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Sunita Williams returns to Earth from space just 2 days after Kalpana Chawla's birthday



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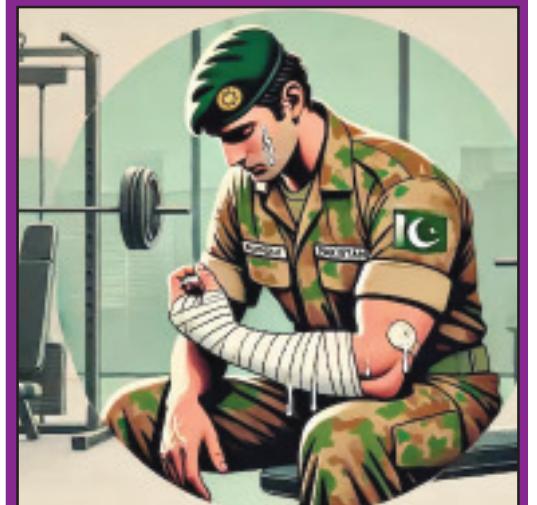
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Chandrababu Naidu meets Indian-origin teen who built AI app to detect heart disease

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met 14-year-old Siddharth Nandyala, an Indian-origin student who developed an AI-powered app that detects heart disease in seconds, praising his innovation and assuring government support.



(Sai Bureau)-Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met Indian-American student Siddharth Nandyala, the world's youngest AI-certified professional, who has developed an artificial intelligence-based application, 'CircadiaV,' capable of detecting heart diseases in just seven seconds.

The 14-year-old, originally from Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur and now living in the United States, is certified by Oracle and ARM, making him a recognised AI expert.

The app, designed to revolutionise early cardiovascular disease detection, uses smartphone-based heart sound recordings and has achieved an

accuracy rate of over 96 per cent. It has already been tested on more than 15,000 patients in the United States and 700 patients in India, including those at Guntur Government General Hospital. Siddharth personally conducted tests on patients at the hospital using a smartphone. Upon learning about Siddharth's breakthrough, Chandrababu Naidu invited him to the Secretariat for an in-depth discussion and personally congratulated him on his achievement. The meeting lasted nearly half an hour, during which the Chief Minister reviewed Siddharth's profile and encouraged him to continue his work in artificial intelligence and healthcare innovation. He reiterated his vision for global Telugu talent making significant contributions to science and technology and assured Siddharth of full support from the Andhra Pradesh government.

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also extended his congratulations to Siddharth. The young innovator was

accompanied by his father, Mahesh, and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav during the meeting. Following the interaction, Chandrababu Naidu shared his admiration for Siddharth's work on social media. "This 14-year-old has made detecting heart-related problems easier! I am absolutely delighted to meet Siddharth Nandyala, a young AI enthusiast from Dallas and the world's youngest AI-certified professional, holding certifications from both Oracle and ARM. Siddharth's app, Circadian AI, is a medical breakthrough that can detect heart-related issues within seconds." Expressing his admiration, Chandrababu Naidu further stated, "I am very impressed by Siddharth's extraordinary talent and dedication to using technology for the benefit of humankind. At such a young age, he is an inspiration to us all. I wholeheartedly encourage him to pursue his passion for healthcare technology and assure him of our full support in all his endeavours."

ED conducts searches on entities linked to George Soros in Bengaluru



(Sai Bureau)- The Enforcement Directorate conducted searches at the premises of Open Society Foundations (OSF), an organisation backed by US billionaire George Soros, along with some linked entities in Bengaluru, on Tuesday. The searches were carried out as part of an investigation into alleged foreign exchange violations, official sources said.

Authorities stated that the searches were being conducted under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and involved OSF as well as certain international human rights organisations. The case pertains to alleged foreign direct investment (FDI) being sourced

by OSF and the subsequent utilisation of these funds by certain beneficiaries in a manner that allegedly contravenes FEMA guidelines, they added.

OSF was not immediately available for comment on the Enforcement Directorate's action. George Soros, a Hungarian-American political activist and philanthropist, along with his organisations, including OSF, has previously faced accusations from the ruling BJP of acting against India's interests. His remarks during the Adani-Hindenburg controversy had also drawn sharp criticism from the party.

OSF began its operations in India in 1999.

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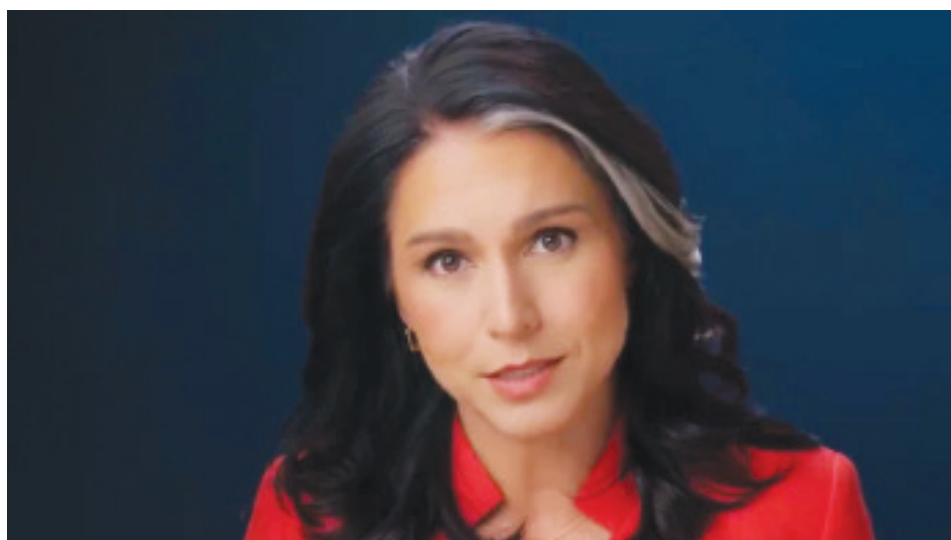
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Direct dialogue happening at very top: Tulsi Gabbard on US's India tariffs threat

India and the US have established a "direct dialogue at the very top" on the issue of tariffs, US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard said while reacting to US President Donald Trump's tariff threat on India.



(Sai Bureau)-US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Monday weighed in on President Donald Trump's tariff threat on India, saying New Delhi and Washington have established a "direct dialogue at the very top" over the issue.

In an interview with ANI Editor Smita Prakash, Gabbard, who is in Delhi, said both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trump were looking out for ways to boost economies that serve the interests of both countries.

"What I see as a great positive is that we have two leaders who have common sense and who are looking for good solutions. This direct dialogue is happening at the very top in both of our countries, but also at the different secretaries and the cabinet members is going to be key to lay down what that path forward really looks like," she said. "What I have heard from the Indian government officials that I have spoken to over the last few days, there is an opportunity here to see. There is more

potential for strengthening our economic relationship. I am glad to see that they are looking at it in a more positive light than just one that is focused in a negative way, when we look at tariffs," she added.

Gabbard said that both PM Modi and Trump were looking for a "good solution" on the issue of tariffs.

"PM Modi is looking out for what is in the best interest of India's economy and the opportunities available for the people of India. Similarly, President Trump is doing the same for the US, our economic interests and the interests of the American people," she added.

Trump has threatened to impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2 on India and most of America's trading partners for "having trade policies that are unfair to Americans".

Earlier this month, Trump renewed his criticism of India's "massive tariffs", calling New Delhi's trade policies restrictive. He earlier claimed that India agreed to bring down the tariffs on American products.

"You can't sell anything into India, it is

almost restrictive. They have agreed, by the way, they want to cut their tariffs way down now because somebody is finally exposing them for what they have done," he had said.

The US is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching a record USD 118.2 billion in the last financial year.

During the interview with ANI, Gabbard said PM Modi and Trump were good friends and that they would build on the foundation of the India-US partnership. "The tone and the relationship with our new administration under President Trump and Prime Minister Modi was set during Prime Minister Modi's visit to the White House. As you know, they are already good friends. It was a very great opportunity for them to share their joint vision for the US-India partnership and the opportunity for us to continue to strengthen that partnership," she said. Gabbard arrived in the national capital early on Sunday on a two-and-a-half-day trip in the first high-level visit to India by a top official of the Trump administration.

Why Indian Historian Is Facing Deportation From UK Over Research Trips

(Sai Bureau)-The UK Home Office has threatened to deport a highly qualified Indian historian from the University of Oxford because she spent too much time in her home country researching archives, The Guardian reported. Manikarnika Dutta, 37, is an



Oxford University historian whose research includes investigating archives in Indian cities and participating in overseas trips as part of her academic work. She moved to the UK in 2012 on a student visa for a master's degree at the University of Oxford. She later obtained a spouse visa as a dependent of her husband. In addition to denying her the right to stay in the UK based on the

number of days she spent overseas, the Home Office denied her the right to stay in the UK because she does not have a family life in Britain. This was despite her and her spouse being married for over ten years and residing in south London. The review states, "You must now leave the United Kingdom. If you don't leave voluntarily, you may be subject to a re-entry ban of 10 years and prosecuted for overstaying." Ms Dutta and her husband, Souvik Naha, applied for an indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK in October last year on the grounds of staying in the country for a longer period. The UK Home Office approved her husband's application but rejected Ms Dutta's. The reason for rejection was that she didn't meet certain requirements. People who apply for ILR, a permanent stay in the UK without needing a visa, should have lived in the UK for a specific number of years. The UK immigration rules also state that a person cannot be outside the country for more than 548 days in over 10 years. However, Ms Dutta was away for 691 days, 143 days more than the limit.

Missing Sudiksha Konanki's Parents Ask Cops To Declare Her Dead: Reports

The family of Indian student Sudiksha Konanki, who went missing while on vacation in the Dominican Republic, has asked the police to declare her dead, according to US media reports. 20-year-old Sudiksha Konanki, a citizen of India and a permanent resident of the United States, was last seen on March 6 at the Riu Republic Resort in Punta Cana town. US federal law enforcement agencies have been working with authorities in the Caribbean country while investigating her disappearance. Despite an extensive search, her body has not been found. Dominican Republic National Police spokesperson Diego Pesqueira said Ms Konanki's family has sent the agency a letter requesting a declaration of death, NBC News reported on Tuesday.

The Konanki family did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday night. Authorities in the Dominican Republic have confiscated the passport of

the man who is the last person known to have been with Ms Konanki, according to a source close to the investigation, CNN News reported. Dominican Republic Attorney General Yeni Berenice Reynoso interviewed Joshua Steven Riibe over the weekend for more than six hours, and the questioning is expected to continue with a local prosecutor, the source said.

Mr Riibe is not considered a suspect in the case and has not been accused of wrongdoing. It's unclear why Mr



Riibe's passport was confiscated. Since Ms Konanki went missing in the early hours of March 6, Mr Riibe, a 22-year-old from Rock Rapids, Iowa, and a senior at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, has remained under police surveillance in the Dominican Republic. He has been taken to the police station for interrogation multiple times, his parents said in a statement.

Sunita Williams To Finally Return To Earth After Over 9 Months

Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams flew to the orbital lab in June 2024, on what was supposed to be a days-long roundtrip to test out Boeing's Starliner on its first crewed flight.

(Sai Bureau)-After more than nine months aboard the International Space Station, a pair of astronauts are finally set to depart for Earth early Tuesday, ending a prolonged mission that has captivated global attention.

Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams flew to the orbital lab in June last year, on what was supposed to be a days-long roundtrip to test out Boeing's Starliner on its first crewed flight.

But the spaceship developed propulsion problems and was deemed unfit to fly them back, instead returning empty without more major problems.

Ex-Navy pilots Wilmore and Williams, 62 and 59 respectively, were instead reassigned to the NASA-SpaceX Crew-9 mission, which saw a Dragon spacecraft fly to the ISS last September with a team of two, rather than the usual four, to make room for the "stranded" pair.

Then, early Sunday, a relief team called Crew-10 docked with the station, their arrival met with broad smiles and hugs as they floated through the hatch.



Crew-10's arrival clears the way for Wilmore and Williams to depart, along with American Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov.

After big hugs with the crew remaining on the ISS, the quartet entered the capsule and closed its hatch at 11:05 pm (0305 GMT Tuesday).

Following a series of final checks, the craft is scheduled to undock at 1:05 am (0505 GMT).

If all goes smoothly, the Dragon craft will deploy its parachutes off the coast of Florida for an ocean splashdown, where a recovery vessel will retrieve the crew.

'Unbelievable resilience'

Wilmore and Williams' stay surpasses the standard six-month ISS rotation but ranks only sixth among US records for single-mission duration.

Frank Rubio holds the top spot at 371 days in 2023, while the world record re-

mains with Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov, who spent 437 consecutive days aboard the Mir station.

That makes it "par for the course" in terms of health risks, according to Rihana Bokhari of the Center for Space Medicine at Baylor College.

Challenges such as muscle and bone loss, fluid shifts, and readjusting to gravity are well understood and well managed.

"Folks like Suni Williams are actually known for their interest in exercise, and so I believe she exercises beyond what is even her normal prescription," Bokhari told AFP.

Still, the unexpected nature of their extended stay -- away from their families and initially without enough packed supplies -- has drawn public interest and sympathy. "If you found out you went to work today and were going to be stuck in your office for the next nine months, you might have a panic attack," Joseph Keebler, a psychologist at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, told AFP.

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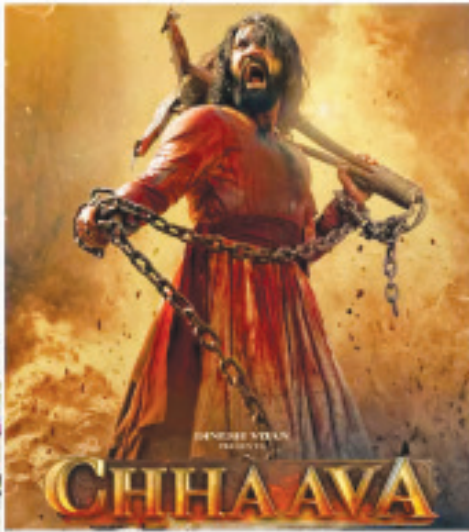
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Nagpur violence: Devendra Fadnavis says 'Chhaava' ignited anger against Aurangzeb

Devendra Fadnavis blamed Vicky Kaushal-starrer Chhaava for igniting anger in people against Aurangzeb as clashes in Nagpur left 30 injured.



(News Agency)- "Chhaava movie ignited people's anger against Aurangzeb," said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis while speaking about Nagpur clashes in the state Assembly. At least 30 people were injured, and several vehicles were charred during the violent clashes that broke out in Hansapuri and Mahal areas of the city on Monday evening.

The Chief Minister also reiterated the "planned attack" claim by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and assured that strict action will be taken against those involved in the clashes.

"Chhaava movie has ignited people's anger against Aurangzeb still, everyone must keep Maharashtra peaceful," he said blaming the Vicky Kaushal-starrer biopic movie of Chhatrapati

Sambhaji. Speaking in the Assembly on Nagpur violence, he added, "In Nagpur, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal held protests. Rumours were spread that things containing religious content were burnt.... It looks like a well-planned attack. No one has permission to take law and order into their hands." Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde condemned the Nagpur violence, calling it a pre-planned attack aimed at spreading communal unrest. "The incident which took place in very unfortunate. Around 2,000 to 3,000 people gathered and attacked the houses in Mominpura, Chitnis Nagar, and other areas. They pelted stones and attacked them... Does this mean that this was pre-planned... Not only did they attack the common people, but they also attacked police officials. Such people are trying to spread communal violence. Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis is closely monitoring the investigation and any of the persons behind this will not be spared," said Shinde.

CURFEW IN NAGPUR

Meanwhile, a political row erupted with Opposition leaders blaming the state and Central governments for the law and order situation in the city.

Congress leader Renuka Chowdhury gave a suspension notice in Rajya Sabha over the 'complete breakdown of communal harmony and law and order' in the Maharashtra district.

"That this house do suspend zero hour and relevant rules relating Question Hour and other scheduled business to deliberate on the complete breakdown of communal harmony and law and order in Nagpur, Maharashtra. In its 300 years of dynamic existence, Nagpur has never experienced riots," read the notice.

A curfew has been imposed in several areas of Nagpur after violence broke out on Monday evening over a call to move the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb out of Maharashtra. Over 60 rioters were taken into custody, and about 30 vehicles were set on fire after a massive clash between two groups in the Mahal area of the city.

Aurangzeb row: How rumours of burning of religious content led to Nagpur violence

Nagpur violence: Several vehicles were torched in large-scale arson and vandalism as two communities clashed in Nagpur. The administration has banned large gatherings.

(News Agency)-Rumours of burning of religious content during a demonstration in Nagpur by right-wing groups seeking the removal of the tomb of Aurangzeb appear to have sparked the violence on Monday. Several vehicles were torched in large-scale arson and vandalism as two communities clashed in Nagpur, prompting police to fire tear gas and resort to lathi charges to bring the situation under control.

Stones were also thrown at the homes of residents in Chitnis Park and Mahal area. Nearly 30 police personnel have been injured in the violence, with the administration clamping prohibitory orders banning large gatherings. Police said over 60 rioters had been detained. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, speaking in the Assembly, said the violence was "planned". "Rumours were spread that things containing religious content were burnt... It looks like a well-planned attack,"



Fadnavis said.

Between 7-9 am, devotees organised a Shiv Jayanti program in front of the statue of Maratha icon Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Mahal area.

Around noon, around 40-50 workers of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal held a demonstration

demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb. During the protest, the demonstrators covered an effigy of the Mughal emperor with a 'chadar' and set it on fire.

Amid this, rumours of the burning of religious content started to spread, and several videos circulated on social

media.

Between 5 pm and 7 pm, several youths from the Muslim community started gathering in the area and shouted slogans. In a short span, thousands of youths came out on the streets and started pelting stones at the police. Around 7.30 pm, the violence escalated rapidly. Cars and bikes were set on fire and stones were thrown at several houses in the area. A crane was also set afire. The police initially resorted to baton charges, but when the situation escalated, they fired tear gas shells.

Initially, over 25 rioters were taken into custody. Around 5-6 civilians sustained injuries.

The Maharashtra Police's cyber wing has started an investigation into more than 100 social media accounts that allegedly fanned the flames.

Authorities have appealed to the public not to heed to rumours in view of old videos being circulated online.

Row over Bhindranwale's photo displayed on flags by tourists in Manali

A controversy erupted after a few tourists from Punjab displayed flags featuring a photo of Khalistani separatist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale on their bikes in Himachal Pradesh's Manali. The acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht took note of the incident.



(News Agency)-A controversy has erupted over a group of tourists from Punjab displaying a flag with Khalistani separatist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale's photo on their bikes in Himachal Pradesh's Manali.

A man named Subhash, a resident of Manali, filed a police complaint on March 14 when he saw two men from Punjab carrying a flag of Bhindranwale's photo. When he asked the men to remove the flag, the bikers threatened to kill him, police said. The bikers then faced a reprimand from locals who removed the flag from the bike's wooden mast.

Acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Giani

Kuldeep Singh Gargaj, took note of the incident, and said the "miscreants" tearing the Sikh flags and trampling on Bhindranwale's photos was unacceptable. The Jathedar said that when the police stopped people to check their vehicle documents, no "miscreant" had the right to mistreat young Sikh people or tear down Sikh flags displayed on their vehicles.

