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Volume: 26 Issue: 4 KARENG/2000/2368 Mangalore NOVEMBER 2024 Pages 52 | Price ₹60



**DRUG  
GANGS**

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## Punjab Gangs & Diplomatic tension

**P**unjab, once celebrated as a symbol of prosperity and cultural richness, now faces a growing crisis as organized crime has tightened its grip on the state.

Drug peddlers, money launderers, and separatist activists have forged their own networks, adapting to a system that allows them to not only survive but thrive.

The Punjabi music industry, once a source of pride, now finds itself entangled in this conflict.

The escalating gang violence has even impacted diplomatic relations, fueling domestic tensions between India and Canada, where many Punjabi families have settled.

The origins of these gangs trace back to college elections, where they first gained momentum and power. But what began as student rivalries has since evolved into a much larger criminal enterprise, sustained largely by funds from drug trafficking.

Adding to the volatility is Punjab's historical practice of liberally issuing gun licenses, which has resulted in an oversupply of firearms. This proliferation has emboldened criminal groups, making confrontations more dangerous and harder to control.

Reports from intelligence agencies also indicate that these gangs have established channels for receiving arms and ammunition airdropped from Pakistan.

This issue of Aseema also explores an intriguing perspective on India-China relations, examining how India could potentially benefit from easing trade restrictions with its neighbor. With strategic adjustments, India might find new economic opportunities, especially in manufacturing and technology.

In Sri Lanka, a new socialist leader has assumed power, stirring up questions about the nation's economic stability. While the leader's agenda is ambitious, a single miscalculated policy move could destabilize the fragile economy, undoing recent progress and plunging the country back into financial crisis.

We also pay homage to the legacy of Ratan Tata, a visionary who has transformed India's industrial landscape. Through his leadership and foresight, Tata's conglomerate has generated millions of jobs, laying a foundation for the economic well-being of countless families. His contributions remain a guiding light, offering hope for India's economic resurgence and growth.

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COVER PRICE: 60

Published & Printed by **P S Prakash** for and on behalf of the owners **JNANA BHARATHI PRAKASHANA LTD.**, Mangalore

Published at  
**JNANA BHARATHI PRAKASHANA LTD.**,

Printed at  
**DIGANTHA MUDRANA LTD.**,  
Yeyyadi Industrial Area, Yeyyadi  
Mangalore 575008  
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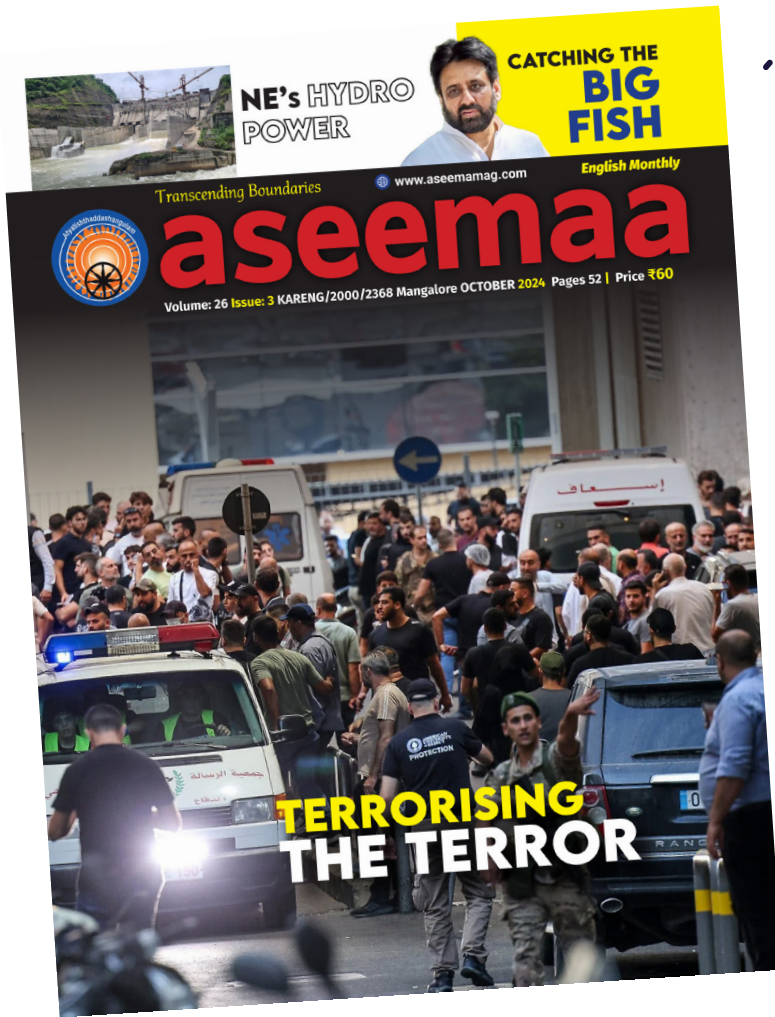
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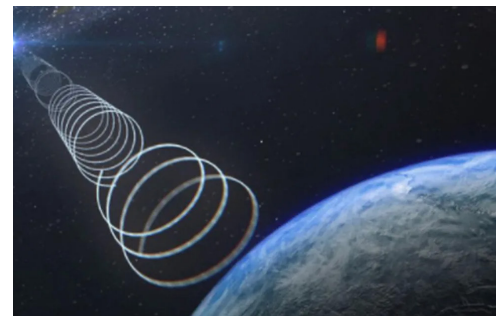
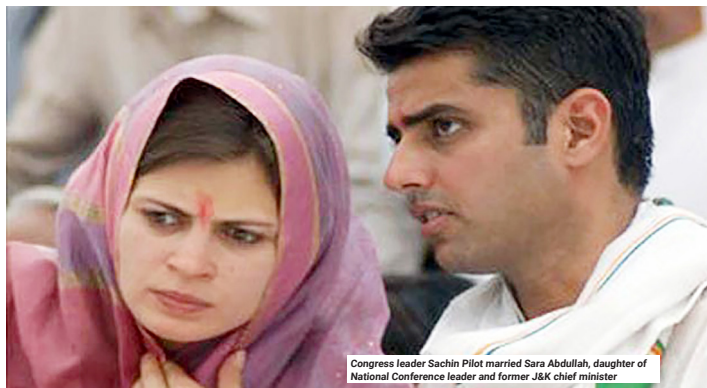
# Readers opinion

This months edition is really amazing as it covers variety of topics and opens ways for different knowledge. Thank you for your effort and will be looking for further editions with high hopes.

| Ranjitha  
IT professional ,  
Bangalore

## KASHMIR GHARWAPSI

Why Kashmiri Girls increasingly marrying Hindu boys?



## RADIO SIGNAL REMINING THE SO-CALLED BIG BANG



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# RATAN TATA

Do you know that Ratan even worked in US hotels to earn little extra money?



**Ratan Tata's personal journey is even more captivating than his role as chairman of the country's industrial giant. He had a deep affection for dogs, enjoyed black coffee, and preferred to travel in economy class. Tata is the only Indian firm that built research centers, like Bangalore's Tata Institute, for common man.**

© Shankar Shyanbhag

**W**hile studying in the United States, Ratan Tata often ran out of money. Sometimes, he had to work as an errand boy in a hotel to repay loans he borrowed from friends.

In an interview with Coomi Kapoor, Ratan explained that this was due to restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India, which limited the amount of U.S. dollars one could purchase for studying abroad.

Ratan's father, despite having plenty of money, refused to buy dollars on the black

market, even though he knew his son was struggling financially.

"At that time, the Reserve Bank allowed very little foreign currency to be used for studying abroad. My father did not like breaking the law at all. So, he didn't want to buy dollars from the black market for me," Ratan recalled in the interview.

If not for his adopted grandmother, Ratan might have stayed in the U.S., and the Tata family would have chosen someone else to lead the group. After completing his education at Cornell, Ratan began working as an architect for a U.S. company. However, his grandmother



wanted him to return to India and take charge of the family business.

More than just the head of India's largest industrial conglomerate, Ratan became a role model for many business leaders, including Infosys founder Narayan Murthy. This admiration came not just from his professional success but from the way he grew up and treated society.

Upon his return to India, Ratan joined Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, starting as an ordinary worker because his family wanted him to learn the business from the ground up.

For six years, he worked in a simple blue uniform, blending in with the other workers. His hard work eventually paid off, and he rose to project manager and later special assistant to the managing director.

By 1991, his grandparents were convinced that Ratan had gained enough experience to become Chairman of Tata Group. Despite leading a multi-billion-dollar empire, Ratan remained humble, often flying economy class, traveling alone without personal assistants, and quietly working during flights. He had a particular taste for black coffee with very little sugar but never got upset if his order was wrong.

