markets saw even sharper declines, with some companies suffering double-digit drops in share prices.

These losses followed Thursday's steep declines, as markets continued to absorb the uncertainty sparked by US tariffs. Traders remain concerned that the tariffs could drive up prices and dampen economic growth both in the US and globally.

China announced it would impose a 34% tariff on US goods starting 10 April, a move that has intensified fears of a prolonged trade conflict. According to China's finance ministry, the US tariffs on Chinese goods

- Markets crash globally as US-China tariff war escalates; Nasdaq enters bear territory, Sensex drops 930 points.
- India hit by 27% US tariff on gems and jewellery, threatening key exports worth \$11 billion.
- Gold nears record high at \$3,201/oz as investors flee to safe havens amid trade war fears.
- Agriculture impact

## QUICK VIEW



limited, says economist Ashok Gulati, with smart

negotiation offering potential gains.

are "not in line with international trade rules."

When US President Donald Trump unveiled sweeping new tariffs on Thursday, China was subjected to a 54% rate—this figure includes previous duties already in place—making it one of the hardest-hit countries on the US tariff list.

In the US, the tech-heavy Nasdaq opened down 2.8% on Friday and fell into "bear territory"—a term indicating a drop of more than

20% from its recent peak in December. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell over 2%, while the S&P 500 slipped nearly 3%.

Shares of Apple, which relies heavily on China for production, declined by more than 3% and have lost 12.5% in value over the past two days.

In Europe, London's FTSE 100 was down 4.6%, and Germany's Dax index dropped 4.4%.

Russ Mould, investment

director at AJ Bell, said the "relentless selling" had persisted despite hopes among investors that "the pain would go away."

"There are so many moving parts that getting your head around the situation [as an investor] isn't easy," he said. "With countless sectors set to be hit by tariffs, it's difficult to know where to begin to comprehend the situation."

Jane Sydenham, investment director at Rathbones,

## Gold prices hover near all-time highs of \$3,201 per ounce

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The uncertainties around Trump's reciprocal tariffs plan and its subsequent announcement this week have come as a jab in the arm for international gold prices, which have been moving northwards for a considerable period.

Gold prices extended gains to hover near all-time highs of USD 3,201 per ounce on the day Trump announced the reciprocal tariffs, and analysts believe safe-haven gold prices will remain elevated over a possible escalation in the trade war.

Publicly available data showed that gold prices rose at an unprecedented pace in



2025, soaring over 20 per cent. Over the past year, they have risen about 40 per cent.

NS Ramaswamy, Head of Commodities at Ventura, said the immediate reaction to the announcement of 'Liberation Day' tariffs is based on elevated inflation

concerns and the health of the US economy.

"Further the geopolitical and economic instability is boosting gold's safe haven appeal. Meanwhile due to the economic slowdown and recession/stagflation fear

creeping, the Central Banks

demand for gold is likely to rise from the 10 per cent average reserves held in gold," NS Ramaswamy said.

Ashokbhai Minawala, a prominent jeweller based in Mumbai's Zaveri Bazaar, said the industry has to wait and watch how the government reacts to the Trump tariffs.

"People working in the domestic gems and jewellery markets remain unaffected, but players in the export market will find it difficult to operate. Tariffs at 26 per cent are unsustainable," said jeweler Ashokbhai Minawala.

World Gold Council also painted a similar picture for India's gems and jewellery sector.

noted that banking stocks, tech firms, and companies with tariff-exposed supply chains had all been falling. She added that investors were shifting funds into safe-haven assets, including gold and government bonds.

Gold prices climbed above \$3,121 an ounce on Friday, approaching record highs, while bond yields fell, according to Trading Economics.

Ms. Sydenham said China had been "under severe pressure" to respond to the 54% tariffs imposed on most of its goods, and that its large economy allowed it to take such countermeasures. However, she added that countries with smaller economies were being forced to act more cautiously.

Leah Fahy, China economist at Capital Economics, said the country had "hit back hard" at the US tariffs. She added that the "aggressive, escalatory" response "makes a near-term deal to end the trade war between the two superpowers highly unlikely."

## 27% tariff on gems & jewellery to disrupt industry

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

US President Donald Trump's 27 pc tariff on gems and jewellery industry will cause a disruption in the industry as US is one of the major exporting destinations for India, says Industry experts.

The US accounts for nearly one-third of India's USD 32 billion gem and jewellery exports. With the new tariffs, products like cut and polished diamonds, which previously faced no duty, will now attract 27 per cent tariff.3

## Sensex dips over 900 points

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Indian stock indices closed the week on a sour note, extending losses from the previous session. They were weighed down by the Trump reciprocal tariffs and the uncertainties surrounding them.

Sensex closed at 75,364.69 points, down 930.67 points or 1.22 per cent, while Nifty closed at 22,904.45 points, down 345.65 points or 1.49 per cent, respectively. At one point, Sensex dropped over 1,000 points, only to erase some losses before the day's closing. IT, metal, pharma, realty, oil and gas, were the top losers today, data showed.

The Sensex slumped about 2,100 points this week when the Trump administration implemented reciprocal tariffs on trading partners as part of the "Fair and Reciprocal Plan". Since assuming office for his second term, President Trump

*Equity markets worldwide slumped after US President Donald Trump's sweeping trade tariffs stoked fears of an all-out trade war and a global economic recession.*

has reiterated his stance on tariff reciprocity, emphasising that the United States will match tariffs imposed by other countries, including India, to ensure fair trade.

Equity markets worldwide slumped after US President Donald Trump's sweeping trade tariffs stoked fears of an all-out trade war and a global economic recession.

"Global equity markets witnessed a sharp selloff in the aftermath of the US imposing reciprocal tariffs on most major economies. Indian Indices outperformed, as Indian markets did not react as much as other markets yesterday, following the news flows

on tariffs," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head Equity Research, Kotak Securities.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said, "The recent implementation of higher-than-anticipated U.S. tariffs has had a significant impact on global markets, triggering a bearish trend as investors assess the broader implications. The likelihood of retaliatory measures against the U.S. has further heightened uncertainty."

"Domestically, while the direct impact of these tariffs is relatively moderate compared to other major economies, it remains more substantial than initially projected.

## India may not lose much in agriculture: Economist Ashok Gulati

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Ashok Gulati, a well-known Indian agricultural economist and professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), said that India is unlikely to face major losses in its agricultural exports due to new tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump.

In fact, he stated that if India negotiates wisely during bilateral trade talks with the US, it could even gain some ground.

Gulati said, "If competing countries face lower tariffs than India, then India may lose in that product exports. Overall, it seems India may not lose much in agriculture. But if we negotiate smartly in BTA, we may gain."

Gulati also explained that the impact of these tariffs



will not be the same for all agricultural products. The final outcome depends on various factors, including how the US sets tariffs on India and other competing countries.

Under the new policy, Indian agricultural exports to the US are currently subject to a 27 per cent tariff (as per the trade document). However, what really matters is how these tariffs compare with those applied to countries that compete with India in the same product

segments. For example, in the case of rice, if Indian rice is subject to a 26 per cent tariff but rice from competitors like Vietnam and Thailand face even higher duties, then India could actually benefit. On the other hand, if those countries face lower tariffs, India might lose market share in the US.

Gulati added, "The impact of Trump's tariffification is going to be quite varied across different agri-commodities.

## Pharma companies likely to see up to 16% sales growth: Report

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

India's leading pharmaceutical companies are expected to report strong sales growth of up to 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the financial year 2024-25, according to a report by Centrum Institutional Research.

The growth will mainly be driven by the robust performance in the domestic formulations (DF) and moderate improvement in US sales.

It said "On aggregate basis, we expect the pharma companies under our coverage (SUNP, CIPLA, DRRD, TRP and JBCP) to post sales growth of 16 per cent YoY to Rs 332 bn".

The report covers key pharma players such as Sun Pharma (SUNP), Cipla (CIPLA), Dr Reddy's



Laboratories (DRRD), Torrent Pharma (TRP), and JB Chemicals (JBCP).

The report states that domestic formulations are expected to grow by 12 per cent YoY, while US sales are estimated to rise by 5 per cent YoY. A weaker Indian rupee (INR) against the US dollar (USD) is also expected to support growth during the quarter.

Among the companies, Sun Pharma is likely to post

the highest US sales growth of 12 per cent YoY, thanks to its strong specialty products portfolio. On the other hand, Cipla's US sales are expected to remain under pressure with a 3 per cent YoY decline.

In the domestic market, Dr Reddy's Laboratories is projected to lead with a 21 per cent YoY growth, mainly due to strong performance from in-licensed products.

## POWERGRID to raise Rs 6K crore bonds through private placement

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) on Friday informed the stock exchanges that it plans to raise funds through a new bond issue.

The company announced the launch of its 81st bond issue, named POWERGRID Bonds-LXXXI (81st) Issue 2025-26. These bonds will be raised on a private placement basis and will be unsecured, non-convertible, non-cumulative, redeemable, and taxable.

It said "the 'Committee



of Directors for Bonds' in their meeting held today i.e. on 04th April, 2025, has approved the raising of Bonds as Unsecured, Non-convertible, Non-

cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable POWERGRID Bonds-LXXXI (81st) Issue 2025-26 (for an amount upto Rs. 6,000 Crore) on Private Placement"

## 'Music to ears': Piyush Goyal lauds startups for their innovative work

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said he was delighted to see the work done by Indian startups. Talking to reporters at Startup Mahakumbh, he equated the innovations of the domestic startups to that of music to ears.

"The flavour that I got, the taste of the innovative work that our young men and women have created through their sheer tenacity, hard work, spirit of inquiry, research, and innovation, is music to ears," Minister Goyal told reporters on Day 2 of Startup Ma-



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal shows a victory sign at the inauguration of 2nd edition of Startup Mahakumbh, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

hakumbh.

Piyush Goyal walked through some of the startups on display at the second edition of the flagship startup show.

"Truly have been a delight, and this is the foundation on which I am confident. India will be in a very big way into the world of innovation, will make our

presence at the global stage on product of deep significance whether its deep tech, AI machine learning, how can we do data analytics smarter and better," he added.

He added that visiting Startup Mahakumbh was an experience of a lifetime. He lauded the organisers' efforts.

"I am grateful to the organizer of this Mahakumbh, and it took a lot of patience, affection, and effort to make such a wonderful platform for the youngsters. I go back extremely satisfied with the work done by our young startups and very confident that my message to the

startups has been received well," the Union minister added.

On Thursday, while inaugurating the Startup Mahakumbh, the Commerce Minister touched on the nature and scope of Indian startups and urged them to think of big, innovative solutions.

The Union Minister said that Indian startups need to be willing to evolve and not be afraid of competition.

"We must learn (from other countries). We must be willing to evolve, we have to be able to learn, and we want to aspire to be bigger and better and bolder. And we should not shy of the competition," he had said.

## RBI to issue Rs 10, Rs 500 notes bearing signature of Guv Malhotra

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it will shortly issue Rs 10 and Rs 500 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New

Series, bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 10 and Rs 500 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi

(New) Series, the central bank said in a statement.

All banknotes in the denomination of Rs 10 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

TRUMP TAXING AMERICANS

# GLOBAL TRADE WILL RE-BALANCE TO AMERICAN DISADVANTAGE

OPINION

RAKESH K CHITKARA



President Donald Trump recently introduced sweeping tariffs on imported goods, establishing a baseline 10% tariff on most items, with significantly higher tariffs on imports from countries experiencing substantial trade imbalances, such as China, the European Union, Mexico, India, and Japan. While Trump and his administration argue that these tariffs will restore American manufacturing and reduce trade deficits, the reality is far more complex. By imposing these tariffs, Trump may inadvertently be taxing American consumers while pushing global trade to rebalance in a manner that ultimately disadvantages the United States.

The immediate impact of the new tariffs will be felt by American consumers, who will see higher prices on everyday goods. For example, fresh produce from Mexico, a key import, could rise in cost by 20% or more, making groceries more expensive for families across the country. Similarly, elec-

tronics imported from China, including smartphones and laptops, are expected to see price hikes due to tariffs ranging from 20% to over 40%. This added financial burden comes at a time when inflation is already squeezing American household budgets.

Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman has criticized the strategy, emphasizing that tariffs function as a consumption tax, disproportionately affecting low and middle income households. He argues that the assumed benefits for domestic manufacturing are exaggerated, as many industries depend on global supply chains, which tariffs only disrupt.

Historical data supports the claim that tariffs are ultimately paid by consumers. During the trade war in 2018, Trump imposed tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods, and studies showed that American importers—and, consequently, consumers bore nearly the entire cost. An analysis by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) found that tariffs cost the average American household \$831 annually during that period. With the newly announced tariffs, similar outcomes can be expected, if not worse.

Joseph Stiglitz, another Nobel Prize-winning economist, points out that the new tariffs could also backfire by causing supply chain disruptions that ultimately



hurt American producers. For instance, tariffs on aluminium and steel in 2018 led to increased costs for U.S. manufacturers, particularly in the automotive and aerospace industries, reducing competitiveness.

Global Trade Dynamics - Unintended consequences of Trump's strategy seems focused on pressuring foreign manufacturers to move production to the U.S. or lower their prices to stay competitive. However, this approach may backfire. International producers, particularly those in strategic sectors such as technology and automotive, are more likely to diversify their supply chains away from the U.S. to avoid long-term risks. Already, China and the EU have begun seeking alternative trade partnerships to reduce dependency on the American market.

One striking example of this shift is China's increased outreach to India to strengthen bilateral trade relations, an effort aimed at reducing its reliance on American imports. By fostering stronger ties with

other major economies, China aims to mitigate the impact of U.S. tariffs and maintain a stable trade environment.

Moreover, patriotism and national pride may lead to unintended bias against U.S. products. In Canada, for instance, grassroots campaigns encouraging the boycott of American goods have gained traction, reflecting a growing resentment toward perceived economic bullying. During upcoming elections, Trump's Canadian position will be played up by both political parties further widening cultural and thus economic chasm. Such social movements could further erode the competitiveness of U.S. exports in key allied markets.

According to economist Dani Rodrik, forcing abrupt changes in global trade relationships can create instability that takes decades to resolve. He notes that U.S. firms already feeling the effects of supply chain disruptions may lose global market share as competitors adjust to new trade realities.