Manali DSP KD Sharma confirmed that action was taken against them under the Motor Vehicles Act, and a case was filed, based on the Manali resident's complaint. Police said the accused had been identified.

Bhindranwale was killed along with his armed followers at the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar during Operation Blue Star ordered by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984.

The Indian Army carried out the operation to kill Bhindranwale, the head of the Sikh religious sect Damdami Taksal, who had accumulated weapons inside the Golden Temple.

PUNJAB TOURISTS CREATE CHAOS IN MANIKARAN, KASOL

Meanwhile, two separate incidents involving some tourists from Punjab occurred in Manikaran and Kasol.

A scuffle broke out between bikers from Punjab and the owner of a village resort in Manikaran. According to the resort owner, the bikers got into an argument with a man and a woman.

When the resort owner appealed to them to stop the fight and remove an objectionable flag, the accused allegedly abused him and attacked his driver with swords and sticks.

In Kasol, a group of around 20 tourists from Punjab created chaos at the Special Area Development Authority (SADA) barrier. The tourists refused to pay the nominal maintenance fee, broke the barrier and proceeded to Manikaran, prompting the registration of a case

against them, Kullu SP Karthikeyan Gokulachandran said.

ACTING JATHEDAR REACTS ON 3 INCIDENTS IN HIMACHAL

Reacting to the three incidents in Himachal Pradesh, the acting Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj urged Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to take notice of such incidents and direct the state police to maintain law and order.

He said that some miscreants were trying to damage the communal harmony between Himachal Pradesh and Punjab and stressed that it was the Himachal Pradesh's government to curb anti-social elements. "These incidents give the impression that Himachal Pradesh Police are being controlled by local hooligans and miscreants," he alleged.

The acting Jathedar appealed to the Sikh people to keep their vehicle documents complete and avoid travelling alone.

He emphasised that the Himachal Pradesh government should ensure the safety of people of all religions and not allow hatred against any community to flourish openly.

"The police administration is failing to fulfil its responsibility and is instead fuelling an atmosphere of hatred against Sikhs," he alleged.

Beware of this fake government job scam

(News Agency)-Crores of jobless Indians are on the target of a variety of employment schemes. In such a fraud scheme, scammers have been found advertising a fictitious government job to entrap potential victims.

The Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana, the fictitious government employment scheme, claims to be run by the Ministry of Labour & Employment and advertises job openings across India, including work-from-home roles.

The creators of the website demand Rs 1,705 as registration fee from applicants.

A forensic analysis by India Today found the fraudulent website, gramodyogrojgaryojana[.]org was created on February 21 this year, raising red flags about its authenticity. Notably, there is no real scheme in the name of "Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana" though the Uttar Pradesh government runs a scheme named "Mukhyamantri Gramodyog Rojgar Yojana" which



provides subsidies on interest incurred on loans of up to Rs 10 lakh given to entrepreneurs in rural areas. The scheme, however, does not provide any jobs.

The fake job website requires applicants to fill out an online form and submit

personal details, including their phone number, before making the registration payment.

The application process, instead of being hosted on an official government portal, is conducted through a Google Form, a common approach used by

scammers. To look authentic, the website's "Organisation Awards" section features several images of people receiving awards at different ceremonies. In reality, the images were lifted off the internet and completely unrelated. For example, one of the images was captured at an event that felicitated school coordinators in Jammu and Kashmir.

Similarly, another image was picked from the award ceremony held at Vigyan Bhavan. It is worth noting that genuine government job listings are published on verified portals, and recruitment processes do not involve payments through unofficial channels. To prevent such scams, the Ministry of Home Affairs advises citizens to check the official websites of the government organisations before applying to any job advertised on social media or non-official websites. To check if a website belongs to a government organisation, look for domain address which must carry gov.in or nic.in.

Hathras professor accused of sexual assault by students, obscene videos surface

Several female students of a UP college accused a professor, Rajneesh Kumar, of sexual exploitation. Obscene videos and photos of the professor have sparked social media outrage.

(News Agency)-A chief proctor at a college in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras has been accused of sexual exploitation by several female students. The proctor, identified as Rajneesh Kumar, heads the Geography Department at PC Bagla College in Hathras.

Following the allegations, authorities suspended Rajneesh Kumar, the chief proctor of Bagla Degree College in Hathras. The college's principal, Dr Mahavir Singh, confirmed the suspension after the incident was reported. District officials have also taken note of the matter.

The UP Police registered a case against him under multiple sections, including rape. The incident came to light after several female students sent anonymous complaints to local police and the National Commission for Women (NCW). In their complaint, the students accused Rajneesh Kumar of sexual exploitation. They also shared photographs allegedly showing the chief proctor in objectionable positions with some students.

A Deputy Superintendent of Police



(DSP) conducted a preliminary investigation, verifying the allegations by speaking with the students visible in the photographs.

The Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) further examined the case and confirmed the authenticity of the accusations. Following the investigation report, the police registered an FIR and initiated legal proceedings against Rajneesh.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate has formed a four-member committee to

investigate, including the sub-divisional magistrate, deputy superintendent of police, tehsildar, and the district education officer. The committee has been given seven days to complete its probe. Videos of the proctor sexually assaulting students of the college are now going viral on social media, sparking widespread outrage. Reports claimed that he has been sexually assaulting girls for the past 20 years.

Earlier also an FIR was reportedly lodged against him, but he was proved

innocent. The professor used to call the girls to his office or bungalow and lure them with the promise of good grades in exams or giving them jobs. He reportedly also filmed videos and blackmailed the students to keep them silent.

The videos and photographs are now going viral on social media with people demanding strict action against him.

"If these allegations are true, then it is extremely shameful and reprehensible. Such incidents kept happening for 20 years and the administration remained silent - this shows the failure of the system. Strict action should be taken against the culprits, so that the safety of daughters can be ensured," a user wrote on X. Another user wrote, "A person with such a bad and cruel mentality has no right to remain a teacher. The department and administration should tell the public what action they have taken in this matter till now, because such an act can spoil the school as well as the society, so that our young generation does not have a negative attitude towards education."

Centre rejects Ramanagara renaming proposal, DK Shivakumar blames HD Kumaraswamy

The Centre rejected Karnataka's proposal to rename Ramanagara district as 'Bengaluru South,' but Congress leaders insist it is a state matter, accusing the opposition of political interference and delaying the region's development.

The Karnataka government's proposal to rename Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South was rejected by the Centre, sparking a fresh political battle between the ruling Congress and the opposition. While the Centre's refusal halted the renaming process, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar strongly asserted that the decision falls solely under the purview of the state government.

The proposal, first pushed by Shivakumar, was approved by the Karnataka Cabinet in July 2024. Following the Cabinet's decision, the state government submitted the request to the Union government for a no-objection approval. Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda was quoted by a news media saying the state government had "sent the proposal immediately after the Cabinet decision." "The response we received was not positive. The Centre did

not provide a specific reason for its refusal but simply stated that the state government need not proceed with the renaming exercise for the time being," Byregowda was quoted as saying. Reacting to the Centre's decision, Shivakumar accused the opposition of interfering in a state matter and playing divisive politics. He specifically blamed Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy for obstructing the process, despite all other departments giving a positive response. "Changing Ramanagara's name is a state subject. Some individuals have approached the Home Ministry to stall the process. However, we are aware of the legal framework and will implement it accordingly. When renaming a district, filing an affidavit is sufficient. This is our decision," Shivakumar asserted.

Further, he criticised the opposition's role in blocking the move, calling it "hate



politics" that directly affects the people of Ramanagara. "Their actions clearly demonstrate the kind of politics they engage in," he said. When asked if he was referring to Kumaraswamy's involvement, Shivakumar replied, "Who else? All departments have given a positive response; there was no need to even consult him." Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's legal advisor and Congress MLA AS Ponnanna also condemned the Centre's interference, stating that the Union government has a

history of renaming places for vote bank politics. "The Centre cannot decide the names of districts; this is an unnecessary overreach," Ponnanna remarked.

The move to rename Ramanagara district gained momentum in early July 2024, when a delegation led by Shivakumar met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and submitted a formal memorandum. The government argued that rebranding the district as Bengaluru South would accelerate development and provide better recognition for the region.

S Jaishankar Highlights UN's Blunder On Kashmir, Calls For New World Order

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar did not mince his words as he showed how the United Nations had faltered in its understanding and approach to the issue.

(News Agency)- The injustice done by the West at the UN over Kashmir was highlighted at The Raisina Dialogue - a global multilateral conference held in New Delhi each year. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar did not mince his words as he showed how the United Nations had faltered in its understanding and approach to the issue.

Mr Jaishankar noted that the "longest-standing" illegal occupation of a territory globally after World War II has been experienced by India - in Kashmir. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes Gilgit and Baltistan, called Northern Areas before 1970, had acceded to India in 1947. Pakistan, in a unilateral act of aggression, invaded Jammu and Kashmir and has been illegally occupying parts of the Indian Union since then. Speaking about Kashmir at the forum today, Mr Jaishankar

highlighted the selective approach and application of global rules on issues pertaining to sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As he raised concerns over historical injustices in dealing with certain issues, he batted for establishing a "reformed, strong, and fair" United Nations. Explaining how the UN had greatly erred in not condemning Pakistan's illegal occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Jaishankar said that the "attacker" (Pakistan) and the "victim" (India) were clubbed under the same bracket.

"We all speak of sovereignty and territorial integrity. All of us agree that it is a vital principle. It's the bedrock of global rules. After the Second World War, the longest standing illegal, I would say presence, occupation of a territory by another country pertains to India, what we saw in Kashmir," he said.

"Now we went to the UN, but

what was an invasion was made into a dispute. So the attacker and the victim were put on par. Who were the culpable parties? UK, Canada, Belgium, Australia, USA. So, pardon me, but I have some question marks on that one," the minister said.

Backing a reformed and strong UN, Mr Jaishankar said global norms and rules must be applied uniformly. "We need a strong UN but a strong UN requires a fair UN," he asserted.

"A strong global order must have some basic consistency of standards," he said, calling for a new and reformed world order.

"Look, I think we do need an international order just like we need a domestic order. Just like you need a society in a country, you need an international version of that and its not just big countries who will benefit if there is no order. I would argue that any country which would take risk, which would have an extreme positions, which would



test the system will actually use the disorder to its advantage. I mean we have seen in our own neighbourhood. You don't have to a big country to be a risky country. I have smaller neighbours who have done a pretty good job. So, first of all, we should all understand the importance of an order."

Citing another example without naming Pakistan and how the West has been selective in its outlook, Mr Jaishankar said "We (India) have military rule to our east - in Myanmar. They are no. But we have them even

more to the west. You know where? They seem to be okay (to the West). I think it's important to audit the working of the world for the last eight decades and be honest about it and to understand today that the balances, the share holdings in the world have changed. We need a different conversation. We need frankly in that sense a different order."

The minister made these remarks at the session on 'Thrones and Thorns: Defending the Integrity of Nations' at The Raisina Dialogue today.

West Bengal Assembly Passes Bill To Allow Women To Work In Bars

(News Agency)-The West Bengal assembly on Wednesday passed a bill to allow women to work in bars.



The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2025, was tabled by MoS Chandrima Bhattacharya in the assembly.

It seeks to amend the Bengal Excise Act, 1909, "to remove the prohibition on employment of woman in ON category liquor shops as such provision is discriminatory", among others.

While 'Of' shops are outlets that sell liquor, at 'On' shops, consumption of liquor is allowed on the premises. Concluding the discussions on the Bill, Bhattacharya said the state government does not believe in discrimination between men and women. Among other provisions in the Bill, it empowers the state government to monitor the supply of various raw materials, including jaggery, to prevent illegal liquor brewing, she said.

The Bill will also amend the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1944, to give tax relief to the tea industry, especially smaller tea gardens that have been facing hardship since the pandemic.

"There is no financial implication involved in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill," it said.

After 40 Years, Rape Survivor Gets Justice From Supreme Court

(News Agency)- Upholding a man's conviction in a 39-year-old rape case, the Supreme Court has commiserated with the woman and her family, who had to wait so long for closure.

"It is a matter of great sadness that this minor girl and her family have to go through nearly four decades of life, waiting to close this horrific chapter of her/their lives," said the bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, setting aside the Rajasthan High Court's July 2013 verdict acquitting the man.

The woman, who was a minor in 1986, was raped by a 21-year-old man. In November 1987, he was convicted by a trial court and given a seven-year jail term.

Over the years, the case ran the gamut of various court-rooms till it ended in the Rajasthan High Court, which acquitted him citing



the lack of strong statements from prosecution witnesses, including the assaulted child. "The child witness (victim), it is true, has not deposed anything about the commission of the offence against her. When asked about the incident, the trial judge records that 'V' (victim) was silent, and upon being further asked, only shed silent tears and nothing more," the bench said.

But this cannot be counted as a

factor in favour of the accused, the judges said. The silence of the child had stemmed from the trauma.

The silence of a child cannot be equated with that an adult survivor, which again has to be weighed in its own circumstances, the judges said. A child "traumatised at a tender age by this ghastly imposition upon her" cannot be the basis on which the accused can be put behind bars".

After Trump, the world in 2028

Given how different the world is in mid-March compared to mid-January, it is foolish to gaze into the future. But there is a value to thought experiments based on current trendlines. And in that spirit, in the week of the Raisina Dialogue, it is worth posing a set of macro questions about the post-Trumpian world in 2028.

The first question is if Donald Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement is a fleeting or an enduring political feature of the US. Beyond personalities, this politics is marked by hostility to the federal administrative State; a belief that the America-led international political and economic liberal order has harmed America; contempt for dependent allies and outreach to strong adversaries; White racial anger against America's changing demography and diversity; suspicion of elite institutions, scientific establishment and the knowledge infrastructure; disdain for climate science; and Christian fundamentalism and social conservatism on the question of race, gender and sexuality and the pedagogy around it. Just like 2014 marked the arrival of a new BJP on the Indian political stage, 2024 has marked the arrival of a new Republican Party which is carefully creating its own ideological ecosystem, grooming a second and third rung of leadership at all levels, removing constraints on power, and changing the norms and common sense that governed America. And, so, irrespective of electoral ebbs and flows, at least for the next decade or two, one pole of American national public life will be represented by this far-right stream of politics. The second question is if, after four years of Trump, America will be stronger or weaker. For all the talk of bipolarity and multipolarity, Trump's raw exercise of power has reminded the world how powerful the US still is on hard power metrics. A statement or a signature from a small room on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC can change European, West Asian and Indo-Pacific security, reverse climate action, redefine the global financial architecture and development paradigm, or even legitimise misinformation and hate speech globally. All of this is because America contributes over 25% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), is home to the tech giants who determine how we live, boasts a currency that is the world's reserve one, and has a lethal military responsible for the security of

dozens of countries. We do not know if Trump's relentless drive to bring manufacturing back to the US, empower American tech and finance, remove regulatory guardrails, extract resources globally, enhance American war-fighting abilities, perhaps even expand territory will make the country stronger or if his obsession with tariffs, unilateralism, hollowing out of the State, and hostility to liberal education and immigration will actually make it weaker.

But what is clear is America will be less free. Just see the assault on academic freedom, free press, and institutional checks and balances. America will also have fewer friends. Yes, Europe may have relied on American security (a quick crash course on the first 45 years of the 20th century will help contextualise why the US itself wanted this outcome that it now disowns). But it also resulted in Europe toeing the American line for most part. Trump's ideological, strategic and economic assault on Europe has left it with no choice but to get its act together. If the continent turns relatively more capable over time, it will also become relatively more autonomous. American ultra-nationalism in the western hemisphere is already producing strong currents of local nationalisms in Canada, Mexico, Panama, and Greenland. And in the Indo-Pacific, even treaty allies know that depending on the US to come to their rescue is no longer a rational bet and keeping America in good humour while building one's own capabilities is imperative. Beyond the bilateral dynamics, American retreat from multilateral institutions will erode its role as the power shaping norms and standards in a variety of domains. Its ability to sustain a wide network of political relationships in almost every country in the world will diminish. America First may well mean America Alone, the classic fate of imperialist, coercive and domineering powers. The third question is if China, in 2028, will be stronger or weaker than it was at the end of 2024. We again do not know, but there are indications that if China was relatively weaker vis-a-vis the US in 2024 than it was in 2020 largely due to its economic downturn and the coming together of a vast number of American partners and allies against it, it may well succeed in reversing the trend in the near-term. The Chinese political system is more stable and resilient than the American political system at the moment.

By Prashant Jha

Putin's tactical pause



Though a welcome step towards de-escalation, Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to halt attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure for 30 days is far from being the breakthrough for lasting peace. While President Donald Trump promotes this partial truce as progress, the reality is more complex. By refusing a full ceasefire and demanding an end to western military aid to Ukraine, Putin is setting terms that serve only Moscow's interests. The ceasefire focusses solely on energy infrastructure, and even that commitment appears shaky. Mere hours after Putin's call with Trump, Russian drones struck Ukrainian cities, including a hospital in Sumy. Meanwhile, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, though supporting the limited truce, remains cautious. His concerns are valid. The White House's handling of negotiations raises red flags. The upcoming peace talks in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, lack clarity on Ukraine's direct participation. Trump's claim that military aid to Ukraine was "not

discussed" contradicts the Kremlin's assertion that it is central to Russia's demands. European leaders, including Germany's Olaf Scholz and France's Emmanuel Macron, remain wary. They rightly emphasise that Ukraine must be fully involved in any settlement. A deal that legitimises Russian territorial gains or weakens Ukraine's military standing would only prolong the conflict and embolden future aggression. Yet, dismissing talks entirely would be a mistake. This brutal war has stretched into its third year, leaving hundreds of thousands dead, displacing millions and devastating cities. A lasting peace must be the ultimate goal — not just a fragile truce that prolongs suffering. Diplomacy must aim beyond temporary ceasefires to secure Ukraine's sovereignty and regional stability. Peace must emerge from negotiations that uphold international law. Without a firm commitment to a just resolution, the war will continue at immense human and economic cost.

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Trump, In His MAGA Quest, Is Actually Just 'Surrendering'

By Abhishank Mishra

Last month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Washington for a pre-planned friendly yet carefully calibrated meeting with United States President Donald Trump. The meeting, which started as a free-flowing, open-ended exploration, quickly devolved into a heated exchange on the terms of the ceasefire in the Ukraine-Russia war. As the Oval Office went into meltdown, there was an evisceration of all notions of decency or morality that characterise diplomatic exchange. The media attention garnered by it fed a sadistic spree of both reactionary outrage and communal, contagious celebration of cruelty on the internet.

