



Ayodhya saw unrest due to appeasement politics: CM Yogi attacks Opposition

(Gns).
Ayodhya and the Ram Mandir have long remained at the centre of political discourse, with visits by political leaders often accompanied by sharp political messaging, particularly in the run-up to major religious and cultural milestones.
Today, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, after his visit to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, took a veiled swipe at the Opposition. He alleged that "some people" had turned Ayodhya into a land of unrest and conflict through appeasement politics.
The Chief Minister was speaking at a public gathering in Ayodhya after offering prayers at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex on

the second anniversary of Ram Lalla's Pran Pratishtha. He visited the Ram Lalla temple and the Ram Darbar before addressing the gathering.
Without naming any party, CM Yogi alleged that opposition forces disrupted the sanctity of Ayodhya in the past due to appeasement politics. "In Independent India, Ayodhya has witnessed several stages of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Ayodhya's name tells that no war has been fought here, which means no enemy could stand its ground in front of its courage. But some people, driven by greed, religious fanaticism and appeasement, made Ayodhya a place of unrest and conflict,"

he said.
Hails PM Modi for building Ram Mandir
During his address, he credited Prime Minister



Narendra Modi for fulfilling what he described as a centuries-old aspiration. Recalling key milestones, Yogi Adityanath said Ayodhya would always remember three historic

moments under the Prime Minister's leadership – the foundation stone laying of the Ram Janmabhoomi Temple on 05 August 2020, the pran pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol on 22 January 2024, and the hoisting of the saffron flag atop the temple on 25 November.
CM Yogi also acknowl-

edged the role of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was present at the event, in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. He said Singh was visibly emotional on witnessing

the completed temple after nearly 500 years.
"The Defence Minister has played a prominent role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, and today, after 500 years,

he is overwhelmed by looking at the temple and is experiencing a feeling of joy and pride. I saw him getting emotional as he was hoisting the flag at Mata Annapurna temple on

the occasion of Pratishtha Dwadashi," the CM said.
Earlier in the day, CM Yogi and Defence Minister also visited Hanuman Garhi, where they offered prayers to Lord Hanuman

During Operation Sindoor, we followed Lord Ram's teaching of not abandoning righteousness even in war: Rajnath Singh

(Gns).
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday participated in the second anniversary celebrations of the consecration ceremony of Lord Ramlala at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple.
On this auspicious occasion, he first offered prayers at Hanuman Garhi and then had darshan of Lord Ramlala at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. Afterwards, amidst chanting of mantras, he installed the religious flag on the spire of the Maa Annapurna Temple located within the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi complex.

In his address, the Defence Minister mentioned Operation Sindoor and cited the example of

Lord Rama's adherence to righteousness. He said just

entering their stronghold,"

this opportunity today."



as Lord Rama taught us all the importance of not abandoning righteousness even in war, our Army conducted a limited, controlled, and purposeful operation. "The objective of Operation Sindoor was to teach the terrorists a lesson, and we taught them that lesson by

The Defence Minister, expressing his feelings on the occasion, said, "Lord, what more could I ask for today? It feels as if I have received everything I ever wanted in life. Lord Raghuvendra himself chose me for this day, which is why I am getting

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, describing it as the most fortunate day in his life, said, "Two years ago today, when Lord Rama was re-established here, it was a historic moment of pride for all Indians. Today, Lord Rama is gracing not only India but the entire world with his glory.

He said that every street and intersection of Ayodhya has become imbued with the spirit of Rama. Kanak Bhavan, Dashrath Mahal, Hanuman Garhi, the entire Ayodhya is shining brightly in the lap of Mother Sarayu. This radiance is not limited to the Ayodhya region alone, but the entire Awadh and India are immersed in the spirit of Rama today.

An important decision by Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel for the holistic development of rural areas in the state's districts

(Gns).
Annual Rs. 1 Crore Discretionary Grant to Be Allocated to Presidents of District Panchayats in All 34 Districts for Key Local Development Works
Gandhinagar, 31 December 2025 : Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel has taken a significant public interest decision aimed at ensuring the holistic and inclusive development of rural areas across the state's districts. For this purpose, he has issued directions to allocate a discretionary grant of Rs. 1 crore to the presidents of all 34 District

Panchayats of the state for development works of local

existing practice of allocating a grant of Rs. 2.5 crore



importance in their respective districts.

to MLAs for development works under the Decentralised District Planning Programme.

The presidents of the District Panchayats had made representations to the Chief Minister seeking the allocation of discretionary grants to District Panchayat presidents, with the objective of accelerating rural development works in their districts and prioritising projects of local importance. Responding positively and swiftly to these representations, Chief Minister has directed the General Administration Department to allocate this discretionary grant of Rs. 1 crore to the presidents of the District Panchayats.

Can the opposition rebound in 2026—a year with five key elections?

(Gns).
Year 2026 will be a busy year for political parties with as many as four states—West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala—and the Union Territory of Puducherry lined up for elections.

What is specifically significant here is that three of these states are currently ruled by the BJP's arch rivals—Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal, the Secular Progressive Alliance led by M K Stalin's Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu, and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) coalition and Pinarayi

Vijayan of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Kerala.

Assam, of course, is

All India N R Congress (AINRC) with Chief Minister N Rangasamy supported by the BJP.



with the BJP with Himanta Biswa Sarma as the Chief Minister. At the same time, Puducherry has a coalition government headed by the

With two decisive victories in Delhi and Bihar, 2025 was a good year for the BJP and the NDA, but for its rivals it was not so

good. While the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP was defeated in Delhi, the Mahagathbandhan of Lalu Prasad's RJD, Congress, and the Left were no match for the BJP-led NDA in Bihar.

But, 2026 can be a good year for opposition parties, as except for Assam, it is the opposition parties that are ruling the other three states—West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala.

In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee will be fiercely defending her government against a resurgent BJP, while the Congress and Left will try to recover some ground.