Rebalancing That Will Disadvantages America - Instead of pressuring trading partners to concede to U.S. demands, the tariffs may push them to explore more robust intra-regional trade agreements. For instance, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) has already expanded to include the United Kingdom, making it more appealing as an alternative to U.S.-centric trade. Similarly, the EU and China have been deepening economic ties, potentially marginalizing the U.S. from future trade benefits.

Limited Gains for Domestic Manufacturing: The notion that tariffs will bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. is appealing but often exaggerated. Manufacturing has been declining as a share of GDP for decades due to automation and the global shift toward services. Even if some jobs return, they may be in highly automated plants, requiring fewer workers and offering less economic stimulus than anticipated.

FROWNING PROHIBITED

## The M Factor



JAS KOHLI

There is as much likelihood of the 'Utopian world' becoming a reality as the galactic voyages of the Star Trek series. Bigots, ultranationalists, historical grievances, overambitious generals and arms suppliers continue to initiate civil wars, military coups and battles in many countries (foreign powers often add fuel to the fire). Though India is not as peaceful as Iceland, violent upheavals on a national scale are quite unlikely to happen here because of the mind soothers - high prevalence of religiosity, melodious music, yummy food, frequent festivals, religion named cricket, masala movies, candid OTT serials, gossiping about nears and dears and time pass social media. Humming of songs is a national obsession. We croon everywhere, except when attending a funeral. Some say in jest - bathroom singing developed here as an ingenious solution for doorless bathrooms in the days of yore. A surgeon might sing 'bahon ke darmiyaan' reflexly, while doing a surgery. If the patient is being operated upon under spinal anaesthesia, he or she might overhear the surgeon and have a sinister thought - Is the surgeon concentrating on the surgery? Constant humming may also get on the nerves of the family members - someone's meditation can turn into agitation.

Most Indians acquire a saintly disposition at dawn. This helps us make amends for the sins (especially lying and subterfuge) likely to be committed during the rest of the day. Once I was driving my fully occupied car unenthusiastically at the crack of dawn because I had to attend a social event

in a nearby city just for the sake of societal norms. I was feeling sleepy and there was some risk of the car turning into a steel coffin. So, I put on an energetic movie song. My friend's father reacted as if I had pricked his bottom with a pin. 'Put on bhajan/kirtan. Stop this chalu filmy song immediately.' I complied in an instant. Later, I came to know that he called me 'ad-harmi', behind my back. Of course, I agree partially with this. As a counterbalance, I will have to do multiple good deeds of high impact to reserve my seat in heaven.

'Generation gap' can also lead to 'song wars', especially in vehicles. Myself and my better-half have signed the 'Treaty of Ludhiana' with our offspring. On the onward car journey, songs of their choice get played and we get to decide on the return journey. People have scored noteworthy goals with the aid of songs. Long ago, a friend of mine sang 'baharo phool barsao, mera mehboob aaya hai' in a family gathering and the dazzling damsel he coveted made way to his heart on a red carpet of emotions. If the bride sings for the bridegroom at the marriage celebration, his love hormones go through the roof. Nowadays, breakups aren't rare. There are medicines for heart attacks but none for broken hearts. But ghazals like 'Hum ko kis ke gham ne maara, ye kahaani fir sahi' and songs like 'The break-up song' can act like Fevickwick.

Karaoke, the Japanese invention, makes a common person feel like a star. If a karaoke group becomes too big, there is more clapping at the end of a singer's performance but every singer gets to sing fewer songs. 'Drink and sing' can lead to complications - though not as serious as 'drink and drive'. There can be sudden onset of overconfidence in one's singing. Sing a song or lend an ear to a song - embrace music to keep virtues and high blood pressure at bay!

# National Education Policy: A vision of transformed society from skill enhancement, character building to global citizenship

OPINION

PROF. RAMA SHANKER DUBEY



Education serves as the bedrock for the holistic development of an individual, laying the foundation for the quality of human life. Its role in shaping a civilized and cultured society is paramount. Education must offer a comprehensive and integrated approach from the very beginning of life. In its true sense, holistic education examines all facets of human existence. It is designed to nurture physical and mental well-being, foster moral values, build character, cul-

tivate patriotism, enhance knowledge, and promote the development of a skilled personality. All this, while striking a balance between spiritualism and materialism, with the goal being the welfare of humanity.

The core objective of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is to create citizens who are firmly grounded in Indian values yet possess a global outlook. The policy reflects the richness and significance of India's cultural heritage and traditions. By championing a value-based education system, the NEP 2020 aims to cultivate citizens who possess truthfulness, religious conduct, peace, love, non-violence, a scientific mindset, and a commitment to universal human values. There is no doubt that the NEP 2020 will not only enrich students with multidisciplinary and multi-dimensional knowledge but will also equip them

with the character to engage with global challenges while remaining deeply rooted in the cultural fabric of India. These youth will not only address contemporary global issues but will also carry the torch for the revival of India's cultural renaissance on the global stage.

Education in the Mother Tongue: A Way to Liberate from Colonial Legacy and Mindset

Language is not merely a medium of communication but an essential pillar of identity, heritage, and societal wealth. The revered poet and philosopher Bharatendu Harishchandra once said, "Nij bhasha Unnati Ahe, Sab Unnati ko Mool"—meaning the progress of society is intricately tied to the development of its native language. The NEP 2020 empowers us to take pride in our mother tongue, simultaneously freeing us from the shackles of colonial mentality. If education is delivered in a foreign language rather than in the mother tongue, it not only hinders the learning process but also turns the adoption of another language into an unnecessary burden. The Macaulay-led education system, which promoted Western ideals, inflicted long-lasting

damage to India's traditional education framework, leading to the marginalization of Indian languages and knowledge systems.

The NEP 2020 seeks to dismantle this colonial legacy by promoting the use of local languages, which are the true vessels of culture and philosophy. It is widely acknowledged that language shapes thoughts, behavior, and culture, making the provision of education in the mother tongue a significant step forward in the NEP's vision.

The ancient Indian education system, known for its emphasis on holistic development, did not merely focus on academic achievement but integrated religious teachings, moral education, and the cultivation of human values. A cornerstone of the prosperity of Indian society was its deep-rooted commitment to character building. The Indian system of education aimed not only to impart knowledge but to shape individuals into virtuous, well-rounded citizens.

The National Education Policy 2020 continues this tradition by incorporating physical, mental, spiritual, and moral development into its framework. From

the earliest Vedic traditions, character building has been recognized as essential to the human experience. For any nation's progress, its citizens must have a profound understanding of introspection, reflection, and philosophical inquiry. The NEP 2020 emphasizes nurturing citizens with high moral character and ethical conduct, serving as catalysts for India's reconstruction. Swami Vivekananda famously stated, "The true education is that which enables us to build our life, become human, shape our character, and harmonize our thoughts." Similarly, Madan Mohan Malviya envisioned an educational philosophy that integrates the overall development of individuals with a deep sense of patriotism, selflessness, and respect for society.

Fostering Research and Innovation: A New Horizon for India's Future

The NEP 2020 envisions an education system that fosters critical skills such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, design thinking, holistic health, and biological sciences. The policy has curated curricula at all levels to encourage the development of these es-

sential skills. Importantly, the NEP emphasizes that evaluation should go beyond rote memorization, focusing instead on creative, reflective learning assessments.

In addition, the NEP encourages students to engage in internships with local industries, artisans, and entrepreneurs, providing them with real-world experience. Higher education institutions, the hubs of knowledge creation, are being equipped to foster innovation and cutting-edge research. Through this emphasis on research, students will have the opportunity to excel and become pioneers in the realms of knowledge and technology.

Incorporating Indian Knowledge Traditions: A Resurgence of Cultural Heritage

One of the key features of the NEP 2020 is its emphasis on the inclusion of Indian knowledge traditions within the curriculum. This initiative aims to cultivate social, cultural, and moral values among students, while also enhancing their creative and problem-solving skills. To restore India's position as a global leader, it is imperative to revive the rich intellectual heritage of ancient

Indian knowledge systems. The integration of these traditions into education aligns with India's Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

Moreover, teachers are being trained in these traditions so that they can impart the wisdom of India's heritage to their students. The policy's promotion of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary education allows students to engage in a more holistic approach to learning, enabling them to explore multiple fields of study simultaneously. The NEP's focus on student-centric, research-oriented, and innovative higher education will ensure that the academic environment is more conducive to creativity and intellectual growth.

Skill and Entrepreneurship Development: Paving the Path for Innovation

India's startup ecosystem has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, positioning the country as the third-largest startup hub globally. The rise of startups in India has significantly contributed to the nation's progressive economy. From just 350 startups in 2014, the

number has soared to over 159,000, with more than 11 unicorns fostering technological innovation.

With the advent of the NEP 2020, this surge in startups is expected to accelerate. Unlike traditional education policies, NEP 2020 goes beyond textbooks, emphasizing innovation, research, and problem-solving skills. The policy aims to foster practical, real-world skills alongside theoretical knowledge. By focusing on critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and entrepreneurship, the NEP is preparing India's youth to thrive in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

The primary vision of the NEP 2020 is to create an education system that not only prepares students to become global citizens but also ensures that they are deeply rooted in Indian ethics, knowledge, skills, and values. The holistic education approach, with its commitment to human rights, sustainable development, and global welfare, will empower the youth of India to shape the future of the world.

*Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey  
Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Vadodara*

# ECHOES OF 1905: WHAT WE'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT KANGRA EARTHQUAKE

On the early morning of April 4, 1905, the serene hills of Kangra Valley in the western Himalayas shuddered beneath a devastating seismic event. What unfolded was a tragedy of immense proportions—an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 that claimed more than 20,000 lives and left over 100,000 structures in ruins. The 1905 Kangra earthquake remains one of India's deadliest, shaping not only the topography of Himachal Pradesh but also our understanding of seismic risk, colonial governance, and post-disaster resilience in the region.

## A LANDSCAPE OF DESTRUCTION

The Kangra Valley, now part of Himachal Pradesh, was a region steeped in historical grandeur—home to ancient temples, the imposing Kangra Fort, and tranquil towns like Dharamshala. This tranquil setting was shattered in less than a minute. The quake razed stone masonry buildings and temples alike, turning Kangra Fort's centuries-old architecture into rubble. In Dharamshala, St. John's Church was severely damaged, and many British officers living in the cantonment area lost their lives.

The destruction extended well beyond Kangra. In the Kashmir Valley, tremors led to the deaths of 4,000 to 5,000 people, while Dehradun and other parts of Punjab reported collapsed homes and fractured roads. Widespread landslides disrupted aqueducts and buried livestock, disrupting agriculture and water supply systems painstakingly developed over generations.

## SCIENCE BEHIND THE SHOCK

The 1905 Kangra earthquake occurred on the Main Himalayan Thrust (MHT)—a massive fault line marking the convergence of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates. This collision, which has built the towering Himalayan range over tens of millions of years, results in ongoing crustal compression and a build-up of stress along fault zones. When this stress is suddenly released, the result is catastrophic.

Geophysical simulations using empirical Green's function methods indicate that ground accelerations during the 1905 quake may have reached nearly 1g in Dharamshala and Kangra—comparable to the shaking



Area below Kangra Bhawan after earthquake. Source: <http://123himachal.com/>

experienced during the 2011 Japan earthquake. A future earthquake of magnitude 8.5 in this region could produce even more severe accelerations, making seismic hazard modeling critical for planning and preparedness.

According to a critical taper model analysis of the sub-Himalayan fold-thrust belt by Singh et al. (2012), the geological architecture of the region—particularly the contrast between reentrants like Kangra and salients like Nahan—played a key role in the peculiar distribution of seismic intensities in 1905. Two distinct intensity maxima were reported about 150 km

apart, coinciding with these tectonic reentrants.

## MAGNITUDE DEBATES

While the earthquake is often cited as a magnitude 8.0 event following Gutenberg and Richter's classification, Ambraseys and Bilham (2000) revisited historical seismograms and revised the magnitude to  $M_s = 7.83 \pm 0.18$ . This reanalysis has important implications: it suggests that a significant portion of the western Himalayan arc remains unruptured and may be overdue for another major seismic event.

Furthermore, the 1905 earthquake did not cause

surface rupture along the Main Frontal Thrust—a key marker of great Himalayan earthquakes. This has led some scientists to argue that the event may not have released all the accumulated tectonic strain, leaving open the possibility of a future mega thrust event in the same region.

## BRITISH ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

The colonial British administration responded swiftly to the disaster, dispatching relief workers and engineers to rebuild roads and restore water supply. Yet the earth-

quake exposed the brittle foundations of colonial infrastructural planning. Most native dwellings—mud or rubble masonry structures—collapsed instantly, leading to high casualties among the Indian population. Meanwhile, British cantonment buildings fared marginally better but were still significantly damaged, highlighting poor adaptation to seismic risk.

The colonial response was paternalistic but reactive. Financial relief was allocated—about 2.9 million rupees by some estimates—but it was distributed unevenly, with rural victims often receiving little

*Renowned geologist C.G. Middlemiss conducted one of India's earliest macroseismic surveys, but his assessment largely focused on colonial towns, overlooking the rural devastation. Although the British government allocated Rs 2.9 million for relief and reconstruction, aid distribution was uneven, prioritizing urban elites and British cantonments over native villages.*



Bajura temple Kullu after 1905 earthquake.

*The destruction extended well beyond Kangra. In the Kashmir Valley, tremors led to the deaths of 4,000 to 5,000 people, while Dehradun and other parts of Punjab reported collapsed homes and fractured roads.*

Moreover, GPS geodesy and palaeoseismology now help identify "seismic gaps"—regions along the Himalayas that haven't experienced a major quake in centuries. The Nahan Salient, which lies between the Kangra and Dehradun reentrants, is believed to be one such gap, and geologists warn it may be capable of hosting a future magnitude 8+ event.

## MEMORY AND PREPAREDNESS

The 120th anniversary of the Kangra earthquake serves not only as a remembrance of loss but as a call to action. With urbanization, multi-story buildings, and tourism booming across Himachal, the stakes are higher than ever. Ironically, while scientific understanding has advanced, vulnerability has increased due to unplanned construction and lax enforcement of seismic regulations.

The 1905 quake has now become a reference point in India's seismic zoning efforts. It falls within Zone V—classified as the most seismically active—but enforcement remains inconsistent. Even today, many buildings in the region are constructed without proper seismic retrofitting.