In Mumbai, Ratan maintained a simple daily routine of walking his dogs, Tito and Tango, every morning without a security detail. His love for dogs was so well-known that street dogs would eagerly welcome his car at his office, Bombay House, and accompany him up to the elevator.

"His love for animals, especially dogs, brought him immense joy," said S. Ramadorai, former CEO of TCS, in an article for The Hindustan Times. His passion for animals culminated in the creation of a small animal hospital in Mumbai.

Ratan was also known for his discipline.

“

**My father didn't want to buy dollars from the black market for me,"**

**-Ratan**

He left the office promptly at 6:30 p.m. and disliked being contacted at home for work-related matters. At home, he preferred to study and review files in private, always answering calls himself, never relying on assistants. Those close to him remarked on the family trait of stubbornness, passed down from JRD Tata and Naval Tata. As business associate Suhail Seth bluntly put it, "Even if you put a gun to their head, they'd say, 'Go ahead and shoot, but I won't change my stance.'"





Tata Group boasts annual revenue of \$100 billion and a market capitalization of nearly \$400 billion, surpassing the GDPs of countries like Colombia, South Africa, and Iran.

**For nearly six years, Ratan worked as a regular employee at the Tata Steel factory in Jamshedpur. His parents ensured he learned the business from the ground up, entrusting him with greater responsibilities only when they were fully convinced of his readiness.**



## TCS was Game-changer

Ratan's decision to venture into IT services was a game-changer for Tata Group. Without this move, the conglomerate might not have grown so large.

It also enabled the company to make high-profile acquisitions, such as the purchase of British tea giant Tetley, which was double the size of Tata at the time. This bold move propelled Tata Group's Global Beverages division to become the second-largest tea company in the world.

Ratan also acquired Corus, Europe's largest steel company, further expanding the group's influence. Today, Tata Group boasts annual revenue of

\$100 billion and a market capitalization of nearly \$400 billion, surpassing the GDPs of countries like Colombia, South Africa, and Iran.

The crown jewel of Tata's success is TCS, which Ratan listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange in 2004. It was one of the biggest IPOs in Indian history.

Under his leadership, TCS grew into a tech giant worth over \$180 billion. In 2017, Ratan asked N Chandrasekharan, the CEO of TCS, to succeed him as Chairman of Tata Sons. TCS now contributes nearly 50% of the group's profits, providing the cash flow that allowed Ratan to expand the Tata empire even further.



His love for animals, especially dogs, brought him immense joy said S. Ramadorai



In an interview with Coomi Kapoor, Ratan explained that he had to work in hotels part-time in the United States, as he had run out of cash.



Ratan became a role model for many business leaders, including Infosys founder Narayan Murthy

## When Ratan was humiliated in Detroit...

Ratan Tata is often remembered for the bold launch of the Tata Nano, a car that made headlines worldwide for its incredibly low price—just over 1 lakh rupees. But long before that, Tata Motors made its first major mark with the launch of the Indica in 1998, India's first locally designed car. It wasn't an easy start. The Indica struggled to gain traction in the market, and the passenger vehicle division faced tough times. Ratan Tata, faced with a critical decision, chose to sell the unit to Ford.



*Bill Ford, ridiculed Tata for stepping into the automotive industry*

During negotiations in Detroit, things took a harsh turn. Bill Ford, then CEO, ridiculed Tata for stepping into the automotive industry, openly questioning his qualifications and experience. He even

suggested that buying the struggling Indica would be a "favor" to Tata Motors. Humiliated by the condescending attitude, Ratan Tata and his team abruptly left the meeting, refusing to be disrespected.

Fast forward a decade, and the tables had completely turned. By 2008, it was Ford that was in trouble, forced to sell its luxury British brands, Jaguar and Land Rover, to stay afloat. This time, the tone was different. Bill Ford, now in a vulnerable position, admitted that selling the brands to Tata Motors would be a favor to Ford. Ratan Tata saw his moment. For \$2.3 billion, he acquired both Jaguar and Land Rover, turning a moment of past humiliation into a stunning victory, leaving the global automotive world in awe.

While the Tata Nano didn't achieve commercial success—Indians saw car ownership as a symbol of prestige and weren't drawn to the idea of owning the cheapest car—it remains a testament to Tata's vision of affordable mobility.

The acquisition of Jaguar and Land Rover, however, was a masterstroke. It not only saved two iconic brands but also transformed Tata Motors into a major global player. In a remarkable twist, Tata Motors' market valuation has now soared past that of General Motors, proving that the man once mocked by Ford had the last laugh.



# DRUG GANGS



Punjabi pop singer Sidhu Moosewala

## Punjab's drug problem has created deadly criminal gangs like those in Mexico

There are about 40 criminal gangs in Punjab, most of which rely on hired assassins, known as 'supari' killers, to do their dirty work. While the infamous Lawrence Bishnoi sits behind bars, many other gang bosses have fled overseas, controlling their empires from the shadows. Tragically, musicians often find themselves entangled in this dangerous game, either as targets or unwilling participants.

by Narayan Ammachchi

"The Last Ride" is a song by Punjabi pop singer Sidhu Moosewala. Tragically, May 29, 2022, became his last ride. While driving through Jawaharkhi village in Punjab, he was ambushed.

As Moosewala drove, a shot rang out from behind, and within moments, a car blocked his path. A man stepped out, armed with an automatic rifle, and opened fire. Moosewala reached for his pistol, but before he could pull the trigger, a bullet pierced his head. He was gunned down in a brutal ambush, his life ending in a storm of bullets. The world woke to the tragic news the next day.

This was the first time Punjab's criminal gangs grabbed national attention. Just last week, they were back in the headlines after the murder of former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui in Mumbai.

Punjab, with its proximity to Pakistan, has become a playground for criminals these days. Rifles flow in from across the border with ease, while drug peddling generates crores of rupees.

These criminals operate with chilling audacity.



Not only do they warn their targets before striking, but they also attack police forces and break their allies out of high-security prisons. Back in 2016, gangsters dressed as cops stormed Patiala's Nabha Jail, spraying bullets at guards and freeing four inmates. And in 2022, they even dared to strike the Punjab Police's Intelligence HQ in Mohali.

The situation becomes even more complicated with the involvement of the music industry. Punjab's vibrant music scene, the most dynamic in the nation, has unfortunately become a haven for these gangs. Some gangs have invested money in music troupes, while at the same time extorting musicians for protection money. Those who refuse to comply often face deadly consequences. Many artists have gone into hiding, delaying their next release of musical tracks.

Take Mankirat Aulakh, for instance, whose hit song about a young man turning to crime has garnered over 60 million views on YouTube. But fame comes with a price. Mankirat now lives under police protection, fearing for his life after receiving threats from the Davinder Bambiha gang—bitter rivals of the infamous Lawrence Bishnoi, the mobster behind Sidhu Moosewala's murder.

These threats aren't hollow. In Punjab's underworld, words precede bullets. Both Sidhu Moosewala and Baba Siddiqui were warned about their impending deaths before being gunned down. Baba received his final call just 15 days before his assassination in Bandra, Mumbai.

## Foreign-based gangs

While Punjab's streets are stained with violence, the masterminds behind it live far from the chaos. They appear to be operating their empires with chilling precision. Cheap assassins are their weapons of choice, carrying out deadly hits for a fraction of the cost.

Take the tragic case of international Kabaddi star Sandeep Singh Sandhu. In March 2023, he was gunned down in broad daylight at a tournament in Jalandhar. But this wasn't the work of local thugs. Investigations revealed a sinister twist—the hit had been ordered from afar. Two gangsters based in Canada and another in Malaysia had orchestrated the murder, showcasing the deadly global reach of Punjab's underworld.

Lawrence Bishnoi, the most feared ganglord, sits behind bars. But his main rival, Lucky Patiala, is

**In a state awash with pistols, more than 3.73 lakh people hold gun licenses, and an alarming 50 murders occur every month. The border district of Gurdaspur tops the list with the highest number of arms licenses, followed closely by Bathinda and Patiala. Punjab's obsession with guns isn't just a status symbol—it's a deadly reality that fuels the violence.**



***Singer Mankirat Aulakh receives death threat from Davinder Bambiha's gang***

thousands of miles away, hiding in Armenia, yet continues to wage war from the shadows. Lucky's overseas allies are no less powerful—he collaborates closely with a gang based in Surrey, Canada. Meanwhile, Gurjant Singh, leader of the Jaipal Singh Bhullar gang, runs his operation from Australia. Not to be outdone, Canada-based Lakhbir Landa controls his own criminal empire, sending ripples of terror back to Punjab.

One of the most infamous gangs, the Bambiha Gang, takes its name from its founder, Davinder Singh Sidhu, better known as Bambiha. He wasn't always a feared name—once upon a time, he was a bright college student and an exceptional sharpshooter from Moga district. But the lure of crime was too strong.