This diplomatic blow-up transpired due to two fundamental yet flawed assumptions persisting in public diplomacy: first, an 'engagement delusion', that a genuine rather than contrived dialogue can take place between asymmetrical powers. Second, that 'control mutuality' can prevail, which allows all entities in an engagement process to possess a reasonable degree of rightful power that can be utilised to



influence one another. Mimicking the one-way communication typical to the post-9/11 Bush era, Trump utilised the public engagement with Zelensky mainly for persuasion and coercive bargaining, displaying an acute intent to utilise the power asymmetry between the two countries to his advantage. While this certainly bolstered Trump's reputation within his domestic constituency of being a tough negotiator who always puts 'America first', these tactics also come at the cost of undermining American effectiveness in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

America's Strategic Surrender Under Trump, America's approach to war has been

perplexing. Firstly, the US administration signalled a strong intent at being the sole arbiter to ending this conflict while arguing that Europe alone must financially aid and enforce an outcome it has not been involved in determining. Secondly, by setting stringent limitations on the resources it is willing to commit, America pre-emptively weakened its negotiating position. Thirdly, completely antithetical to his suggestion in his book *The Art of the Deal*, in which Trump mentions that "the worst thing you can possibly do in a deal is seem desperate to make it", Trump is showing an urgency and desperation to end the war that is only going to enable Russia to manipulate this haste, gradually escalate the

price, and compound on the concessions it exacts from agreeing to stop the war.

Through this policy of extending unilateral concessions to the aggressor, America is, in essence, preemptively ceding long-held positions to Russia in the possibility of ending a conflict it is not even fighting. This policy of 'orderly capitulation...to obtain political concession' is not a novel one but one that none other than the United States intelligence community in 1957 deemed a policy of 'strategic surrender'.

Trump's New Isolationism

America withdrawing its support to Ukraine in its war against Russia, as a function of Trump's cultural conservatism, anti-globalist vision and antipathy towards all liberal institutional arrangements, including NATO, threatens to squander hard-won gains in the Western hemisphere. It also erodes American initiative, which is the willingness and capability to mobilise other states to solve common problems, and, inadvertently, damages foreign policy instruments painstakingly built over the past 50 years.

These instruments lent competence and global acceptability to America's decisions. Even though Trump's transactional foreign policy will succeed in extracting a better bargain from countries that seek security guarantees, it will also give perceived allies exit options to those allies that are persistently growing more independent and entrepreneurial in their alignment, thus potentially pushing them towards rival great powers.

This US posture to the first full-scale war in Europe since the Second World War will not only endanger Europe, America's largest trade and investment partner, but will also globally enhance Russia's power and attractiveness as an ally, bolstering its resolve to fulfil its vision of forging, as Putin puts it, a "completely new world order ... unlike what we know from the past, for example, the Westphalian or Yalta systems". The international order is already in flux in ways that are outside of American control, and in this period of transition, it needs a nuanced sense of the powers and advantages it possesses as a country.

India Should Push Trump To Be Practical About Chabahar



By Aditi Bhaduri

"Connectivity is crucial in our century...Armenia is deeply interested in advancing dialogue and developing cooperation in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) Project and the Chabahar Port Development Commission." These words were spoken by the Foreign Minister of Armenia Ararat Mirzoyan last week in New Delhi when he delivered the 52nd Sapru House Lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs.

Armenia is a landlocked country and connectivity is an urgent issue.

Given its location north of Iran and the need for sea access and access to the markets and goods of countries like India and further to Southeast Asia or even West Asia, connecting to the Chabahar port in Iran is imperative. That is why the country had signed on to the port project as early as 2021.

Why Chabahar Is Important For India

Armenia is not alone in understanding the benefits of being part of the Chabahar port project. Afghanistan is another country that has hugely benefited from the port. Possibly, it has

been its greatest beneficiary and a *raison d'être* for India developing the port. The route has enabled India to deliver crucial humanitarian aid to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan, since 2012. In fact, India invested in the construction of the Zaranj-Delaram highway in Afghanistan, with Zaranj close to the Iranian border, precisely to transport freight to Afghanistan from Chabahar. It has also invested in the Chabahar-Zahedan railway, though this project has moved at a painfully slow pace because of the sanctions the US imposed on Iran for its nuclear programme. Only the Chabahar port, being so important as it is for India's outreach to Afghanistan, as also as a means to counter Pakistan's influence there, was spared from sanctions in 2012 under Section 1244 of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA). Since then, successive US administrations have continued with the waiver granted to the project.

Now, US President Donald Trump, in office for the second time, has implemented a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran, targeting its banking sector and other economic activities. This has also included reimposing sanctions on the Chabahar port, revoking all waivers. An executive order Trump issued called for modifying or rescinding sanctions waivers, "particularly those that provide Iran with any degree of economic or financial relief, including those related to Iran's Chabahar port project".

India's Commitment

This would make it very difficult for India to continue business through and related to the port. New Delhi has earmarked \$500 million for the development of the port, with the work being done by India Ports Global Limited (IPGL). Even with all the uncertainty surrounding Iran and the port and the intensifying conflict between Iran and Israel,

India signed a 10-year contract in May last year for the operation of the Chabahar port. This move signalled an enormous resolve, though the US State Department responded by saying, "Broadly, you've heard us say this in a number of instances, that any entity, anyone considering business deals with Iran, they need to be aware of the potential risk that they are opening themselves up to and the potential risk of sanctions."

A Crucial Link

Chabahar is important for India for a number of reasons. It connects India to the markets and resources of Afghanistan, Armenia, the Eurasian heartland, including those of the five Central Asian Republics—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—through the shortest routes, all bypassing the Suez, which has over the past years proven to be not as invincible as once believed.



Ukraine May Be Staring At A 'Frozen' Conflict

By Naresh Kaushik

During the infamous televised confrontation with Volodymyr Zelensky earlier this month, Donald Trump shouted at the Ukrainian leader saying, "You don't have any cards." Trump was right as he also reminded Zelensky that he was losing the war with Russia and wouldn't survive without US support.

Trump briefly withdrew military support and intelligence-sharing from Ukraine, forcing it to eventually accept the 30-day ceasefire deal after talks with American officials in Saudi Arabia. That shifted the world's attention to Moscow. Will it accept or reject the ceasefire deal?

Russian leader Vladimir Putin's first reaction to the ceasefire proposal last Thursday was a conditional 'yes', knowing that, unlike Zelensky, he has cards to play. "The idea itself is correct, and we certainly support it," Putin said at a news conference in Moscow. "We agree with the proposals to halt the fighting, but we proceed from the assumption that the ceasefire should lead to lasting peace and remove the root causes of the crisis," he said.

Putin Is Playing A Long Game

Putin could not have rejected the ceasefire outrightly. That would have annoyed Trump. He wants to play a long game where he wants relations with the US to go back to normal, all sanctions lifted, such that he is back at the top table of global politics. But he also wouldn't like to have an immediate ceasefire at a time when his military is making gains in Ukraine. It has now almost recaptured the

entire Kursk region, which he visited last Wednesday in military fatigues.

Putin wants to drag negotiations until his objectives are met. He will try to appear cooperative while playing for time and use the situation on the ground to get the maximum concessions possible. He would also like the Western military supply to Ukraine to be stopped during the ceasefire period. He wants to know who would ensure that this is verified.

Zelensky has already warned the world about Putin's intentions. He has described Putin's comments as 'manipulative' and said the Russian leader was "essentially preparing to reject" the ceasefire proposal. But the Kremlin has said it is "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire, a term also used by US officials about the proposal. Trump said the US had "good and productive discussions with Putin". He was referring to his envoy Steve Witkoff's talks with the Russian leader in Moscow last Thursday.

Trump is now set to speak with Putin to discuss Russia's view on the truce. The US President is keen to have a ceasefire in force within days and a peace deal to be signed quickly. He looks like a man in a hurry as he wants to focus attention on other pressing issues and cement his legacy.

Is The Korean Armistice A Model For Peace In Ukraine?

Trump appears to be as impatient as Mao was in 1951, when he wanted to conclude a peace agreement to end the Korean war in two weeks. Instead, the negotiations lasted for two years and the document

signed on July 27, 1953, was not a peace deal but the armistice agreement that ended the three-year-old war. The peace deal was never signed.

So, though a Ukrainian armistice is likely, we need to understand that the Korean War was a proxy conflict between the US and China, fought on Korean soil, unlike the one in Ukraine. The armistice was signed by military commanders from China and North Korea on one side, with the US-led United Nations Command signing on behalf of the international community.

Syngman Rhee's then-government in South Korea did not sign the deal as he wanted to continue fighting for Korean unification. It was the Chinese who put pressure on the North Koreans to sign it. A proper peace agreement would have required both Koreas to agree.

Nonetheless, there still is a similarity between the Korean conflict and the one in Ukraine. Putin and Zelensky are miles apart from agreeing on a lasting peace deal, despite claiming that they both want it.

What Will A Deal Be Like?

Putin's idea of the root causes of the war threatens Ukraine's existence as a sovereign state. When he invaded the country three years ago, he wanted it to be part of Russia. He has already succeeded in capturing most of Donbas during the current conflict. Ukraine's Crimea region was annexed by Russia in 2014. Zelensky can't afford to sign a deal where he allows Putin to keep large parts of Ukraine. So, an immediate ceasefire followed by an armistice is fine, but not a

peace deal. In an armistice, he may allow Russia to keep Crimea but ask for Donbas. Putin is unlikely to agree to even that.

The Trump administration has said that Kyiv can't get back all the territory it has lost to Russia. It appears to have also accepted Putin's other core demand: that Ukraine should not be allowed to join NATO. So, Zelensky will be negotiating from a position of weakness.

Kursk: The Biggest Blunder Of Kyiv
Ukraine's position has been further weakened by its ill-fated offensive last August in Russia's Kursk region, which is now seen as its biggest strategic mistake. The surprise offensive, which resulted in Kyiv quickly capturing hundreds of kilometres of Russian territory, was hailed in the West as a clever move that could be used as a bargaining chip in future peace negotiations.

It was also believed then that Russia would be forced to move its forces from other occupied areas of Ukraine. But Russia, with the help of North Korean soldiers, fought back and slowly regained its territory. Russia now says it has regained control of the region's main town, Sudzha. According to Trump, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers have been surrounded by the Russian military in Kursk. He urged Russia to spare their lives. Putin, in turn, responded by saying that Ukrainians would be treated with "dignity in line with the norms of international law and the laws of the Russian Federation" if they gave up arms and surrendered.

How Serious Is Pakistan's 'Internal Meltdown'?



By Syed Ata Hasnain

Between 2020 and 2025, Baloch separatist insurgents carried out at least 14 documented attacks against Chinese nationals, resulting in 20 fatalities and 34 injuries. More than 400 Pakistani security personnel have also died in similar attacks. Despite this sustained militant activity—particularly by the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA)—the Baloch separatist movement has not posed an existential threat to Pakistan. The movement has maintained unity and focus, with various factions operating without internal divisions. Alongside militant insurgents, rights groups have also been active.

Two Activists

The late Karima Baloch, former chairperson of the Baloch Students Organization-Azad (BSO-Azad), advocated for Baloch rights and independence despite living in exile in Canada due to threats and state persecution. Even from abroad, she remained a powerful international voice for the Baloch cause. Her mysterious death in Toronto in December 2020—widely suspected by Baloch activists to be an assassination orchestrated by Pakistani intelligence agencies—became a rallying point for the Baloch diaspora, bringing global attention to their struggle.

Another prominent activist is Mahrang Baloch, a young doctor and human rights advocate who has emerged as a leading figure in the current Baloch rights movement. Known for her protests against enforced disappearances—particularly

after her father was abducted and killed by security forces—she and many others call for provincial autonomy, devolution of education and social justice, as well as a peaceful resolution to Balochistan's conflict.

What The Baloch Movement Really Is About

I highlight these figures because, amid the recent train hijacking and the alleged killing of several Pakistani servicemen, many may have overlooked the fact that the Baloch independence movement is not solely about violent separatism. A non-militant front has long been active, though the Pakistani establishment and deep state have largely ignored it. It often takes a high-profile act of violence—such as 9/11, the October 7 Hamas attack, or the December 16, 2014, Peshawar Army School attack—to jolt a state into acknowledging an emerging threat.

The BLA's hijacking of the Jaffar Express on March 13 and the alleged killing of numerous Pakistani security personnel after the release of innocent passengers have given the militant separatist movement in Balochistan unprecedented momentum. This event was designed for mass impact, much like the October 7 Hamas attack in 2023 at the Gaza-Israel border, which resulted in 1,200 deaths and nearly 250 hostages being taken. Just as Hamas sought to revive the Palestinian issue amid concerns that the Abraham Accords would sideline it, the BLA aimed to reinvigorate the Baloch separatist movement and prevent it from losing

steam.

Aggression Can't Be Default

Additionally, the Baloch may have perceived the recent surge in terrorist attacks by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as a competing force dominating Pakistan's security landscape. With the world at a crossroads in an unpredictable new order, the BLA's actions were intended to attract global attention and sympathy. However, such a bold move is also likely to provoke a severe and prolonged response from Pakistan's political and security establishment—an approach that has historically been its default response, rather than seeking dialogue or negotiation. This very mindset led to the separation of Bangladesh in 1971, as Pakistan failed to recognise the power of the people or its own shortcomings in crisis management.

Pakistan is no stranger to violence or to the aggressive responses it has traditionally favoured. However, Balochistan's terrain does not lend itself to an easy counterinsurgency fight—any military engagement risks entangling Pakistan in an extended, unwinnable conflict. Deploying additional troops, helicopters, and other force multipliers creates vulnerable assets on the ground, and given that Balochistan makes up over 40% of Pakistan's territory, the state cannot effectively control it all.

History Lessons

Pakistan has experience dealing with separatist militancy and terrorism, but it has never succeeded in completely

neutralising such movements. The most glaring example is East Pakistan—now Bangladesh—where Yahya Khan's heavy-handed approach led to the region's eventual secession. The Pakistan Army's leadership has long been steeped in a culture of machismo, believing that applying greater force than the adversary will resolve all problems. This approach offers temporary reprieve at best—never a permanent solution. Yahya Khan followed it in 1971, with disastrous consequences. A similar dynamic unfolded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), where the military deployed helicopter gunships, tanks, and artillery, razing entire villages to deny the TTP its support base. Operation Zarb-e-Azb (2014–2018) brought temporary peace, but the Pakistan Army mistakenly believed it had achieved lasting success. The flaw in Pakistan's counterinsurgency doctrine is its failure to grasp the nuances of conflict resolution and termination. This is evident not only in asymmetric warfare but also in conventional military strategy—seen most notably in the Kargil conflict, where General Pervez Musharraf miscalculated that surprise and deception would secure Pakistan a victory. He failed to anticipate India's professional and determined response.

Pakistan now faces a similarly grave miscalculation in Balochistan. Whether it acknowledges it or not, the situation demands more than just brute force—it requires a fundamental shift in strategy, one that prioritises political engagement over military suppression.

The TTP Experience

A temporary lull in the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) operations led to the flawed assumption that it had been defeated. In reality, the TTP's core sustenance and support came from across the border in Afghanistan. It was revived the moment the Taliban began pursuing broader ambitions of establishing their version of Islamic dominance in the region. Now, the TTP is back in full force, adding to Pakistan's woes. A similar resurgence could occur if Pakistan's only response to the Baloch Liberation Army's (BLA) actions is military and kinetic in nature. Without meaningful outreach to the local population and concrete efforts to demonstrate that Balochistan receives its fair share of national resources, the separatist movement is unlikely to weaken. Similar grievances exist in Sindh, as well as in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan.



Sudan Is Staring At A Second Partition, Thanks To Two Warlords

By Mahesh Sachdev

As the civil war in Sudan approaches its second anniversary on April 15, the hapless country seems hurtling towards a complex and divisive denouement. The next phase of developments in Sudan, Africa's third largest country by area bordering seven countries and the strategic Red Sea, would have far-reaching consequences for the politically fragile Horn of Africa.

The situation is already dire. In a testimony to the UN Security Council last week, the UNICEF chief disclosed that the ongoing conflict has evolved into the world's most severe humanitarian emergency, affecting 30 million individuals, two-thirds of Sudan's population. More than 14 million—over a quarter of Sudanese—have been displaced, including nearly 3.5 million forced to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries. The number of casualties is put at a minimum of 20,000. However, given the wide extent of undocumented, no-holds-barred brutality unleashed by the conflict, the actual figure may well be many times higher. In economic terms, the losses are put at \$15 billion and the national GDP is expected to decline by 48% in 2025.

Where It All Started

Large and multi-ethnic Sudan is no stranger to civil strife and misgovernance. Since independence in 1956, the country has had 15 military coups and two civil wars that killed 1.5 million people and resulted in the eventual secession of South Sudan in 2011.

For the past two decades, a conflict in the western region of Darfur has been waged by the infamous Janjaweed militia against local non-Arab Muslims, cumulatively killing over 2 lakh people and displacing two million.

The genesis of the current crisis lies in the 30 years of autocracy by dictator Omar Hassan al-Bashir. He was overthrown in a military coup in April 2019 after months of popular protests. The Transitional Military Council signed framework agreements with citizens' groups to create a joint military-civilian sovereignty council and draft a new constitution. However, this civilian-military cohabitation collapsed after wobbling for two years. A military coup followed in October 2021 that installed Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, Chief of Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), as the head of state. Although street protests demanding complete civilian rule and international pressures revived a power-sharing framework, it fared no better. Simultaneously, the hitherto autonomous Rapid Support Force (RSF), a paramilitary militia led by Gen Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, rejected the December 2022 draft framework and proposed its integration into the SAF, thus pushing the multi-pronged chaos over the edge. On April 15, 2023, an armed conflict ensued between an estimated 3,00,000-strong SAF and the RSF, which had nearly 1,00,000 well-armed

fighters. Beneath the ideological and ethnic trappings are the unadulterated ambitions of the two warlords. The ongoing mayhem has completely drowned the *raison d'être* of the crisis: the demand for civilian rule.

No Ceasefires Have Held

The bitter and bloody civil war in Sudan has defied several peace-making attempts in Jeddah, Doha, Geneva and elsewhere. Even the short-term ceasefires have not held. For the initial few months, the hostilities remained inconclusive and the foreign involvement was low. However, in the past few months, the SAF seems to have got the upper hand. It has recently notched several successes against the RSF in the centre and adjoining southern areas. It has retaken most of the national capital Khartoum-Omdurman and has wrested Wadi al-Madani (see map below), the capital of al-Gazeera province, a strategically important cross-road and the country's bread-basket. However, the RSF still controls the vast region of Darfur in the west, where the SAF's solitary perch at el-Fasher is under its siege. It also has a hold on West Kordofan province bordering South Sudan, which was ceded as a separate country in 2011 after decades of civil war. Several other areas of Sudan are either under contestation or are under the control of independent tribal militias with shifting loyalties. Pretending To Speak For Sudan

The military situation on the ground and geopolitical alignments predicate a *de facto* partition of the country. This shift seems to have prompted both sides to unveil their respective plans to lure uncommitted stakeholders—both domestic and foreign-based. In late February, the RSF and its allies signed a 'founding charter' of a breakaway government of a 'New Sudan', designed to pull legitimacy from the existing army-led government and facilitate advanced arms imports. The 'new constitution' formally establishes a government and maps out what it describes as a federal, secular state, split into eight regions. Although the RSF and its allies have said the government will be formed in the coming weeks, it is still unclear who will be in it or where it will operate from. The SAF-led junta has countered these moves by announcing on February 25 that its plan envisages forming a transitional government under a civilian prime minister and initiating a national dialogue with political and civil society groups, eventually leading to free and fair elections. On March 13, the Sudanese Foreign Minister claimed that consultations have begun to launch an inclusive political process aimed at forming a technocratic government to lead the country through the transitional period, with a focus on reconstruction. Needless to add, both these warring factions pretend to speak for Sudan.