## THE PAST AS PROLOGUE

In post-colonial reflection, the Kangra earthquake is more than just a geological event. It is a prism through which we can examine the fault lines of science, empire, and memory. Its lessons—on tectonics, vulnerability, and human resilience—remain sharply relevant as India braces for future tremors along the Himalayan arc.

Modern science, informed by the ruins of history and the lens of critical theory, now warns us: the ground beneath our feet is not stable, and the past may well be prologue.

*Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra*



Barjeshwari Devi temple Kangra after 4th April 1905 earthquake. Image by Middlemiss, C.S. Courtesy Collection "Earthquake Engineering Research Center."



On this day in 1905, the Kangra Valley in Himachal Pradesh was devastated by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake, one of the deadliest in the 20th century, claiming over 20,000 lives and destroying 100,000 buildings. This was one of the first in the era of instrumental seismology.



Representative image.

## LIVING ON THE EDGE: RISK AND SCIENTIFIC INSIGHTS

Today, the legacy of the 1905 Kangra earthquake looms large over Himachal Pradesh. A recent study by Babita Sharma and colleagues simulated the Kangra earthquake using modern seismological models and warned of even stronger shaking in the event of an  $M_w 8.5$  rupture. Their findings indicate that parts of Kangra and Dharamshala could experience peak ground accelerations exceeding 1g—enough to cause widespread collapse unless modern seismic codes are strictly enforced.

# PIPELINE UPGRADE: PANCHKULA POLICE ISSUES TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR COMMUTERS


Panchkula Police issued a traffic advisory for April 5-6 due to a pipeline upgrade affecting routes to Chandigarh.

TDG NETWORK  
PANCHKULA

The Panchkula Police has issued a traffic advisory in light of the ongoing pipeline upgrade project aimed at ensuring a steady water supply from Water Works, Sector-39, Chandigarh, to MES Chandimandir. Under this project, the old pipeline is being replaced with a high-capacity system to enhance the efficiency and reliability of the water supply network. Due to this work, the road from Housing Board Chowk towards Panchkula will remain closed on April 5 and 6, 2025. To minimize traffic congestion and ensure smooth vehicle movement, Panchkula City Traffic In-charge, Inspec-

### PANCHKULA ISSUES TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR APRIL 5-6

- Road Closure Alert: Housing Board Chowk to Panchkula closed on April 5-6 for pipeline upgrade.
- Alternative Routes Suggested: Traffic police advise using Sector 17/18 Chowk or the railway station route.
- Yamunanagar to Chandigarh Diversion: Commuters to take Majri Chowk Bella Vista Chowk Tank Chowk Old Panchkula.
- Police Advisory Issued: Public urged to follow alternative routes to avoid congestion.
- Infrastructure Upgrade Ongoing: High-capacity pipeline being installed for better water supply.



tor Sunil Kumar, has advised commuters to use alternative routes. Vehicles traveling from Housing Board Chowk towards Chandigarh

should take the Sector 17/18 Chowk route instead of passing through Housing Board. They can also opt for the railway station route to reach Chandigarh. Commuters traveling from Yamunanagar Highway towards Chandigarh can take a right turn from Majri Chowk to Bella Vista Chowk, proceed towards Tank Chowk, and continue via Old Panchkula to reach Chandigarh. The Panchkula Police has urged the public to follow the suggested alternative routes to avoid inconvenience and adhere to traffic regulations. The police administration is committed to ensuring minimal disruption for citizens while this essential infrastructure development is underway.

## BJP leaders are upset with Manish Tewari for exposing BJP: Krishan Lal

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Local MP Manish Tewari is asking questions to the concerned ministers in the Parliament on issues related to the residents of Chandigarh and the Union ministers do not have any satisfactory answer to any of these questions. This is exposing the BJP in front of the people of Chandigarh and the BJP leaders are very upset and nervous. This is the statement of Chandigarh Congress spokesperson Krishan Lal. He said that the people of Chandigarh have already known the truth and now they are not going to be misled by them. BJP does not need Manish Tewari to advise them. Manish Tewari, besides being a senior MP, is a senior advocate and a seasoned politician and has been raising issues of public interest in the Parliament for about 11 years and is still raising them and will continue to do so in future. He knows his duty very well.

*BJP does not need Manish Tewari to advise them. Manish Tewari, besides being a senior MP, is a senior advocate and a seasoned politician and has been raising issues of public interest in the Parliament for about 11 years and is still raising them and will continue to do so in future.*

BJP has failed miserably and despite having a government at the centre, it could not raise funds and is harassing the people in this era of inflation by imposing various types of taxes here. Government employees in many departments have not received their salaries for three months, due to which they are forced to take to the streets and protest. On the other hand, BJP leaders are making baseless allegations to hide their failures. Krishan Lal said that due to Manish Tewari's series of exposures of BJP, BJP leaders are not able to show their face anywhere in Chandigarh's villages, colonies and city. The people of Chandigarh were shown beautiful dreams about the issues of ending Lal Dora in villages, getting ownership rights in colonies and share wise registrations in the city, etc. But when Manish Tiwari asked questions about all these in the Parliament, the truth was revealed in front of the people here that the Union Home Ministry, under which the administration of Chandigarh comes, has empty coffers for the people here. He said that the public support of Chandigarh BJP has ended and this party is now dependent only on press notes.

## Chandigarh DC meets cooperative housing society representatives

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

A meeting chaired by Nishant Kumar Yadav, IAS, Deputy Commissioner-cum-Estate Officer, UT Chandigarh, was held with representatives of various Cooperative Housing Societies. The session was attended by the Assistant Estate Officer (AEO), officials from the Estate Office, Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB), the Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, the SDO (Building Branch), and the SDO (Public Health). The meeting focused on several key issues concerning Cooperative Housing Societies, including Conversion Charges, Completion Certificates, Unearned Increase, and Internal Maintenance & Water Charges. Representatives from the societies voiced their concerns regarding the chal-

lenges faced in these areas, seeking resolution from the authorities. The Deputy Commissioner listened to the grievances and assured attendees that the issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities. He acknowledged the complexities involved and emphasized the administration's commitment to transparency, fairness, and adherence to the policies set by the Chandigarh Administration. He further assured society representatives that practical difficulties would be considered, and within the framework of legal and policy guidelines, necessary actions would be taken to address their concerns. The Conversion Charges issue, which pertains to the change in land use and related fees, was discussed in detail. The matter of Completion Certificates, necessary for the regular-

ization of properties, was also highlighted, with assurances of due consideration. Unearned Increase, a charge imposed when properties are sold or transferred, was another key concern, and officials assured fair implementation of the policy. Additionally, discussions on Internal Maintenance & Water Charges focused on equitable distribution of responsibilities and costs among society members. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with an understanding that continued coordination between departments and housing societies would be maintained to ensure smooth implementation of policies and resolution of concerns. The Estate Office reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Cooperative Housing Societies in addressing challenges within the legal framework while ensuring efficient governance.

## State NSS Awards for the year 2023-24

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

The Chandigarh NSS Cell organized the State NSS Award Function at PG Govt. College for Girls, Sector-42, Chandigarh on Friday. Prerna Puri, IAS, Secretary Education, Chandigarh Administration, UT Chandigarh was the Chief Guest during the function. Jai Bhagwan, Regional Director NSS, Chandigarh, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI was Guest of Honor and Harsuhinder Pal Singh Brar, Director School Education Chandigarh Administration was Special Guest. During the event, Dr. Nemi Chand, State Liaison Officer NSS UT Chandigarh highlighted the achievements of NSS in last one year. Chief Guest, Prerna Puri, felicitated two NSS Units, 14 NSS Programme officers and 21 NSS volunteers for meritorious community services. Each NSS Unit and Programme officer was awarded with

Trophy, Certificate and Cash Award of Rs 10,000. Each NSS volunteer was awarded with Medal, Certificate and cash award of Rs 5000. 3 NSS Programme officers and 10 NSS Volunteers were honoured with Appreciation Certificate. Prerna Puri, Secretary Education congratulated the awardees and appreciated the efforts of Chandigarh NSS Cell. She acknowledged the contribution of NSS Programme officers and volunteers who selflessly serve the society and humanity with motto "Not Me But You". NSS Volunteers have significant role in character building and nation building and every student should take part in NSS activities. During the event, NSS volunteers of PGGCG-42 performed Himachali Nati; GMSSS-38 West performed NSS Song; and GMSSS-MHC-Sector-13 performed Haryanvi Dance.

## AYUSH launches awareness drive for World Homoeopathy Day

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

In celebration of the upcoming World Homoeopathy Day, the AYUSH Department, U.T. Chandigarh has launched a vibrant awareness campaign to highlight the significance of Homoeopathy in preventive and holistic healthcare. As part of this initiative, a spirited Walkathon was organized on 4th April (morning), starting from Rock Garden and culminating at Sukhna Lake. The walkathon was ceremoniously flagged off by Akhil Kumar, DANICS, Director, AYUSH, and was graced by several esteemed dignitaries from the department, who walked in solidarity with the participants to show their support for the cause. The event aimed to raise public awareness about the benefits and effectiveness of Homoeopathy as a natural, safe, and holistic approach



*The event aimed to raise public awareness about the benefits and effectiveness of Homoeopathy as a natural, safe, and holistic approach to wellness.*

to wellness. Throughout the event, the emphasis remained on the importance of early intervention and

natural healing through Homoeopathy—underscoring its potential to promote long-term health and well-being. The campaign further echoed the vision of fostering a healthier society through safe, sustainable, and integrative healthcare practices. The initiative received an enthusiastic response from the public and stood as a meaningful tribute to Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homoeopathy, celebrating his enduring legacy and contribution to global health.

## Inner Wheel Club organises free health seminar in collaboration with Shelby Hospital



MAJOR ALI  
ZIRAKPUR

Inner Wheel Club Zirakpur Greens and Panchkula Central in collaboration with Shelby Hospital Mohali for health safety. Important information was given free of cost. Dr. Pradeep Agarwal gave important information related to knee treatment, related exercises and knee replacement and gave accu-

rate answers to the questions of all the respected people, which was benefitted by sixty-seventy people. Club President Niharika Garg and Dr. Benu Rao expressed their gratitude and thanks to Dr. Agarwal and the entire staff for providing valuable information and for the entire arrangement. Inner Wheel Club is an international women's organization which is always in the forefront in social service works.

## Sundaran-Mothikri link road in Derabassi completed

MAJOR ALI  
DERABASSI

The construction of the much-awaited link road connecting village Sundaran to Mothikri in the Derabassi assembly constituency has been successfully completed. This crucial infrastructure project was carried out under the leadership and guidance of MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa, who has remained committed to the welfare and development of his constituency. To mark the completion of the project, Sarpanch Paramjit Kaur, along with all Panchayat members and local residents of village Sundaran, gathered to express their heartfelt gratitude to MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa and the Bhagwant Mann-led



government. They acknowledged that the new road would greatly benefit the community by improving transportation facilities, easing travel, and boosting economic activities in the region. The villagers highlighted that the road would provide better connectivity and enhance trade, commerce, and acces-

sibility to essential services. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kuljit Singh Randhawa emphasized that Derabassi is the largest constituency in Punjab, encompassing a significant population. He reiterated his dedication to development and assured that every village in the region would witness progress.

He stated that the completion of this road is a step towards fulfilling the larger vision of infrastructural growth in the constituency.

Randhawa also outlined future development plans, ensuring that other fundamental needs such as roads, water supply, healthcare, and education will receive priority attention. He emphasized that ongoing and upcoming projects are designed to enhance the quality of life for the people of Derabassi. His commitment to providing efficient public services and improving infrastructure has been well received by the residents, who believe that such initiatives will contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the constituency.

## Minerva Academy thrashes Namdhari FC 12-0, tops AIFF Junior League

TDG NETWORK  
CHANDIGARH

Minerva Academy's youth team made their intentions clear by defeating Namdhari FC by a margin of 12-0 in the AIFF Junior League. This impressive victory has put Minerva Academy on top of the league charts with a remarkable goal difference of +22. They are currently the frontrunners. The young players were in great form and Azam took

the lead. He opened the scoring and then scored 4 goals, showing his superb finishing skills. Mehtab and Danamony were not far behind. Both scored hat-tricks to trouble the opposition. Chethan and Srinivas also got on the scoresheet, scoring a goal each to completely defeat the team. Minerva Academy's defence was equally impressive, keeping a clean sheet, underlining their team's



overall dominance. The win is an important milestone in the team's campaign, showcasing their offensive prowess, defensive solidity and unwavering team spirit.

## Scorpio stolen from Manimajra, police launches probe

TDG NETWORK  
MANIMAJRA

In the early hours of Friday morning, around 3:00 AM, a Scorpio car (registration number PB 11AD 7100) was stolen from the Modern Housing Complex in Manimajra, Chandigarh. The vehicle belonged to Harvinder Singh, the brother of Pradhan Talwinder Singh, and was parked below his residence when unidentified thieves made away with it. As soon as the theft was reported, the local police reached the scene and launched an investigation. Authorities are currently reviewing CCTV footage from nearby cameras to identify any suspicious activity or individuals involved. Police teams are also questioning local residents and possible witnesses to gather additional information that could help in tracing the stolen vehicle. This incident has raised serious concerns among residents of the Modern Housing Complex, many of whom are worried about the safety of their vehicles, especially during nighttime. Cases of vehicle theft have been increasing

in Chandigarh, and citizens are urging law enforcement agencies to take stricter action to curb such crimes. Locals have called for enhanced night patrols and stricter security measures, particularly in residential areas. The police have assured residents that every effort is being made to recover the stolen vehicle and bring the culprits to justice. Officials have also advised vehicle owners to take precautionary steps to prevent theft, such as installing CCTV cameras, GPS tracking systems, steering locks, and other anti-theft devices. They have further emphasized the importance of not leaving vehicles unattended in isolated areas and ensuring that parking spaces are well-lit and monitored. Authorities are urging anyone with information related to the theft to come forward and assist in the investigation. The police are actively pursuing leads and working diligently to solve the case at the earliest. This incident underscores the need for increased vigilance and proactive security measures to prevent such crimes in the future.

# WHY SOUTH KOREA REMOVED PRESIDENT YOON

South Korea ousts President Yoon after martial law scandal: Court ruling sparks historic political shake-up

TDG NETWORK

In a historic and unprecedented decision, South Korea's Constitutional Court has officially removed President Yoon Suk Yeol from office, marking a dramatic end to a months-long political crisis triggered by his controversial declaration of martial law in December 2024. The ruling, delivered unanimously by an eight-member judicial panel, not only affirms the National Assembly's earlier impeachment vote but also underscores the strength of South Korea's democratic institutions during a period of intense political volatility.