His descent began during his student days when he was detained on murder charges. After a daring escape from jail, he formed a gang and quickly became one of



**Former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui murdered by the super killers from Punjab.**



Punjab's most feared outlaws. By the time the police gunned him down in 2016, he was just 26. Yet, his legacy endures—ten of his closest allies still roam free, keeping his shadow alive.

Another legend of Punjab's dark side, Harjinder Singh Bhullar, also known as Vicky Gounder, was taken down in 2018 near the Punjab-Rajasthan border. A discus thrower in his youth, Vicky earned the nickname "Gounder" for the time he spent on the athletic field—'ground' becoming 'Gounder' over time. Now, his legacy too lives on, with his gang run by former allies Gurpreet Singh Sekhon and Neta Deol.

The Jaipal Singh Bhullar gang, once led by the infamous Shera Khuban, who was killed in a 2012 encounter, has also found new life. Gurjant Singh, controlling the gang from Australia, has stepped into power. Jaipal Singh Bhullar himself met his end in a police encounter in 2021, but the gang's operations have not slowed down.

Yet, in this murky world of crime, one name sends shivers down everyone's spine—Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, the "Supari King." Known for his ruthless contract killings, Jaggu operates his



deadly empire from within the walls of Tihar Jail. His connections run deep, with police suspecting that his gang is tied to Khalistani radicals, dealing in weapons, drugs, and manpower.

## Paradox of Punjab

In a state where gangsters are glorified by the youth, college campuses have become the breeding grounds for crime syndicates. It was in these very halls that Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar first crossed paths. What began as a campus friendship eventually morphed into a deadly alliance, culminating in the assassination of Punjabi icon Sidhu Moosewala.

The roots of this violent trend stretch back to the 1980s. It all began with the murder of Makhan Singh, a prominent student leader from Panjab University, who was killed in Chandigarh. His death marked the beginning of an era where college rivalries spilled over into bloodshed.

For a while, however, this chaos was overshadowed by the rise of Khalistani militancy, pushing student politics into the background. College elections were suspended for years. But by the 1990s, when elections finally resumed, the landscape had changed completely. The



**Singers Diljit Dosanjh and Honey Singh use guns in their album Goliyan**

booming drug trade had taken hold of Punjab, and with it came a new generation of hardened criminals.

Former Punjab Director General of Police, KK Attri, explained how this transformation unfolded. “Many sportspeople, especially those involved in kabaddi and wrestling, turned to drug peddling and land grabbing when they lost their jobs,” he told The Indian Express in 2022.

“This is how the gang culture started and matured into contract killing with gangsters extorting money from Punjabi singers and actors. Because of the loss of control and corruption in state jails, they operate freely even after being jailed.”

## The Dark Symphony of Punjab: Guns, Gangs, and Glorification

Punjab’s culture of machismo, coupled with a strange admiration for criminals and dictators, has fuelled the rise of violent lyrics that celebrate gun culture. Even Sidhu Moosewala, a musical sensation, wasn’t immune to this trend.

In his songs, he glorified notorious figures like the world’s biggest drug lord, El Chapo, and Iraq’s dictator, Saddam Hussein. Moosewala wasn’t alone.

Another artist, Amrit Maan, proudly claimed his place among drug lords in their track Guerrilla War, where he declared himself the “Punjabi Pablo Escobar”, the notorious Colombian drug lord. Unfortunately in

Punjab, gangsters have become more than criminals—they’ve achieved cult-like status.

This obsession with guns and violence seeps into mainstream music. In Goliyan, a music video by superstars Diljit Dosanjh and Honey Singh, the two singers are seen firing guns while joyfully chanting, “Mitran nu shauk, goliyan chalaun da”—“friends love firing bullets.”

The message is clear: in Punjab’s music scene, the gun isn’t just a weapon, it’s an accessory of pride, and the lines between entertainment and dangerous glorification are dangerously blurred.



**India has long maintained restrictions on market access for Chinese companies. However, this policy may be counterproductive. Given China's significant role in global manufacturing, Isolating it economically could have negative consequences for India. Relaxing these restrictions could potentially attract substantial Chinese investments.**



# CHINA'S SUPREMACY

**Easing Trade restrictions with China can boost India's economy multifold, creating crores of jobs**

© Kunal Chatterjee

If India chooses to ease its trade restrictions with China, it could trigger a substantial influx of investments, potentially generating millions of jobs across various sectors. This shift would not only attract Chinese investments

but also encourage significant contributions from U.S. and European firms, amplifying India's role in the global manufacturing landscape.

The impetus for this influx lies in the evolving strategies of international companies. Many U.S. and European corporations have long sought to diversify their supply chains through



the "China plus one" strategy.

This approach encourages businesses to mitigate risks associated with over-reliance on Chinese manufacturing. Apple Inc., for instance, has successfully shifted approximately 20% of its production from China to India. However, many companies still await Modi government's approvals to make similar moves.

According to the American Chamber of Commerce, over 30 U.S. firms are contemplating relocating their factories to India, creating a ripe opportunity for job creation and economic growth.

European manufacturers are not far behind. With over 500 companies operating manufacturing plants in China, the potential for a ripple effect is considerable. If 20% of these firms follow in Apple's footsteps and establish operations in India, the resulting surge in investment could significantly bolster the Indian economy.

## The Complexity of Global Supply Chains

American and European companies, when venturing into India, often come with their Chinese suppliers in tow. India's position has been that it offers fair market access to Chinese businesses; however, it highlights that China does not reciprocate the same level of openness. This imbalance poses a critical challenge, as many firms from the U.S. and Europe continue to invest in China despite these restrictions.

Following the border tensions in 2020, India imposed several limitations on Chinese firms. However, this did not diminish the



**Living without China is not a viable option for nations aspiring for economic growth. China not only dominates as a global manufacturing hub but also possesses a wealth of transformative technologies at competitive prices.**

demand for Chinese products; in fact, it led to a decline in investments within India.

This paradox underscores the complexities of global trade: living without China is not a viable option for nations aspiring for economic growth. China not only dominates as a global manufacturing hub but also possesses a wealth

## The Dilemma of Modi

*Despite the promising outlook, the Narendra Modi government finds itself in a quandary regarding the approval of these investments. A primary concern is the interconnectedness of Chinese suppliers with American companies.*

*For example, Foxconn, a Taiwanese company closely associated with Apple, operates within a supply chain that could potentially be influenced by the Chinese government. This raises alarm bells about the potential for espionage and the safety of sensitive technologies. Washington has already taken steps to ban Chinese telecom giant Huawei, reflecting the broader U.S. apprehension regarding Chinese investments.*

*India's desire for investments from giants like Apple is tempered by reluctance to allow Chinese companies to set up manufacturing facilities within its borders. This ambivalence represents a significant obstacle to the expansion of India's manufacturing sector and its broader economic ambitions.*

of transformative technologies at competitive prices.

For instance, China's prowess in renewable energy technologies—ranking first in electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels, and wind turbines—aligns perfectly with India's climate change initiatives. Excluding top-tier companies in such critical sectors could hinder India's progress towards its environmental goals.



### Missed Opportunities

India's hesitance has already resulted in missed investment opportunities from significant players. For example, Great Wall Motor Company proposed a billion-dollar investment in India a few years ago, which was ultimately rejected.

More recently, BYD, the world's largest electric vehicle manufacturer, sought to invest in India, proposing a mega-battery plant utilizing advanced 'blade technology.'

However, this investment, too, faced roadblocks. Luxshare, a major player in Apple's supply chain, also aimed to invest 750 crore to establish itself as a key local supplier, yet the lack of approvals stalled its plans.

The consequence of such refusals is stark: after years of trying to penetrate the Indian market, Luxshare has reportedly redirected its investment to Vietnam.

### Solutions for Easing Restrictions

To navigate this complex landscape, India is contemplating two primary strategies to ease trade restrictions with China. First, it encourages domestic companies to form partnerships with their Chinese counterparts, a move designed to safeguard against potential espionage. The second strategy involves increased monitoring of Chinese companies operating within India, granting the Indian government full access to their facilities.



### INVESTMENT MISSED

Great Wall Motor Company proposed a billion-dollar investment

BYD wanted to invest by proposing a mega-battery plant utilizing advanced 'blade technology.'

Luxshare aimed to invest 750 crore to establish itself as a key local supplier



**Approximately 40,000 Rohingya Muslims already reside in India, primarily in Jammu and Hyderabad. Repatriating them to Bangladesh poses humanitarian concerns and potential international debate. Enhancing border security, particularly the fence, may be a more feasible solution to prevent further infiltration.**

# ROHINGYAS

**With the fall of Sheik Hasina's government, Rohingya's looking to cross into India.**

© Aniket Ahuja

**F**ollowing the coup in Dhaka on August 5, tensions are rising along India's northeastern border. The primary concern is the potential influx of Rohingya refugees into India.