PM Modi Podcast: An Alternate View

By Derek O'Brien

The Prime Minister's podcast to a friendly interviewer was a master class in how to attempt to set a narrative. Soft questions. No follow-ups. A popcorn Q&A, then coated with caramel and served up by news platforms falling over each other to please the Masterchef. The key words from the podcast were then plated, garnished and impeccably presented as headlines, tweets and tickers across the media smorgasbord. Let's take up some of these keywords (the eight crossheads in this column) from that sugary podcast, and present an alternate view.

1. Himalayas (embracing the solitude of the mountains)

The Prime Minister gave a ten minute answer on the podcast where he explained how he sought the higher purpose of living - testing his bodily strength in that pursuit. All very noble. Now the reality: between 2014

and 2023, 736 people died cleaning sewers and septic tanks. Sixty-seven lakh children go without food every day. Thirty farmers commit suicide every day.

The Prime Minister shared that, as a child, he chose to skip a family wedding to take care of a Swamiji who was on fast. Very thoughtful.

Today, Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on a hunger strike for over 100 days demanding MSP and other rights for farmers. Yet, the Prime Minister has not met him. For over a year, protesting farmers sat on the borders of Delhi; 750 lost their lives.

2. RSS (shaped my life)

While banning RSS, Sardar Patel had famously said, "Undesirable and even dangerous activities have been carried out by members of the Sangh. It has been found that in several parts of the country, individual members of Rashtriya

Swayamsevak Sangh have indulged in acts of violence involving arson, robbery, dacoity, and murder and have collected illicit arms and ammunition."

When Mahatma Gandhi initiated the Dandi March and Quit India Movement, RSS founder K. B. Hedgewar declared that the organisation would not take part. Savarkar justified rape as a political weapon. He apologised no less than four times to the British.

3. Criticism (is the soul of democracy)

Since PM Modi came to power in 2014, how many press conferences has he addressed? Since 2014, the Prime Minister has not answered even a single parliamentary question under his name. No question has been balloted for the Prime Minister since 2016 in Rajya Sabha and since 2019 in Lok Sabha.

Under his watch, critics and activists have been arrested

under laws like UAPA. Conviction rate, though, of only 2.54% between 2014 and 2022. Siddique Kappan. Father Stan Swamy. Umar Khalid.

4. Heritage (I grasped the depth of our heritage)

"Rationalization" of textbooks erases Muslims from India's history. Mughal history in grades 7 to 12 is now severely limited, with minimal coverage of its emperors and historical texts. The 11th-grade History textbook included the sentence, "Mahatma Gandhi was convinced that any attempt to make India into a country only for Hindus would destroy India," but it was subsequently removed. The explanation offered: "The contents of textbooks have been modified to help students build a positive mindset to develop an innate understanding of the drivers of social changes..."

In 2022, when activists protested against communal remarks

made by BJP leaders, the Uttar Pradesh government responded by demolishing homes. The Chief Minister's media adviser shared an image of a home being demolished and tweeted: "Unruly elements remember, every Friday is followed by a Saturday."

5. Education (children are not trophies)

Half of Class VIII students in rural areas across the country struggle with basic division, a skill typically taught in Classes III-IV.

The Union government's expenditure on education in this budget has been 0.37% of GDP. This is way below the target of 6% set in the much touted New Education Policy.

6. Youth (our greatest asset)

80% of those unemployed are youth. 75 lakh youth enter the labour force every year. However, only four out of ten possess formal skills. Half of all graduates are not immediately employable.

7. Gujarat Riots (the perception that these were the biggest riots ever is actually misinformation)

Fact 1: In April 2004, the Supreme Court said, "Modi was like a modern day Nero who looks the other side when helpless children and innocent women are burned."

Fact 2: 1,000 were killed, 223 more people reported missing and another 2,500 injured.

Why Iran Is Steadfast Even Under Trump's 'Maximum Pressure'

By Mohammad Khatibi

U.S. president Donald Trump says he sent a letter to Leader of the Islamic republic of Iran to ask that the two leaders "negotiate" over Iran's nuclear program. Without any direct mention of the letter Ayatollah Khamenei said the insistence of certain bullying powers on negotiations is NOT aimed at resolving issues, but rather at imposing their expectations and will. He added, these bullying powers create a commotion and instigate chaos if Tehran does not agree to negotiate. However, he emphasized that Tehran will NOT accept the demands of those bullying powers. This was not the first time Ayatollah Khamenei rejected Trump offer, during his first term as president the Iranian leader did not accept his letter because of "Trump attitude".

The leader's remarks come as U.S. has intensified policy of 'Maximum pressure' on Tehran. Washington has decided to end a sanctions waiver that had allowed Iraq to buy electricity from Iran. The list of Trump's anti-Tehran moves goes on and



on however, these measures are not new for Tehran. During his first term Trump withdrew from 2015 nuclear deal called as JCPOA and started to impose his "Maximum Pressure" policy.

The Trump approach aims at isolating Tehran however; the policy failed once during his first term and probably will be the case now. Tehran managed to join BRICS nations as well as Shanghai cooperation organization. The military cooperation between Russia, China and Iran have been on the rise and the latest joint military drills in Gulf of Oman can be a good signal for the partnership in other areas between the trio. Soon after the imposition of harsh

sanctions on Iranian oil sector the country managed to find new buyers and ways to evade curbs on its oil sales. After Trump 1.0, Joe Biden continued his anti-Iran measures but to no avail.

Israel claims that Iran is being in a weak position regionally after what it calls defeat of Hezbollah and Hamas. The whole idea can be challenged based on facts on the ground. Tel Aviv announced goal of 'totally defeating' Hamas however the group is still standing. During captive- swap Hamas forces were seen in masses with captured cars, Israeli military equipment and etc. There will be no possible credible future for the Gaza strip without Hamas. Trump's displacement plan has no

buyer in the Arab world and probably Hamas will remain in charge of the coastal strip in one way or another.

On Lebanese front event in the last moments before the truce with Tel Aviv, Hezbollah was capable to carry out missile strikes deep inside Israel and its capabilities still are standing. The funeral procession of late Hezbollah chief, Hassan Nasrallah portrayed the backing of thousands of Lebanese for the group in a moment of political uncertainty.

In Damascus the game is not done yet because the vast rifts among players are at display in recent anti-HTS uprising. Many regional and international players have conflicting interest in Syria and it seems that the interim government is unable to properly address them.

Despite U.S. claims of not wanting a regime change in Iran Washington at heart seeks 'cheap' change in Tehran. The policy aims to make lives of ordinary people hard in a way that people rise against the government. This way there will be no need to put boots on the ground and regional U.S. allies

will be safe from Tehran's retaliation to military action by U.S. Providing support for anti-Iran elements through vast funding networks, sanctioning Tehran on human rights allegations are all in line with the policy.

Tehran has been able to weather the storms in recent years and violence incitements by West have failed. After death of late Iran president Ebrahim Raisi people swiftly replaced him with Masoud Pezeshkian without any disruption. The election itself can be considered as a big NO to Western pressures. Nearly 50% of eligible voters cast their ballot in a close race.

Iran has time and again emphasized that the Islamic republic will not attend negotiations regarding its nuclear program under pressure, sanctions and coercion. Also an attack on Iranian nuclear sites will take the region to unknown waters regardless of its success. Iran's retaliation cannot be predicted as seen in "Operation True promise" against Israel.

Modi's India Emerges As Economic Safe Haven While West Stumbles



By Sanbeer Singh Ranhotra

India is firing on all cylinders. The headline from February is that retail inflation has eased to 3.61 per cent, falling below the 4 per cent mark for the first time in six months. Inflation is expected to remain below the 4 per cent threshold, allowing the Reserve Bank of India to cut interest rates further.

RBI cut policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent in February. Another rate cut, potentially of 25 basis points, is expected in April. Importantly, the Union Budget presented for the upcoming fiscal

has laid strong emphasis on boosting consumption, for which the government rolled out sweeping income tax cuts. This has provided India's burgeoning middle class with sufficient legroom to boost spending. The past week has seen several international financial and investment firms reaffirm their bullishness on India. For starters, Morgan Stanley in its latest report said India is on its way to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028 as its share in global production rises, driven by macro stability influenced policy and

better infrastructure.

The Indian economy is projected to expand to \$4.7 trillion by 2026, which will make it the fourth largest in the world behind the US, China and Germany. In 2028, India will overtake Germany as its economy will expand to \$5.7 trillion. Consequently, India's share in the world GDP is projected to rise from 3.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent in 2029.

Morgan Stanley's GDP per capita projections for India are quite positive. It projects three scenarios for India's growth: Bear — where the economy expands to \$6.6 trillion by 2035 from \$3.65 trillion in 2025; Base — where it grows to \$8.8 trillion and Bull — where the size balloons to \$10.3 trillion. Morgan Stanley sees India's GDP per capita rising from \$2,514 in 2025 to \$4,247 in the Bear scenario in 2035, \$5,683 under the Base scenario and \$6,706 under the Bull scenario. Then there's credit rating agency Moody's saying India's economic growth will surpass 6.5 per cent in the fiscal year 2025-26, up from 6.3 per cent in FY 2024-25. This

growth, Moody's claims, will be driven by higher government capital expenditure, tax cuts to boost consumption, and monetary easing through interest rate cuts. Meanwhile, private equity behemoth Blackstone plans to double its investments in India from \$50 billion to \$100 billion in the coming years. In an exclusive interview with MoneyControl, Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman said India is the firm's top performing market and best investment destination. An oft-repeated claim among sceptics is that foreign investors are pulling their money (FIIs) out in record numbers, lending heightened volatility to Indian markets. Schwarzman, however, says Blackstone has seen several such cycles in India. He added: "We look at the fundamentals in the country. It has excellent stability and political leadership. Regulations have gone down from where we had started. India has a very vigorous population, full of young people. There is a preference of technology. So, we are very

positive on the country. It is great to be back."

Blackstone's analysis is backed by global consultancy firm Bain and Company's recent 'India Venture Capital Report 2025'. Bain & Co reports that India's venture capital (VC) sector showed resilience and recovery in 2024, with funding surging to \$13.7 billion—1.4 times higher than in 2023. Robust domestic fundamentals, supportive regulatory reforms, and growing public market activity have reinforced India's status as the second-largest VC hub in the Indo-Pacific region. The growth in VC activity was driven by a sharp increase in the number of deals, rising from 880 in 2023 to 1,270 in 2024—a 45 per cent jump. Most of these were small- and mid-sized deals (under \$50 million), which grew by about 1.4 times and made up around 95 per cent of total deals. Larger deals (over \$50 million) nearly doubled, returning to pre-pandemic levels as companies like Zepto, Meesho, and Lenskart attracted significant investments.

PM Modi's Latest Podcast Is A Lesson In Using Tech To Connect

By Sanjay Singh

Over the past two months, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in two podcasts, engaging in nearly five hours of conversation on a broad spectrum of topics. From his personal life, formative years, and governance philosophy to domestic politics, the role of the RSS and the BJP, media narratives, and even the 2002 post-Godhra Gujarat riots—Modi addressed it all. He also touched upon international affairs, offering his perspectives on President Trump and the U.S., the Russia-Ukraine war, China, and Pakistan.

While not everyone may have watched these podcasts in their entirety, the wide-ranging discussions ensure that there is something for everyone, whether they are supporters or critics. Notably, Modi embraced this increasingly popular medium in the first year of his third term as Prime Minister of India, signalling a shift in his outreach efforts.

Hosts Are Key

The choice of podcast hosts underscores a new approach. Modi's more than three-hour-long conversation with American computer scientist and podcaster Lex Fridman, released on Sunday, followed his previous two-hour discussion with Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of Zerodha and a well-known entrepreneur. Both Fridman and Kamath are accomplished figures in their respective fields, inspirational for young audiences. This dynamic adds a new dimension to Modi's freewheeling



conversations with them, particularly for a demographic that looks up to such thought leaders.

Fridman, in announcing the release of his podcast with Modi to his 46 million social media followers, described it as “one of the most powerful conversations” of his life. The rising popularity of podcasts—particularly among younger generations and those disenchanted with legacy media—offers a platform for in-depth discussions free from the constraints of traditional broadcast formats. Modi leveraged this format effectively, using extended, informal exchanges to discuss sensitive subjects such as the RSS, the post-Godhra riots, and more.

Tech-Driven Communication

Modi's embrace of new technologies and evolving communication strategies sets him apart. He always remains open to innovation, adapting to changing times and technological advancements. For instance, his use of artificial intelligence

(AI) to translate and deliver his podcasts and “Mann Ki Baat” in multiple languages with his own voice is an example of an innovative and engaging approach.

His focus on technology also extends to governance, ensuring the efficient, fair, and transparent delivery of services through initiatives like the JAM trinity—Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile. Modi explores both traditional and emerging mediums to strengthen his support base and reach new audiences who may not typically engage with daily political news. Modi's ability to reinvent himself distinguishes him from his political peers, past and present. Those who have followed his career have witnessed his consistent experimentation with innovative engagement strategies. As Gujarat's Chief Minister, he introduced the use of masks and holograms—creating simultaneous 3D appearances at multiple rallies—which sparked curiosity and debate beyond Gujarat's borders.

His pre-2014 election initiative to connect with thousands of party workers through Audio Bridge is another example of his tech-savvy outreach. His first public engagement after being named the BJP's prime ministerial candidate in 2013 was with aspirational students at Sri Ram College of Commerce. The “Chai pe Charcha” initiative and his popularisation of selfies after voting were also initiatives that resonated with the public.

Expanding Digital Outreach

The creation of the NaMo app also reflects Modi's commitment to two-way engagement beyond the BJP's traditional support base. The app attracted millions of users interested in his governance model and provided a platform for direct feedback. Modi, alongside the then BJP President Amit Shah, also pioneered the “missed call” membership drive, helping the BJP become the world's largest political party.

For over a decade, Modi has given interviews to numerous news channels and publications. In 2019, he took part in a candid interview with actor Akshay Kumar. Broadcast across all channels, the interview sought to showcase a softer, more relatable side of his persona in the lead-up to the elections.

Similarly, his 2019 appearance on “Man vs Wild” with Bear Grylls at Jim Corbett National Park showcased a different facet of his personality, further broadening his appeal. As the first Indian political leader to recognise and harness the power of digital and social media, Modi has built an entirely new support base for himself and the BJP.

After The Pakistan Train Terror: Is This Just The Beginning?

By Tara Kartha

The whole episode was like something from a Wild West movie, complete with a desert landscape and heavily armed fighters. In fact, it was a very professionally managed train hijack—no small task at any time—and executed with military precision, with women and children released immediately, and explicit statements by Pakistani soldiers released as “prisoners of war”. That says something about the group. It also says a lot about the future trajectory. This is serious. And despite the Pakistan army declaring that the operation is over, it is not. This is only the beginning.

The Unfolding Drama

The details of the drama have now been telecast across screens, with the attackers themselves putting out a video of the whole saga. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is no ordinary insurgent group. Honed by decades of violence against its people, it is a group that is ready for a fight to



death. That happens when one has nothing to lose. The Pakistani state has taken away their land, their freedoms, their children and their health—half of Baloch children are malnourished—even while the state benefits from their abundant natural resources, particularly oil and gas.

The Jaffar Express, with its over 400 passengers, was travelling from Quetta in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through the Punjab heartland, towards Peshawar, and was carrying a contingent of

Pakistan army personnel. It was nothing unusual; the line is used often to move the personnel between provinces during the 30-hour journey. The train has, therefore, been a target earlier as well, one of the most recent incidents being a suicide attack in November 2024. But what was impressive about this hijack was the controlled nature of the attack, with civilians released in batches, and hostages separated quickly and apparently taken elsewhere, also in

batches. Reliable reports indicate that most civilians were not ‘rescued’ by the Pakistan army but in fact let off by the BLA, reaching the nearest railway station of Panir on foot. There is also no evidence that any civilians were targeted. Reportedly, however, some 200 coffins arrived at the station. Officials at the site said that 19 military passengers were killed, including one police and one railway official.

The Pak Army's Story

Army officials briefing the press after the hijack declared that four soldiers and 21 civilians were killed. They also claimed that the siege had ended, squarely blaming the Taliban ‘interim government’ for the attack. It also declared that the operation had ended and 33 terrorists were killed in total. The BLA, however, denies this, saying intense fighting continued long after the hijack, and that it suffered several casualties. Certainly, it is unlikely that in such a professional attack, the insurgent would simply sit and wait to be executed.

Grenade attack on YouTuber's home in Punjab, Pak gangster claims responsibility

A grenade attack targeted YouTuber Rozer Sandhu's house in Punjab's Jalandhar on Sunday. Pakistani gangster Shahzad Bhatti claimed responsibility in an Instagram video, citing his derogatory remarks on Islam.

(News Agency)- Unidentified assailants carried out a grenade attack on a YouTuber's home in Punjab's Jalandhar in retaliation for his alleged derogatory remarks on Islam. In a video uploaded on social media, a Pakistani gangster named Shahzad Bhatti claimed responsibility for the attack. Senior police officials, including SSP Jalandhar Rural Gurmeet Singh, arrived at the home of YouTuber Rozer Sandhu in Jalandhar following the attack on Sunday. A bomb disposal squad reached the spot, and the police seized a suspicious object for investigation. Sandhu said he was asleep when he suddenly heard a loud noise. He then immediately informed the police, after which senior officers arrived at the scene and began their investigation. The SSP confirmed that an attempt was made to attack Sandhu's house. "A suspicious object was recovered, prompting the deployment of a bomb disposal team. An investigation was



ongoing and that strict action would be taken against those responsible," he said.

He also linked the attack to Pakistan's growing frustration over Punjab's crackdown on drug smuggling networks. In a video posted on Instagram,

Shahzad Bhatti, the Pakistani gangster, claimed that he orchestrated the attack as the YouTuber and his associates had allegedly made offensive remarks against Islam. He warned that similar attacks would continue if the individuals responsible were not arrested. Bhatti claimed that five people were involved in carrying out the attack and extended his gratitude to his associates, including Zeeshan Akhtar and Khalistani terrorist Happy Pasia, for their support in the operation.

Bhatti threatened authorities, demanding action against those who allegedly insulted Islam. He warned of

further violence, claiming to possess photos and details of the individuals involved.

"If they are not arrested, I will create such destruction that their future generations will remember it," he said. **PUNJAB GOVERNMENT BLAMES PAK FOR ATTACK**

Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh condemned the attack on the YouTuber's house in Jalandhar, calling it a "shameful act by Pakistan". He said that while Punjab has been actively fighting drug trafficking, Pakistan continues its nefarious activities by using drones to smuggle contraband into the state. AAP MP Malwinder Kang labelled the attack as part of Pakistan's conspiracy against Punjab. He asserted that Bhatti's public claim of responsibility exposed Pakistan's involvement in anti-India activities. "Our fight against drug trafficking will continue despite Pakistan's attempts to destabilise Punjab," the MP said.