IMPEACHMENT AND COURT'S VERDICT

The court's ruling, delivered on Friday, concluded that Yoon's declaration of martial law constituted a severe breach of constitutional order. Acting Chief Justice Moon Hyung-bae stated unequivocally that President Yoon had "exceeded his authority" by deploying military forces to suppress the National Assembly and circumvent the normal legislative process. According to the court, there was no legitimate constitutional basis or national emergency that could justify the invocation of martial law, especially not for the purpose of silencing political dissent.

"President Yoon's actions undermined democratic principles and civil liberties," said Chief Justice Moon. "His use of military force against elected representatives betrayed the constitutional framework and posed a grave threat to the rule of law."

Under South Korean law, once a president is im-



President Yoon Suk Yeol

TDG EXPLAINER

peached and the decision is upheld by the Constitutional Court, the individual is required to vacate the presidential office immediately. This ruling triggered the automatic removal of Yoon from the presidency and initiated the process for a new election, which must be held within 60 days.

POLITICAL AND PUBLIC REACTION

Public reaction to the ruling has been polarized and emotional. Outside the courthouse, jubilant opposition supporters celebrated what they viewed as a victory for democracy. In stark contrast, thousands of conservative demonstrators rallied near the presidential residence, voicing their frustration and outrage over Yoon's ousting. The national mood is reflective of a deeply divided society, with conflicting views about the justification and implications of the court's decision.

Political analysts note that while the court's verdict may restore a sense of legal order, it has not resolved the ideological rifts that have intensified during Yoon's presidency. Many fear that the upcoming elec-

tion could further entrench these divisions, especially if the campaign rhetoric turns combative.

LEGAL TROUBLES & ONGOING PROBES

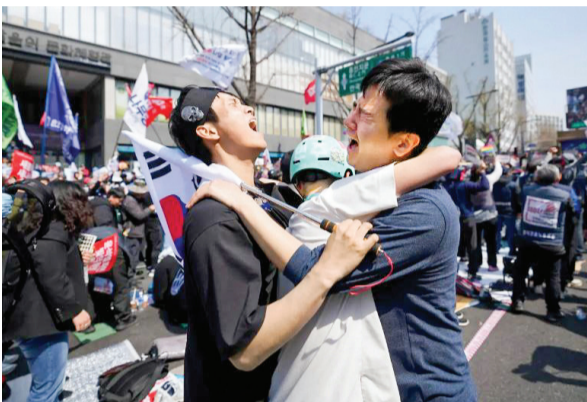
Yoon's legal entanglements are far from over. His downfall began with his arrest in January 2025 on charges of insurrection, a serious offense that could carry a life sentence or, under extreme circumstances, the death penalty. Although the arrest warrant was later rescinded in March, the charges remain active and investigations are ongoing.

Prosecutors allege that Yoon's martial law declaration was a calculated attempt to dismantle the legislative branch and consolidate power in the executive. The military's involvement in forcibly removing lawmakers from the National Assembly has been particularly damning. While no fatalities were reported during the six-hour imposition of martial law, the move was widely condemned as an attempted coup.

South Korea has not executed a prisoner since 1997, and it is officially considered



Moon Hyung-bae, center, acting chief justice of South Korea's Constitutional Court, speaks during the final ruling of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment at the Constitutional Court on Friday, April 4, 2025 in Seoul, South Korea. Agency



People react after hearing the news that President Yoon Suk Yeol was removed from office, in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, April 4, 2025. Agency

a de facto abolitionist country. Nevertheless, the severity of the charges against Yoon could result in a historic legal reckoning.

A STARK FALL FROM GRACE

Yoon's precipitous fall is especially dramatic given his storied past as a prominent prosecutor. He first rose to national prominence during the impeachment of former President Park Geun-hye in 2017, where he led the prosecution's efforts to bring corruption charges against her. Ironically, Yoon

now finds himself walking a similar path, becoming only the second South Korean president to be removed by the Constitutional Court.

Elected in 2022 by the narrowest margin in South Korean history—winning just 48.56% of the vote—Yoon's tenure was marked from the outset by deep political polarization. He defeated Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung in a bitterly contested election that laid bare the country's ideological schisms.

THE DOMESTIC

scandal involving his wife, Kim Keon-hee, who was accused of accepting luxury gifts, further eroded public trust in his leadership.

THE DECEMBER MARTIAL LAW CRISIS

The final blow to Yoon's presidency came on December 3, 2024, when he unexpectedly declared martial law, citing national security concerns and political paralysis. The martial law lasted only six hours but caused immediate uproar. According to Yoon, the move was necessary to counter threats from "anti-state elements" allegedly linked to North Korea and to break a legislative deadlock.

However, testimony from military officials later revealed that they had been ordered to storm the National Assembly and remove sitting lawmakers by force. This revelation sparked outrage across the political spectrum and led to swift calls for Yoon's impeachment. The National Assembly acted decisively, passing the impeachment motion by a significant majority.

Following Yoon's suspension, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo was also removed, and an acting president was appointed to ensure continuity of governance.

A NATION AT A CROSSROADS

South Korea now faces a critical juncture. With the presidential office vacant, preparations are underway for a special election to be held within the constitutionally mandated 60-day window. The race is expected to be fiercely competitive, with former

opposition leader Lee Jae-myung widely considered a frontrunner. His narrow defeat in 2022 and subsequent political resurgence could position him as a unifying figure for a divided electorate.

However, challenges remain. The political environment is still volatile, and the lingering divisions stoked by Yoon's presidency could influence voter sentiment. Additionally, the new leadership will inherit the complex task of restoring public confidence in government institutions while navigating the ongoing legal fallout from Yoon's actions.

International observers are watching closely, with many praising South Korea's judiciary for upholding democratic principles amid political pressure. The court's decision has reaffirmed the strength of the country's legal framework and sent a clear message about the limits of executive power.

CONCLUSION

The removal of President Yoon Suk Yeol represents a defining moment in South Korea's modern political history. It serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of constitutional checks and balances and the enduring strength of democratic institutions.

Though Yoon's presidency has come to an ignominious end, the broader story is one of institutional resilience and civic engagement. As South Korea prepares for a new chapter, the choices its citizens make in the upcoming election will shape not only the country's immediate future but also the trajectory of its democracy for years to come.

## Why No US President Can Serve More Than Two Terms

TDG NETWORK

In the United States, a President cannot serve more than two terms in office. This limit, established by the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, exists to protect democracy and prevent the rise of authoritarian leadership. The idea of presidential term limits has been part of American political tradition since the country's founding, but it became law only after President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented four terms.

With recent political figures, such as former President Donald Trump, floating the idea of a potential third term, the discussion around term limits has resurfaced. However, under current constitutional law, a third term is not possible.

THE HISTORICAL ROOTS

GEORGE WASHINGTON SET THE EXAMPLE

The tradition of a two-term limit began with George Washington, the first President of the United States. After serving two terms, Washington voluntarily stepped down in 1796, establishing a precedent that future presidents would follow. He believed that holding office too long could be dangerous and lead to monarchical or dictatorial rule.

Thomas Jefferson, the third President, echoed this sentiment and argued that a President seeking a third term should be rejected, as it demonstrated excessive

ambition. For more than a century, this informal rule was respected by every President—until Franklin D. Roosevelt.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT BREAKS TRADITION

Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) was elected to the presidency four times, serving from 1933 until his death in 1945. His long tenure was largely due to extraordinary circumstances—the Great Depression and World War II—during which the American public believed strong, consistent leadership was essential.

However, after FDR's death, both lawmakers and citizens grew concerned about the precedent his presidency had set. Many feared that future leaders might also attempt to extend their rule indefinitely. In response, Congress proposed the 22nd Amendment in 1947, and it was ratified by the required number of states in 1951.

WHAT THE 22ND AMENDMENT SAYS

The 22nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states: "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once." This means:



President Donald Trump arrives to address a joint session of Congress, at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on 3 March 2025. File Photo

A President can be elected to the office only twice. If someone becomes President through succession (e.g., a Vice President taking over) and serves more than two years of the previous President's term, they may only be elected once more.

WHY TERM LIMITS MATTER

PREVENTING AUTHORITARIANISM

Term limits are designed to protect democracy by ensuring that no single person can hold the most powerful office indefinitely. Without these limits, a popular leader could continue running and winning elections, gradually consolidating power. In extreme cases, this could lead to authoritarian rule or

even dictatorship.

Senator Chapman Revercomb of West Virginia once said that unlimited presidential terms would be "a step toward autocracy." Many others shared this concern and believed term limits were essential for a functioning democratic republic.

THE POLITICAL FRESHNESS

Another key reason for term limits is to allow new voices and perspectives to emerge. Regular changes in leadership prevent stagnation in government and ensure that elected officials remain accountable to the people. By requiring turnover at the highest level, the system fosters healthy political competition and innovation.

ENSURING STABILITY IN SUCCESSION

Presidential term limits also promote stability in government succession. When the maximum length of time a president can serve is clearly defined, there's less risk of political uncertainty or conflict around leadership transitions.

In countries without term limits—such as Russia or China—leaders have often remained in power for decades, sparking criticism and concern over democratic backsliding.

EXCEPTIONS AND TECHNICALITIES

WHEN CAN A PRESIDENT SERVE OVER 8 YEARS?

There is one exception to the two-term rule: if a Vice President (or another suc-

TDG EXPLAINER

THE TRADITION

- US Presidents can serve only 2 terms.
- Rule made official by the 22nd Amendment.
- Passed by Congress in 1947, ratified in 1951.
- Created after FDR served 4 terms.
- FDR led during the Great Depression and WWII.
- George Washington started 2-term tradition.
- Thomas Jefferson supported stepping down. Prevents dictatorship and power grabs.
- Encourages political competition and change.
- Ensures fresh leadership and new ideas.
- Allows peaceful power transitions.
- VP can serve up to 10 years max.
- Changing the rule needs a major amendment.
- Public strongly supports term limits.
- Protects democracy and government stability.

cessor) assumes the presidency and serves less than two years of the predecessor's term, they can still be elected to two full terms. This means it is technically possible for someone to serve up to nearly 10 years as President.

An example of this would be Lyndon B. Johnson, who became President after John F. Kennedy's assassination. Since he served less than two years of JFK's term, he was eligible to run for two more full terms (though he only ran once).

CAN THE TWO-TERM LIMIT BE CHANGED?

HOW TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Theoretically, Congress could propose an amendment to repeal or modify the 22nd Amendment. However, the process is intention-

ally difficult:

Two-thirds of both the House and the Senate must approve the proposal.

Then, three-fourths (38 out of 50) of the state legislatures must ratify it.

Due to widespread public support for term limits, such a change is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

There have been occasional proposals in Congress to remove the term limit—often from allies of popular former presidents—but none have gained serious traction.

CONTEMPORARY DEBATES

TRUMP'S THIRD TERM TALK

Former President Donald Trump has joked or hinted about running for a third term, especially when speaking to his supporters.

While these remarks are often made in a humorous or provocative tone, they have sparked confusion and concern.

Under the current Constitution, a third term is not legally possible for Trump or any other former two-term president, unless the 22nd Amendment is repealed.

PUBLIC OPINION

Polls consistently show that most Americans support the two-term limit. The idea is deeply rooted in American democratic culture and seen as a safeguard against the abuse of executive power.

WHY IT ALL MATTERS

Presidential term limits are a fundamental part of the United States' democratic system. They ensure that power remains temporary and accountable, and that no individual can become too entrenched in the nation's highest office.

By codifying what had once been an unwritten rule, the 22nd Amendment formalized a key principle of democratic governance. It reflects the Founders' vision of a republic where leaders serve the people—and not themselves.

In today's polarized political climate, some may continue to push boundaries or test democratic norms. But the 22nd Amendment remains a firm constitutional guardrail, one that reminds Americans of their commitment to liberty, balance, and the peaceful transition of power.

# TRUMP SAYS US ECONOMY AND MARKETS WILL ‘BOOM’ WITH RECIPROCAL TARIFF

Amid worldwide criticism, Trump declared a national economic emergency and announced tariffs of at least 10 per cent across all countries, with rates even higher for 60 countries.

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

After announcing reciprocal tariffs across the globe, US President Donald Trump emphasised that the US economy and stock market would see growth. While speaking briefly with the media, Trump took a question on the stock market drop following the tariffs and said, “I think it’s going very well,” and added that the United States will “have six or seven trillion dollars coming into our country.” He further said, “The markets are going to boom. The stock is going to boom. The country is going to boom -- and the rest of the world wants to see if there is any way they can make a deal. They (Countries) have taken advantage of us for many, many years.” Amid worldwide criticism, Trump declared a national

TRADE WAR

■ Trump declares national economic emergency

■ 10%+ tariffs on 180+ countries

■ India, China, EU face high levies

■ Stocks tumble post-announcement

■ Market futures, ETFs decline

■ Trump says trillions will flow into the US

■ Trump says countries want new trade deals

■ Tariff plan sparks global criticism

■ Major stock indexes dip in after-

hours trading

■ Asian markets expected to react next

■ Trump confident US will benefit long-term

economic emergency and announced tariffs of at least 10 per cent across all countries, with rates even higher for 60 countries. The tariff plan imposed high levies on many countries, including 26 per cent on India, 49 per cent on Cambodia, 46 per cent on Vietnam, 34 per cent on China, 24 per cent tariff on Japan, 20 per cent on the EU, US media reported, noting that more than 180 countries

## China slaps 34% tariff on US goods in retaliation

AGENCIES  
BEIJING

China on Friday slapped a 34 per cent additional tariff on imports from the US in a tit-for-tat response to President Donald Trump's move to impose a similar levy on Chinese goods. Beijing also announced export controls on certain rare earth metals, aiming to hit American defence, computer, and smartphone industries. The tariffs on all products imported from the US will be imposed from April 10, the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council announced Friday. The announcement follows the US decision to impose “reciprocal tariffs” on Chinese exports to America, a move that the commission said does not conform to international trade rules. It also seriously undermines China's legitimate rights and interests, and represents a typical act of unilateral bullying, the state-run Xinhua

*Beijing also announced export controls on certain rare earth metals, aiming to hit American defence, computer, and smartphone industries.*

news agency reported. Criticising Beijing's move, Trump in a social media post said, “China played it wrong, they panicked -- the one things they cannot afford to do.” “My policies will never change. This is a great time to get rich,” he said. Beijing filed a lawsuit with the World Trade Organisation after the US slapped “reciprocal tariffs” on trading partners, the Xinhua report said. “By imposing the so-called ‘reciprocal tariffs,’ the US gravely violated WTO rules, seriously undermined the legitimate rights and interests of WTO members, and seriously damaged the rules-based multilateral trading system and the international economic and

trade order,” a spokesperson from the Commerce Ministry here said. “It is a typical unilateral practice of bullying that jeopardises the stability of the global economic and trade order, and China is firmly opposed to this,” the spokesperson said, urging the US to immediately correct its wrongdoings and cancel its unilateral tariff measures. Trump announced 34 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports on Wednesday, unveiling them as part of a sweeping “Liberation Day” package aimed at reshaping American trade policy. The new tariffs on Chinese imports reflect a 10 per cent universal baseline plus 24 per cent specific to the country.