Over the past decade, 40,000 Rohingyas have already made their way into India, settling in cities like Delhi, Jammu, and Hyderabad. While peaceful coexistence might have eased concerns, their involvement in troubling activities poses a serious threat to India's internal and territorial security.

If we analyze the new Bangladeshi government's actions, it becomes clear they may not align with India's interests. This could lead to a larger wave of Rohingyas, who continue to face persecution in Myanmar, posing a growing and dangerous challenge.

India has long been a haven for oppressed communities. Parsis, Jews, and Shia Muslims have all found refuge and established themselves here. In 2012-13, when 13,000 Rohingyas crossed into India illegally, India, despite not being bound by international refugee laws, allowed them in, driven by its ethos of



**Sheikh Hasina**

compassion. However, incidents like the 2012 Azad Maidan riots and the 2018 Sunjuwan camp attack show that the Rohingyas present a unique challenge, unlike previous refugee groups.

Rohingyas originate from Myanmar's Rakhine province, home to a largely Muslim minority. This region borders Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts, and clashes between Rohingyas and the Myanmar government have persisted

since the 1970s. While many initially fled to Bangladesh and India, the influx surged after 2010, especially in 2016. Today, Bangladesh hosts over 1.1 million Rohingyas in refugee camps, a situation made possible by policies introduced under Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

## Why This Coup Is a Growing Threat

Since the start of the student movement in Bangladesh, opposition parties have lent their support, including Jamaat-e-Islami, a group with ideological differences from the students. While distinct in ideology, Jamaat-e-Islami has long been viewed as a communal organization across the subcontinent.

There's no denying the close ties between Bangladesh's two main opposition parties—the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami—and Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI. History shows that no student movement can truly gain traction without backing from a political party or ideology.

The collaboration seen in this student movement reveals not only its communal nature but also the influence of external forces, which are both anti-Bangladesh and anti-India. Following the coup, a new government led by Mohammad Yunus emerged.

Yunus, often considered a favorite of the global left, seems to have been installed not only to destabilize Bangladesh's government but also to counter India's growing influence in the region. This anti-India sentiment, particularly targeting Hindus, became evident

**India's border with Bangladesh remains vulnerable, with recent incidents demonstrating that individuals can easily breach the fence. The situation has become more complex with Sheikh Hasina no longer in power, and India now faces a new challenge from Rohingya Muslims seeking to infiltrate the country.**

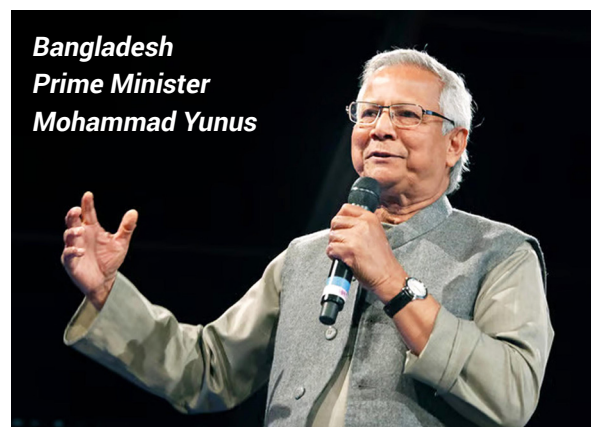
when Yunus, who presents himself as a champion of the oppressed, quickly displayed his communal leanings after taking office.

One of his government's first moves was to lift the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami. But the real red flag came when two individuals were released—Jasimuddin Rahmani, head of the Ansarullah Bangla Team, with known ties to Al Qaeda, and Mamunul Haq, a leader of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh, a group long banned for its demands for Sharia law and its anti-India stance.

These actions, coupled with rising attacks on Hindus and religious disputes, underscore the anti-India and anti-Hindu posture of the new regime, sounding alarm bells for India's security.

## The Looming Threat

The potential danger to India after Bangladesh's coup can be seen in two ways.



First, the porous borders between India-Bangladesh and Bangladesh-Myanmar make infiltration relatively easy, a problem India has faced since the 1970s. Myanmar's Rakhine



province, still home to a 35% Muslim population in constant conflict with the military regime, is a breeding ground for networks tied to Pakistan's ISI, Al Qaeda, and ISIS.

Additionally, over 1.1 million Rohingyas are currently in refugee camps in Bangladesh. These refugees could be used to infiltrate India, altering the demographics of bordering Indian states. Infiltrators, backed by anti-India elements within India, might receive identification and safe passage, causing widespread chaos for political and personal gains.

Second, even if no Rohingya crosses into India, the new Bangladeshi regime—backed by international forces—could weaponize the 1.1 million refugees. By highlighting economic and human rights crises, they could pressure India on the global stage.

International human rights organizations might portray India in a negative light, diminishing India's influence not just regionally, but globally. This tactic mirrors the approach used by Turkiyè, which, by housing refugees



large numbers of Rohingyas enter India

from West Asia, pressures Europe with the threat of a demographic shift, forcing compliance on various issues.

Given these factors, the Rohingyas represent a substantial threat to India after the coup. With 40,000 Rohingyas already in India, the problems their presence has caused are evident. But should larger numbers enter through Bangladesh, the chaos could be unimaginable, presenting a significant challenge to India's internal and external security.



## INTERESTING STORY

# WHEN A THIEF SAID: "NO DRUGS IN MY BAG!"

**M**others have long used clever tactics to hide treats from their kids. A classic trick? Labeling a bag with "no chocolate here" to deter little hands. But what if the same idea was used for drugs? In Portland, Oregon, a drug dealer tried exactly this, labeling a bag with "definitely not a bag full of drugs" in an attempt to fool the authorities.

The ploy didn't work. Police stopped a stolen car and found the suspiciously labeled bag inside. Upon inspection, they uncovered drugs, scales, cash, and a loaded firearm.

Portland police posted on X: "Last night proactive police work led to the discovery of a



stolen vehicle with a bag full of drugs, scales, money, and a loaded firearm." Both the driver and passenger were arrested on multiple charges, facing counts for drug possession and theft.



# FAKE BANKS



After fake toll gates, fake government offices and fake courts, there has now surfaced a fake bank.

📍 Kunal Chatterjee

The bank interviewed him, issued him an appointment letter and provided an identity card, and promised salary of 30,000 rupees. Later, he realized that the bank is in fact a fake. It was just a front to loot public's money.

When a new branch of the State Bank of India was inaugurated in Chhapora village, located in Sakti district of Chhattisgarh, the community was filled with excitement. For the residents, banking services had long been a distant luxury. Positioned nearly 250 kilometers from the state capital, Raipur, Chhapora had suffered from a severe lack of financial inclusion. The opening of a branch of one of India's most prestigious nationalised banks seemed like a beacon of hope.

Eager to deposit their hard-earned money, villagers made a beeline at the bank. But their joy quickly turned to dismay. What appeared to be a

legitimate banking institution was, in fact, an intricately woven facade of deception. The 'bank' was a lie!

In recent years, India has witnessed a disturbing surge in fake bank crimes, where unsuspecting victims are defrauded by criminals setting up legitimate-looking banking institutions. The criminals surely understood that phishing and vishing had turned outdated and people were alert about the Account Verification calls too. Taking their devious plans, a notch higher, fraudsters have been setting up legitimate-looking establishments, and hiring employees to gain the trust and confidence of the people. The new plan worked well as gullible people fell for this professional set-up, only to

## Gujarat's Fake Court issued order after order

A man named Morris Samuel Christian was recently apprehended by Gujarat Police for operating a fake court. This audacious scam, which had been running since 2019, involved the issuance of fake court orders, primarily in land-related disputes in the Gandhinagar area.

Christian's elaborate ruse was so convincing that many individuals were duped into believing they were pursuing legitimate legal proceedings. He would promise swift resolutions to land disputes, often charging exorbitant fees for his "services." To add to the deception, Christian's associates posed as court personnel just to display that it was a genuine legal institution.

One of the most egregious examples of



Christian's fraudulent activities involved a land dispute related to government property. His client, who had illegally claimed ownership of the land, sought to have their name added to official revenue records. Christian, in a brazen display of audacity, issued a fake court order in favor of his client.

find out soon that it was a grandiose scam.

The Chhapora Fake SBI fraud is not the only case. Several such cases are happening across the country, which has raised serious concerns. Here's how the criminals managed to deceive and swindle crores of rupees from innocent people by creating an entire banking system that almost passed as genuine.

### Modus Operandi

These fraudsters create an elaborate ruse, often going to great lengths to make their fake branches look legitimate. From hiring staff to providing fake documents, these operations can appear so real that even seasoned professionals might struggle to identify the fraud and that is precisely what happened in Chhapora.