UP Police pursues 'zero tolerance' policy against crime, says DGP; highlights, encounters, convictions and crime control

(Gns).
Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Krishna on Wednesday said the state police is pursuing a "zero tolerance" policy against crime, focusing not only on arrests but also on securing convictions and strict punishment for offenders.

Addressing a press conference, the DGP said the UP Police arrests an average of around seven lakh accused persons every year. He stressed that the effort goes beyond arrests, with strong investigations and effective prosecution aimed at ensuring convictions in court. "Our objective is not just to send criminals to jail, but to make sure they are punished," he said.

Providing figures for 2025, the DGP said 48 criminals were killed in police encounters in the state, the highest number recorded in recent years. He asserted that all actions

were taken within the framework of law and that there was no leniency towards hardened and organised criminals. Continuous pressure, he added, has been main-

Minister's instructions. In 2025 alone, police conducted 2,739 operations, during which 3,153 accused were injured, while 48 were killed in encounters. One policeman



tained on criminal gangs.

Comparing police action between March 20, 2017, and December 29, 2025, the DGP said that the data showed that 266 accused persons had been killed in police encounters since 2018, reflecting the state police's emphasis on what he described as a "zero-tolerance policy" against crime following the Chief

was also killed during these operations, the data showed. The number of alleged criminals killed in police operations stood at 41 in 2018, 34 in 2019, and 26 each in 2020 and 2021. In 2022, the figures dropped to 13, before rising to 26 in 2023 and 25 in 2024, the data showed.

Over the eight-year period since 2017, police car-

ried out 16,284 operations in total, in which 10,990 accused were injured and 266 killed. During these actions.

1,783 police personnel were injured and 18 lost their lives, according to the data. Yogi Adityanath took charge as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in March 2017.

Meanwhile, according to the police data shared at the press conference, a total of 1,25,985 criminals have been convicted since July 2023. Among these, 79 offenders have received death penalty, reflecting what the DGP described as stronger case preparation and effective courtroom advocacy by the police.

On women's safety, the DGP claimed that incidents of rape have declined by 53 percent compared to 2017. He attributed the reduction to stricter monitoring, prompt police action, and a more sensitive approach to policing.

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Editorial

Policy must offer smokers an off-ramp

India wants to reduce smoking, but its approach defies basic public-health logic. By raising cigarette taxes while outlawing safer alternatives, it corners smokers into a false choice: keep paying more to smoke, or break the law to quit. No serious tobacco-control strategy can work this way. If the government's aim is to move people away from smoking, incentives matter. Adults need legal, regulated, lower-risk options that make switching possible, not punishable. India is trying to reduce smoking while banning the very tools that make quitting possible, a contradiction no tax policy can fix.

India has already seen the limits of this approach. Over the past decade, cigarette taxes have risen sharply, but steady raises in income have cancelled out their bite, leaving cigarettes just as affordable. The WHO may recommend taxation at 75 per cent of retail price, but India is stuck near 53 per cent not because taxes are low, but because taxes alone cannot outpace economic growth. And when cigarettes become more expensive, smokers do not quit, they shift to cheaper and far more harmful alternatives like bidis, chewing tobacco, or black-market products, all of which become even more attractive as taxes climb. The Bill's debate in Parliament made this tension clear, with MPs questioning worker livelihood, illicit trade, and the lack of a proper roadmap to curb smoking. Even countries with far higher tobacco taxes have learned that taxation works only when paired with harm-reduction tools. That is why New Zealand raises taxes annually and allows safer alternatives for adults trying to quit. Sweden, now on track to become the world's first "smoke-free" country, did not get there by taxing cigarettes alone. It succeeded because it encouraged a low-risk alternative: snus. The UK cut smoking rates dramatically not with punitive taxes, but by actively promoting vaping as a far safer alternative for smokers. India wants to achieve the same public health goals as the countries that have slashed smoking rates dramatically, but it has banned the essential tools needed to achieve that goal. By outlawing e-cigarettes and safer nicotine products under PECA, India has closed off the most credible exit route for adult smokers. The result is entirely predictable: prices keep rising, choices keep shrinking, and smokers are left with nowhere to go except back to more harmful products. When taxes go up, and alternatives stay illegal, people do not quit; they switch to cheaper, more harmful tobacco or to unregulated black-market products. This inconsistency also harms the workers whom MPs raised concerns about, including bidi rollers, leaf pluckers, and small growers. A tax- only approach squeezes demand unpredictably but doesn't build a transition plan for the communities dependent on tobacco cultivation. A modern tobacco framework would pair tax reform with a structured shift toward less harmful products, more stable markets, and genuine cessation pathways. India does not need to reinvent the wheel; it needs to stop ignoring the evidence that already works. A coherent science driven policy would keep taxes smart, not punitive; regulate and legalize safer alternatives for adults and farmers and workers in diversifying to other crops and industries. This is not a lenient approach but only a strategy proven to reduce harm. Raising cigarette taxes may preserve government revenue and satisfy the WHO on paper. But if the goal is fewer smokers, not just fuller coffers, India must offer people an off-ramp. Without harm reduction, tax hikes are little more than a costly detour.

Rashmika Mandanna, Vijay Devrakonda's Marriage Date & Venue Fixed

(Gns). Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda seem all set to turn a new page in their story, and fans couldn't be more excited. For months now, whispers about their relationship have been floating around, but the buzz has recently shifted gears into full-blown wedding talk.

According to reports, the two actors quietly got engaged back in October 2025, in what can only be described as a super low-key ceremony. No flashy Instagram posts, no paparazzi leaks-just a handful of family members and close friends witnessing the moment. Since then, admirers of the duo have been waiting for something concrete, and it looks like the wait is finally paying off.

According to reports, actors Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda are purportedly set to marry on February 26, 2026, in a private ceremony at a palace in Udaipur, following a secret engagement in October 2025. The couple, known for their roles in films like Geetha Govindam and Dear Comrade, have kept their relationship private, with the wedding expected to be intimate and away from public attention.