## Trump says Zelenskyy and Putin ‘ready to make a deal’

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said he talked to Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and said that the latter was ready to make a deal. During his gaggle on Air Force 1 on Thursday (local time), Trump said that the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund Kirill Dmitriev was in the US, but did not specify what talks he held. “I think he's [Zelenskyy] ready to make a deal. And I think that President Putin is ready to make a deal, and you'll stop the killing of 1000s of young people a week. I just will tell you that there's a lot of good conversation about Ukraine, Russia,” he said. Trump added that the US wants the Russia-Ukraine conflict to stop as soon as possible, and to stop the killing of thousands of soldiers from both sides. “We have an envoy from Russia. We're talking about it [the conflict]. We like to see that [war] stop as soon as possible.

and regions will face tariffs. CNN reported on Thursday that US stocks tumbled in after-hours trading as President Donald Trump delivered remarks at the Rose Garden and unveiled sweeping tariffs. All eyes will now be on the Asian indices when they open for trading. Dow futures tumbled 256 points, or 0.61%. S&P 500 futures slid 1.69%. Futures tied to the Nasdaq 100 fell 2.54%. Stocks had closed higher ahead of Trump's tariff announcement but began to slide as Trump revealed his administration's plan for rolling out tariffs. Exchange-traded funds that track the major stock indexes also tumbled in after-hours trading. An ETF tracking the Dow fell 1.1%, while an ETF tracking the S&P 500 slid 2.2%, and an ETF tracking the Nasdaq 100 slid 3%, CNN reported.

## Europeans blame Moscow for thwarting Trump peace bid in Ukraine

AGENCIES  
BRUSSELS

European foreign ministers at a NATO meeting blamed Russia on Friday for thwarting a U.S. push for peace in Ukraine and called for firm pressure on Moscow to agree to a ceasefire, in a clear bid to persuade the Trump administration to take a harder line. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has promised to bring a quick end to the three-year-old war, has for weeks said he believes Russia's Vladimir Putin is committed to peace. Sources have told Reuters the White House has grown wary of Putin's intentions in recent days, although Trump continues to signal publicly his belief that Putin wants to end the war. Moscow rejected a U.S. proposal in March for a full 30-day ceasefire after Ukraine said it would agree. The warring sides then agreed to a limited pause in attacks on each other's energy infrastructure, which

## Russia urges restraint on all sides over Iran's nuclear programme

AGENCIES  
MOSCOW

Russia said on Friday that the question of Iran's nuclear programme should be resolved politically and diplomatically, urging restraint on all sides. Moscow has offered to mediate between the United States and Iran after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Iran unless it comes to an agreement with Washington over its nuclear programme. “We believe that the problem of the Iranian nuclear dossier should be discussed and resolved only by political and diplomatic means. Exclusively,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “And, of course, we believe that all parties should maintain absolute restraint here and focus specifically on diplomatic efforts when discussing all issues. “You know that we are currently working on restoring our relations with the United States, but Iran is also our partner, our ally, with whom we have very developed and multifaceted relations,” Pes-



Military personnel stand guard at a nuclear facility in the Zardanj area of Isfahan, Iran, April 19, 2024, in this screengrab taken from video. File Photo

*Moscow has offered to mediate between the United States and Iran after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Iran unless it comes to an agreement with Washington over its nuclear programme.*

kov said. His comments underscored the balance that Moscow is attempting to strike as tensions rise sharply over Iran's nuclear activities. Russia has deepened ties with Tehran since the start of the war in Ukraine and signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Islamic Republic in January. But it is also moving quickly to restore relations with the Trump administration, a shift that has unnerved Ukraine and European countries who are nervous that Trump could make deep concessions to Moscow in order to end the conflict in Ukraine. Trump says Iran is too close to building a nuclear bomb. Tehran denies any such intention and says it wants to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, something that Russia says it has the right to do.



Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock attend a North Atlantic Council (NAC) meeting at foreign ministers level in Brussels, Belgium April 4, 2025. File Photo

both accuse the other of violating. Moscow “owes an answer to the United States” which had “worked very hard to come up with a mediation effort and a ceasefire proposal,” French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said on Friday ahead of the second day of a meeting of NATO foreign ministers. Advertisement · Scroll to continue “WE SEE YOU” British Foreign Minister David Lammy said Putin “continues to obfuscate,

continues to drag his feet”. “He could accept a ceasefire now, he continues to bombard Ukraine, its civilian population, its energy supplies. We see you, Vladimir Putin, we know what you are doing,” Lammy said. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said Putin's talk of negotiations was “nothing but empty promises” and the Russian leader was “playing for time by raising ever new demands”. The foreign ministers of Canada and Estonia

were among those calling for timelines for Russia to accept a ceasefire. Washington says it is still in contact with both sides and pushing for a truce. A senior State Department official said late on Thursday that at the first day of the NATO talks there was “overwhelming support for Ukraine, for ending the war, for President Trump's efforts to conclude the war, but also recognition that Russia needs to do more in this context.” The official said there was not necessarily a consensus on a timeline for increasing pressure on Russia, but there was a recognition that “the sooner the better”. “There was consensus that Russia needs to do more, that Russia should agree to a ceasefire.” European faith in the U.S. as the continent's ultimate protector against any attack from Russia has been severely shaken by Trump's outreach to Moscow and pressure on Kyiv.

# INDIA REITERATES ITS VISION OF ‘SECURITY AND GROWTH FOR ALL’ FROM THAILAND

This week witnessed a number of encouraging developments in international politics. Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font arrived in New Delhi this week for a five-day state visit to India, which represents a pivotal advancement in the enhancement of bilateral relations between the two nations. On the other hand, Indian PM travelled to Thailand to participate in the BIMSTEC summit. During the visit of Chilean President, India and Chile initiated discussions aimed at establishing a comprehensive economic partnership agreement that would be mutually advantageous. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed President Boric for extensive discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation across various sectors. It included broadening the existing bilateral trade agreement between the two nations into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, positioning Chile as the first Latin American nation to formalize such

an arrangement with India. Both the leaders emphasized the importance of developing resilient supply and value chains. Indian PM characterized Chile as a key partner for India in Latin America, noting its strategic location near Antarctica, which offers opportunities for joint research expeditions. Additionally, India is prepared to share its successful experiences with Chile in fields such as digital public infrastructure, renewable energy, railways, and space exploration. In recent years, India and Chile have recognized the potential of their bilateral relationship, leading to the establishment of various agreements and memoranda of understanding that cover diverse areas of collaboration such as science and technology, defence, agriculture, renewable energy, education, outer space, and mineral resources. A notable development took place in 2016, when an agreement was signed in New Delhi to enhance the India-Chile Preferential Trade Agreement

WORLD RECAP

ANSHU JOSHI

(PTA), expanding its scope from around 474 tariff lines to 2,800+ tariff lines. Additionally, during the visit of the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs to Chile in May 2018, a memorandum was signed to form a high-level Joint Commission aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. Then, the visit of the Indian President in 2019, led to the renewal of existing agreements between the two nations concerning cultural exchange and cooperation in the mining sector, as well as the signing of a new agreement focused on collaboration in the disability sector. Moreover, the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and Chile was signed in 2020, and it became effective in 2022, boosting their trade relations. The two nations have a long-standing history of robust

diplomatic relations, highlighted by Chile being the sole Latin American nation to dispatch a special envoy to the celebrations of India's Independence Day in 1947. They have worked closely together in various multilateral platforms, providing mutual support on matters such as reforms to the UNSC and counterterrorism initiatives. Since 2003, Chile has backed India's aspiration for a permanent seat on the UNSC. Additionally, Chile embraces aspects of Indian spiritual philosophy, hosting centres such as the Art of Living and Brahma Kumaris, along with several Hindu temples. Indian cuisine, literature, and cinema enjoy significant popularity in Chile. As one of the three nations in Latin America's Lithium Triangle, Chile contributes nearly 30% of the world's total lithium

production, and India is eager to enhance collaboration in this vital sector with Chile. India is also eager to enhance maritime collaboration with other like-minded nations to promote peace, security, and neutrality in maritime affairs. To strengthen economic and strategic ties with nations in South and Southeast Asia, the Indian Prime Minister is visiting Thailand to attend the BIMSTEC annual summit, this week. On the first day of his trip, India and Thailand upgraded their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership, reaffirming their dedication to developing strategic and economic cooperation through the signing of six important agreements. During discussions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra examined opportunities to increase trade and investment while also enhancing collaboration in defence, security, and the fight against cybercrime and human trafficking. Thailand is a signifi-

cant partner for India within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and defence and security cooperation has consistently progressed under India's “Act East” policy. With a rich cultural connection that spans over 2,500 years, the Indian Prime Minister was greeted by Thai artists with a special performance of the Ramayana (known as Ramakyan in Thai). Both leaders also acknowledged the Indian origins of Buddhism, which is predominantly practiced in Thailand, and PM Modi received a set of Tripitaka, a compilation of Buddha's teachings. This development marks a significant shift in recent Asian politics, with both India and Thailand poised to reinforce the core objectives of BIMSTEC. BIMSTEC presents significant opportunities for enhancing regional economic growth and security; however, it is also encountering challenges due to internal political crises in member nations such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Nepal.

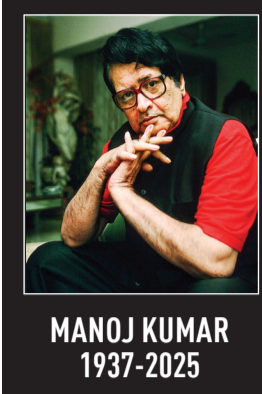
In response, India aims to strengthen mutual cooperation and collaboration in essential strategic sectors, focusing on improving maritime security, conducting patrols, advancing infrastructure development, and enhancing port facilities, among other initiatives. As a prominent representative of the Global South, India is working diligently to shed colonial-era mindsets while establishing itself as the world's fastest-growing economy. The nation is focused on supporting emerging economies, promoting sustainable development, and improving healthcare systems. Furthermore, India is actively involved in counter-terrorism efforts, encouraging cultural tourism, facilitating the movement of skilled professionals, and championing women-led initiatives. The nation is also dedicated to advancing clean and green energy, prioritizing renewable energy through programs such as the International Solar Alliance and the Biofuel Alliance. In pur-

suit of these goals, nations like Chile and Thailand; and organisations like BIMSTEC are becoming increasingly important partners for India. India is eager to enhance its bilateral and multilateral relationships to achieve various constructive goals that foster peace, security, sustainable development, and economic advancement. There are numerous areas where nations committed to peace can concentrate their efforts, such as strengthening connections between people through educational initiatives, formulating a strategic plan for defence and security, and promoting trade and collaboration in science and technology. However, as I concluded this writing, reports emerged regarding Trump imposing high tariffs on India. Nevertheless, I am confident that India will navigate this challenge successfully. India recognizes the value of positive diplomacy and hopes that other nations will take a cue from it. The author is Professor, School of International Studies, JNU

# MAN WHO PAINTED THE CELLULOID WITH PATRIOTISM NO MORE

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Legendary actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar, a stalwart of Indian cinema, passed away on April 4, 2025, at the age of 87. The actor, affectionately known as "Bharat Kumar" for his portrayal of patriotic roles in numerous films, breathed his last at 4:03 am at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai. He was admitted to the hospital on February 21, 2025, after his condition worsened. Born Harikrishan Goswami on July 24, 1937, in Amritsar, Punjab, Kumar's son, Kunal Goswami, confirmed that his last rites will be performed tomorrow at 11 am at Pawan Hans in front of Nanavati Hospital in Vile Parle. Manoj Kumar, a name synonymous with patriotic Hindi cinema, is remembered not only for his films but also for the powerful messages they carried. Born Harikrishan Giri Goswami in 1937 in Abbottabad, now in Pakistan, he became a major figure in Indian cinema, particularly for his contribu-



MANOJ KUMAR  
1937-2025

tions during the post-independence era. One of his landmark films, Shor (1972), stood apart from his usual patriotic themes. Starring alongside Jaya Bhaduri and Nanda, the film began with the familiar All India Radio signature tune, cleverly using it to contrast the serenity of dawn with the increasing chaos of daily urban life. Through innovative montage sequences and symbolic imagery, Kumar explored deeper social issues, such as noise pollution and urban alienation. Cinematographer Nariman Irani brought these ideas to life with rich indoor and outdoor visuals, including underlit shots that captured

a somber mood.

Kumar's storytelling drew from the likes of Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times, often juxtaposing conflicting emotions. In Shor, he visually overlaps a wedding procession with a funeral, merging celebration and grief in a single frame. Such contrasts became a recurring theme in his work, as seen in his iconic films Upkaar (1967) and Purab Aur Paschim (1970), which celebrated Indian values while questioning Western influence. He used water—particularly rain—not just as a cinematic tool, but also to add layers of emotional intensity, such as in the song "Paani Re Paani" during a workers' strike in Shor.

Before Shor, Kumar had made his mark as a skilled actor in films like Woh Kaun Thi? (1964), a suspense thriller where he played a doctor haunted by a mysterious woman. The film, with Hitchcockian suspense and Sadhana's haunting presence, revealed Kumar's ability to handle complex characters with restraint.