In September 2024, a new bank branch opened its doors to the residents of Chhapora. With newly furnished counters, working computers, and a staff of six, it appeared to be a typical branch of India's largest nationalised bank, the SBI. The fraudsters had meticulously planned the setup. Not only did

**All was well until a manager of a nearby SBI branch became aware of the new branch. He was puzzled as to how SBI could open a branch in his jurisdiction without his knowledge. This prompted an immediate investigation. Senior SBI officials, accompanied by the police, swiftly arrived at the scene and seized the fraudulent operation.**

they hire staff, but they also provided official-looking appointment letters, conducted fake training sessions, and maintained an air of professionalism that masked their illegal operations. In a village located 250 km from Raipur, with limited access to official banking, the new branch seemed to be a blessing for the local population.



All was well till a manager of a nearby SBI branch in Dabra first raised the alarm. Having heard about this new branch from local villagers, he found it suspicious that no such an institution could open without his knowledge. This led to an investigation by both the police and SBI officials, who quickly uncovered the truth: the entire branch, along with its employees, was fake!

## The Bigger Picture: Banking Fraud in India

This case isn't the only case. In May 2023, a similar scam surfaced in Uttar Pradesh, where a gang was operating 38 fake branches of a bank across eight districts. This network had managed to scam unsuspecting villagers out of several crores of rupees.

Another major case occurred in Tamil Nadu in January 2024, where a man set up nine branches of a fake rural cooperative bank, duping 3,000 people.

In July 2020, a man was arrested for running a fake State Bank of India (SBI) branch in Tamil Nadu. The fraudster had rented a building and made it look identical to a real SBI branch, even using official-looking signage, furniture, and forms. Locals were deceived into depositing money until the authorities were alerted.

Another case in Punjab saw a similar operation where fraudsters ran a fake branch of a popular private bank for several months before being caught. In both instances, victims lost their hard-earned savings, and the fraudsters vanished with large sums of money.

In each case, the fraudsters relied on the same tactics: creating a convincing façade with official-looking documents, opening accounts, and offering jobs or loans to locals. What makes these frauds so alarming is how long they could operate under the radar.

## Employment at a cost

During the investigation, police found that six people had been hired to work in this phony bank. One of the employees, Sangeeta Kavar, described how they had received job offers through offline interviews and had arrived for what they thought was legitimate training.

The fake bank had scammed several locals into paying hefty amounts in exchange for employment. While Kavar had paid as much as 2.5 lakhs, others employees had paid between ₹3lakhs to ₹5.8 lakhs in the hope of securing stable jobs at the prestigious SBI.

At present, Sakti police has registered an FIR in this case. The police team is searching for the accused. According to the information received from the police, all the transactions made for jobs in the bank were done through UPI. Now efforts are being made to trace it. The phone numbers of the accused are not being traced. Not only this, the addresses they had given were all fake.



**Arrested Gang Member Anil Bhaskar**

Once the deception was exposed, the entire operation was dismantled. Authorities seized nine computer sets, printers, fake documents, and office furniture. Despite these setbacks, one gang member has since been arrested, and authorities are continuing their search for the other seven accused. Anil Bhaskar and gang took money in lieu of the fake jobs in the fake SBI branch.

## Awareness is the Key

Cases like these highlight the need for vigilance, both by the public and authorities. While India's banking system is robust, fraudsters are finding increasingly inventive ways to exploit gaps in the system. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has urged the public to be cautious of unusually high returns, check the authenticity of bank branches, and always verify official banking communications. Meanwhile, banks and other financial institutions must organise public awareness campaigns and educate people on how to identify genuine banks.



**WE ARE HIRING** But we are a fake bank!

**SUCCESS STEPS**

- 1 Hiring employees
- 2 Well established bank
- 3 Working computers
- 4 Appointment letter
- 5 Training

Individually every customer must verify the authenticity of a bank branch through official bank websites, apps, or customer service hotlines.

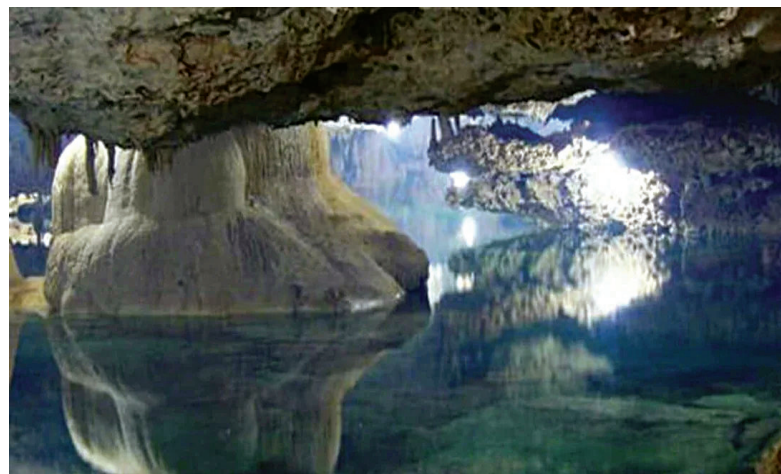
Trust is the backbone of the banking system, and incidents like these erode public confidence. While authorities work to bring the culprits to justice, it's clear that more needs to be done to protect vulnerable communities from such elaborate frauds. With financial fraud on the rise, the Chhapora and other fake bank cases serve as a sobering reminder of how easily people can be tricked.

## INTERESTING STORY

# THE SIXTH OCEAN 700 KM BENEATH THE EARTH

Scientists have claimed to have discovered an ocean deep beneath the Earth's crust that's three times larger than all our surface oceans combined. Unlike regular seas, this "ocean" exists 700 km underground, trapped in a mineral called ringwoodite, which crystallizes water within its structure. This discovery could rewrite our understanding of Earth's water origins, suggesting it may have come from within the planet rather than from comet impacts.

The research breakthrough came as Steven Jacobsen analyzed seismic waves across the U.S. using around 2,000 seismographs, unveiling this colossal water reservoir. This discovery opens new avenues for studying Earth's interior



and the extreme conditions in the mantle, with potential insights into the planet's water cycles and ecosystem sustainability.





Tirumala temple

“  
THE TN  
GOVERNMENT  
HAS TAKEN AWAY  
**5,00,000**  
KGS OF GOLD  
FROM HINDU  
TEMPLES SINCE  
1977

**THE CALL FOR LIBERATING HINDU TEMPLE IS GROWING LOUDER AFTER THE SUSPECTED USE OF BEEF IN THE PRASADAM AT TIRUPATI TEMPLE.**

# LIBERATE TEMPLES

The Tirupati laddoo controversy has reignited demands to free Hindu temples from government control. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad describes this control as reflecting the mindset of past Muslim invaders and colonial British rulers. Yet, the demand continues to fall on deaf ears, leaving temple liberation an unfulfilled dream.

📍 Balaji Subramanian

**T**he debate on the liberation of temples from government control has gained momentum in the recent past. However, it is a complex issue encompassing discussions about religious autonomy, and the role of government in managing religious institutions in India.

The recent Tirupati Laddoo controversy has reignited this fiery debate—focusing on how much power should the state wield over spiritual sanctuaries. And what does this mean for the future of temple administration and religious freedom?

Over the last several decades many Hindu organizations have expressed the need to keep





the government away from religious places. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a member of the Sangh Parivar called the continued control of the government over temples as a reflection of the mindset of the Muslim invaders and the Colonial British. However, for decades, the Hindus have been demanding the liberation of the temples from the clutches of the state, but this demand has been falling on deaf ears.

### Colonial Overtones

Temples had great importance since time immemorial. Kings donated land and wealth to temples, which were never merely centres of worship. Temples fostered education, art and culture, spirituality, and a host of other facets of life.

The British introduced the idea of official monitoring when they first arrived in India because they believed that temples were stores of immense riches. Between 1810 and 1817 they enacted a series of laws in the presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay that authorised

**“Do you have an endowment ministry for Mosques, churches, Gurdwaras and Synagogues in India? If not, then why only for temples? By this, you are violating the concept of Secularism. The state has two options: Either operate like a Hindu state or follow secularism and maintain distance from all religious centres,” says advocate Sai Deepak.**

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them to meddle in temple governance.

When opposition grew within the British establishment and among people about the Christian government running Hindu temples, the Religious Endowments Act of 1863 was enacted and control of temples was handed over to committees appointed under the Act. However, the British retained considerable influence.

The first specific law on Hindu temples came in 1925 through the Madras Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

Post-Independence, the 1925 ordinance

served as a model for several states, and India kept most of the legislative authority the British had over temples.

The Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1951 was the first law to be passed. At about the same time, Bihar passed a similar law. After the Madras law was challenged in court and overturned, a new Act with certain changes was eventually passed in 1959.

Similar legal frameworks govern temples in most southern states. To guarantee that all societal groups and castes can enter Hindu places of worship and to prevent corruption, certain states contended that government involvement in

temple management was essential.