Word is that the wedding is locked in for February 2026, with February 26 marked as the big day. And here's the dreamy detail: the venue is said to be a palace in Udaipur. Yes, one of those

India has quietly crossed a scientific threshold in its northernmost region.

(Gns). India has quietly crossed a scientific threshold in its northernmost region. At a state agricultural university in Kashmir, researchers have successfully developed the country's first gene-edited sheep – an animal that has now completed a year of monitored growth with normal health indicators and improved muscle development. The achievement has not triggered headlines or public debate. Yet its implications extend well beyond the laboratory in which it was born.

Developed at Sher-e-Kashmir Agricultural University in Srinagar, the project reflects years of publicly funded research that has advanced quietly, without the regulatory attention such breakthroughs usually demand.The sheep was developed using precision gene-editing techniques



that alter an organism's existing DNA rather than inserting foreign genetic material. By disabling a gene known to limit muscle growth, scientists have demonstrated measurable gains in body mass without observable physiological stress.This is not experimental tinkering for novelty's sake. The research emerged from a region that consumes far more mutton than it produces, under conditions of shrinking pasture, water stress, and rising demand.What makes this development consequential is not the animal itself, but the policy vacuum surrounding it.

India has, in recent years, signalled openness to gene-edited crops, approving varieties devel-

Without choice

oped through similar techniques.Livestock, however, remains in regulatory limbo. There is no clear guidance on whether gene-edited animals will be treated as natural vari-



ants, subjected to transgenic regulations, or evaluated under an entirely new framework. This uncertainty effectively caps progress, regardless

under defined safeguards. Others remain cautious but are actively revising their rules. India's hesitation, by contrast, appears less philosophical than procedural.

Ethical concerns surrounding animal biotechnology are legitimate and should not be minimised. But ethical governance requires clarity, not silence.A regulatory architecture that includes transparent approvals, traceability, animal-welfare standards, and post-deployment monitoring is not an endorsement of unchecked innovation. It is an assertion of state responsibility. There is also a strategic dimension India cannot ignore. Protein availability, especially affordable animal

mate to persist, but not to resolve. Regional and international reactions reflect this scepticism. Western governments have rejected the polls outright, while Asean has urged dialogue before any election – an implicit admission that ballots cannot precede reconciliation. The junta's leadership, embodied by Min Aung Hlaing, insists the process is free and fair, but legitimacy cannot be asserted by declaration.

It must be earned through inclusion. For India and the wider region, Myanmar's election poses an uncomfortable truth.

AI momentum: What lies ahead for India?

Ever since the launch of ChatGPT in 2022, AI usage in India has evolved significantly in both scale and variety. Initially limited to business applications in a few companies, AI adoption has since expanded sharply, with India accounting for 13.5 per cent of ChatGPT's 700 million weekly users.

A recent TCS-CII survey found that 69 per cent of organisations now use AI-enabled products and services. Innovation has surged as well, with 83,059 AI patents filed between 2019 and 2025, compared to just 3,931 from 2010 to 2018. This rapid diffusion of AI is intensifying its interaction with economic agents across the macroeconomy, giving rise to an evolving AI ecosystem. This ecosystem is not only shaping AI's trajectory but is also being reshaped by AI's impact on labour markets, governance, and infrastructure. While the spillover effects of these interactions will influence the broader economy and will require policy vigilance, they also create significant opportunity areas for India to enter and add value in the global AI race. Globally, emerging AI ecosystems are essential for the ethical, equitable, and effective adoption of AI.



These ecosystems, comprising the labour market, digital infrastructure, and governance, are not only individually necessary but also complementary. Each element both influences and is influenced by AI, shaping the broader macroeconomy and national competitiveness. Securing the AI ecosystem therefore requires more than simply establishing these core components but the policies need to be dynamic, such that they account for ongoing interactions between AI and its users. This is particularly critical in India, where AI adoption is already widespread but uneven across socio-economic groups. Continuous policy vigilance is therefore needed to prevent potential macroeconomic risks that could affect the future trajectory of AI adoption. The most intense

challenges policymakers face in securing India's AI ecosystem arise from the labour market. The advent of AI has raised concerns about workforce skill erosion, socio-economic barriers to transitioning into AI roles, and job insecurity, particularly in the IT industry.

elite-level jobs emerge and lower-level coding positions disappear. The result is a labour market that may simultaneously demand higher skills, offer fewer opportunities, and deepen inequality if access to reskilling remains limited. In this context AI compels us to

Recent research increasingly supports these concerns, showing that AI can degrade skills over time and displace tasks. At the same time, many advocates argue that AI will generate new jobs in AI development and maintenance to replace jobs that it eliminates. While this is true, the statement overlooks significant structural barriers. Although many people could benefit from these new opportunities, existing workers may encounter challenges such as the cost of reskilling, limited access to employer-provided training, and personal constraints including work and family responsibilities, which can make reskilling unfeasible for large sections of the population. Although AI can theoretically replace jobs and create new ones, its effects on the labour market are often unexpected and multifaceted. In coding, for example, fears of job displacement are widespread as AI models can already assist with writing and debugging code. Yet AI does not truly "understand" problems; it generates outputs by learning patterns from existing data and struggles with genuinely novel challenges outside its training set.

Coupled with the erosion of human skills due to over-reliance on AI, this dynamic may create a highly uneven labour market where a few

elms. Policymakers are still deliberating over a formal governance framework, yet AI models have been deployed in India since 2022, meaning data may already have been included in AI systems without consent and cannot be practically retrieved.