His directorial debut came with Upkaar, a film inspired by then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan." Kumar took this message to heart, crafting what he proudly called a "16,000-foot-long celluloid flag of India." The film opens with visuals of a gun and plough, symbolizing the dual strength of the soldier and farmer. Actor Pran delivered a memorable performance as Malang Baba, a disabled war veteran whose name echoed spiritual undertones, adding a layer of depth to the film's message. Kumar's nationalistic fervor came at a time when India had just faced wars with China (1962) and Pakistan (1965, 1971). His work mirrored the spirit of a recovering nation and found massive public support. According to legend, Shastri once attended the premiere of Kumar's film Shaheed (1965), intending to stay briefly, but remained for the full screening and later addressed the audience, praising the film's patriotic impact.

## 'Fantastic Four: First Steps' sets stage for summer release

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

On Thursday night, Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige introduced new footage from the highly anticipated film Fantastic Four: First Steps at CinemaCon. As per The Hollywood



Reporter, the Marvel Studios boss teased that the team is just days away from principal photography on 'Avengers: Doomsday', which will feature

Robert Downey Jr. as Doctor Doom. The 'Fantastic Four: First Steps' trailer, which was not released online, showcased the team's dynamic, with Pedro Pascal starring as Reed Richards/Mr. Fantastic, Vanessa Kirby as Sue Storm/The Invisible Woman, Joseph

Quinn as Johnny Storm/The Human Torch, and Ebon Moss-Bachrach as Ben Grimm/The Thing. According to The Hollywood Reporter, the trailer revealed a personal moment for Reed and Sue, as they learn they are expecting a baby, eliciting a conflicted reaction.

## Cameron unveils first footage from 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' at CinemaCon

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON

Disney debuted the first footage from James Cameron's highly anticipated film 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' at CinemaCon on Thursday night, giving theater owners a glimpse into the next installment of the beloved franchise.

Introduced by James Cameron in a video segment, the footage showcased the increased emotional depth and complexity of the film, which promises to deliver a thrilling conclusion to the trilogy, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Cameron teased that the film's heroes will face not only the human invaders but also new adversaries, the Ash people.

Zoe Saldana, who plays Neytiri, took the stage to introduce the footage, explaining that "Fire and Ash expands the beautiful world of Pandora and introduces two new clans, the Wind Traders and the Ash People," as quoted by The Hollywood Reporter.

The footage, which ran for approximately three min-



*The footage, which ran for approximately three minutes, opened with Neytiri telling Jake, "The strength of the ancestors is here."*

utes, opened with Neytiri telling Jake, "The strength of the ancestors is here."

The scene then shifts to a dramatic battle sequence, with Jake imploring Neytiri to let go of her hatred. The footage concluded with a character lamenting, "We cannot defeat this enemy that comes from the stars," as per The Hollywood Reporter.

Cameron's confidence in the film is evident, with the director teasing that it's "re-

ally fucking cool" and that audiences will "love it."

The film's release is set for December 19, and it promises to be a major tentpole for the studio.

The success of the Avatar franchise is undeniable, with the first two films breaking box office records.

The original Avatar, released in 2009, became the highest-grossing film of all time, earning USD 2.9 billion globally, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

many kings and kingdoms, historically have been known for their self-centered ego, snob value, flamboyance, and vulgar display of wealth coupled with utter ignorance of their public, Sanjay Rajkot is a Raja (King) with a difference.

Highly responsible, caring, and concerned for the good of the public, Sanjay Rajkot (Salman Khan) has been changing the lives



of thousands of people by providing them with education, housing, jobs, and a better quality of life. In turn, the public has been turning into staunch loyalists. His wife Saisri Rajkot

(Rashmika Mandana) often struggles to get some time from Sanjay, as his responsibilities do not allow him much family time.

However, like a true partner, their love for each other only strengthens and grows with time, and like a Savitri, she ensures no harm happens to him. The film opens with a scene from the flight, where a rowdy son of a politician attempts to molest a lady in the plane and is taught a lesson by Sanjay triggering a saga of acrimony between him and Minister Rakesh Pradhan

## Nepo kids are glorified more in Cinema: Neil Nitin Mukesh

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Neil Nitin Mukesh talked about the much-debated issue of nepotism in Bollywood. He shared his views and said that the success of an artist depends on talent.

He said, "If there was any benefit of nepotism, then today I would have been somewhere else. 'Nepo kid maaf kijiye dekhhiye hamari field mein glorify zyada kiya jaata hai'. Nepo kid is glorified in our field as being an actor whatever we do, we are noticed immediately. 'agar doctor ka beta doctor ban raha hai to nepo kid vahan bhi use kiya ja sakta hai' (If a doctor's son



is becoming a doctor then there also nepo kid can be used).....So, if my daughter grows up and wants to become an actor or an actress or a filmmaker or a writer. Now, I have this art and it is in me. As a business, I can't hand it over. I can only teach or hope that someone will take my legacy, my name

forward." He continued, "Any artist makes their identity with their own creativity."

Neil Nitin Mukesh's father is Bollywood playback singer Nitin Mukesh, son of veteran singer Mukesh. However, he said that it doesn't mean things are easy for him in the industry.

### BRAIN PICKING



We are not a typical family that goes for a movie on Sunday or has dinner together every night. But we are strong as the Great Wall of China.  
— ALIA BHATT  
(Indian Actress)

## Sonali Bendre's 'Book of Books' to hit stands soon

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The award-winning actor turned author with 'The Modern Gurukul: My Experiment with Parenting' in 2015. Actor Sonali Bendre Behl shared her long-standing passion for books in her latest publication, "A Book of Books", which will hit the stands on April 23, Harper-



Collins India announced on Friday.

Sonali Bendre Behl, author, says, "Reading has been my constant companion, shaping my perspectives and enriching my life in countless ways. With A Book of Books, I hope to share this joy and help readers - both young and old - cultivate a lifelong love for reading. This book is

more than just about books; it's a guide, a journal, and a friend in every reader's journey. I believe stories have the power to connect, heal, and inspire, and I wanted to create something that encourages that connection. HarperCollins, with its deep commitment to storytelling and nurturing readers, felt like the perfect home for this book.

REVIEW: SIKANDAR \*\*\*\*\*

## SIKANDAR

PRAVEEN NAGDA

One more Bhaijaan movie in a typical Bhaijaan style and his ideas of being human to as many people as he can winning hearts. SIKANDAR is directed by Ghajini fame AR Murugadoss, where Salman plays the role of a king of the erstwhile kingdom of Rajkot but with a difference. While

many kings and kingdoms, historically have been known for their self-centered ego, snob value, flamboyance, and vulgar display of wealth coupled with utter ignorance of their public, Sanjay Rajkot is a Raja (King) with a difference.

Highly responsible, caring, and concerned for the good of the public, Sanjay Rajkot (Salman Khan) has been changing the lives



of thousands of people by providing them with education, housing, jobs, and a better quality of life. In turn, the public has been turning into staunch loyalists. His wife Saisri Rajkot

(Rashmika Mandana) often struggles to get some time from Sanjay, as his responsibilities do not allow him much family time.

However, like a true partner, their love for each other only strengthens and grows with time, and like a Savitri, she ensures no harm happens to him. The film opens with a scene from the flight, where a rowdy son of a politician attempts to molest a lady in the plane and is taught a lesson by Sanjay triggering a saga of acrimony between him and Minister Rakesh Pradhan

(Sathyaraj). The minister is after Sanjay's blood now and uses a corrupt cop, Inspector Prakash (Kishore Kumar G.), and goons to finish him but repeatedly fails miserably.

Meanwhile, an employee of Sanjay's mines unknowingly hands over explosives to some unknown people linked to terrorists, who take innocent lives using the explosives. Out of guilt, he approaches Sanjay and then they are taken to a safe house so that he can record his statement in the court. In this process, an

accident in the mines takes Saisri into the ICU, where she eventually succumbs to death. Her organs were donated and gave new life to 3 people including a young boy Kamaruddin aka Kamar (Ayan Khan) from Dharavi slums, a teenager Nisha (Anjini Dhawan), and Vaidehi (Kajal Aggarwal), coming from a highly Orthodox South Indian Brahmin family.

With Saisri's heart in Nisha, lungs in Kamar, and eyes in Vaidehi, Sanjay decides to travel to Mumbai and meet them to ensure

their well-being. However, he is spotted in the taxi by the cops, who alert the minister and his son Arjun Pradhan (Prateik Patil Babbar), who pursues a wild chase of Sanjay and his people. In an attempt to kill Sanjay using petrol bombs, Arjun himself succumbs to death with a blast in his car. Minister Pradhan takes it up personally and wants to take revenge by killing all three survivors of the organ transplant, to settle scores with Sanjay.

Lots of action, many emotionally powerful mo-

ments, progressive views about family cultures, and socio-political angles make this film a decent watch. Though the story unfolds in a very expected and obvious manner without any layers to be discovered, it doesn't keep the viewers waiting for the next scene. Though the screen chemistry between Rashmika and Salman is indeed excellent!

Praveen Nagda is Festival Director of KidzCINEMA and CultureCinema Film Festivals

# The golden-aged brain



NEVILLE HODGKINSON

Do you care for your brain as much as you do for the rest of your body? In today's fast-paced world, many of us forget that brain health is central to our ability to live happily and well. It is not just a matter of making sure that the brain gets the physical nutrients it needs. There is also the aspect of what kind of thoughts and feelings we give it, and how it is trained to respond to people and circumstances. According to traditional Indian understanding, human beings were once mentally programmed with such pure, divine qualities as to be able to live together in perfect harmony. This golden age was not a dream, but a

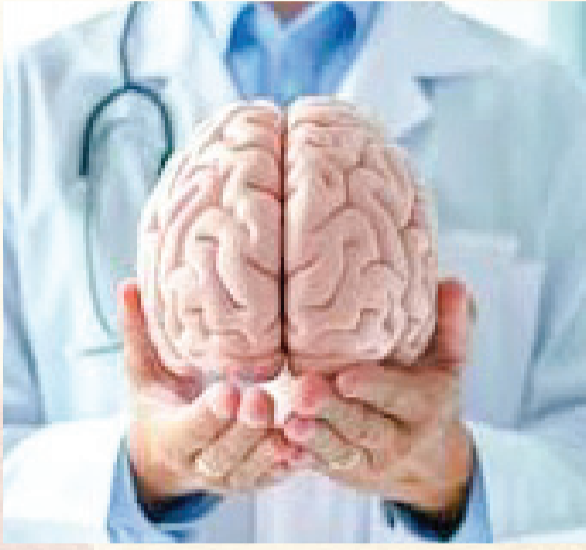
reality that lasted for many lifetimes. The basis of it was a complete freedom from fear that accompanied the pure recognition of ourselves as primarily spiritual beings, enjoying the human experience. Over time, we lost sight of our divinity, and began behaving badly with one another. Various kinds of negativity entered our consciousness, often in the form of vices such as ego, lust, attachment, greed, and anger. Today, the brains of most of us have become affected by some such negative tendencies, causing us varying degrees of distress. The good news is that just as we can decide what programme to run in a physical computer, so it is with the brain. We have the power to change its circuitry. But to fully exercise this power, a key realisation is needed: that we are NOT our brains. Creating an awareness of the distinction between the brain and the individuated consciousness that runs it - the soul - is central to the practice of Rajyoga meditation.



Our sense of self is usually bound up with the ideas, opinions, and perceptions received in our "fallen" world. These helped us to survive adversity but were often in conflict with the pure love at the core of our humanity. By finding the courage to step back from these limited habits of thought



and feeling, into an awareness of the inner being, we find ourselves drawing on a Divine Source of that which is highest in ourselves. Philosophers and even some scientists are coming to the conclusion that this may be the only way of rescuing us from the selfish and destructive behaviours that cause so much unhappiness. If millions of us undertake such a journey of renewal, might it be possible for us to re-establish such a golden-aged consciousness as to bring back a golden-aged world? Neville Hodgkinson is a UK-based author and journalist, and a long-time stu-



dent of Rajyoga. Photo caption: Developing an awareness of the inner being, the soul, and realising its original, divine character is key to the spiritual renewal of the human family.

# Creating Ram Rajya



B.K. MRUTHYUNJAYA

In India, the term Ram Rajya is used to refer to an ideal state or society where there is peace, justice, equality, and rule of law, and where everyone follows the highest code of conduct. Before India gained independence from British colonial rule, Mahatma Gandhi announced that there would be Ram Rajya once the country was free. Gandhiji referred to the ideal state as Ram Rajya, where the values of justice, equality, renunciation, and sacrifice were practised. What does such a state look like in real terms, and how can it be brought about? Societies and nations are made up of individuals, whose character defines the society or nation. It is



Ram Rajya can exist only when the people living there are virtuous.

on this basis that a society is known as Ram Rajya or its opposite, Ravan Rajya. Both these terms are based on the two principal characters in the epic Ramayana. Ram is a virtuous deity and Ravan a learned but evil-minded demon king who abducted Ram's consort Sita and was killed in a subsequent battle with Ram and his army. Ram and Ravan personify the qualities of people in Ram Rajya and Ravan Rajya, respectively. These contrasting qualities have been described at length in the



Bhagavad Gita as divine nature and demoniac nature. In the sixteenth chapter of the Gita, Shri Krishna lists the divine and demoniac traits and urges eradication of the latter and cultivation of divine qualities. He explains the link between



ethics and spirituality, and between a life of virtue and God-realisation and liberation from sorrow. The divine qualities are said to foster peace and lead to liberation, while the demoniac qualities lead to bondage. The Gita says purity, good conduct, and truth are indispensable to spiritual progress and an honourable life. Fearlessness, charity, self-control, non-violence, and compassion for all living beings are said to be the qualities of those endowed with a divine nature. On the other hand, hypocrisy, arrogance, anger, and ignorance belong to one who is born with a demoniacal character. Describing such persons at length, the Gita says: "The demoniacal know not what to do and what to refrain from; neither purity nor right conduct nor truth is found in them." Such persons are filled with insatiable desires and work with impure resolves. They also make a show of devotion, which is contrary to scriptural in-

junctions. It is obvious from the above that Ram Rajya can exist only when the people living in that state have divine qualities. How does one get liberated from vices and acquire divine virtues? At the present time, when the Iron Age is nearing its end and nearly everyone is in the grip of vices, the only way souls can become pure is by linking up with the Supreme Source of virtues. Through this link they can draw power and virtues that will enrich and strengthen them and take them beyond negative influences. This is how Rajyoga meditation works. When practised regularly, it fills the soul with peace, love, purity, and bliss. These qualities are then reflected in our words and actions. When a large number of individuals transform themselves in this manner, society is transformed. This is the only way divine qualities can be nurtured and Ram Rajya created on this planet.