### Why Demand Liberation of Temples?

The point of disagreement among the religious majority is the way religious centres are run in the country. While community-run boards and trusts manage the religious centres and institutions of Muslims and Christians, it is not the same for the religious centres of



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**



**Shivraj Singh Chouhan**



**M.K. Stalin**



**Basavaraj Bommai**

## BJP Backs Liberation of Temples?

States—especially the ones where the BJP is in power have been looking to remove government participation. The BJP has echoed this demand over the last decade. At an election rally in Telangana last year, PM Narendra Modi accused the Tamil Nadu government of taking control of Hindu temples. However, Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin had denied the same.

The Uttarakhand government too backtracked on the Char Dham Devasthanam Board Management Act which sought to exert some regulation on more than 50 temples in the state.

In a similar vein, the Basavaraj Bommai government in Karnataka announced similar steps but left office before they were put into effect, while the Shivraj Singh Chauhan government of Madhya Pradesh relaxed state jurisdiction over temples in 2023. However, there hasn't been a central law on this yet.

The present Andhra Pradesh government reportedly has issued a Government order asking Executive Officers to ensure temples' autonomy regarding Vedic and Agama traditions and preserve the sanctity of their customs and practices.

the Hindus. Many states have Boards and Trusts with government representatives controlling stakes in the administration of temples, their income, and expenditure.

For instance, in Tamil Nadu, which has the largest number of Hindu temples under government control, there is a department called the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (HR&CE) to manage these temples.

The world-famous Tirupathi Temple is no different. It is also run by a body called the Tirumala Tirupathi

Devasthanams (TTD) which is under the control of the Andhra Pradesh government. The state government appoints the TTD head.

Some states that have laws governing the management of temples are Tamil Nadu,



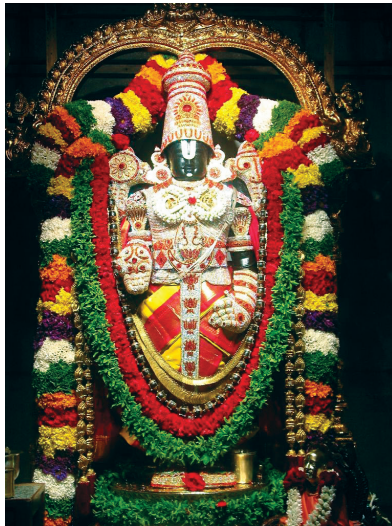
**Advocate J. Sai Deepak**

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Several states also have laws on specific institutions, such as the Vaishno Devi Mata Shrine in Katra, Jammu, which is governed by the provisions of The Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act of 1988.

Advocate, writer, and columnist J Sai Deepak, who has been vocal about the need to liberate the Hindu temples from government control opines in one of his videos

that if India is a secular country, the state must maintain distance from all religious institutions.

“Do you have an endowment ministry for Mosques, churches, Gurdwaras and Synagogues in India? If not, then why only for temples? By this, you are violating the concept of Secularism. The state has two options: Either operate like a Hindu state or follow secularism and maintain distance from all religious centres,” he says adding that the state cites corruption as a reason to control temples.



“The second biggest owner of real estate in this country is the Church. Isn't corruption there? Does the state choose to interfere with the activities of the church when it comes to corruption? Why is it that you choose to make an example only out of this community as if corruption is peculiar only to this community,” he questioned and added that trustees are appointed to temples and not elected, whereas for governing bodies of every other religion trustees are elected.

Proponents argue that temples must be free from government interference to preserve the sanctity and autonomy of religious practices, better financial management and transparency, and increase community participation.

## Why is the government not Freeing the Temples?

First and foremost, when it comes to temple administration, Hinduism lacks a single governing body. There are differing views on customs, rites, etc. Various groups, such as local communities, caste-based organisations, or hereditary trustees, frequently oversee temples. If the state withdraws, this begs the question of who would assume management. Moreover, without state oversight, there are concerns about corruption, exclusion of

marginalised groups, and sectarianism.

Furthermore, as temples are one of the government's largest revenue generators, the government exchequers will suffer if jurisdiction over them is terminated.

One of the arguments is that by taking control of the temple, the government is preventing the misuse of temple funds and properties by local elites or hereditary

### Autonomy for Vaishno Devi

The management of the Mata Vaishno Devi temple, one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in Hinduism, is overseen by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), which operates independently of direct government control. Its autonomy offers insight into how the temple is managed without significant government interference and how this can be used as a blueprint to enable so many other Hindu temples to operate without government interference.

India is a secular country and when Mosques, churches, and Sikh Temples are governed exclusively by its community, as per its dogma and denomination, why can't Hindus have the same law apply to them. The Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board was established by an act of the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature in 1986, known as the Jammu and Kashmir Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Act, 1986. This act transferred the management of the shrine from private priests (pandits) to an autonomous board, ensuring transparency and accountability in the temple's management





Mata Vaishno Devi temple

trustees.

Just recently it was revealed that in Tamil Nadu, the government has taken away 5,00,000 Kgs of Gold from Hindu Temples since 1977. The valuation of 500,000 kgs of gold: INR 2,500,000,000,000 (2.5 trillion INR) / USD 30,000,000,000 (30 Billion USD) this is apart from taking away Temple Hundi collections which run into billions every year.

In summary, the government's reluctance to free Hindu temples stems from a combination of historical legalities, financial interests, concerns about mismanagement, and the political complexities surrounding religious institutions in India. Addressing these issues would require comprehensive reforms, legal changes, and a clear plan for how temples would be managed in the absence of government oversight.

The only solution is for Hindus to take back full control of temples from the government and not find themselves in a position of compromise. There have been several legal battles in Indian courts regarding the rights of temples versus government control. The outcomes of these cases can significantly impact the future of temple governance. With independence, the management committee has the power to manage the finances more

## Age-Old Demand

In 1959, the RSS passed the first resolution demanding that temple control be handed back to the community. In a resolution on the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha (ABPS), the top decision-making meeting of the RSS, said, "The Sabha urges the government of Uttar Pradesh to take steps to return this temple to the Hindus ...

**The tendency of the government to establish its control and monopoly, directly or indirectly, over the various spheres of life is becoming more and more pronounced over the last few years."**

**The VHP has been raising the issue since the early 1970s. In 2021, it passed a resolution demanding a central law to free temples from government control.**

effectively and at the same time maintain centuries-old customs and traditions alive and not be subject to modern secular laws as religion can never be secular and the same rule should apply to Hindus also.

# SUPER COMPUTERS ARE USED IN ALL THE FIELDS

# SUPER COMPUTERS

A “supercomputer” ranks among the world’s most powerful computing systems, designed specifically to solve highly complex problems. A supercomputer’s power hinges on its processing capability, measured in Floating-Point Operations per Second (FLOPS), alongside massive amounts of RAM and storage.



areas as diverse as weather forecasting and engineering simulations. It’s hard to find a field today untouched by these high-performance machines. As these technologies shape our lives, understanding their role and India’s progress in this sector becomes increasingly important.

A “supercomputer” ranks among the world’s most powerful computing systems, designed specifically to solve highly complex problems. A supercomputer’s power hinges on its processing capability, measured in Floating-Point Operations per Second (FLOPS), alongside massive amounts of RAM and storage. These systems integrate thousands of custom-designed processors, high-speed networks, and parallel processing capabilities, making them essential for cutting-edge scientific and technological breakthroughs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of “AI for ALL” underscores the importance of Artificial Intelligence both within and for India. Guided by this vision, India’s National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), a seven-year, \$730 million initiative, aims to build indigenous supercomputing capabilities. The mission plans to install 73 supercomputers across the country, fostering research and development in various scientific fields. To date, 18 supercomputers have been set up in India, with nine more

## 📍 N V Kamath

**S**taying up to date with advancements in computing—especially in the supercomputing arena—can be challenging for most people. Yet the leaps in supercomputing technology worldwide are astounding. Supercomputers have become indispensable across many disciplines, from physics, chemistry, and medical sciences to artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Their applications span everything from data analysis and bioinformatics to cryptography and cybersecurity, transforming





expected soon.

This mission has established India as a significant player in supercomputing, with four Indian supercomputers now ranked among the world's top 500. Leading institutions in this mission include the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), the Indian Institutes of Technology (notably IIT Mumbai and IIT Chennai), and the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The NCMRWF in Noida is also a central hub for supercomputing in India.

Globally, the U.S. holds the lead in the Top 500 list of supercomputers with 171 systems, followed by China with 104 and Japan with 30, occupying the top three positions.

### India's Rise in Super Computer

India has made remarkable strides in the field of supercomputing since the 1990s. The journey began in 1991 with the launch of Param 8000, India's first supercomputer. In 2008, Param Yuva achieved the impressive feat of being ranked 4th among the top 10 supercomputers in Asia.