Moreover, regulators face an inherent trade-off between privacy and innovation, as stringent technological safeguards that prevent data leakage can inadvertently limit AI performance by restricting access to new data. Digital infrastructure, a critical pillar of the AI ecosystem, introduces its own set of challenges. Open access and extensive AI usage exacerbate environmental pressures, as data centres powering large models consume enormous amounts of electricity. With much of this energy still derived from fossil fuels, AI systems contribute significantly to carbon emissions. In addition, AI data centres require vast quantities of water for cooling. This intensifies pressure on freshwater resources, especially in regions already facing scarcity. Given these dynamic interactions between AI and its ecosystem, securing India's AI ecosystem is a complex task for policymakers. As the year closes, some areas demand immediate attention, while others require strategic shifts and broader stakeholder consultation. AI's effects are multifaceted and often unexpected, with the labour market likely to feel the strongest impact. Policymakers must focus on adapting education systems and addressing socioeconomic barriers to ensure a smooth transition for existing workers. Potential inequality arising from AI-driven displacement may also require a rethink of traditional growth paradigms. India's AI future depends not only on dynamic policy action but also on leveraging opportunities to overcome current system limitations, create original use cases, and add genuine value through innovation.

Russia Shares Drone Wreckage Video Near Putin’s Residence Amid Conflict Tensions

(Gns). Russia released night-time footage of a destroyed drone this week, saying Ukraine tried to strike President Vladimir Putin’s residence in the Novgorod region. Kyiv rejected the charge and said Moscow had provided no credible proof, while allies also questioned Russia’s version of events.

The Russian defence ministry published the video, filmed in a snowy forested area, and said it showed the damaged drone that allegedly headed towards Putin’s residence in north-west Russia. State media said the clip was recorded at night and distributed by the ministry, according to AFP.

Russia claimed Ukraine attempted to strike President Putin’s Novgorod region residence with 91 drones, releasing footage as evidence, but Kyiv denied involvement. Ukraine and allies questioned Russia’s evidence, while Moscow labeled the incident a terrorist act, and Zelensky met with allies in France on January 6th, the incident remains uncertain.

On Monday, Moscow said Ukraine had targeted one of Putin’s presidential residences in the Novgorod region. Officials claimed 91

long-range attack drones were involved. The Kremlin later said it could not pres-



ent extra visual proof because the drones were "all shot down." Kyiv firmly rejected that explanation.

According to AFP, Russia’s defence ministry described the alleged strike as "targeted, carefully planned and carried out in stages". Officials in Moscow called the episode a serious security incident. Russian authorities said the apparent target was a secluded presidential compound used by Putin in the north-west of the country.

Ukraine labelled Russia’s accusation a "lie". Officials in Kyiv said there was no "plausible" evidence linking Ukraine to any drone strike on Putin’s residence. Several Western partners also voiced doubts, AFP report-

ed, and suggested Russia had not provided verifiable data supporting the



claimed attack.

The Kremlin said the supposed operation against the residence in the Novgorod region amounted to a "terrorist act" and a "personal attack against Putin." Russian officials used this language while stressing the security risks. They did not release further technical details about the drones, beyond their claimed numbers and range.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky dismissed Russia’s statement as a "complete fabrication". AFP reported that Zelensky planned to meet allies in France on 6 January to continue discussions on peace efforts. Zelensky urged partners to check every Russian assertion

about the drones and again questioned Moscow’s evidence.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, Zelensky repeated that the attack narrative had been staged. "Our negotiating team connected with the American team, they went through the details, and we understand that it’s fake," AFP quoted Zelensky as saying. Kyiv said this review supported its position that the allegation lacked factual support.

However, United States President Donald Trump directed criticism at Kyiv after Russia made the claim. "You know who told me about it? President Putin, early in the morning, he said he was attacked. It’s no good," Trump said. Trump added that it was "one thing to be offensive because they’re offensive", but "another thing" to attack Putin’s house.

The video from Russia’s defence ministry, the strong denial from Ukraine, and mixed reactions from international figures left the alleged drone incident surrounded by uncertainty. With Moscow insisting on its account and Kyiv rejecting it, the dispute added another layer of tension to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Woman Lured Into Van at Night, Gang-Raped for Over Two Hours in Faridabad, Thrown on Road

(Gns). A 28-year-old married woman was allegedly gang-raped inside a moving van for more than two hours in Faridabad during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday, before being thrown onto the road with severe injuries.

In Faridabad, a 28-year-old married woman was allegedly gang-raped for over two hours inside a moving van on Monday night and Tuesday, before being thrown onto the road and sustaining severe injuries; police have arrested both accused and recovered the vehicle.

Police said both accused have been arrested and the vehicle used in the crime has been recovered.

Lured Into Van While Waiting To Go Home

According to the police, the incident took place late at night when the woman was standing by the roadside waiting for a vehicle to return home. A van approached her, and two young men offered to drop

her home. Trusting their assurance, she got inside the vehicle.

Instead of taking her



home, the van allegedly diverted towards Gurgaon Road, where the accused began assaulting her inside the moving vehicle.

Assault Continued For Over Two Hours

Investigators said the woman remained trapped inside the van for nearly two-and-a-half hours. During this time, the accused allegedly raped her repeatedly. Despite her resistance and repeated pleas, the men continued the assault and threatened her to prevent her from raising an alarm.

Police said the prolonged nature of the crime points to deliberate intent, and further investigation is

Victim Hospitalised, Accused Arrested

Doctors treating the woman said she required 10 to 12 stitches on her face. While her condition is now stable, she remains in deep shock. Her statement has not yet been recorded due to her medical and psychological condition.

In her complaint, the victim’s sister told police that the woman had called her around 8.30 pm the previous evening, saying she had argued with her mother and was going to a friend’s house, adding that she would return within three hours.

Police confirmed that the woman is married, has three children, and has been living separately from her husband due to an ongoing domestic dispute. Both accused have been taken into custody, and the van involved in the crime has been seized as part of the investigation.

Thrown Out Of Moving Van With Severe Injuries

Around 3 am, the accused allegedly pushed the woman out of the moving van near Raja Chowk in the SGM Nagar area. She sustained serious facial injuries and was bleeding heavily after hitting the road.