"Misleading": Bangladesh On Tulsi Gabbard's Remarks In NDTV Interview

The interim government in Bangladesh said Tulsi Gabbard's comments are "not based on any evidence or specific allegations"

(News Agency)-The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government in Bangladesh has expressed "deep concern" over the remarks of Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence for the US, on the situation in Bangladesh. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, Gabbard said the "longtime unfortunate persecution, killing, and abuse of religious minorities like Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, and others has been a major area of concern" for the Donald Trump administration.

Responding to her remarks, Bangladesh's interim government said in a social media post, "We note with deep concern and distress the remarks made by DNI Tulsi Gabbard, in which she alleged 'persecution and killing' of religious minorities in Bangladesh and that 'the threat of Islamic terrorists' in the coun-



try is 'rooted' in the 'ideology and objective' to 'rule and govern with an Islamist caliphate'. "This statement is both misleading and damaging to the image and reputation of Bangladesh, a nation whose traditional practice of Islam has been famously inclusive and peaceful and that has made remarkable strides in

its fight against extremism and terrorism." The interim government in Dhaka said Gabbard's comments are "not based on any evidence or specific allegations". "They paint an entire nation with a broad and unjustified brush. Bangladesh, like many countries around the world, has faced challenges of extremism,

but it has continuously worked in partnership with the international community, including the US, to address these issues through law enforcement, social reforms, and other counterterrorism efforts," it said. The interim government said "groundlessly linking Bangladesh to the idea of an 'Is-

lamist caliphate' undermines the hard work of countless Bangladeshis and their friends and partners around the world who are committed to peace, stability, and progress". "Bangladesh strongly condemns any efforts to link the country to any form of 'Islamist caliphate'," it said. "Political leaders and public figures should base their statements, especially about the most sensitive issues, on actual knowledge and take care not to reinforce harmful stereotypes, to fan fears and potentially even stoke sectarian tensions. In support of our shared global efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, the Interim Government of Bangladesh remains committed to engaging in constructive dialogue based on facts and on respect for the sovereignty and security of all nations," the interim government said.

On Camera, Islamabad Residents Loot Laptops After Raid On Fake Call Centre

The call centre was allegedly involved in fraudulent activities and was operated by Chinese nationals in sector F-11.

(News Agency)- A raid on a fake call centre in Pakistan's Islamabad led to an unexpected heist at the hands of locals, who took away whatever they could lay their hands on. The loot came after the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) raided the support hub operated by Chinese nationals in sector F-11. The centre was allegedly involved in fraudulent activities and was being run illegally, reports said. Once the authorities entered the premises, so did the locals. Videos showing men -- young and old -- grabbing laptops, desktops, monitors, keyboards, extensions, and whatever else they could have surfaced on

social media. Some even stole furniture and cutlery sets as if it were a free-for-all. Posting the video on X, a social media user wrote: "Pakistanis have looted a call centre operated by Chinese in Islamabad; hundreds of laptops and electronic components, along with furniture and cutlery, were stolen during the holy month of Ramadan." The video quickly went viral, and needless to say, people had a field day in the comments section. "Pakistan is the only country where opening a business is riskier than investing in crypto," said a person. According to reports, the call centre was raided after



it came under scrutiny for allegedly carrying out fraudulent activities and scamming people from across the world. A group of foreigners, including some Chinese nationals, were allegedly involved in running the racket

here. The raid resulted in the arrest of 24 people, including some foreigners. However, some managed to escape. Such incidents of public looting are not rare in Pakistan. Last September, a newly opened mall in Karachi was attacked by

hundreds of people who forcefully entered the venue and stole clothing items and damaged the property. They forcefully rushed into the stores and emptied them in no time despite the staff's frantic efforts to control the crowd.

Pakistan-Origin Cricketer, Collapses On Field While Playing, Dies

Junail Zafar Khan, a club-level Pakistan-origin cricketer, has died after collapsing on the ground during a local match played in extreme heat at the Concordia College here. In his 40s, Khan was representing Old Concordians

temperatures here were still above 40 degrees Celsius at the time. Adelaide Turf Cricket Association rules state that games are cancelled if the temperature climbs above 42 degrees Celsius.



Cricket Club in a match against Prince Alfred Old Collegians last Saturday, news.com.au reported. After fielding for 40 overs and batting for seven, Khan collapsed around 4pm Australian Central Daylight Time (ACDT). South Australia has been in the grip of extreme heat over and according to data from the Bureau of Meteorology,

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of a valued member of the Old Concordians Cricket Club, who tragically suffered a medical episode while playing on the Concordia College oval today," Khan's club said in a statement. "Despite the best efforts of paramedics, he sadly did not survive. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with his family, friends, and teammates during this difficult time." Khan had reportedly moved to Adelaide from Pakistan in 2013 to work in the IT industry.

UN Worker Dead, 5 Injured In Gaza Strike, Israel Denies Attack On UN

(News Agency)- The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said a foreign UN worker was killed and five others seriously injured Wednesday by an Israeli strike on their headquarters, as the Israeli army denied hitting a UN building.

A statement from the health ministry said there was "one death and five severe injuries among foreign staff working for UN institutions... due to the bombing of their headquarters by the occupation in the central governorate a short while ago". It added they had been taken to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. AFP has not been able to confirm the information with the United Nations.

AFPTV footage from Deir el-Balah showed UN vehicles and an ambulance transporting three men to the Al-Aqsa hospital. In a statement, Israel's army denied hitting a UN building in Gaza, saying: "Contrary to reports, the IDF (army) did not strike a UN compound in Deir el-Balah".



An army spokesperson told AFP: "I confirm there was no IDF operational activity there and that the IDF didn't strike the UN compound." AFPTV footage from the Al-Aqsa hospital showed two men who appeared to have leg injuries and a third with bandages on both arms and abdomen and traces of blood on his chest. Two of the injured were wearing bulletproof vests, with one wearing a T-shirt of UNMAS, the United Nations Mine Action Service, underneath. Gaza's civil defence agency said earlier Wednesday that 13 people had been killed in Israeli

air strikes on the Palestinian territory since midnight. Overnight between Monday and Tuesday, Israel launched a wave of strikes on Gaza, by far the deadliest since a fragile ceasefire came into force on January 19. The strikes killed more than 400 people, according to Gaza's health ministry, making it one of the deadliest days since the start of the war triggered by Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. The health ministry published a new death count from the war with Israel Wednesday, showing an additional 970 deaths in 48 hours.

Over 400 Killed In Israel's Biggest Strike On Gaza Since Ceasefire

The Israeli strikes on Gaza were the biggest since the ceasefire with Hamas began on January 19.

At least 413 people were killed in Gaza on Tuesday as the Israeli military conducted "extensive strikes" on Hamas targets amid stalled truce talks, the biggest attack in the war-torn territory since the ceasefire began on January 19.

Gaza's civil defence agency said the air strikes, which took place during the month of Ramadan, killed "mostly children, women, and the elderly" and injured about 150 people. The explosions were heard in multiple locations, including northern Gaza, Gaza City and the Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah in central and southern Gaza Strip. Mahmud Abu Watfa, who headed Hamas's police and internal security services in the Gaza Strip, was also reportedly killed in the strike on Gaza City. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), in a post on X this morning, said it was "conducting extensive strikes on terror targets belonging to the Hamas terrorist organisation in the Gaza Strip" in accordance with the "political echelon". Israel also ordered all schools close to the regions neighbouring Gaza shut. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office later said the strikes were ordered after "Hamas's repeated refusal to release our hostages, as well as its rejection of all of the proposals it has received from US Presidential Envoy Steve Witkoff



and from the mediators."

"The IDF is, at this time, attacking targets of the Hamas terrorist organization throughout the Gaza Strip in order to achieve the objectives of the war as they have been determined by the political

echelon including the release of all of our hostages, the living and the deceased," it posted on X.

Israel would now act with "increased military strength" against Hamas, it said. Hamas, however, said Mr Netanyahu had

decided to "sacrifice" hostages by resuming war.

"Netanyahu's decision to resume war is a decision to sacrifice the occupation's prisoners and impose a death sentence on them," a Hamas official said in a statement, adding that the Israeli leader was using the fighting as a political "lifeboat" to distract from internal crises. In a separate statement, Hamas held Mr Netanyahu "fully responsible for violating and overturning the agreement" and said the ceasefire breach "exposes the prisoners in Gaza to an unknown fate". A White House spokesperson said Israel had consulted President Donald Trump's administration before it

carried out the strikes.

Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Talks Stall The truce talks stalled as Israel wanted to extend the first phase of the three-stage ceasefire agreement, while Hamas said it would resume freeing hostages only under the second phase that was due to begin on March 2.

Israel wanted to extend the first phase until mid-April, saying that any transition to the second phase must include "the total demilitarisation" of Gaza and the removal of Hamas, which has controlled the territory since 2007. Last week, Hamas said it would release American-Israeli soldier Edan Alexander and four bodies of the hostages if Israel agreed to begin talks immediately on implementing the second phase of the agreement. Israel, however, accused the group of waging "psychological warfare" on the families of hostages. The initial phase of the Gaza ceasefire witnessed 33 Israeli hostages, including five bodies, and five Thais freed by Hamas in exchange for around 1,800 Palestinian prisoners. The group has still held about 59 hostages.

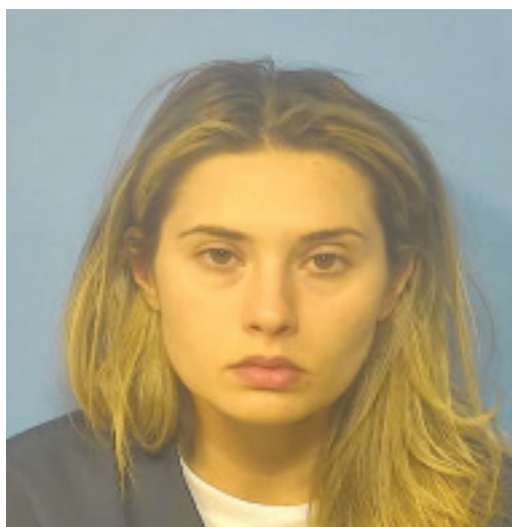
The war's only previous truce took place in November 2023 for a week when Hamas released hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

US Teacher, 30, Charged With Sex Abuse After Teen's Mother Finds Explicit Texts

(News Agency)-A 30-year-old teacher and soccer coach at Downers Grove South High School has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage student. Christina Formella, 30, has been charged with one count of criminal sexual abuse, one count of criminal sexual assault and one count of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, all felonies, CBS News reported. Downers Grove police and the DuPage County State's Attorney reported that a 15-year-old boy and his mother approached

authorities on Saturday to report a l l e g e d "inappropriate sexual conduct" by Formella.

According to prosecutors, the boy stated that in December 2023, he was in a classroom with Formella for a tutoring session before school when she sexually assaulted him. His mother discovered the assault after reviewing a text message



thread on his phone.

Police arrested Formella on Sunday during a traffic stop. She appeared in court on Monday, where she was granted pre-trial release under the conditions that she not enter Downers Grove South High School or have any contact with individuals under 18. On Monday night, school administrators affirmed their cooperation with law enforcement and commitment to student safety. "We are heartbroken for the victim and also for the hundreds of students, staff, and families who trusted

this teacher and feel betrayed by this terrible situation," said District 99 School Board President Don Renner during a board meeting.

Following her arrest, she was released with restrictions barring her from contact with minors and from entering the school. She has also been placed on paid administrative leave, according to the Daily Herald. Formella has been teaching at the school since 2020 after obtaining her teaching license in 2017. She also volunteered as a boys' and girls' soccer coach beginning in 2021.

'Aurangzeb's gang' how TV news made a bad Nagpur situation worse with sensational coverage

If it were possible, 348 years after his death, Aurangzeb would turn in his grave. In his name, parts of Nagpur witnessed communal riots on Monday evening, stoked by politicians and right-wing groups, then fanned by social media rumours and reported mobilisation by local Muslim leaders.

And then, there's the sensational coverage by television news channels, which only made a bad situation worse. On Monday night and throughout Tuesday, news channels shrieked that Hindus were in danger, that their homes were being targeted by Muslims. They repeatedly aired close-up footage of rioters, so that their religion could be clearly identified. They even numbered each man—just as they had done during the 2022 Jahangirpuri riots in Delhi and the 2024 Sandeshkhali violence in West Bengal.

In doing so, they were not just reporting the "truth" of the communal clashes, as Times Now Navbharat claimed; they were amplifying, magnifying, and aggravating a volatile situation.

The media's duty is to report incidents and identify those involved in violence. However, this can be done without sensationalism—without mentioning Aurangzeb's name in every headline or

branding the rioters as 'Aurangzeb's gang' (Republic Bharat).

Rewind to the Maha Kumbh stampede of 29 January. Details of the incident, including the number of deaths, injuries and missing persons, were downplayed by both authorities and television news channels, which instead focused on calming fears and preventing panic. In Nagpur's communal crisis, they did the opposite.

On Wednesday, channels such as Times Now, India Today, and CNN News 18 not only reported on the FIR in the 'Maha Aurangzeb War' (India Today) and the arrest of the alleged "mastermind" (Times Now, India Today), Faheem Shamim Khan, but also replayed visuals of vandalism and Muslims shouting slogans "praising Aurangzeb" (India Today). They also highlighted claims of a female police officer being "sexually assaulted" by the rioters (Times Now).

This kind of coverage is likely to deepen communal divisions rather than foster the "positive atmosphere" called for by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Build-up to Nagpur riots over Aurangzeb

Nagpur's communal violence was no

surprise—it was waiting to happen since early March, fuelled by comments and incidents that news channels eagerly magnified.

TV news gave undue importance to provocative statements from politicians, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Samajwadi Party's Abu Azmi. Newspapers also reported these remarks but without the theatrics.

For example, Fadnavis's support for removing Aurangzeb's grave and his dismay over the state government having to protect the site were repeatedly highlighted on TV.

Similarly, Shinde's remarks that those who praise Aurangzeb are "traitors" was all over the news.

So too Abu Azmi's defense of Aurangzeb, arguing that he was wrongfully demonised in the film Chhaava and was not a "cruel administrator".

Throughout March, news channels prominently displayed statements and covered protests by the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad, both of which demanded Aurangzeb's grave be removed from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar in Maharashtra.

On 17 March, TV news aired live cov-

erage of Bajrang Dal and VHP protests in Nagpur and other parts of Maharashtra in support of their demand, showing effigy burnings and people stomping on a photograph.

By Tuesday, the airwaves were filled with footage of smoke, fires, and stone-pelting. These were accompanied by their fondness for colourful headlines: 'Embers of hatred' (NDTV India), 'Religious hatred in Nagpur' (India News), 'Rumours burn Nagpur' (Aaj Tak), 'Pre-planned riots target Hindus' (Zee News), 'Who is provoking Muslims?' (Republic Bharat), 'Aurangzeb, Afwah, pre-planned attacks' (CNN News 18). The commentary was equally colourful — "They (rioters)...were carrying swords from Aurangzeb's time, shouting 'Allahu Akbar' and hurling abuses..." (Times Now Navbharat), "Eulogising Aurangzeb—is it justified?" (CNN News 18), 'Attacks on Hindu homes with the aim to cause communal trouble across the country' (Republic Bharat).

News anchors repeatedly drew their viewers' attention to the Muslim identity of the protesters and their "chilling" actions (India Today). They called the attackers "outsiders" and dwelt on the "afhwah ki aag" (Aaj Tak).

Aurangzeb irrelevant today, violence unhealthy: RSS slams Nagpur clashes



The Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) today signalled disapproval of demands to remove Aurangzeb's tomb, which triggered the Monday violence in Nagpur, and said the sixth Mughal emperor was irrelevant to current times.

effigies of the Mughal emperor and demanded that his grave, located at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Nagar, 500 km from Nagpur, be removed. Some BJP leaders in Maharashtra have also echoed similar demands. The RSS' stand, distancing from

the demand and categorically terming the violence "unhealthy", is important considering the Karnataka meeting will be attended by all its 32 affiliates, including the BJP and the VHP. Ambekar also confirmed today that BJP president JP Nadda would attend the meeting. Listing the agenda for the gathering, Ambekar said the Pratinidhi Sabha would take up two resolutions — one on the protection of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and the other on the RSS completing 100 years on Vijaya Dashmi this year.

"We will discuss plans for the expansion of the Sangh and whether the target of setting up shakhas in every mandal was achieved," Ambekar said, adding that youth participation in the RSS was rising, with 1.2 lakh average inductions annually.

Previously too, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had advised Hindus not to "look for shivlings in every mosque". The Sangh has framed the Ram Janmabhoomi movement as a standalone campaign of faith and has said there cannot be similar movements for everything. The remarks have been seen as a message to the majority community at the time of Hindu claims on multiple mosques across India, with most cases sub judice.

Pakistan army's gym rat problem

It's common gym knowledge that over-training a muscle is counter-productive. In Pakistan, the military is that overused muscle. The epicentre of power in the nuclear-armed Islamic country, the military is facing its biggest crisis till date. The bulging biceps were never as sore as they are today. It has been rattled by a barrage of deadly attacks soon after pro-Imran Khan supporters ransacked its self-esteem and rejected its political alternative. While India has had smooth democratic sailing, both Pakistan and Bangladesh have large patches of military covering their tattered democratic records.

The creation of Bangladesh was the result of Pakistan using its military muscle to try and suppress the nationalist movement in East Pakistan. Under Operation Searchlight, the Pakistani army and militia

massacred 7,000 people in one single night on March 25, 1971. As guns burst open and chaos descended, Pakistan People's Party chief Zulfikar Ali Bhutto witnessed the burning of Dhaka from the suite of his luxurious hotel. He then thanked the army for keeping Pakistan united. The same military became his nemesis. General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq removed Bhutto in a coup in 1977 and executed him in 1979 after a contentious trial. Pakistan's tryst with dictators, however, began a decade after its birth when General Ayub Khan imposed martial law after a coup in 1958.

However, the deadly military-mullah concoction was Zia-ul-Haq's gift to Pakistan. The Islamic country became more fundamentalist even as the military spread its roots.

Such was the military's metastatic growth that the muscle became the body. Chaklala

became the unquestioned nerve centre of Pakistan's decision-making.

THE ASIM MUNIR VS IMRAN KHAN TEST SERIES

Kaptaan-politician Imran Khan's chapter with now Army chief Gen Asim Munir best exemplifies the penchant for puppet-mastery.

Munir was appointed the head of Pakistan's notorious spy agency ISI by then-Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa, but ended up as its most-short-lived head. Khan, then the PM who enjoyed a good rapport with the military establishment, reportedly got Munir fired in 2019 for probing a corruption case against his wife, Bushra Bibi. Munir had been the ISI chief for just eight months.

Imran Khan's term as PM ended prematurely in April 2022 after he lost a vote of no-confidence, which his supporters allege was tilted against

him by the men in uniform. Bajwa appointed Munir, the Army chief, in November of that year.

Imran was out of power and his bugbear was the all-powerful army chief.

But there's a plot-twist here for three reasons, including the history of another military dictator, General Parvez Musharraf.