**India's journey began in 1991 with the launch of Param 8000. In 2008, Param Yuva achieved the impressive feat of being ranked 4th among the top 10 supercomputers in Asia. Subsequently, SahasraT emerged as the country's first petaflops supercomputer.**

Subsequently, SahasraT emerged as India's first petaflops supercomputer. By 2018, the Pratyush supercomputer was ranked 39th globally, delivering a performance of 1.2 petaflops. In 2019, Mihir secured the 100th position worldwide with a performance of 745 teraflops.

These supercomputers have earned prestigious spots in the Global Top 500 list, announced at the 61st International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in



Germany, solidifying India's position as a leading nation in AI supercomputing.

The rankings of supercomputers are updated biannually based on their performance in the High Performance Linpack Benchmark, which assesses capabilities across multiple CPUs and GPUs for enhanced functionality.

AIRAWAT: currently holds the title of the fastest supercomputer in India, ranked 75th globally with a performance of 8.5 petaflops. Installed at the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Pune, AIRAWAT is part of the National Program on AI initiated by the Government of India.

It boasts a processing power of 81,344 cores, powered by the AMD EPYC 7742 processor, running at 2.25 GHz. With a peak computing capacity of 13 petaflops (Rpeak) and 8.5 petaflops (Rmax) for double precision, it has achieved an impressive speed of 13,170 teraflops.

AIRAWAT empowers academia, scientific communities, startups, research labs, and industries to develop indigenous AI-enabled products and solutions. Its versatile applications span material science and nanotechnology, agriculture, audio assistance, education, healthcare, image processing, medical imaging, natural language processing, pattern recognition, and robotics.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has envisioned a roadmap to scale AIRAWAT to 1,000 AI petaflops of mixed computing capacity to meet current AI computational demands, all aimed at benefiting the general public.

PARAM Siddhi-AI, globally ranked 131, has a performance of 4.62 petaflops. Designed specifically for artificial intelligence

## PARAM RUDRA SUPERCOMPUTERS

On September 26, Prime Minister Modi launched three PARAM Rudra Supercomputing Systems and a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system aimed at weather and climate research. During the launch, he remarked, "India takes a significant step toward self-reliance in computing and driving innovation in science and technology."

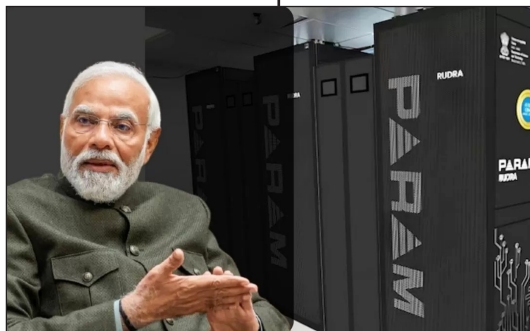
These supercomputers, dedicated to advancing India's capabilities in

supercomputing technology, have been deployed in Delhi, Pune, and Kolkata, costing approximately ₹130 crores. Developed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), their goal is to enhance India's scientific research capabilities.

In Pune, the Giant

Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) will utilize the supercomputer to explore Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) and other astronomical phenomena. The Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) in Delhi will enhance research in material sciences and atomic physics, while the S.N. Bose Centre in Kolkata will focus on advanced research in physics, cosmology, and earth sciences.

Notably, PARAM represents a series of gigaflop supercomputers developed by Vijay Pandurang Bhaktra, often referred to as the "Architect of India's supercomputing initiative." The term "PARAM" stands for "Parallel Machine," developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC).



**On September 26, Prime Minister Modi launched three PARAM Rudra Supercomputing Systems and a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system aimed at weather and climate research**

# THE RACE TO WIN TECH SUPREMACY

While the semiconductor and supercomputer industries are interconnected, they are also highly competitive. Semiconductors serve as the backbone of electronics, including supercomputers, yet they operate in distinct markets. In 2020, the global semiconductor market was valued at approximately \$440 billion, while the supercomputer market was valued at around \$8.9 billion in 2022. This market is projected to grow to \$23.7 billion by 2032, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.5%.

Key players in the semiconductor sector include Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), Samsung Electronics, and Intel Corporation. In the supercomputer domain, notable players include NEC

Corporation, Lenovo, Intel, Nvidia, and IBM.

Regarding marketplaces, leading semiconductor suppliers include Digi-Key Electronics, Mouser Electronics, Anvet, Arrow Electronics, Future Electronics, Semiconductor Store, and Alibaba IC Marketplace. For supercomputing solutions, renowned platforms include Amazon Web Services High-Performance Computing Platform, Google Cloud HPC, Microsoft Azure HPC, IBM Cloud HPC, Oracle Cloud HPC, HPC Marketplace, and Rescale.

Additionally, online platforms like Thomasnet and industry-specific marketplaces such as Aerospace & Defense further contribute to the dynamic landscape of both sectors.



**Mihir holds the 354th rank globally, with a performance of 2.57 petaflops**

applications, it is established at C-DAC in Pune. This supercomputer will accelerate research and development in critical areas such as agriculture, education, energy, healthcare, preventive care, space, cybersecurity, and AI & machine learning, in addition to advanced meteorological research, computational chemistry, astrophysics, and weather forecasting.

Ranked 201st globally, Pratyush delivers a performance of 3.76 petaflops and is located at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

## Many Latin American countries are known today for their excellent supercomputing abilities. Some notable examples are here below:

- 1** ARGENTINA has five supercomputers on the Top 500 list. "Bicentenario" is one of them which occupy 246th rank globally.
- 2** BRAZIL has the largest number of Supercomputers among the Latin American Countries. It has fourteen systems on the Global Top 500 list.
- 3** CHILE has three supercomputers on the Global Top 500 list. Its "Guanaco" occupies 304 th place in the Global Top 500 list.
- 4** COLOMBIA also finds its place in the Global Top 500 list with two supercomputers.
- 5** MEXICO has the credit of holding the most powerful supercomputers in Latin America. " Xiuhoatl " of Mexico is ranked 166 in the Global Top 500 list.

**Globally, the U.S. holds the lead in the Top 500 list of supercomputers with 171 systems, followed by China with 104 and Japan with 30, occupying the top three positions.**

(IITM) in Pune. It supports research in weather forecasting, seismology, atmospheric science, oceanography, and climate modeling.

Mihir holds the 354th rank globally, with a performance of 2.57 petaflops, and is situated at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in Noida. Inaugurated in January 2018 by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the then Union Minister for Science and Technology, Mihir serves as a counterpart to Pratyush. Both supercomputers play crucial roles in forecasting monsoons, fishing conditions, cyclones, earthquakes, lightning, and natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

India is now among the four countries globally, alongside Japan, the US, and the UK, to possess high-performance supercomputers dedicated to weather and climate research.

**2008**

Param Yuva ranked 4th among the top 10 supercomputers in Asia.

**2018**

2018: Pratyush supercomputer was ranked 39th globally

**2018**

2019: Mihir secured the 100th position worldwide



In 2020, the global semiconductor market was valued at approximately \$440 billion, while the supercomputer market was valued at around \$8.9 billion in 2022. This market is projected to grow to \$23.7 billion by 2032, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.5%.

## INTERESTING STORY

### KHAMBATI'S WELL: GUJARAT'S SOLUTION FOR WATER CONSERVATION

**W**hile monsoon floods turned Bangalore's roads into rivers, a village in Gujarat managed to stay dry thanks to an ancient water management system. In Ahmedabad's Nandanbagh society, residents have adopted the Khambati well, a type of stepwell (baoli) that channels rainwater underground, preventing surface flooding.

Unlike conventional wells, the Khambati well collects rainwater during heavy downpours, storing it safely below ground for use year-round. This innovative blend of rainwater harvesting and traditional architecture not only prevents flooding but also maintains water supplies in arid



seasons. Inspired by Nandanbagh's success, other regions are now exploring similar techniques to solve waterlogging and ensure sustainable water use.





Across India, 12 central schemes, 52 state schemes, 28 sports tournaments, 19 stadiums, and countless institutions bear the Nehru-Gandhi name. The list doesn't end there: 51 awards, 15 fellowships, 15 national sanctuaries and parks, 39 hospitals, 37 institutions, and 74 public buildings and roads.

## PARTY OF SYCOPHANTS

Sycophancy deals more devastating blow to Congress than corruption scandals.



*BRS president and  
opposition leader  
K.T. Rama Rao*

### 📍 Vicky Nanjappa

In Telangana, Congress Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is on a mission: unveil a statue of Rajiv Gandhi outside the Secretariat. But BRS president and opposition leader K.T. Rama Rao has issued a challenge—if his party regains power, Rajiv's statue will be replaced by Telangana Thalli. Reddy is undeterred. He's set December 9, Sonia Gandhi's birthday, for the unveiling.