Despite her condition, the woman managed to make repeated phone calls to her sister. When the sister returned the call and

Leave Trump, China Now Claims Mediation In India-Pakistan War

(Gns). A fresh diplomatic row has emerged after China claimed it played a mediating role in easing tensions between India and Pakistan during their brief but intense military confrontation earlier this year.

The assertion comes even as US President Donald Trump has been repeatedly stating that Washington prevented a potential war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that China played a mediating role in easing tensions between India and Pakistan during their military standoff earlier this year, a claim India has rejected, maintaining the crisis was resolved through direct military communication.

Speaking at the Symposium on the International Situation and China’s Foreign Relations

in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said his country had taken "an objective and just stance"



in several global conflicts, including the India-Pakistan standoff. Wang listed China’s involvement in northern Myanmar, the Iranian nuclear issue, Palestine-Israeli tensions, and the Cambodia-Thailand conflict, alongside the India-Pakistan crisis.

The confrontation was triggered by a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam valley on April 22, which claimed 26 civilian lives. In response, India launched Operation Sindoor, targeting terror

infrastructure inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The four-day military exchange saw heavy damage inflicted on Pakistan’s assets.

India has consistently rejected claims of third-party involvement, maintaining

that the crisis was resolved through direct military-to-military communication. According to New Delhi, Pakistan’s Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) contacted his Indian counterpart, and both sides agreed to halt all firing and military action across land, air, and sea from May 10.

China’s Position and Allegations

China’s claim of mediation has drawn scrutiny, particularly given its close defence ties with Pakistan.

Beijing is Pakistan’s largest arms supplier, and its involvement in the crisis has raised questions about its motives.

In November, the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission accused Beijing of orchestrating a disinformation campaign in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. The report alleged that China used fake social media accounts to circulate AI-generated images of fabricated aircraft debris.

Analysts suggested the campaign was aimed at undermining sales of French Rafale fighter jets to India while promoting China’s own J-35 aircraft.

On May 7, during the height of Operation Sindoor, China had officially called for restraint, expressing regret over India’s strikes. "China finds India’s military operation early this morning regrettable. We are concerned about the ongoing situation."

After Khaleda Zia’s Funeral, Diplomatic Spotlight on Dhaka: Jaishankar Meets Tarique Rahman, Pakistan Speaker

(Gns). Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was buried with full state honours in Dhaka on Wednesday, in a ceremony watched by thousands of mourners and visiting leaders. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India, underscoring New Delhi’s cautious outreach as India-Bangladesh relations remain tense after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina.

The 80-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader was laid to rest beside spouse and former President Ziaur Rahman. The grave lies along Manik Mia Avenue, close to Bangladesh’s parliament complex, turning the central Dhaka stretch into a heavily guarded mourning zone during the state-organised farewell.

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, aged 80, was buried with state honors in Dhaka on Wednesday, attended by thousands and dignitaries including India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. This occurred amid strained India-Bangladesh relations following Sheikh Hasina’s ouster, with concerns raised over attacks on minorities.

Before the funeral rites, Jaishankar met Khaleda Zia’s son and acting BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, who is widely seen as a frontrunner for the post of

Jaishankar met Khaleda Zia’s son and acting BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, who is widely seen as a frontrunner for the post of



Bangladesh Prime Minister. Jaishankar delivered a condolence letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also briefly met Pakistan’s National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during the visit.

Jaishankar’s presence in Dhaka comes as ties between India and Bangladesh face strain. Relations cooled after Sheikh Hasina, described as a long-time ally of India, was removed from office. New Delhi has also raised repeated concerns over rising attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, across the Muslim-majority country.

Khaleda Zia funeral Dhaka crowd and state honours

Braving cold weather, people from different walks of life gathered in Dhaka to offer prayers for Khaleda

Zia. Many cried during the janaza, asking for forgiveness for the three-time Prime Minister, whose death drew emotional

responses from supporters and rivals alike throughout Bangladesh’s political spectrum. The national flag-draped coffin was placed at the west end of Manik Mia Avenue, creating a ceremonial focal point. After funeral prayers, officials conducted the burial beside Ziaur Rahman. Members of the public were barred from the actual interment, as authorities carried out an elaborate state funeral under strict security arrangements.

Khaleda Zia died on Tuesday after a long period of illness, aged 80. The death occurred just five days after Tarique Rahman returned to Bangladesh from London, ending 17 years of exile. Tarique Rahman had been living in the United Kingdom and

immigration experts in India say the shift could reduce opportunities for individuals referred to as "the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens." Officials have hinted that enforcement will intensify further in 2026.

Indian community groups in states like Texas, New Jersey and California say fear of raids has made some migrants reluctant to move freely in public spaces, seek jobs or report crimes to authorities.

India Watches Policy Shifts Closely

With over 4.5 million people of Indian origin living in the US, developments in Washington have domestic implications. Parents of Indian students preparing for 2026 intake programs say uncertainty around visas is now influencing decisions on university admissions and education loans.

Diplomatic observers note that New Delhi is likely to continue engaging Washington on smoother legal pathways for skilled workers, IT talent and students—critical pillars of the India-US economic and strategic partnership.

mid-level engineers and fresh graduates, prompting many to explore alternative destinations such as Canada or Europe.

Crackdown in the US Creates Anxiety Among Indian Diaspora

Indian families with members living in the US without proper documentation are also feeling heightened anxiety following a series of immigration raids across American states. On December 30, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced it had arrested

Amid H-1B Visa Backlog, US Embassy Advises Indians to Avoid Unlawful Migration

(Gns). New Delhi: A recent advisory from the United States Embassy in India has sparked apprehension among Indians planning to work, study or migrate to America. The Embassy has cautioned that anyone violating US immigration law will face "significant criminal penalties," stressing that the Trump Administration is committed to ending illegal migration during the President’s second term.

The message is being seen as particularly relevant for Indian job seekers and students, many of whom consider the US a top destination for education and employment. India sends one of the largest groups of H-1B visa applicants annually, yet this year has been marked by long queues for appointments, repeated interview rescheduling, and uncertainty over travel timelines.