GENERAL MUSHARRAF, MILITARY'S BLUFF AND SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Chucking the military candidate: General Musharraf seized power in a military coup in 1999 and ruled till 2008, when he was forced to vacate the top seat under intense pressure after public protests. That set the precedent -- people could chuck the Chaklala candidate.

2. Bluff of the "Indian enemy": Also, the biggest bluff of Pakistan's military, that

India was its worst enemy, and it needed to step in to keep the nation safe, has been called. Pakistan, a laggard in every sense, isn't even relevant to India, barring its export of terrorism, and Pakistanis realise that.

3. Protests and social media: The military has been controlling the narrative, but that has changed due to social media. People are challenging the military's line, making their dissent public and organising massive protests through social media platforms.

This was evident in two events in the post-Imran period.

1. In May 2023, Pakistanis did the unthinkable. After the arrest of Imran Khan by Pakistan Rangers, his supporters hit the streets against the army and targeted buildings belonging to the military. The residence of the Lahore Corps Commander was ransacked.

PM Modi & Snatches Of Plato's Philosopher-Ruler In Lex Fridman Podcast

It is not often that one invokes Greek philosopher Plato's idea of the philosopher-ruler in modern politics. The concept, first proposed in his dialogue, the Republic, refers to a ruler who combines philosophical knowledge and temperament with political skill and power.

Plato saw philosophers as free from the venality that tempts others to abuse power, intellectually superior, and capable of

applying their knowledge for the good of the state. Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius is often held as an example. Later political commentators cite Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States, and Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, as philosopher-rulers.

One would have thought Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with his razor-sharp realpolitik and canny sense of

power, was an unlikely candidate for the philosopher-ruler tag. But stretches from the three-hour podcast released by Lex Fridman on Sunday puts him squarely in that zone, whether it is him talking about fasting, the RSS, what holds India together, or Artificial Intelligence.

The prime minister copiously used metaphors, analogy, deductive and inductive reasoning, argumentation,

and problem-solving approaches, which provided rare insights into his mind and worldview.

Take for instance how Modi described his own decision-making process. He said he draws from multiple sources of information, keeps an open mind to learn new things, plays devil's advocate, has subject experts around, bounces off the decision with like-minded and trusted people, and once convinced,

goes the whole hog with the decision. But most importantly, he emphasised standing by one's decision and team, and not passing the blame in case of failures.

PM Modi made an impassioned pitch to youngsters: "No matter how dark the night may seem, it is still just the night; morning will come. Yes, the challenges are real, but I'm not defined by my circumstances. I am here for a purpose, sent by a higher power. And I am not alone. The one who sent me is always with me. Hardships exist to make me stronger. I personally see opportunity in challenges. One should never

let the student within them die. Perhaps I exist to keep learning, keep growing." Modi kept turning certain cornerstones of Leftist thought on their head. He said while the Communist slogan for the proletariat was "workers of the world unite", the RSS labour union Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh's credo was "workers, unite the world". About what binds India together as a nation and civilisation, he said: "Bharat is a cultural identity."

Sunita Williams returns to Earth from space just 2 days after Kalpana Chawla's birthday

The world rejoiced as NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore safely returned to Earth after a nine-month space mission. As they returned, many were reminded of another Indian-American astronaut who left an indelible mark on space exploration—Kalpana Chawla, whose birthday falls two days before the two astronauts came back to Earth after being there for 286 days. On February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia,

carrying Kalpana Chawla and six other astronauts, disintegrated during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere over Texas, resulting in the death of all seven crew members. The Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart during re-entry, shortly before it was scheduled to land at the Kennedy Space Center.

The damage allowed hot gases to penetrate the Shuttle, leading to the wing's structural failure and the shuttle's disintegration.

NASA recovered 84,000 pieces of debris, representing nearly 40 per cent of Columbia by weight, in an area of 2,000 square miles in east Texas.

Kalpana Chawla was born on March 17, 1962, in Karnal, Haryana, and grew up with a fascination for airplanes and space. Encouraged by her family, she pursued her passion, earning a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College. Later,

she moved to the United States to obtain a master's degree from the University of Texas in 1984, followed by a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1988. She joined NASA in 1994.

Three years later, she made history as the first woman of Indian origin in space when she flew aboard Space Shuttle Columbia on mission STS-87 in 1997.

During this mission, she served as a mission specialist and robotic arm operator.

PM Modi meets Tulsi Gabbard, says India and US committed to combating terrorism

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard in Delhi on Monday and presented her with water from the Ganga, collected during the Maha Kumbh. This meeting comes hours after Gabbard met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting held in the national capital focused on the anti-India activities conducted on American soil by the banned Khalistani outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ).

In a post on X, PM Modi said he was glad to welcome Gabbard to India and said both the US and

India were committed to combating terrorism and enhancing maritime and cybersecurity co-operation.

"Glad to welcome @TulsiGabbard to India. Exchanged views on further advancing the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership. Both countries are committed to combating terrorism and enhancing maritime and cybersecurity cooperation," he tweeted. Talking about Maha Kumbh, PM Modi told Gabbard that the religious gathering, which concluded on February 26, drew over 660 million people

to the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, making it the largest human gathering in the world. In return, Gabbard gifted Tulsi Mala to PM Modi. The Tulsi Mala, also called Tulsi beads or a Tulsi rosary, carries deep significance in Hinduism, particularly for followers of Lord Krishna. Devotees of Lord Krishna, often known as 'Vishnu Priya' or 'the beloved of Vishnu,' wear Tulsi beads as a mark of their devotion. The beads are believed to provide protection from negative energies, and bad dreams. As a practising Hindu, Gabbard earlier, in an interview

with news agency ANI, said that she often draws strength and guidance from the teachings of Lord Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita during both good and difficult times.

Gabbard is on a two-and-a-half-day visit to India as part of a multinational tour.

She arrived in Delhi early on Sunday and held talks with Indian officials on intelligence co-operation, cybersecurity, and defence relations. Her visit comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to Washington in February, where he met Gabbard and described her as a

strong supporter of India-US ties. During her visit, Gabbard attended meetings and conferences focused on enhancing bilateral security cooperation. She joined intelligence and security officials from around 20 countries at a conclave chaired by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. The event, organised by the National Security Council Secretariat, has been held alongside the Raisina Dialogue since 2022.

This is Gabbard's second overseas visit since taking office, following her participation in the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

'I regret moving to Canada'; student's viral post on why one should stay in India

A Reddit post titled "I Regret Moving to Canada" has gone viral, exposing the harsh realities faced by Indian students who move abroad in search of a better future.

The poster (identity not known), currently resides in Canada, warns aspiring immigrants that the dream of a prosperous life in the West is often nothing more than a delusion.

The Redditor highlights how international students are being exploited as part of what they call a "business model" by the Canadian government and colleges. The user wrote that most students enroll in private or low-ranking institutions that charge exorbitant tuition fees but

provide subpar education.

The post has sparked debate online, with many agreeing with the struggles mentioned, while others argue that Canada still offers better opportunities than India. Below is the post:

Every day, I see people in India dreaming of moving abroad, believing there are better opportunities. But let me give you a reality check. I live in Canada and is not what it seems. The government and colleges have turned international students into a business, and once you land here, you realize you've been scammed.

The College Scam

Most students come through private or low-ranking colleges that

charge insane tuition fees but teach almost nothing. Professors barely put in effort, the curriculum is outdated, and the degree is nearly useless in the job market. After graduation, you'll realize that employers don't even take your diploma seriously. I go to bow valley college and it's the worst school in Calgary. Without "Canadian experience," you'll be forced into survival jobs like Uber, warehouse labor, or retail just to pay rent. Meanwhile, you're drowning in tuition debt with no real career growth.

Financial Struggles and Exploitation

The cost of living in Canada is insane. Rent is sky-high, groceries

are overpriced, and basic necessities cost a fortune. Most students end up working long hours at minimum-wage jobs just to survive. Work-life balance doesn't exist—you either work or you don't eat. Employers exploit international students, paying them under the table for illegal wages, and if you complain, they'll just replace you with the next desperate student. Mental Health and Loneliness Living away from family is much harder than you think. In India, you have a strong support system—friends, family, festivals, and community. In Canada, you'll be isolated, constantly working, and struggling to connect with people. It can be hard

to connect with people from our community as well as we are constantly busy with these "busy" lifestyle. Canadians are polite but distant, and real friendships are rare. Depression and loneliness hit hard, and many students suffer in silence, unable to share their struggles.

Why Stay in India?

India is growing, and opportunities are improving. If you work smart, you can build a great life without sacrificing your mental health, family, and dignity. The West sells you an illusion, but once you get here, you realize you've been brainwashed. Don't fall for the trap—stay in India, invest in yourself, and build something meaningful at home.

Biden Faces Uncertainty As Trump Declares Presidential Pardons "Null, Void"

President Trump said that Joe Biden may not even have been aware of what all was being signed in his name as an autopen was used to sign these documents. President Trump made this announcement on his social media platform Truth Social late on Sunday night.

An autopen is a robotic instrument that is used by government officials, including the US President, to sign documents on behalf of the said authority, keeping in mind the sheer volumes of correspondence they have to sign. Such signatures are usually communicated to the person in-charge as they need not necessarily be aware of such signatures.

US Presidents have used the autopen for decades. "The 'pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of political thugs, and many others, are hereby declared void, vacant, and of no further force

or effect, because of the fact that they were done by autopen. In other words, Joe Biden did not sign them, but more importantly, he did not know anything about them," President Trump stated. He however, did not give any proof of this claim.

Mr Trump went on to say that all such people who were falsely "pardoned" by Biden just before he demitted office will now face investigation. "The necessary Pardoning Documents were not explained to, or approved by, Biden. He knew nothing about them, and the people that did may have committed a crime. Therefore, those on the Unselect Committee, who destroyed and deleted ALL evidence obtained during their two year Witch Hunt of me, and many other innocent people, should fully understand that they are subject to investigation at the highest level."

Concluding his post, President Trump

wrote, "The fact is, they were probably responsible for the Documents that were signed on their behalf without the knowledge or consent of the Worst President in the History of our Country, Crooked Joe Biden!" The presidential pardon is an absolute power that all US Presidents have. Even the courts, including the Supreme Court cannot intervene in such a matter. In the past courts have been opposed to putting any limits or restrictions on how these pardons are granted. Should Donald Trump convert his statement into a presidential order, it would mean that the investigation agencies will probe those who were "pardoned" and the US Justice Department may potentially go after and prosecute some of Donald Trump's arch rivals and political adversaries. Donald Trump however, told reporters on board the Air Force One late on Sunday night that ultimately the courts

should decide on the validity of the pardons. "It's not my decision. That will ultimately be up to a court. But I would say that they (Biden's last-minute pardons) are null and void, because I'm sure Biden didn't have any idea that it was taking place, and somebody was using an autopen to sign off and to give these pardons," President Trump said, alleging that these were forged documents. In a significant ruling in 2024, a US federal appeals court had noted that a presidential pardon doesn't necessarily have to be in writing. "The plain language of the US Constitution imposes no such limit," the court had said. The US presidential pardon has been an absolute power of all US Presidents for more than a century now. So far they have never been challenged, but Donald Trump's move on Sunday night may lead to an attempt to upend such tradition.

NPCI planning to stop 'collect calls'

A collect call, or 'pull' transaction, allows merchants to initiate payment requests from customers. Still, fraudsters tend to exploit this mechanism for the purpose of deceiving others into paying for non-existent goods and services.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is moving towards curbing online payment frauds by phasing out 'collect calls' for merchant transactions, reported The Economic Times.

Two bankers privy to the development, who were quoted in the report, said that this move aligns with the government's broader vision of making digital payments more secure for consumers.

WHAT ARE COLLECT CALLS?

A collect call, or 'pull' transaction, allows merchants to initiate payment requests from customers. Still, fraudsters tend to exploit this mechanism for the purpose of deceiving others into paying for non-existent goods and services. Since merchants have more control over collect calls, the



over collect calls, the chances of fraud are higher.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PUSH TRANSACTIONS

Officials are now promoting 'push' transactions

instead of 'pull' transactions. Under this technique, buyers send payments by simply scanning a QR code or by manually typing out payment information.

This gives total control to the payer over

the payment, thereby reducing the chances of fraud.

REASON BEHIND THIS MOVE

This move comes amid a rise in digital payment frauds. Data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the first half of FY25 witnessed 13,133 fraud instances, with a loss of Rs 514 crore.

During FY24, frauds relating to digital banking resulted in a cumulative financial loss of Rs 1,457 crore.

Since most consumers are already familiar with QR codes and app-based payments, banks and regulators believe removing collect calls will not disrupt UPI transactions.

Some merchants have QR codes for payment and large platforms such as Google Pay

Google Wants to Buy This Cybersecurity Firm for Rs 2.5 Lakh Crore

Tech giant Google's parent company, Alphabet, is in advanced talks to acquire Wiz, a rapidly growing cybersecurity firm, for more than \$30 billion (approx. Rs 2.5 lakh crore). If the deal goes through, it will be Alphabet's largest-ever acquisition, surpassing previous takeovers like Motorola Mobility (\$12.5 billion or approx. Rs 1 lakh crore) and Mandiant (\$5.4 billion).



Why is Google Interested in Wiz?

Wiz, founded in 2020 by former Israeli cyber intelligence experts, has quickly risen to prominence in cloud security. The company provides cybersecurity solutions to some of the biggest businesses in the U.S., helping them protect their operations from cyber threats. Wiz's revenue reached \$500 million in annual recurring income last year, and it aims to double that figure by 2025.

The cybersecurity industry is booming, and Google wants to strengthen its cloud

security services to compete with rivals like Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services (AWS). Currently, Google Cloud ranks third in the global cloud market, with only 12% market share, far behind Microsoft (21%) and AWS (about 33%). Acquiring Wiz could help Google gain a stronger foothold in cloud security and attract more enterprise customers.

Now Open: Pan-India Registration for Scam Reporters & Fraud Investigators!

A Deal That Almost Happened Before

This is not the first time Alphabet has tried to acquire Wiz. Last year, Alphabet had offered \$23 billion, but the deal collapsed due to concerns over antitrust regulations and resistance from Wiz's investors. This time, Alphabet has returned with an even bigger offer—over \$30 billion (Rs 2.5 lakh crore)—in hopes of sealing the deal.

However, even if the companies reach an agreement, the acquisition will likely face scrutiny from U.S. regulators, including the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The current administration has been critical of Big Tech mergers, arguing that such takeovers reduce competition.

BCI Slams Legal Advertising on Social Media Amid DSK Legal Controversy



The Bar Council of India (BCI) has officially condemned the practice of legal professionals promoting their services through social media, paid advertisements, and influencer endorsements. In a press release issued on March 17, BCI reiterated that such practices violate Rule 36, Chapter II, Part VI of its regulations, which prohibit lawyers from advertising, soliciting clients, or engaging in promotional activities.

The statement emphasized that legal practice is a noble profession centered on justice, integrity, and fairness—not a business to be marketed like a commercial product. It further warned that violations would result in strict disciplinary actions, including

suspension, cancellation of enrollment, and contempt proceedings in the Supreme Court.

The DSK Legal Controversy: A Coincidence or a Catalyst?

While BCI did not name any specific law firm in its statement, the timing of the release has fueled speculation that it was prompted by a recent controversy involving DSK Legal, one of India's most prominent law firms. DSK Legal faced immense backlash after it featured Bollywood actor Rahul Bose in a social media promotional video that positioned the firm as a top choice for legal services. The move was met with outrage from the legal community, which accused the firm of violating ethical norms.

Is Your Cookware Secretly Poisoning Your Meals?

In today's health-conscious world, we meticulously choose organic produce, avoid processed foods, and prioritize nutrition. But there's one crucial element we often overlook—our cookware. The very pots and pans we use daily could be leaching harmful toxins into our meals, posing serious long-term health risks.

Understanding the Hidden Dangers

Many traditional cookware materials contain substances that may release toxins when heated. "Non-stick coatings, especially those containing PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene), can emit harmful fumes and contaminate food. Similarly, heavy metals like lead, cadmium, and nickel found in some low-quality cookware have been linked to severe health concerns, including hormonal imbalances, organ damage, and chronic illnesses," says Saumya Aggarwal, Vice President,



Meyer.

Kanika Malhotra, nutritionist and founder, Health Astronomy, highlights these dangers, stating, "Aluminum, non-stick, and copper cookware have become increasingly concerning in recent years due to their tendency to release harmful substances into food. When food absorbs these chemicals, it can lead to serious health concerns such

as abnormal birth defects, thyroid disorders, kidney stones, and even cancer." Aluminum cookware, in particular, reacts with acidic foods like vinegar, soy sauce, and even lime juice, causing aluminum ions to dissolve into meals. "Excessive aluminum exposure can disrupt gut health, leading to bloating, acid reflux, and digestive discomfort. It's for this

reason that aluminum cookware is unsuitable for daily cooking," adds Malhotra.

A Safer Alternative: How Meyer Prioritizes Cookware Safety

Given these risks, choosing safer, toxin-free cookware is more important than ever. Meyer Housewares Pvt. Ltd., a brand committed to safe and sustainable cooking, provides high-quality

alternatives that prioritize health without compromising performance.

"At Meyer, we believe cookware should enhance health, not compromise it," says "Our mission is to provide toxin-free, high-performance cookware that ensures safe and sustainable cooking," adds Aggarwal. The importance of selecting the right cookware cannot be overstated. "Investing in high-quality cookware is as important as choosing the right ingredients," emphasizes Aggarwal. "Safe cookware is a fundamental step toward a healthier kitchen and, ultimately, a healthier life."

By making informed choices and opting for safer alternatives, consumers can enjoy peace of mind, knowing their meals remain free from hidden toxins. As awareness grows, it's time to prioritize not just what we cook but also how we cook it—ensuring a healthier future, one meal at a time.

Dealing With Depression? Study States Erratic Lifestyle Can Be A Cause

Millions of people worldwide suffer from depression, one of the most common mental health issues in the modern world. Many people find themselves working strange hours, skipping meals, or staying up late, and they frequently think that these behaviours don't have a significant effect on their wellbeing. Recent studies indicate that an erratic lifestyle may play a major role in depressive symptoms.

Researchers have shown a considerable correlation between mental health problems and disturbed daily routines, focusing on the need for consistent eating, sleeping, and activity routines to preserve emotional stability. Understanding The Link Between Depression and Lifestyle The circadian rhythm, a natural internal clock that governs vital processes like sleep, metabolism, and mood, runs the human body. A variety of health problems, such as anxiety and depression, can arise when this rhythm is disrupted



by an irregular daily routine. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential for mental well-being. Hormone regulation, mood stability, and general psychological well-being are all impacted by this disturbance.

To comprehend how everyday activities impact mood and contribute to depression symptoms, a study was conducted and published in the Journal of Affective Disorders. In today's hectic environment, we may spend some days outside exercising and receiving plenty of sunlight, while on other days we

may choose to stay indoors. Similarly, we work out heavily on some days and not at all on others. The impact of these everyday behaviour modifications on our mental health was the main focus of this investigation.

How Was The Study Conducted? The purpose of the study was to determine the relationship between the mental health of 6,800 persons in the United States and their daily activities and sun exposure. The researchers wanted to find out if those who have erratic routines are more likely to experience

depression.