B.K. Mruthyunjaya is Additional Secretary General of the Brahma Kumaris.

# Misconceptions about the soul



B.K. USHA

The soul is often described as the incorporeal essence of a living being. In different religious traditions there are varying beliefs about the qualities of the soul. The common Christian belief is that when people die, their souls are judged by God and they then go to heaven or hell. Islam teaches that the soul is immortal and eternal, and that our deeds are recorded and judged in the court of God, after which they go to heaven or hell. Sikhism considers the soul to be a

part of God. Various hymns in the Sikh holy book, Sri Guru Granth Sahib, suggest this belief. "God is in the soul and the soul is in God", says one. The Bahá'í faith affirms that the soul continues to live after the body dies, and is immortal. Among Hindus, there are various beliefs about the soul, some of which are contradictory. One is that the soul is a part of God and eventually merges with Him, meaning that it ceases to exist as an independent entity. Another is that the soul always remains pure, unaffected by our deeds. On careful consideration, many of these beliefs turn out to be misconceptions. Take the belief that the soul is a part of God. According to this belief, souls have emerged from God and will eventually merge into Him. If that is so, the soul should have the qualities of God, which is obviously



The soul can become pure only by connecting with God, the Purifier.

not the case. God's qualities of compassion, peace, unconditional love, and purity are now so rare in people that those who have them are looked upon as exceptional. If souls were to merge with God, they would lose their independent existence and not be immortal. Also, if souls were merging as well as emerging from God, the human population would not be increasing at

the present rate. Is it that only some, not all, souls merge with God? If that is so, what are the criteria for such a divine merger? If one believes that souls remain unaffected by their deeds, then all souls should be of the same quality and qualified for such merger. Those who argue that the soul always remains pure say that it is the body that bears the consequences of our actions. This is why the devout take a dip in 'holy' rivers to cleanse themselves of all sins. If it was so easy to wash away our sins, no one would be deterred from sinning. But we also find that the religious-minded are more likely to desist from doing any wrong, afraid that they will have to suffer for it, either in this life or in future lives. They even fear that they would be born as insects or worms as punishment for their sins. Even this is an irrational belief: had

people been born as bugs as punishment for their sins, there would have been few humans left in the world by now. The reality is that the human population is continuously increasing. The soul carries within it a record of all the actions it performs in each life, and bears the consequences thereof. The body is the physical medium through which the soul expresses itself. According to the quality of the soul, a person becomes great, ordinary, or evil. The soul can become pure only after it becomes aware of its spiritual identity, its innate goodness, and makes the effort to return to its original, pure state by remembering God, the purifier. Such remembrance fills the soul with power and reinforces its purity, peace, truth, and happiness, which ultimately helps it overcome its weaknesses. Many people also hold

that the soul has no form. No sentient entity with an independent existence can be formless. The soul is an infinitesimally small point of light. While its size does not change, its brightness varies according to its degree of purity. One of the strongest beliefs about the soul, in both Hinduism and Jainism, is that by long and intense effort one can attain 'moksha' or liberation from the cycle of rebirth. Those who seek liberation do so in order to permanently escape all kinds of suffering. No one seeks 'moksha' when they are happy. If the soul were to never take birth, what would be the purpose of its existence? It would be like a battery that is never used, its electric charge unutilised, and thereby rendered worthless. Souls can express themselves only when they are in a body. Living in this world

does not necessarily mean that one has to suffer. It is possible to live a life free from sorrow; all that is needed is a change of consciousness. Knowing the self as an originally pure soul and connecting with God helps the soul detach from the harmful qualities that weaken it, rob it of dignity, and bring suffering. Understanding the law of karma is also important. When we recognise the truth that our experiences in life are the result of our thoughts, words, and actions, we realise the wisdom in performing good deeds, which are the seeds that bring forth the fruit of happiness. This is the enlightened way - and the only way - to attain liberation from sorrow. B.K. Usha is a Rajyoga teacher at the Brahma Kumaris headquarters in Abu Road, Rajasthan.

### A THOUGHT FOR TODAY

A paintbrush, when dipped in water, absorbs the pigment of paint. My mind is like a brush, absorbing the energy (colour) of anything it touches. When I 'touch' something by thinking about it for a long period of time, I absorb its energy. Being aware of this process means I can choose the colours I wish to absorb. Today let me carefully select the colour of energy I will absorb.

# MAPPING THE EVOLUTION OF METAVERSE RESEARCH IN BUSINESS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW



MANOJIT CHATTOPADHYAY



SOURYA JOYEE DE

Metaverse is a technology-enabled “feeling of presence” in which users perceive virtual worlds and interactions in them as if they are real. It has unleashed a plethora of new opportunities with the potential to transform businesses and management profession globally. Metaverse provides rich user experience, and hence has found growing interest in its applications tourism, healthcare, education, and marketing. Yet, to date, research efforts on metaverse remain sparse. In our study, we examine how metaverse research has evolved, identify the themes and theoretical background in the extant research on metaverse, and propose a future agenda for metaverse research.

Neal Stephenson first used the term “metaverse”

in his novel Snow Crash. It depicted the metaverse as a virtual reality (VR) space that used the Internet and augmented reality (AR) through avatars and software agents. Early flight simulators, immersive multisensory theatres, and videogames from the 20th century could all create an alternate reality for users, although users could not interact with the virtual objects and developers predefined the content. In the 21st century, immersive and interactive multimedia-style online games often called massively multiplayer online games (MMOG) such as World of Warcraft, Roblox, Minecraft, and Fortnite and platforms such as Second Life all allow users to control avatars and interact socially in the virtual world. The precursor to the metaverse concept as

we understand it today is the integrated immersive ecosystem with a seamless path between the physical and the virtual world with the use of avatars and holograms to work, interact, and socialize through simulated shared experience as Mark Zuckerberg has highlighted. In contrast to virtual worlds from the past where users can watch their avatars interact with other users’ avatars, researchers today conceptualize the metaverse as a technology-enabled “feeling of presence” in which users perceive virtual worlds and interactions in them as if they are real.

We unveil eleven major themes that can guide future business innovations while considering the challenges and risks that the metaverse poses. These themes, include among others, metaverse for education, metaverse for teamwork and collaborations, user perspectives of metaverse, emerging metaverse applications and innovation and entrepreneurship through metaverse. Through our research, we illustrate the necessity to develop deeper theoretical connections for obtaining better insights since



the extant research on the metaverse lacks strong theoretical foundations. While very few of the existing articles base their research on theory or theoretical models such as the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM), even fewer have contributed to actual theory building in the metaverse context. Ultimately, through this work, we develop a future research agenda that can provide a firm theoretical foundation for metaverse research and new avenues to explore underexplored

domains in this topic. To uncover a spectrum of challenges and risks, future researchers should conduct research inquiries that focus on critical areas around the metaverse, such as data security, privacy, legal compliance, and reputation management. Indeed, businesses need to deeply understand these challenges to not only survive but also thrive in virtual business realm. For instance, the metaverse collects and processes a huge amount of personal data with potential impli-



cations for user privacy, which can increase privacy concerns and may also negatively affect metaverse adoption. Researchers could also examine how the metaverse converges with business domains in an educational context. Accordingly, they could focus on illuminating possibilities for collaborative ventures, skill cultivation, and pioneering practices. Additionally, it is important to investigate user expectations, perceptions, apprehensions and preferences regarding the ap-

plication of metaverse for various business activities. Businesses need to grasp users’ perspectives to navigate and succeed in the ever-evolving metaverse landscape.

Our research adopted an evidence-based approach to examine state-of-the-art of metaverse research to unveil new directions for practitioners on future business focus agenda and recommendations for researchers on future research agenda to enhance the metaverse’s business potential. First-generation

metaverses consist of social virtual worlds (SVWs) (such as Second Life, Habbo Hotel, and Entropia Universe) that promote social interactions and user empowerment and whose emergent structures users create under minimum constraints and gaming virtual worlds (GVWs) (such as World of Warcraft), which typically feature pre-defined structures. Second generation metaverses are a more recent phenomena, aligning with Mark Zuckerberg’s vision according to which, over and above gaming and socializing, metaverses facilitate myriad activities such as sports, education, and shopping beyond what one can imagine today. In line with the idea of these second-generation metaverses, many metaverse studies have not used blockchain technology to transfer digital assets and were likely conducted on software not integrated with such technology. Future research should consider the business implications of the integration of next generation technologies with metaverses and incorporate these future studies while evaluating the state-of-the-art.

## A tome that revives interest in Harideo Joshi era



SUNNY SEBASTIAN

The Harideo Joshi era that spanned more than four decades of Rajasthan’s post-Independence politics, has come up for debate with the release of a biography of the three-times former Chief Minister of the State, freedom fighter and a journalist. The new book, “And quiet flows the Mahi: The life and times of Harideo Joshi”, authored by me, can be claimed to be the first biography of any Rajasthan Chief Minister in English. The book is available in Hindi as well.

The book was released the past weekend by former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Dr. C.P. Joshi in the presence of senior Congress leader Mohan Prakash, family members of the late Joshi and Dr. D.R. Mehta, former IAS and two times Secretary to Joshi when he was the Chief Minister. Retired civil servants, former Vice-Chancellors and senior journalists including Praveen Chandra Chhabra, Milap Chand Dandia, Om Thanvi and Sanjeev Srivastav joined the function. The book is published by Jayesh Joshi of the Vasuman Associates.

There is a general view that Rajasthan or the former Rajputana, which boasts of oral tradition of history, lacks proper documentation of major socio-political developments in the state. That perhaps made the region lag behind in written docu-

ments and books. There are very few books written by or about political leaders in the state and both historians and political analysts consider Rajasthan as state lagging in ‘political literature’.

Even Joshi’s illustrious predecessor from his own Congress party, Mohanlal Sukhadia and his towering successor from the Bharatiya Janata Party Bhairon Singh Shekhawat-- who later became the Vice-President of the country--have very few books written on them. There is no literature available on some of the former Chief Ministers, Barkatullah Khan, Shiv Charan Mathur, Jagannath Pahadia and Hiralal Devpura, not to speak of other prominent political figures such as former Assembly Speakers,

Narottam Lal Joshi, Ramniwas Mirdha, Niranjan Nath Acharya, Poonam Chand Vishnoi, Parasram Maderna, and the like.

The book, which has “Mahi ke Manaswi Harideo Joshi” as title for its Hindi version, spans 75 years of Rajasthan’s contemporary history, talking about the life and times of Joshi.

A biography by genre, the book is also a critique of the times of political stalwarts like the first Chief Minister Hiralal Shastri and his immediate successor Jainarain Vyas, among others, who shaped the destiny of the nascent state which comprised maximum number of ‘riyasats’ or principalities in India.

The volume of 500-odd pages carries more than

six dozen photographs of historical value. These rare photographs and the meticulously prepared footnotes are meant to educate readers, especially from the younger generation, on the recent history of the state starting with people’s movements in the tribal areas, brave acts of the freedom fighters, formation of the state and the coming up of Rajasthan, the former Rajputana.

The book talks about the arduous journey of Rajasthan to reach the level of a modern, fast-developing state in India amid challenges of poverty, illiteracy, backwardness, and geographical constraints like the existence of the Thar Desert and the craggy Aravalli mountains, besides severe water shortage and vastness of the terrain.

The volume also attempts to inform the outside world that Rajasthan, where Praja Mandals in various principalities fought both the British and the royals before the Indian National Congress came out in the open in 1942 with the call for Quit India by Mahatma Gandhi, contributed considerably towards the country’s Independence.

## The real power behind the spotlight



POOJA DAWRA

In a world that’s always on stage where influence, ambition, and visibility take center stage there’s a deeper performance that often goes unseen: the one we play within.

As a globally awarded and recognized coach, I’ve had the privilege of working with some of the most successful names in business, entertainment, and leadership. From boardrooms to backstage, what unites them isn’t just the pursuit of success it’s the search for something more meaningful. Something real. Something that lasts beyond applause.

### THAT “SOMETHING” IS ALIGNMENT

Take the story of a renowned film actor adored by millions, yet quietly struggling with anxiety, decision fatigue, and a persistent feeling of disconnection. From the outside, life looked perfect. But in our conversations, what emerged was a deep yearning: to feel whole again to understand who they were beyond the roles, awards, and red carpets.

Through our coaching journey, we explored their core values, revisited long-buried dreams, and reconnected them to a vision of impact that had nothing to do with fame and everything to do with meaning. The shift was profound. Today, they not only lead with clarity and calm, but have launched a philanthropic

initiative rooted in their authentic purpose one that lights them up more than any spotlight ever could.

In the dazzling noise of achievement, many lose touch with the quiet power of purpose. When I sit with leaders and change makers, our conversations are rarely about doing more they’re about being more. Who are you beneath the brand? What do you truly stand for? What values shape your decisions, your presence, your legacy?

The real influence begins not with strategy, but with self.

And when you know who you truly are, the world notices.

Whether you lead a billion-dollar company, a creative empire, or a rising social movement, there is always a deeper potential waiting to be awakened. It’s not about fixing anything. It’s about remembering. Realigning. Reconnecting.

Through my work in life and leadership coaching, I help high performers and high-visibility individuals discover clarity in chaos, values in the void, and direction in doubt. When your outer world aligns with your inner truth, performance becomes effortless, decisions gain power, and presence becomes magnetic.

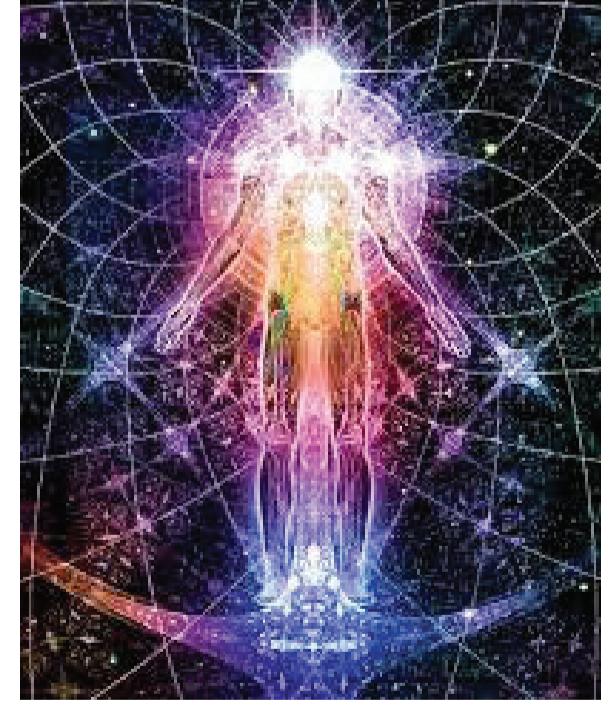
It’s not just about leading others. It’s about leading yourself first with purpose, clarity, and authenticity.