The U.S. Embassy in India issued an advisory warning of criminal penalties for violating U.S. immigration laws, particularly

program and increased enforcement, potentially impacting the Indian diaspora and India-U.S. relations.

The warning coincides with sweeping changes to the H-1B visa program announced in December. The previous lottery-based selection system has been replaced by a weighted model that prioritises highly paid and highly skilled workers—raising the bar for thousands of Indian IT and tech professionals who depend on the programme to secure jobs in the US.

How Rich Is Warren Buffett? Know His Net Worth As He Steps Down As Berkshire Hathaway CEO

(Gns). Warren Buffett is stepping back from running Berkshire Hathaway’s daily affairs, marking a rare shift in global business. Leadership changes are common, yet this one affects a company that reshaped modern investing and created huge wealth. Buffett is not leaving entirely, but the person making operational calls will change. The move follows more than six decades of steady control under one dominant figure.

The decision comes as Berkshire Hathaway has grown into a company so large that fresh deals barely move the needle. With a market value close to \$900 billion, even multibillion-dollar acquisitions register only modestly. Buffett has often acknowledged that size now limits fresh opportunities. Slower growth, rather than any internal trouble, forms the background to this planned handover of power.

Warren Buffett is transitioning from running Berkshire Hathaway’s daily operations, with Greg Abel taking over operational authority. Buffett, who has a net worth of approximately \$148 billion, will remain as chairman, while the company, initially a textile mill, has grown into a vast financial ecosystem, and Buffett has donated more than \$60 billion to charity.

Operational authority will now pass to Greg Abel, a long-serving Berkshire Hathaway executive who has already handled large parts of the business. Abel has led the group’s non-insurance operations since 2018, covering sectors from energy to manufacturing. Most observers expect continuity instead of a sharp change in strategy. Buffett will stay on as chairman, still present but no longer in direct command. Buffett has made clear

impacting Indian job seekers and students due to changes in the H-1B visa

Immigration experts in India say the shift could reduce opportunities for



program and increased enforcement, potentially impacting the Indian diaspora and India-U.S. relations.

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mid-level engineers and fresh graduates, prompting many to explore alternative destinations such as Canada or Europe.

Crackdown in the US Creates Anxiety Among Indian Diaspora

Indian families with members living in the US without proper documentation are also feeling heightened anxiety following a series of immigration raids across American states. On December 30, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced it had arrested



that office life will not end with the transfer of duties. Berkshire Hathaway insiders expect Buffett to keep visiting headquarters, monitoring markets and sharing

opinions. The main change is that final decisions on operations will rest with Abel. Buffett’s role becomes one of oversight and advice, reflecting a gradual, carefully managed transition.

The roots of this moment go back to the early 1960s, when Buffett bought into a struggling textile mill named Berkshire Hathaway. The purchase looked ordinary at first glance. Instead of seeking quick profits, Buffett turned the company into a holding

vehicle. He began buying durable businesses and strong stocks through Berkshire, slowly shifting away from textiles and into more profitable areas.

Insurance operations became the backbone of this new structure. They generated steady cash, known as float, which Buffett then reinvested into railroads, energy utilities, manufacturing companies and famous consumer brands. Over many decades, these moves turned Berkshire into a broad financial ecosystem. The company now owns or holds stakes in dozens of major businesses, allowing profits from one arm to support investment in another.

Berkshire Hathaway’s scale and financial strength also shaped Buffett’s personal fortune. The vast majority of Buffett’s wealth is tied to Berkshire Hathaway shares, rather than a spread of different assets.

Berkshire Hathaway’s scale and financial strength also shaped Buffett’s personal fortune. The vast majority of Buffett’s wealth is tied to Berkshire Hathaway shares, rather than a spread of different assets.

now again occupies a central role in BNP politics.

Several senior representatives from South Asian nations attended the funeral alongside Jaishankar, reflecting regional interest in Bangladesh’s shifting political landscape. Delegates flew in from Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives for the ceremony in central Dhaka.

Country Visiting dignitary at Khaleda Zia funeral

India External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

Nepal Foreign Minister Bala Nanda Sharma

Bhutan Foreign Minister Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath

Maldives Higher Education and Labour Minister Ali Haidar Ahmed

India’s concerns have grown since an interim government led by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus took charge in August 2024. New Delhi has highlighted repeated incidents of violence against Hindus and damage to their properties. Against this charged backdrop, Khaleda Zia’s funeral became both a farewell and a sensitive diplomatic moment.

Sabarimala gold loot: SIT to interrogate UDF convenor Adoor Prakash

(Gns). The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the Sabarimala gold loot, is reportedly set to question Congress leader and UDF convenor MP Adoor Prakash over his alleged links with the main accused, Unnikrishnan Potty. However, Prakash has maintained that he has not received any intimation from SIT to this effect.

It is learnt that an investigation team will collect information, including his Delhi trip with Unnikrishnan Potty. When Unnikrishnan Potty met Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in Delhi, Adoor Prakash was with him. Pictures also emerged indicating Potty's closeness to him. The UDF convenor's clarification on this was that it was just an acquaintance with someone from his parliamentary constituency. Investigators hinted that Potty visited Sonia Gandhi's residence in Delhi twice. On one occasion, Adoor Prakash accompanied him, and Anto Antony MP was present on the other occasion.

Meanwhile, the SIT has decided to interrogate the first accused, Unnikrishnan Potty, Smart Creations



CEO Pankaj Bhandari and gold trader Govardhan together and gather decisive information related to the gold loot from them. For

this, the SIT has sought the custody of the three and the Kollam Vigilance Court has sent them to police custody for one day.

The SIT has found that Unnikrishnan Potty, who delivered the gold bars to Pankaj Bhandari, who extracted the gold, and Govardhan, who bought the gold, are equally involved in the robbery. The purpose of taking the accused into custody and questioning them is to obtain details of the gold loot and also to know whether they received help from high-ranking officials in the government and political leadership.