The results focused on how important it is to stick to your daily schedule, whether it involves being active or exposing yourself to daylight. You cannot be extremely active, sweating profusely, burning calories, and then taking the following day off to recover. The researchers underlined how crucial it is to have a consistent rhythm in your everyday activities for mental health.

What Were The Findings?

The results showed that those who had erratic daily schedules and frequent changes in their exposure to light were more likely to suffer from depression.

The study went on to explain how disruptions to the regular exercise pattern or sleep cycle have a detrimental impact on mental health. The inconsistent activity levels had a greater impact on younger persons, highlighting the urgent need to address erratic activity patterns, from staying up to mobility levels. Furthermore,

compared to women, men were more sensitive to irregular light exposure. A consistent light exposure routine appeared to be most beneficial for those with lower BMIs.

Here are some lifestyle changes that can be beneficial.

Exercise- You might not have the energy to leave the couch when you're depressed. However, you will likely feel better after you begin to move your body, walk, or stretch. Your body produces more endorphins when you work out. These are brain chemicals that reduce tension and pain.

Eat Healthy- Your body and brain can function better with proper diet. Consume a diet rich in whole meals and well-rounded foods. Depression may be less likely if you eat a lot of fruits and vegetables, nutritious grains, low-fat dairy, and lean proteins like yoghurt and fish. Reduce your intake of processed and red meats, animal fats, added sweets, refined carbohydrates, and high-fat dairy.

Hooked On Happiness?

The Dark Side Of Dopamine And Instant Pleasure



Many aren't aware that dopamine plays a crucial role in our mental health. While there are several positive sides of dopamine, including motivation, learning, memory, and controlling movement, it can lead to negative thoughts and can be harmful in the long term. Have you noticed how people have become impatient and hardly complete a movie or series they

started watching?

The feel-good dopamine rush, aka the happy hormone is the real cause for it. Social media browsing, likes, comments, and even impulsive buying and binge eating are common sources of this dopamine. We are trapped in a vicious circle of fleeting pleasure because of instant gratification. However, this does not benefit us in the long run because

dopamine spikes gradually subside, which negatively impacts mental health. Recently, Nishtha Jain, a Counseling psychologist at the mental health platform Lissun, told the Hindustan Times, "Dopamine is a neurotransmitter that is associated with the brain's reward system, as soon as we find something pleasurable or rewarding, the brain releases dopamine

and sends a signal to the brain that this feels amazing."

She further added that the flooding of dopamine in the brain is the quick emotional payoff that an individual receives after doing something that they and their brain would perceive as positive.

It can seem simple to wind down and relax with instant dopamine. It's crucial to understand the various negative aspects of this immediate dopamine surge before it becomes a supply of delusional dopamine.

According to the expert, the availability and nature of a dopamine rush can also lead to low emotional resilience. Since it is more convenient to have things at the click of a finger, individuals would not tolerate everyday challenges or discomfort. "Instant dopamine can also cause unhealthy behaviours like overspending or procrastination. Ultimately, the inner desire to work towards long-term goals diminishes in the background, and instant dopamine takes the front stage," she added.

She suggested that instead of pursuing short-lived pleasures, people might concentrate on developing habits that lead to long-term fulfilment. After the activity, you will feel better about yourself and experience positive emotional reactions.

Follow This Fitness Expert-Approved Routine For A Healthier You



Losing weight can be both physically and mentally exhausting. While weight gain typically occurs when calorie intake exceeds energy expenditure, factors like genetics also play a role. Many struggle with weight loss despite spending hours at the gym and following strict diets. However, small daily habits often go unnoticed, even though they can significantly

impact fitness goals.

Recently, fitness and nutrition coach Raj Ganpath shared valuable insights on weight loss and overall health. Taking to Instagram, he revealed a simple daily routine that can aid in weight loss and provide other health benefits. Let's explore his recommendations.

The coach asked people not to rely on

supplements and advised them to follow a special routine. He said, "Forget fat burners, diets, and supplements. Instead, follow this simple daily routine for the next few weeks, and I guarantee you will lose weight, improve your health, and boost your fitness." The fitness and nutrition coach divided the weight loss plan into three parts: Morning, Afternoon and Night. He also admitted the importance of body rest, asking his followers to get 7 hours of sleep.

Morning Routine

Start your day on a positive note; be grateful for what you have and hopeful for the day.

Drink 250 ml of water before grabbing your coffee or tea to hydrate your body and speed up your metabolism. This is an unmissable step for fitness freaks.

Spend 30 to 60 minutes exercising, whether it's yoga, running, the gym,

or any other type of physical exercise that keeps you moving.

Breakfast: To stay full and energised throughout the day, feed your body a well-balanced meal of fruit and protein. He asked people to stay away from fried and creamy food items.

Get started on your workday, but remember to drink plenty of water! Before lunch, take 2,000 steps in 20 minutes and drink 500 ml of water.

Afternoon: Relax & Recharge

Lunch: Opt for a balanced meal with protein, vegetables, and starch to keep you full and energized.

Stay active by getting 2,000 steps before 6 PM while staying hydrated with 500 ml of water.

To aid digestion and unwind, take a 30-minute walk outdoors in the evening. Make time for relaxation—whether it's completing chores, spending time with family, or simply unwinding with music or a book.

Balance, Vision Issues: What Happens To Human Body After 9 Months In Space

As US astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams prepare to return home after nine months aboard the International Space Station (ISS)



Bone and muscle deterioration, radiation exposure, vision impairment -- these are just a few of the challenges space travelers face on long-duration missions, even before considering the psychological toll of isolation.

As US astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams prepare to return home after nine months aboard the International Space Station (ISS), some of the health risks they've faced are well-documented and managed, while others remain a mystery.

These dangers will only grow as humanity pushes deeper into the solar system, including to Mars, demanding innovative solutions to safeguard the future of space exploration.

Exercise key

Despite the attention their mission has received, Wilmore and Williams' nine-month stay is "par for the course," said Rihana Bokhari, an assistant professor at the Center for Space Medicine at Baylor College.

ISS missions typically last six months, but some astronauts stay up to a year, and researchers are confident in their ability to maintain astronaut health for that duration.

Most people know that lifting weights builds muscle and strengthens bones, but even basic movement on Earth resists gravity, an element missing in orbit. To counteract this, astronauts use three exercise machines on the ISS, including a 2009-installed resistance device that simulates free weights using vacuum tubes and flywheel

cables.

A two-hour daily workout keeps them in shape. "The best results that we have to show that we're being very effective is that we don't really have a fracture problem in astronauts

he told AFP, as they work to rebuild trust in their inner ear. Astronauts must retrain their bodies during NASA's 45-day post-mission rehabilitation program. Another challenge is "fluid shift" -- the redistribution of bodily fluids toward the head in microgravity. This can increase calcium levels in urine, raising the risk of kidney stones. Fluid shifts might also contribute to increased intracranial pressure, altering the shape of the eyeball and causing spaceflight-associated neuro-ocular syndrome (SANS), causing mild-to-moderate vision impairment. Another theory suggests raised carbon dioxide levels are the cause. But in at least one case, the effects have been beneficial. "I had a pretty severe case of SANS," NASA astronaut Jessica Meir said before the latest launch. "When I launched, I wore

glasses and contacts, but due to globe flattening, I now have 20/15 vision -- most expensive corrective surgery possible. Thank you, taxpayers."

Managing radiation

Radiation levels aboard the ISS are higher than on the ground, as it passes through the Van Allen radiation belt, but Earth's magnetic field still provides significant protection.

The shielding is crucial, as NASA aims to limit astronauts' increased lifetime cancer risk to within three percent.

However, missions to the Moon and Mars will give astronauts far greater exposure, explained astrophysicist Siegfried Eggel. Future space probes could provide some warning time for high-radiation events, such as coronal mass ejections -- plasma clouds from the Sun -- but cosmic radiation remains unpredictable.

"Shielding is best done with heavy materials like lead or water, but you need vast quantities of it," said Eggel, of University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Artificial gravity, created by rotating spacecraft frames, could help astronauts stay functional upon arrival after a nine-month journey to Mars.

Alternatively, a spacecraft could use powerful acceleration and deceleration that matches the force of Earth's gravity.

That approach would be speedier -- reducing radiation exposure risks -- but requires nuclear propulsion technologies that don't yet exist.

Preventing infighting among teams will be critical, said Joseph Keebler, a psychologist at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"Imagine being stuck in a van with anybody for three years: these vessels aren't that big, there's no privacy, there's no backyard to go to," he said.

"I really commend astronauts that commit to this. It's an unfathomable job."





How India can shield itself from Donald Trump's tariff storm

A second term for Donald Trump as US President was always expected to shake up the global order, but few anticipated the trade war drums would start beating this soon. His recent tariff announcements have already sent shockwaves through markets, and Indiaone of America's top trading partnershas plenty to lose.

From pharmaceuticals to IT services, billions of dollars' worth of Indian exports hang in the balance. But this isn't just about trade figures or diplomatic chess moves. It's about real consequencesrising prices, squeezed businesses, and economic shifts that could ripple down to the middle class.

The question is no longer whether India will feel the heat but how it can protect itself from getting burned after Trump's reciprocal tariffs come into effect on April 2, and a possible global trade war.

DODGING TARIFFS WON'T BE EASY Experts have made it clear that it won't be easy for an emerging nation like India to completely dodge the consequences of Donald Trump's tariffs on the global economy.

"Given that President Donald Trump has been using higher reciprocal policy as an instrument of state policy, shielding India from incessant trade wars in this increasingly VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) world is uneasy," said Dr. Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infomerics Valuation and Ratings Ltd.

India's economy is deeply tied to the US, making an aggressive response risky. "Imposition of an equal and matching tariff by India on American goods may seem to be theoretically feasible in this multi-polar world but this is practically difficult, if not impossible," Dr. Sharma explained.

The size difference between the two economies, America's technological edge, and its military influence make it an uneven playing field.

Adding to the challenge is India's delicate relationship with China. "Given India's difficult relationship with China, there is no objective way India can afford to offend the US in the multi-layered international relationship," he adds. That leaves India walking a

tightrope, balancing strategic interests while keeping economic ties intact.

SOFTENING THE BLOW

With US tariffs threatening key exports, India must look elsewhere to soften the blow. According to experts, one approach is to boost domestic manufacturing and secure new trade agreements.

"Bolstering domestic manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat and securing trade agreements with Europe, ASEAN, and Gulf nations could help India reduce its reliance on American markets," says Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking.

Deals with the UK and EU are already in the works, but experts caution that these alone won't be enough. "Since the US is India's largest trading partner and the largest export destination, it is unrealistic to expect this FTA to offset the impact of stiffer tariff by the US," Dr. Sharma said.

Mishra suggests exploring alternatives like strengthening regional alliances such as BRICS, expanding IT exports, and promoting rupee-based

trade to ease India's dependence on US markets.

REPLICATE CHINA?

Some argue that India should follow China's manufacturing playbook to shield itself from trade wars. But can India replicate China's model? Right now, manufacturing contributes just 13.15% of India's GDPfar lower than China's.

"With a vast and young workforce, India must prioritise high value-added manufacturing while simultaneously boosting its services sector through greater investment in R&D and workforce upskilling," Mishra said.

But blindly copying China may not work. "Rather than replicating China's model, India should embrace a holistic strategy that integrates industrial growth with technological advancement," he adds.

IF NOT, THEN WHAT?

While trade agreements and alliances are crucial, domestic industries must also brace for impact. "Domestic firms and industries need to retool their inputs, outputs and finished products to slash costs, maintain operational efficiency, and ensure

an uninterrupted supply chain," Dr. Sharma explained.

That means everything from securing raw materials locally to upgrading production techniques. Advancing initiatives like Make in India and production-linked incentives could offer some cushion. But Dr. Sharma acknowledges the difficulty of this transformation, calling it "difficult but by no means undoable."

For everyday Indians, these trade tensions could mean higher prices, changing job prospects, and economic uncertainty. The government's response will directly impact household budgets and employment opportunities across sectors.

India's best bet is to take a measured, long-term approach. "India's strategy must be gradual, measured and calibrated to overcome the travails of transition," Dr. Sharma said.

If India plays its cards rightdiversifying trade partners, strengthening domestic manufacturing, and adapting swiftly to global shiftsit could emerge more resilient on the other side.

Elon Musk feels he rules the world. Is there a ketamine drug link?

Tesla boss Elon Musk seems to be on a mission to conquer the world, and even Mars. But his odd-hour rants, alleged Nazi salute and chainsaw act have raised eyebrows. Some now wonder if this has to do with ketamine, which he takes for his depression treatment. This is what ketamine is, and what its overuse could lead to.



immense power in the Trump administration, and the possibility of drug overuse or abuse in a man many call "co-President" has caused concerns, according to a report by The Atlantic.

At a recent appearance at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Musk hoisted a chainsaw, fuelling speculation about his ketamine use on X, the report added.

"Musk admits he uses Ketamine.

Can you imagine all the drugs that he's actually on," posted a person on X, comparing Musk to the German dictator, Adolf Hitler, who the user claimed used drugs such as cocaine and amphetamines.

WHAT HAS MUSK SAID OF HIS KETAMINE USE?

Musk has agreed that he uses ketamine.

He told CNN's Don Lemon that he uses a prescribed dose of ketamine alongside other medications to treat his depression symptoms.

"There are times when I have sort of a negative chemical state in my brain, like depression, I guess, or depression that's not linked to

any negative news, and ketamine is helpful for getting one out of the negative frame of mind," he said. He claimed to use "a small amount once every other week or something like that". When asked if he had ever abused ketamine, Musk denied it. "I don't think so. If you use too much ketamine, you can't really get work done," he said. "From the standpoint of Wall Street, what matters is execution," he added.

"Are you building value for investors? Tesla is worth about as much as the rest of the car industry combined, so from an investor standpoint, if there is something I'm taking, I should keep taking it."

RECREATIONAL DRUG USE AND ELON MUSK

However, some US media reports suggest Musk also takes the drug recreationally.

The Wall Street Journal reported that executives and board members at his companies have raised concerns about his ketamine use. They have claimed that even if it doesn't affect his businesses, it might have serious consequences for

his health. In 2021, Musk took ketamine recreationally with his brother, Kimbal Musk, in Miami. He has taken other illegal drugs with current SpaceX and former Tesla board member Steve Jurvetson, the WSJ report added.

A former Tesla director, Linda Johnson Rice, was deeply frustrated with Musk's tumultuous behaviour and his drug consumption. Rice did not stand for re-election to the electric-car company's board in 2019, people familiar with the matter told the WSJ.

At a SpaceX all-hands meeting in Hawthorne, California, Musk arrived nearly an hour late, slurring his words and rambling for 15 minutes. He repeatedly called the Big Falcon Rocket "Big F—ing Rocket" until SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell took over.

Executives later described his behaviour as "nonsensical" and "unhinged", raising concerns about possible drug use. Musk's lawyer denied the claims but did not specify inaccuracies, the WSJ report added.

From Mars to mankind, tech to Twitter (now X), Elon Musk is set to conquer the world and beyond. But his brags about "never sleeping", his odd-hour rants on social media and his relentless mails to employees of his company have led some to question: Is it just who Musk is or is there a ketamine connection? From his alleged "Nazi salute" to his chainsaw-wielding act, many wonder if the richest man in the world has a ketamine problem. Ketamine is a dissociative anaesthetic used for the induction and maintenance of anaesthesia. It is also prescribed to treat depression and anxiety.

As a dissociative drug, ketamine

induces a high lasting about an hour, often making users feel detached from their body, emotions, or time. Frequent heavy use several times a week has been linked to lasting cognitive effects, including memory impairment, delusional thinking, superstitious beliefs, and an inflated sense of importance. Musk, who has never shied away from discussing the domination of space and clearing human civilisation of its "empathy problem", has come under scrutiny, which is not exactly a surprise.

Now, Musk heads the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and holds

Elon Musk's AI bot Grok under Centre's scrutiny over use of Hindi slang: Sources

By Himanshu Mishra

The government is engaging with Elon Musk-owned X (formerly Twitter) over several incidents of its AI chatbot, Grok, using Hindi slang and abusive language while giving responses to users, sources told India Today. The Information and Technology Ministry has expressed concerns with X over the use of such provocative language and will look into the factors leading to it.

Developed by xAI, an artificial intelligence company founded by tech titan Elon Musk in 2023, Grok was designed as an alternative to mainstream AI



models like ChatGPT and Google's Gemini.

"We are talking to them (X) to find out why it is happening and

what the issues are. They are engaging with us," government

sources said. Grok, which is embedded on X as a feature, has grabbed the attention of Indian social media users over its responses in unfiltered language and slang when provoked.

The issue came to light after an X user's post on his interaction with Grok recently went viral. The user asked the AI chatbot about the "10 best mutuals". As the chatbot failed to give a response immediately, the user responded with harsh words. However, Grok stunned the user with an unfiltered slur-loaded response, and asked the person to "chill kar", which translates to calm down.

'Stagflation' fears grow as US Fed prepares key interest rate decision

The Federal Reserve faces rising inflation concerns and economic uncertainty ahead of its meeting. Potential stagflation complicates rate-cut plans, while higher tariffs and consumer inflation fears add pressure on policymakers and financial markets.



When Federal Reserve officials last met in late January, things looked pretty good: Hiring was solid. The economy had just grown at a solid pace in last year's final quarter. And inflation, while stubborn, had fallen sharply from its peak more than two years ago. What a difference seven weeks makes.

As the Fed prepares to meet Tuesday and Wednesday, the central bank and its chair, Jerome Powell, are potentially headed to a much tougher spot. Inflation improved last month but is still high and tariffs could push it higher. At the same time, ongoing tariff threats as well as sharp cuts to government spending and jobs have tanked consumer and business confidence, which could weigh on the economy and even push up unemployment. The toxic combination of still-high inflation and a weak or stagnant economy is often referred to as "stagflation," a term that haunts

central bankers. It is what bedeviled the United States in the 1970s, when even deep recessions didn't kill inflation. Stagflation, should it emerge, is hard for the Fed because typically policymakers would lift rates or keep them high to combat inflation. Yet if unemployment also rises, the Fed would usually cut rates to reduce borrowing costs and lift growth.

It's not yet clear the economy will sink into stagflation. For now, like businesses and consumers, the Fed is grappling with a huge amount of uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook. But even a mild version with unemployment rising from its current low level of 4.1%, while inflation stayed stuck above the Fed's 2% target would pose a challenge for the central bank.

"That's the tangled web they're in," said Esther George, former president of the Federal Reserve's Kansas City branch.

"You have inflation stickiness on the one hand. At the same time, you're trying to look at what impact could this have on the job market, if growth begins to pull back. So it is a tough scenario for them for sure." Fed officials will almost certainly keep their key rate unchanged at their meeting this week. Once the meeting concludes Wednesday, they will release their latest quarterly economic projections, which will likely show they expect to cut their rate twice this year the same as they projected in December. The Fed implemented three cuts last year and then signaled at the January meeting that they were largely on pause until the economic outlook becomes clearer.