So if you’ve reached the top, but feel there’s something still calling you...

Or if you’re rising fast, but wish to rise consciously...

Maybe it’s time to pause. Reflect. And realign with the version of you that’s been quietly waiting to shine.

To explore what alignment, purpose, and conscious leadership could look like for you the journey begins with one question:



*In the dazzling noise of achievement, many lose touch with the quiet power of purpose. When I sit with leaders and change makers, our conversations are rarely about doing more they’re about being more. Who are you beneath the brand? What do you truly stand for?*

Who are you becoming? The author Pooja Dawra is a globally awarded and recognized life and leadership coach, ICF Master Certified Coach (MCC), EMCC Senior Prac-

itioner, Managing Partner at TPC Leadership India. She works with celebrities, entrepreneurs, and top leaders to unlock their highest potential and lead from a place of deep purpose.

# MARSH MADNESS: LSG EDGE MI IN NAIL-BITER

From Marsh's blitz to Hardik's fifer and Surya's gutsy chase, the match swung wildly before ending in a heart-stopping finish.

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

In a high-scoring thriller at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on April 4, 2025, the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) secured a narrow victory over the Mumbai Indians (MI) by 12 runs. LSG posted a formidable total of 203/8, with Mitchell Marsh's explosive 60 off 31 balls and Aiden Markram's composed 53 off 38 balls leading the charge. Despite Hardik Pandya's exceptional bowling performance, claiming his maiden T20 five-wicket haul with figures of 5/36, MI fell short in their chase, finishing at 191/5. Suryakumar Yadav's valiant 67 off 43 balls kept MI in contention, but strategic moves, including Tilak Varma retiring out to bring in Mitchell Santner for the final overs, couldn't bridge the gap. This victory propels LSG up the points table, while MI will need to regroup ahead of their next fixture.

## LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS INNINGS:

Opting to bat first after losing the toss, LSG's innings was anchored by explosive performances from their top-order batsmen. Mitchell Marsh was the standout performer, blazing his way



Lucknow Super Giants' Ravi Bishnoi reacts during the Indian Premier League 2025 match against Mumbai Indians, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, in Lucknow on Friday. ANI

to a 27-ball half-century, setting the tone for the innings. He was well-supported by Aiden Markram, who also notched up a fifty, contributing significantly to the team's imposing total.

The middle order saw quick cameos from Ayush Badoni and David Miller, who added crucial runs in the death overs. However, MI's captain Hardik Pandya was the pick of the bowlers, achieving his first-ever five-

wicket haul in T20 cricket, finishing with figures of 5/36. His scalps included key wickets like Nicholas Pooran, Rishabh Pant, Markram, and Miller, which momentarily stemmed the flow of runs.

## MUMBAI INDIANS INNINGS:

Chasing a daunting target of 204, MI's innings got off to a rocky start with both openers, Will Jacks and

Ryan Rickelton, departing early. Jacks was dismissed by Akash Deep, while Rickelton fell to Shardul Thakur. This left MI reeling at 25/2 within the first three overs. However, Suryakumar Yadav and Naman Dhir orchestrated a remarkable recovery. Dhir was particularly aggressive, taking on the bowlers and accelerating the scoring rate. After his departure, Tilak Varma joined Suryakumar, and the

## Key Highlights

- **Mitchell Marsh's Blitz:** Marsh's aggressive 50 off 27 balls laid a solid foundation for LSG's hefty total.
- **Hardik Pandya's five-for:** The MI skipper's exceptional bowling performance (5/36) was instrumental in restricting LSG, giving his team a fighting chance.
- **Suryakumar Yadav's resistance:** His 67-run knock was the backbone of MI's chase, keeping them in contention till the latter stages.
- **Strategic retirement:** Tilak Varma's decision to retire out for Santner highlighted MI's tactical approach in the crunch moments.
- This victory propels LSG up the points table, while MI will look to regroup and address the gaps as they prepare for their upcoming fixtures.

duo continued to chip away at the target.

A pivotal moment came when Suryakumar Yadav, who had been the linchpin of the chase with a well-crafted 67 off 43 balls, was dismissed by Avesh Khan. With the required run rate climbing, MI needed 29 runs off the final two overs.

# 'Neeraj Chopra Classic' javelin throw event to be held in Panchkula

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The inaugural edition of the Neeraj Chopra Classic (NC Classic) javelin throw competition is set to be held at the Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana, on May 24, the World Athletics confirmed, according to Olympics.com.

Scheduled as the NC Classic, the one-day javelin throw event has been classified as a World Athletics 'A' category event, equating to a Continental Tour Gold-level competition in ranking points.

The Continental Tour is a second second-tier global athletics series behind the Diamond League. It was launched in 2020 as the successor to the World Challenge series and features four tiers, including gold, silver, bronze and challenger.



The tournament, headlined by India's ace javelin thrower, Neeraj Chopra, is expected to host top male and female javelin throwers from around the world to compete in India for the first time.

Former Athletics Federation of India president Adille Sumariwalla had previously

stated that the invitational tournament would feature the world's top 10 javelin throwers in the men's and women's categories.

Neeraj is keen to make the event an annual fixture in the world athletics calendar, with an eye on adding more track and field disciplines to the meeting.

# Sunil Narine completes 200 wickets for KKR in T20s

AGENCIES  
KOLKATA

Spinner Sunil Narine completed 200 wickets for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), becoming the first player from the team to do so.

Narine reached this milestone during his side's Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Thursday.

During the game, Narine bowled a four-over spell in which he gave away 30 runs and took the wicket of Kamindu Mendis.

Now in 189 matches for KKR since debut in 2012, Narine has taken 200 wickets at an average of 24.14, with best figures of 5/19, his solitary five-wicket haul. He also has eight four-wicket hauls.

Narine is the fourth-highest wicket-taker in IPL



history, with 182 wickets at an average of 25.60 in 180 matches, with best figures of 5/19. His rest of the wickets for KKR have come in the now-defunct Champions League T20 competition, where he took 18 scalps in nine matches.

Narine has the second-highest number of wickets by a bowler for a single team in T20s, next to Samit Patel's 208 wickets for Nottinghamshire.

# India sets up 10 training centres for 2036 Olympics bid

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India has initiated preparations for the 2036 Olympics by establishing 10 Olympic training centres, each dedicated to a specific discipline and accommodating 150 athletes selected from the Khelo India program. The Khelo India Youth Games are scheduled to take place in Bihar from May 4th to 15th, 2025, featuring over 10,000 athletes competing across 28 sports.

In November 2024, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally submitted a 'Letter of Intent' to the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Future Host Commission, expressing India's desire to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the government's commitment to securing the hosting rights, stating that hosting the Games would elevate Indian sports to new heights and create better facilities for athletes. Ahmedabad is being considered as the potential host city for the 2036 Olympics.

Union Minister Amit Shah announced plans to



construct 10 large stadiums within the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, adjacent to the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium. Shah stated, "India has resolved to hold the 2036 Olympic Games in these 10 complexes. Gujarat has already started preparations for this event." The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, spanning 236 acres in Motera, Ahmedabad, is set to become one of India's largest sports complexes. It will feature multiple venues, including the Narendra Modi Stadium, a football stadium with a capacity of 50,000, a multipurpose indoor arena for 18,000 spectators, an aquatics center for 12,000, and a tennis stadium for 10,000. The enclave will also

house an athletes' village accommodating up to 3,000 individuals.

The Indian government is investing Rs 3,200 crore (US\$450 million) into the project, with private entities contributing an additional 1,400 crore (US\$200 million). The Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority is exploring public-private partnerships to support the development, ensuring the venues have clear post-Olympic utility to avoid underutilized infrastructure. The IOC's Future Host Commission is conducting a feasibility study of India's proposed projects associated with the Games. A decision on the 2036 host is unlikely to come before 2026.

# Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League announces full schedule

AGENCIES  
GURUGRAM

The Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League (GI-PKL) has announced the full schedule of the upcoming League which gets underway from April 18 in Gurugram. The tournament will commence with men's matches on the opening day, setting the stage for an action-packed competition, according to a release from GI-PKL.

The first-ever match of GI-PKL will see Tamil Lions take on Punjabi Tigers in the tournament opener. The second fixture of the day will feature Haryanvi Sharks locking horns with Telugu Panthers, followed by a high-octane clash between Marathi Vultures and Bhojpuri Leopards in the third match.

The women's matches will get underway on April 19 with Marathi Falcons facing Telugu Cheetahs in the first match. Punjabi Tigress and Bhojpuri Leopardess will face off in the second game while Haryanvi Eagles and Tamil Lioness will lock



horns on Day 2.

The League stage will run until April 27, leading to the knockout rounds.

The men's semi-finals are scheduled for April 28, followed by the women's semi-finals on April 29. The tournament will culminate in the Grand Finals for both men's and women's categories on April 30, where the ultimate champions of the inaugural GI-PKL season will be crowned.

Speaking about League and announcement of schedule, Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA),

President Kanthi D. Suresh said, "Drawing up a fixture schedule with Men & Women playing alongside one another, in itself is exciting. A platform like this ensures more gender equality, something as a Woman in the business of Sports myself, feel strongly about. It's a satisfactory beginning to a long journey ahead," as quoted from a release by GI-PKL.

The GI-PKL Championship Trophy stands out as a symbol of ultimate supremacy in the league, adding an exciting layer of competition.

# WCL S2: Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard join West Indies Champions

AGENCIES  
LONDON

The World Championship of Legends Season 2 is on a marquee journey featuring former prominent international players in the era of Legends Cricket. Adding to the lineup, including cricketing greats who will take the field again, Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard will now rejoin professional T20 Cricket through West Indies Champions.



However, coming back to represent his core national team, the West Indies Champi-

ons, Dwayne Bravo, as quoted from a press release by WCL, said, "Last time I left cricket, my body wasn't prepared for what it could handle. Now it's imperative that with my full attention on returning to T20 cricket, I stay committed and perform well." During his international career from 2004 to 2021, Dwayne Bravo, a legend of T20 cricket who is currently in his late forties, was a superb all-rounder with re-

markable death bowling abilities. Bravo is also renowned for having amassed 631 wickets across 582 matches, making the Caribbean icon one of history's most prolific wicket-takers. Sharing the excitement of taking the field with Kieron Pollard in the World Championship of Legends' second season, Dwayne adds, "Me and Kieron have a partnership way before we started playing franchise cricket.

# Kevin De Bruyne set to say goodbye to Manchester City

AGENCIES  
MANCHESTER

Belgium midfielder and six-time Premier League winner Kevin De Bruyne is set to leave the Manchester City at the end of the season after playing for the club for 10 years.

The Belgium-born footballer joined the Manchester City club in 2015 from Wolfsburg for a fee of £54.5 million and has won every piece of top silverware in his 10 years with the club. He won a treble (Premier League, UEFA



Champions League, and FA Cup) for the City side back in 2022/23.

De Bruyne has won various

trophies with Manchester City multiple times, including the Premier League (2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24), FA Cup (2018/19, 2022/23), Carabao Cup (2015/16, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21), and FA Community Shield (2019, 2024).

De Bruyne is currently leading the Manchester City side in the ongoing Premier League 2024-25 season, where his team is placed in the fifth position on the points table. The Blues have managed to register 15 wins

and six draws (51 points) out of their 30 matches so far in the league. Talking to his official social media handle, the 33-year-old player announced his decision to leave the club at the end of the running season. "Dear Manchester, Seeing this, you probably realise where this is heading.

So I'll get straight to it and let you all know that these will be my final months as a Manchester City player. Nothing about this is easy to write, but as football players, we all know this day eventually comes.

# Chirag Duhan reaches first ITF M25 semifinal, set to face top seed Jay Clarke

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU

India's Chirag Duhan achieved a career milestone on Friday as the 21-year-old beat Ishaque Eqbal 6-2, 7-6 (1) to advance to the semifinals of the SM Krishna Memorial Open at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru. In the last four, he faces a fa-

miliar opponent: top seed Jay Clarke. Chirag lost to Clarke in Ahmedabad last week and is eager to set the record straight.

"I played him last week and although the scoreline may not suggest it, it was a close game. More than his game, I will focus on my game (to beat him). My focus will

remain on the things I can control, and we'll take it from there," he said. This is the first time Chirag has advanced to the singles semifinals of an ITF M25 level tournament. He laid the gauntlet early into the clash as he broke Ishaque's first service game to claim the early lead and then broke again in the sev-

enth game before closing out the set 6-2. The big-serving Indian rode the momentum into the second set as he once again broke Ishaque's serve in the second game as the latter tried to work his way back into the contest. Chirag found the lines on the crucial points and set himself up well when he broke in the eighth

game to lead 5-3, but Ishaque earned a break of his own as the players headed into a tie-break. Chirag was the aggressor from the get-go and raced away with the tie-breaker to reach the semifinals.

Chirag was the only Indian to progress to the singles semifinals as Karan Singh and Aryan Shah lost their

quarterfinal clashes. Karan was up against Jay Clarke and put up a brilliant fight in the first set before losing in the tie-breaker. Clarke proved to be too strong for the Indian in the second set as he breezed to a 5-1 lead and then saved three breakpoints before earning his spot in the semifinals.

Aryan faced a steep challenge against second seed Oliver Crawford and the Englishman needed all of 69 minutes to clinch the win. Crawford will face Ryuki Matsuda for a spot in the final. The Japanese earned a 6-4, 7-6 (3) victory over Maxim Zhukov to reach his first semifinal of

the year. The Indian duo of SD Prajwal Dev and Nitin Kumar Sinha cruised into the finals of the men's doubles after outfoxing their compatriots Parikshit Somani and Manish Sureshkumar. Prajwal and Nitin won 6-0 in the first set before winning the second set on the tiebreaker.