DM held a meeting with representatives of political parties regarding the special intensive revision campaign 2026.

Mathura. Under the chairmanship of District Magistrate/District Election Officer Chandra Prakash Singh, a meeting was held with representatives of all political parties regarding the special intensive revision campaign 2026. The District Magistrate informed all the political parties that the dates of the Special Intensive Revision Campaign 2026 have been revised by the Election Commission of India, in which the preliminary publication of the voter list will be on 06 January 2026 and the final publication of the voter list will be on 06 March 2026. The District Magistrate has informed that the Chief Electoral Officer of Uttar Pradesh Navdeep Rinwa has issued new dates by amending the dates announced by the Election Commission of India for the ongoing Special Intensive Review (SIR) in the state on the basis of qualification date 01 January 2026. Now the

formal publication of the voter list will be done on 06 January 2026. The period for receiving claims and objections has been fixed from 06 January 2026 to 06

draft. For any kind of problem, contact directly (me) District Magistrate / District Election Officer or Additional District Magistrate Finance and



District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh during the meeting

February 2026. Notice stage, decision on calculation forms and disposal of claims and objections will be held from 06 January 2026 to 27 February 2026. The final publication of the voter list of Uttar Pradesh will be done on 6 March 2026. The District Magistrate has requested the representatives of all political parties to completely tally the voter list after the publication of the

Revenue / Deputy District Election Officer Dr. Pankaj Kumar Verma. The administration is committed to resolving claims and objections. The District Magistrate thanked the representatives of all the political parties for their full support in the special intensive revision campaign 2026 and the work was successfully completed by getting the census forms filled from the common people. The

Centre approves Rs 1,430-cr grant for disaster mitigation in J&K

(Gns). In a major relief to Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre has approved an allocation of over Rs 1,430 crore for the Union Territory (UT) on the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure and the implementation of disaster-mitigation measures across affected districts.

This significant development came to light during a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and attended by all Administrative Secretaries.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of key reform-oriented financial initiatives, such as the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and SNA SPARSH, being monitored by the Finance Department and implemented across various departments of the UT Government.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, was apprised of several major milestones achieved by the UT in securing cen-

detailed status report outlining approvals received, expenditure incurred, and



tral financial assistance across multiple sectors.

He further informed that following the recent natural disasters, including cloud-bursts in parts of the UT, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) had visited Jammu and Kashmir. Based on its assessment, the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended the declaration of these calamities as "severe" in nature, paving the way for the substantial allocation aimed at the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and the adoption of long-term mitigation measures.

The Principal Secretary, Finance, presented a

reform benchmarks achieved by the UT under various centrally sponsored and reform-linked schemes.

The Chief Secretary expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the timely assistance, stating that the support would go a long way in strengthening the UT's preparedness against future disasters.

besides enabling large-scale reconstruction of damaged public assets, including roads, power infrastructure, and water supply systems.

He directed the concerned departments, particu-

larly the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) and the School Education Department, to promptly identify mitigation works eligible under the approved funding and ensure their completion by August 2026, in accordance with scheme guidelines.

Emphasising optimal utilisation of funds, the Chief Secretary called upon all departments to fully utilise the first instalment of Rs 944 crore released under SASCI and ensure that at least one bill under pending Centrally Sponsored Schemes is processed through SNA SPARSH. He set a deadline of January 7, 2026, for achieving this target, with the Finance Department tasked to monitor progress daily.

He also stressed the need for early identification of projects for the next financial year under SASCI, urging departments to prioritise works that can be completed within a single financial year.

Ajay Singhal is new DGP of Haryana

(Gns). The Haryana government has appointed Ajay Singhal, a 1992-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Haryana cadre, as the new Director General of Police (DGP).

The move comes following the retirement of officiating DGP Om Prakash Singh at the end of his tenure on December 31, 2025.

Ajay Singhal, who takes over the state's top police post, is expected to serve a minimum two-year tenure

starting immediately. His appointment follows the standard procedure where the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) convened an empanelment committee to shortlist eligible senior IPS officers for the role.

The selection of Singhal concludes a period of transition for the Haryana Police. Earlier this year, Shatruijet Singh

Kapur, the then DGP, was relieved of his duties amid administrative turbulence linked to a high-profile internal investigation following the suicide by senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar and OP Singh was given additional charge.

Officials say Singhal's leadership is widely welcomed within policing circles, with expectations that



No force could withstand Ayodhya's valour, pride and strength: CM Yogi

(Gns). The second anniversary of the consecration of Lord Ram's idol at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, observed as 'Pratishtha Dwadashi', was marked with deep devotion on Wednesday.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took part in the ceremony. On this occasion, CM Yogi also extended New Year greetings, praying for the prosperity and well-being of all.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated that Ayodhya has witnessed several phases of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement since India's independence. He noted that the very name "Ayodhya" signifies a land untouched by war, a place whose valour, glory, and strength no enemy could ever overcome. However, he said that due to selfish motives, religious extremism, and appeasement-driven politics, some

forces had turned Ayodhya into a centre of unrest and conflict.

"Ayodhya will always remember three historic milestones achieved under



Referring to previous governments, CM Yogi said, "Despite Ayodhya being a city of peace, terror attacks occurred during their tenure. Attempts were made to spill blood in the sacred city, but such designs failed, he said, adding that Ayodhya is protected by divine grace and the presence of Lord Hanuman at Hanuman Garhi."

He recalled the 2005 terror attack, stating that the PAC jawans acted swiftly and neutralised the attackers.

The Chief Minister said,

the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi within the past 11 years. For the first time in independent India, a Prime Minister visited Ayodhya on August 5, 2020, to perform the Bhoomi Pujan of the Shri Ram Temple. On January 22, 2024 (Paush Shukla Dwadashi), the Prime Minister again visited Ayodhya Dham to complete the consecration of the grand idol of Ram Lalla. Later, on November 25, 2025, on the occasion of Vivah Panchami, he hoisted the saffron flag of Sanatan Dharma on the

main spire of the Ram Temple, conveying the message that Sanatan Dharma stands above all and will always remain aloft."