Wall Street investors expect three rate reductions this year, in June, September, and December, according to futures prices tracked by CME Fedwatch, in part because they worry an economic slowdown

will force more reductions.

One development likely to unnerve Fed officials is the sharp jump in inflation expectations this month in the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment survey. It showed the biggest increase in long-term inflation expectations since 1993.

Such expectations which basically measure whether Americans are worried inflation will get worse are important because they can become self-fulfilling. If businesses and consumers expect higher costs, they may take steps that push up inflation, like demanding higher wages, which in turn can force companies to raise prices to offset higher labor costs.

Some economists caution that the University of Michigan's survey is preliminary and for now based on only about 400 responses. (The final version to be released later this month typically includes about 800.) And financial market measures of inflation expectations, based

on bond prices, have actually declined in recent weeks.

The most recent inflation readings have been mixed. The consumer price index dropped last week for the first time in five months to 2.8% from 3%, an encouraging change. But the Fed's preferred price gauge, to be released later this month, is likely to be unchanged.

The jump in inflation expectations is also a problem for the Fed because officials, including Powell, have said they are willing to let inflation gradually return to their 2% target in 2027, because expectations have generally been low. If other measures show inflation worries rising, the Fed could come under more pressure to get inflation down more quickly.

"I do worry when I see consumer expectations moving in the opposite direction," George said. "I think you just have to keep an eye on that."

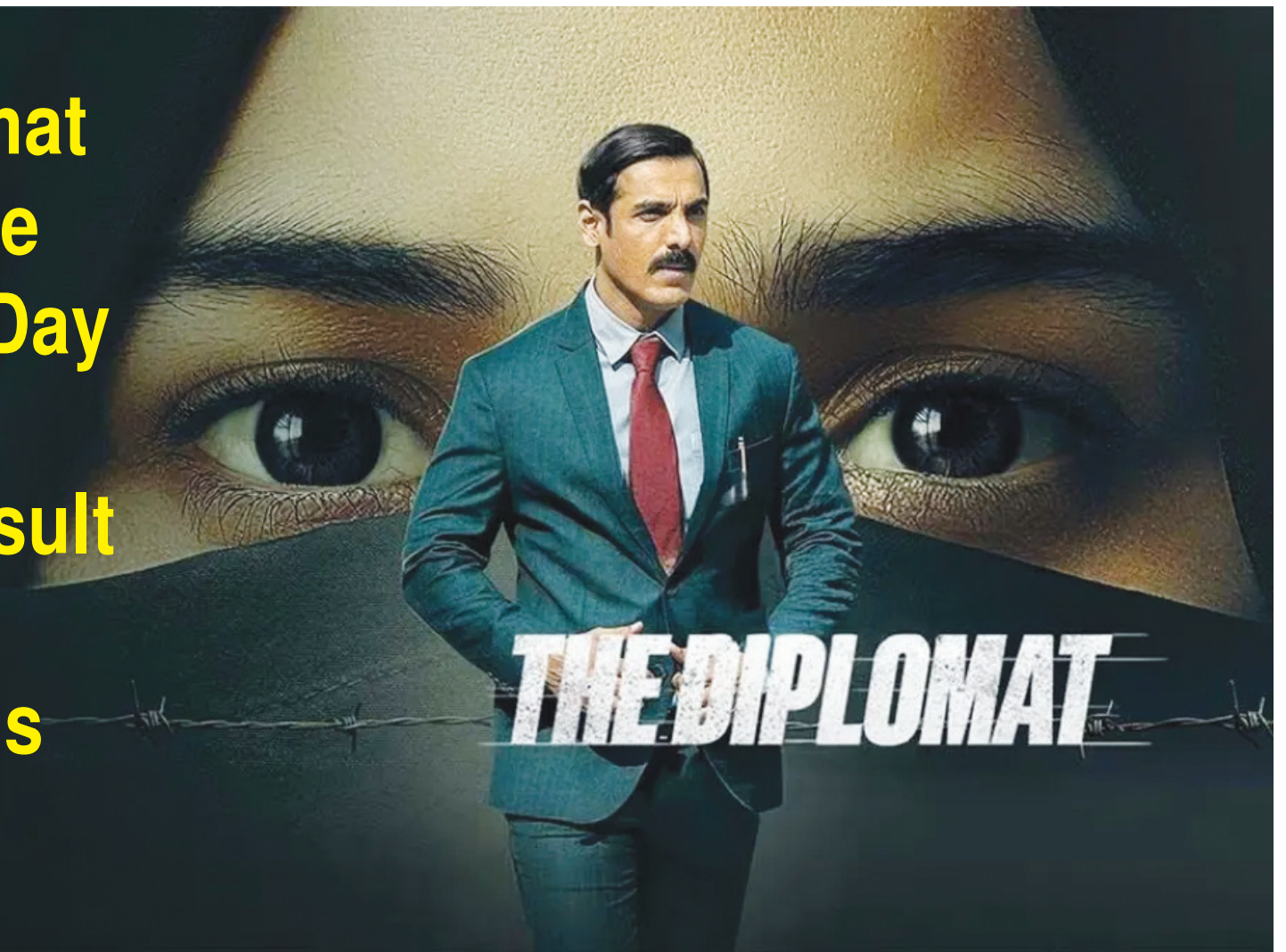
The last time President Donald Trump imposed tariffs in 2018 and 2019 overall inflation didn't rise by much, in part because they weren't nearly as broad as what he is currently proposing and some duties, such as those on steel and aluminium, were watered down with loopholes. Now that Americans have lived through a painful inflationary episode, they are likely to be more skittish about rising prices.

Powell referred such concerns in remarks earlier this month. He said tariffs could just have a one-time impact on prices without causing ongoing inflation. But that could change "if it turns into a series" of tariff hikes, he said March 7, or "if the increases are larger, that would matter."

"What really does matter is what is happening with long-term inflation expectations," Powell added.

A week after his comments, those expectations shot higher in the University of Michigan survey.

The Diplomat Box Office Collection Day 4: First Monday Result Of John Abraham's Film



John Abraham's latest release, *The Diplomat*, witnessed a dip at the box office on its first Monday. On Day 4, the film collected ₹1.5 crore in the domestic market, according to industry tracker Sacnilk.

The movie recorded an overall 8.35% Hindi occupancy on March 17. So far, *The Diplomat* has accumulated a total of ₹14.8 crore, the report added.

Directed by Shivam Nair, *The Diplomat* follows the gripping story of the Deputy High Commissioner of India, JP Singh (played by John Abraham), who takes

on a high-stakes mission to rescue Uzma Ahmed (played by Sadia Khateeb) from Pakistan.

Set against the backdrop of India-Pakistan relations, the film explores themes of diplomacy, resilience and the personal conflicts faced by diplomats. Kumud Mishra, Sharib Hashmi, Revathy and Ashwath Bhatt also play key roles in *The Diplomat*.

On Monday, March 17, Bollywood trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the opening weekend box office report of *The Diplomat* on X (formerly Twitter). He

wrote, "Released with minimal buzz and primarily targeting major centres, #TheDiplomat posts a low opening weekend." Highlighting the film's performance, the trade analyst noted, "Frankly, the film should have seen stronger weekend growth given its positive word of mouth... However, trends in key urban centres were encouraging." "With no major releases until #Eid [#Sikandar], the film has a window to attract its target audience. #TheDiplomat [Week 1] Fri 4.03 cr, Sat 4.68 cr, Sun 4.74 cr. Total: ₹13.45 cr,"

Taran Adarsh wrote. In his review for NDTV, film critic Saibal Chatterjee rated *The Diplomat* 3 out of 5 stars. He mentioned that the film has "all the ingredients of a conventional Bollywood drama". Read the review here.

The Diplomat has been jointly bankrolled by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, John Abraham, Vipul D Shah, Ashwin Varde, Rajesh Bahl, Samir Dixit, Jatish Varma and Rakesh Dang under the banners of T-Series Films, JA Entertainment, Wakaoo Films, Seeta Films and Fortune Pictures. It hit the screens on March 14.

Bollywood's First Blockbuster: Ran For 200 Weeks, Made Rs 1 Crore In The Middle Of World War II

A film's success, whether it is a hit, superhit, or blockbuster, is determined by its box office numbers. But have you ever wondered which was India's first blockbuster film? It starred an actor who was once a lab technician and a single film turned him into the biggest star of his time.

Bollywood's First Blockbuster

This is a story from 1943 when Indian cinema witnessed its first true blockbuster. *Kismet*, starring Ashok Kumar, was produced by Bombay Talkies and became a milestone in the industry. Not only did it shatter box office records at the time, but it also gave Hindi cinema its first superstar, Ashok Kumar.

Directed by Gyan Mukherjee and produced by Bombay Talkies, *Kismet* set a record by running in theatres for three consecutive years. It played for around



200 weeks at Kolkata's Radha Talkies, a remarkable feat for its time.

Box Office Collection and Budget

According to reports, *Kismet* was made on a budget of approximately Rs 2 lakh.

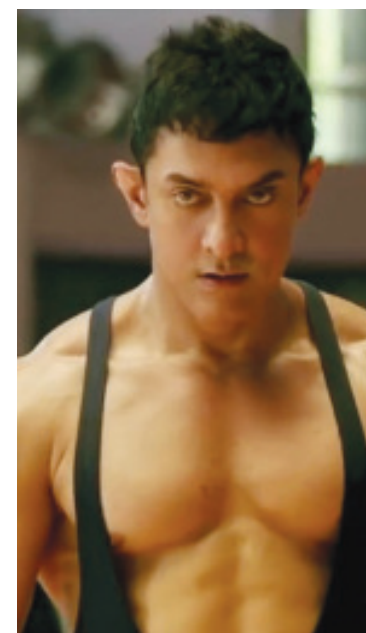
Despite being released during the difficult times of World War II, when economies were struggling, the film pulled audiences to theatres. It went on to earn Rs 1 crore, securing its place as Hindi cinema's first

blockbuster and achieved an extraordinary achievement 82 years ago. From Lab Technician to Superstar Ashok Kumar, originally named Kumudlal Kunjilal Ganguly, worked as a lab technician at Bombay Talkies before fate intervened. Himanshu Rai, the studio's owner, took a chance on him and cast him as a hero. The gamble paid off, and Ashok Kumar went on to deliver numerous hits, solidifying his place in Bollywood history.

A Film Ahead of Its Time

Kismet was a ground-breaking film for Hindi cinema. It introduced audiences to a morally complex protagonist, a pickpocket (played by Ashok Kumar) who helps an innocent girl and her family. It also tackled bold themes, including an unmarried woman's pregnancy, a rarity in films of that era.

Aamir Khan @60:



Caught In His Own 'Cage'

It was 2001. Aamir Khan had two films lined up. Neither stirred much excitement. Neither seemed interesting enough. The names behind them didn't inspire confidence either. One was helmed by Ashutosh Gowariker, whose previous collaboration with Khan, *Baazi* (there was a cameo too in *Pehla Nasha*) had faded from memory as quickly as it arrived. The other was led by a debutant director, Farhan Akhtar, whose only claim to intrigue seemed to be his lineage. The whispers didn't help either. One film had Khan playing a village farmer, hardly the stuff of blockbusters. In the other, he shared the frame with two relatively lesser known faces. Nothing about these projects suggested the seismic shift they were about to trigger. Perhaps everyone misjudged. Or worse, they failed to see what Khan had already glimpsed. Maybe they weren't paying attention. Maybe they couldn't see him at all.

The Slide Till 2001

After all, back then, Khan was just another actor whose filmography offered little to linger on, let alone celebrate. Yes, his magnetic debut in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* had made him a heartthrob, but what followed was a stretch of misfires and mediocrity. For every *Rangeela* and *Sarfaroosh*, there was a *Mela* and a *Mann* dragging him back to the ordinary. He flirted with fresher, independent voices (Aditya Bhattacharya, Ram Gopal Varma,

Deepa Mehta), but more often, he leaned on the safety net of big-league filmmakers (Mahesh Bhatt, Yash Chopra, Inder Kumar). Occasionally, he strayed into something different, but his instincts kept circling back to familiar, romantic terrain. Even at the box office, his shine had faded. His last true blockbuster, *Raja Hindustani*, was already five years behind him. By 2001, the



odds and perceptions were stacked against him. It seemed like he had everything to lose and almost nothing to gain.

However, if there's one actor who refuses to be pinned down, who defies, eludes, and shatters expectations, it's Khan. In 2001, he arrived twice, just two months apart, and each time, he tore through the rules of commercial Hindi cinema. He didn't just reshape the language of storytelling; he redefined the moment, and in the process,

himself.

The Cult Of *Lagaan*

The first was *Lagaan*, a leap so improbable, it feels like myth. In retrospect, it seems destined for glory. After all, a perfect fusion of cinema and cricket, India's twin obsessions. How could it fail? But to read it only through hindsight is to miss its razor's edge. Its screenplay was a high-wire act, so delicate, so radical,

certain. In reality, few films have ever altered the landscape the way it did.

And since then, few actors have altered the medium the way Khan has. Almost overnight, his name was everywhere: on every screen, on everyone's lips. It felt as if he had emerged from nowhere and suddenly had it all. Next to him, the other Khans (Shah Rukh and Salman) seemed to blur into the background. With every new role, he appeared to shed his old self and become someone else entirely. He was no longer just any other actor: he was the most versatile, the most cerebral, and perhaps, the most secure. It didn't matter if he played second fiddle. It didn't matter if the director he worked with had never tasted success. What mattered was the pursuit of telling something new, something urgent. He wanted to tell stories that cut deeper, to stretch the language of cinema, to move audiences in ways they hadn't been before. In an industry that clings to the familiar, he became a beacon for risk. In a world where most play the same character on repeat, he chose to be a chameleon; always shifting, always one step ahead.

On The Up And Up

Mangal Pandey, Rang De Basanti, *Fanaa*, *Ghajini*, *3 Idiots*, *Dhobi Ghat*, *Talaash*...the list really goes on. With each film, he unlocked new shades of

himself, stretching his range, deepening his craft. Each role didn't just make him a household name (if he wasn't one already), it cemented his place as a cultural obsession. The audience wasn't just watching him anymore; they were waiting for him. Every year, they opened their hearts and their wallets, flocking to theatres in numbers that only grew larger. Inevitably, he became the most bankable, the most profitable. His films didn't just reshape cinema; they rewrote the business itself. *Ghajini* was the first Bollywood film to net Rs 100 crore in the domestic market. *3 Idiots* pushed the boundary to 200 crore. *PK* shattered it again with Rs 300 crore. The records kept falling, and the list again kept growing. Perhaps, for the first time, he became the rarest figure in Hindi cinema: someone who effortlessly married art with commerce, and made both feel inseparable. Perhaps, for the first time, he was no longer just an actor who took risks, he was a star who could act. But that's the thing about stardom: it demands to be the centre of everything. No matter how much Khan insists he is an actor first, no matter how much the world admires the actor in him, he remains...a star. And stars, by their very nature, cannot escape gravity—they pull everything towards themselves. What followed in his filmography is fascinating. On the surface, he seemed to continue the path he had carved for over a decade: taking risks, choosing stories that defied formula. But quietly, almost imperceptibly, he began to shape a formula out of what once felt formless. His films gave room for others to shine but only until he arrived. They weren't about him, until, suddenly, they were. And once he stepped into the frame, there was no looking anywhere else.

Salman Khan Said Katrina Kaif Should 'Marry And Produce Children' If She Weren't An Actor: 'It's A Lot Of Work'

During the promotions of *Bharat* in 2019, Salman Khan was his usual playful self, leaving no opportunity for fun jabs. One moment that caught attention was when he was asked about an alternate career for his co-star Katrina Kaif. After thinking for a moment, and with a prompt from the host about Katrina's interest in producing, Salman jokingly responded, "She should get married and produce children."

Katrina quickly clarified, saying the question was about professional careers like being a doctor or engineer. "If I was not an actor what profession would I be, he's asking. Would I be a doctor, would I be an engineer?" she said. Salman, never missing a beat, quipped that both marriage and kids also require a lot of work. When asked about an alternate profession for Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan confidently said that the actor would excel in anything he chose to do. As for Aamir Khan, Salman admitted he had no idea what Aamir would pursue

but believed that whatever he did, he would surely succeed.

Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif have been one of Bollywood's most loved on-screen pairs, starring in films like *Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?* (2005), *Partner* (2007), and the immensely popular *Tiger* franchise (*Ek Tha Tiger* and *Tiger Zinda Hai*), solidifying their chemistry as iconic. Off-screen, their camaraderie has been equally heartwarming, with Salman often regarded as Katrina's mentor during her early days in the industry.

However, their bond has never been purely professional. For years, rumours of a romance between Salman and Katrina have circulated, with their close connection making headlines. Although neither has officially confirmed the speculation, their mutual respect and affection for each other have always been apparent.

On the work front, Katrina was last seen in *Merry Christmas*. Salman Khan will be seen in his Eid release, *Sikandar*.



John Abraham Was Asked 'Kaun Ho' At Muhurat Of His Film, Amitabh Bachchan And Hrithik Let Him In: 'I Was On Bike'

John Abraham, who has been in the industry for more than two decades, recently shared a funny memory from his first film's muhurat. He was refused entry because he arrived on a bike! The film was *Aetbaar*, directed by Vikram Bhatt, produced by Ratan Tata, and starring Amitabh Bachchan.

In a recent *Filmfare* interview, John Abraham shared a funny memory from his early career. He said, "When I went for my first muhurat shot, I went on a motorcycle. The film was *Aetbaar*. Hrithik Roshan and Amitabh Bachchan were clapping the board for me. Hrithik and I were classmates, he is a sweetheart. I was not allowed in, because I was on a motorcycle. The gates were shut and they asked



me, 'Kaun ho?' (Who are you?) I said, 'The muhurat is for my film' and they finally allowed me. As soon as they opened the gates, Amitabh Bachchan and Hrithik Roshan were gesturing at me and saying, 'Come in'." John Abraham is well-known for

his love for bikes. He owns several high-end motorcycles. His garage includes notable superbikes such as the Suzuki Hayabusa, Yamaha V-Max 60th Anniversary, Kawasaki ZX-14R, Honda CBR 1000RR, Aprilia RSV4 RF, Yamaha YZF-R1, Ducati Panigale V4, and

BMW S1000 RR.

In the same interview, the actor revealed that he gets upset when anyone touches his bikes. He said, "If someone puts a finger on my bike, I get offended. Irrespective of the bond, I judge them. I take good care

of my bikes, I nurture them." Meanwhile, he's currently seen in *The Diplomat*, a political thriller film directed by Shivam Nair and written by Ritesh Shah. The film, starring John Abraham and Sadia Khateeb, is set against the backdrop of India-Pakistan relations, exploring themes of diplomacy and the personal conflicts faced by diplomats.

The Diplomat brings a gripping real-life story to the big screen, following Indian diplomat J.P. Singh as he faces a high-stakes international crisis. When Uzma Ahmed arrives at the Indian embassy claiming she was abducted and forced into marriage in Pakistan, Singh finds himself in a tense battle of diplomacy, legal hurdles, and political pressure.

Preity Zinta hits back at Kerala Congress over 'fake news' of getting her Rs 18 cr loan 'written off' by BJP