CM Yogi Adityanath also highlighted Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's direct involvement in the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement during his tenure as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and in various organisational roles.

He said, "It was a moment of pride and emotion to witness Lord Ram Lalla enshrined at the Janmabhoomi after 500 years and to see the magnificent temple take shape." He recalled seeing the Defence Minister become emotional while hoisting the Sanatan Dharma flag at the Maa Annapurna Temple on Pratishtha Dwadashi.

The Chief Minister said that before 2017, Ayodhya lacked basic amenities such as electricity, water, sanitation, roads, connectivity, and security.

Two CIs with CPM links appointed to sabotage Sabarimala gold loot probe: VD Satheesan

(Gns). Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, VD Satheesan, on Wednesday alleged that the appointment of two Circle Inspectors (CIs) with links to the CPI(M) in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the High Court to probe the Sabarimala gold theft case has seriously undermined the credibility of the investigation.

Addressing the media here, Satheesan questioned the basis on which police officials allegedly affiliated with the CPI(M) were appointed to the SIT. He alleged that the inclu-

sion of these officers was a deliberate attempt to sabotage the investigation into the high-profile gold robbery case.

Satheesan further claimed that two senior IPS officers and a high-ranking official of the Crime Branch were behind the appointments. He alleged that the said Crime Branch official, who had earlier served in charge of law and order, was known for filing false cases against Congress leaders and was now working to undermine



weakening the SIT and protecting the real culprits. This is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the investigation and shield those involved in the crime," he

said.

The Leader of the Opposition further alleged that certain sections of the police were acting at the behest of the ruling CPI(M) to derail the probe. "The objective is to leak sensitive information, divert the course of the investigation, and neutralise the SIT constituted by the High Court," he said.

Satheesan urged the High Court to intervene immediately to prevent any attempt to dilute or derail the investigation and to ensure an impartial and credible probe into the Sabarimala gold robbery case.

Stay off Cong's internal affairs: Manickam Tagore tells DMK allies in INDIA bloc to honour alliance 'Lakhman Rekha'

(Gns). Short of reprimanding the DMK's allies in the INDIA bloc, the Congress Whip in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday asked them to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the grand old party and dictating how it should conduct itself.

Taking strong exception to the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) of Thol Thirumavalavan, MDMK of Vaiko, and the CPI(M) and CPI for urging Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to rein in Praveen Chakravarty over his remark that Tamil Nadu's debt burden is alarming when compared to that of Uttar Pradesh's, Tagore asked, "Since when have our allies started dictating how we should run the party?"

This was a direct fallout

of Chakravarty's recent post on 'X', in which he punctured the MK Stalin-led DMK government's claims about Tamil Nadu's financial health. He raised alarm over the state's rising

MDMK, CPI(M) and CPI, urging the Leader of the Opposition to act against a Congress functionary. This raises a fundamental question. Since when have allies started issuing directions on how we should run our party? Will they tolerate and accept such interference in their parties?" Tagore asked in a post on 'X', tagging the leaders of the parties. "Differences of opinion should be discussed within the coalition fora and not aired in the public domain through the media, as it portends a dangerous precedent and would only help the BJP-RSS Parivar," he added.

While urging the national leadership of the Left



debt burden, comparing it with that of BJP-ruled UP. His claim that Tamil Nadu had overtaken UP in terms of debt caused disquiet within the DMK and among its allies, who subsequently pounced on Chakravarty, believed to be close to Rahul Gandhi.

"I have come across media reports of the VCK,

parties to advise their state leadership to adhere to minimum political decency and coalition ethics, he asked MDMK leader Vaiko and VCK leader Thirumavalavan to rein in their MPs so that they do not transgress the alliance's 'Lakshman Rekha'. "Unity in a coalition doesn't mean keeping silent. It demands discipline and responsibility. Coalition dharma applies to one and all, and not only to the Congress," he maintained.

Meanwhile, TNCC president K Selvaperunthagai, who had earlier blasted Chakravarty for allegedly playing into the hands of the RSS-BJP by comparing DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu with BJP-governed Uttar Pradesh, also appealed to the allies to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Congress.

KTR urges Centre to enact stricter laws against racism

(Gns). BRS working president KT Rama Rao has called out the Centre over the killing of Anjel Chakma, urging it enact strict and unambiguous laws to criminalise racist speech and behaviour and ensure swift arrest and punishment. While the Uttarakhand police have denied any racial motive behind the brutal murder, the family has alleged that it was a racist attack.

Calling out racism as a crime against humanity, Rao took to social media to condemn the death of the MBA student. He said the brutal killing was a painful reminder of how prejudice, power, and impunity can converge with devastating consequences. The former Telangana industry minister

went on to add, "India cannot afford this poison. A nation built on the idea of

perpetrators. He warned that such incidents should not be treated as just isolated

ed incidents and hatred should not be normalised. He called for stricter laws to ensure stern action in such situations and punishment for the guilty. "Such incidents are not isolated aberrations; they are loud, clear, and tragic warnings of what



unity in diversity cannot survive selective hatred. Justice must be non-negotiable, and racism, in any form, must be met with zero tolerance."

Rao, popularly known as KTR, also called for stricter laws against the

happens when hatred is normalised, and discrimination is tolerated. The Government of India has both a moral and constitutional obligation to act decisively. There must be strict, unambiguous laws that criminalise racist speech, behaviour and incitement; laws that ensure swift arrest, prosecution and punishment," the BRS leader said.

Anjel Chakma, the son of a BSF constable hailing from Tripura, was violently assaulted and stabbed in Dehradun after he and his brother stood up to being abused with racial slurs by a group of intoxicated men. Following the wide condemnation of the incident, five men have been arrested, while one has escaped to Nepal.