For the Congress, loyalty to the Nehru-Gandhi family is more than a tradition—it's a way of life. Though leaders like Sitaram



**P.V. Narasimha Rao**

Kesari and P.V. Narasimha Rao briefly held the reins, their legacies were overshadowed when Sonia Gandhi stepped into politics.

Despite Rao's major contributions as Prime Minister, including the liberalization of India's economy, the Congress has sidelined his memory. Even after his death, the party barred his body from its headquarters. It was left to the Modi government to honor him with a Bharat Ratna.



**Congress-Chief-Minister-Charanjit-Sing**

Such loyalty to the Nehru-Gandhi family is well-known, even when it borders on the unusual. Case in point: after a security breach left PM Modi's convoy stuck in Punjab, Congress Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi reported the incident—not to the government—but to Priyanka Gandhi. The BJP was quick to point out what they called Congress's "dynasty devotion,"



**Mallikarjun Kharge**

questioning why Priyanka, neither an official nor party president, was kept in the loop.

### **Army of sycophants**

Despite setbacks in three Lok Sabha elections and state assembly losses, the Congress continues to be anchored to the Gandhi family. In the 2023 Nava Raipur plenary session, chants of "Sonia," "Rahul," and "Priyanka" filled the air, overshadowing any strategic discussions to revive the party.

The newly appointed Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, who became the first non-Gandhi leader to hold the position in recent years, made no attempts to alter the status quo, signaling the family's influence remains as strong as ever. And despite murmurs of retirement, Sonia Gandhi's sway over party decisions endures.

For decades, the Congress has failed to cultivate a second line of leadership, a tradition dating back to Indira Gandhi's time, when prominent figures were cut down to size to maintain family supremacy.

Leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Madhavrao Scindia, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, and Rajesh Pilot were confined to regional roles despite their national potential, while yes-men rose in their stead. The pattern continued with Rahul Gandhi, who often acts independently





of the party's concerns, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who, under Sonia's guidance, also commands significant influence despite limited results.

The dynasty's influence is pervasive, extending beyond the party into governance. Across India, 12 central schemes, 52 state schemes, 28 sports tournaments, 19 stadiums, and countless institutions bear the Nehru-Gandhi name. But as Congress's grip on voters fades, the once-potent family name now falters, as seen in Rahul Gandhi's 2014 defeat in Amethi—a former Congress stronghold—by Smriti Irani of the BJP. This symbolic loss underlined the shifting tides within the Congress's own base.

In recent years, even prominent Congress figures sought a shift in leadership, culminating in the G-23 movement. Led by senior members like Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shashi Tharoor, and Kapil Sibal, the group voiced its concerns, yet the demands went largely unheard, and several members have since left the party.

## The Dynasty

Once, figures like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi were revered nationwide. Now, however, people ask questions as to what they contributed for the country's progress.

The problem today is Congress appears clinging tightly to the family name rather than any clear ideology. This vacuum has pushed several members to switch allegiance to the

BJP. While Congress once championed giants like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, its decline began in the 1980s as the spotlight fixed firmly on the Gandhi family. Many promising leaders, from Madhavrao Scindia to Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, were kept from national prominence to protect the family's authority.

Looking back, the Congress has long struggled to groom new leaders. Leaders like Lal Bahadur Shastri, who passed away suddenly, and Morarji Desai, who left over internal friction, found little space for growth. When Indira Gandhi took charge, her influence was unmatched, sidelining senior leaders and focusing on her own family's rise. While Rao's economic reforms were transformative, he remained an "accidental" prime minister, and even Manmohan Singh's tenure saw limitations set by the family's strong influence.



The roots of dynastic control began early. After Independence, Nehru positioned his daughter, Indira, as Congress president, and she continued his legacy by suppressing rivals and nurturing a system that promoted loyalty over talent. This trend only grew under Rajiv and Sonia Gandhi, and today, with its popular support dwindling, the dynasty faces new challenges. Rahul Gandhi's loss in Amethi to Smriti Irani in 2014 exemplified the cracks in Congress's once-loyal base.

Dynastic transitions in Congress have



evolved, but loyalty to the family remains constant. Indira initially groomed her younger son, Sanjay, as her successor. However, after his untimely death, she promoted Rajiv, despite opposition from her daughter-in-law, Maneka Gandhi, who then left Congress with her son, Varun. Following Rajiv's assassination in 1991, Sonia initially declined to lead, claiming she'd never enter politics—a promise she eventually broke as the party pushed her to the forefront.

The party's culture of sycophancy toward the Nehru-Gandhi family persists. Leaders vie for favor, and even those with questionable credentials, like Chidambaram and Pratibha Patil, have held coveted positions. Calls for change from within the party, notably from the



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

G-23 faction, have gone largely ignored. Stalwarts like Ghulam Nabi Azad pushed for fresh leadership but ultimately left, frustrated with the party's rigid hierarchy.

The recent moves by Channi and Reddy highlight just how deeply Congress loyalty remains tied to the Nehru-Gandhi family. Once able to secure victories independently, the party now leans heavily on alliances for electoral survival. While the alliance under the "India" banner brings parties together, fractures are evident, with no unified choice for a prime ministerial candidate. Though many Congress members dream of seeing another Nehru-Gandhi at the helm, this sentiment isn't widely shared among the alliance partners.



## INTERESTING STORY

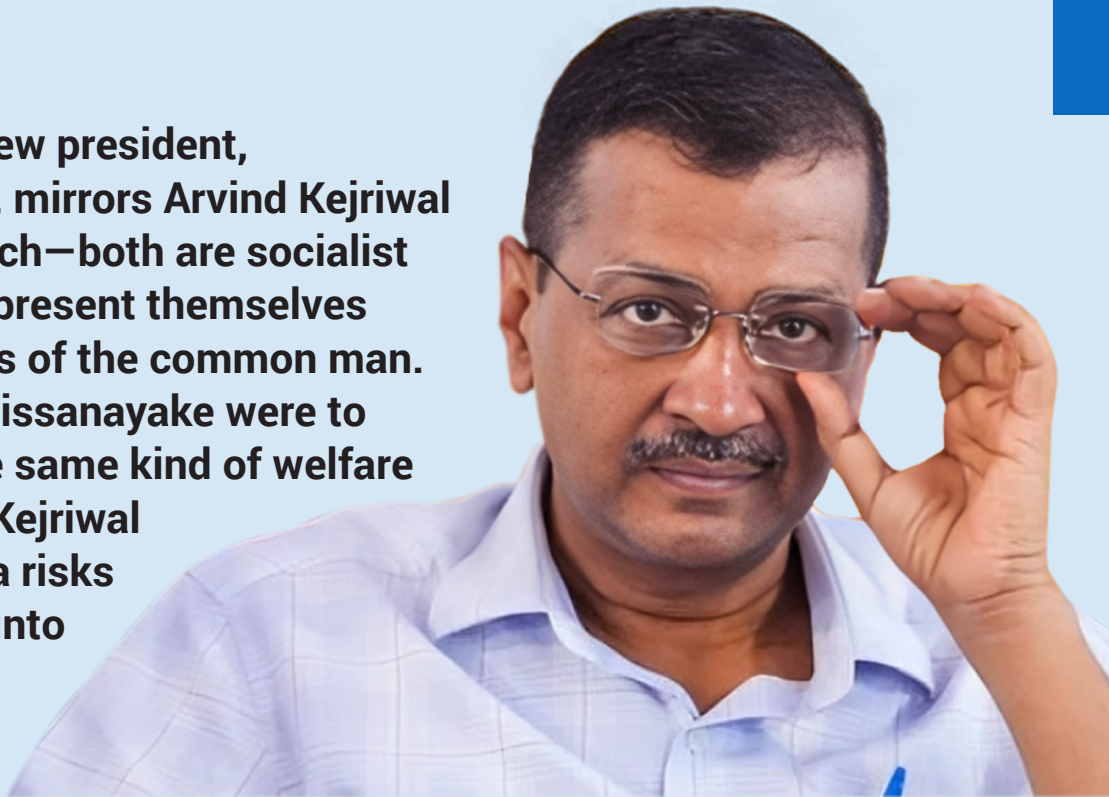
# A GREEK WHO WANTS TO SMELL HIS NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

**P**eople have peculiar hobbies, but one man in Greece took it to a strange level: sneaking into his neighbors' yards to sniff their shoes. This bizarre behavior unfolded in Sindos, a small town near Thessaloniki, where residents grew increasingly unsettled by the 28-year-old's nocturnal shoe-sniffing visits.

The man was eventually caught, confessing in court that he had no reason for his actions and never intended harm. Although the judge imposed a one-month suspended prison sentence, his neighbors admitted he wasn't hostile or dangerous—just oddly obsessed with the smell of shoes.



Sri Lanka's new president, Dissanayake, mirrors Arvind Kejriwal in his approach—both are socialist leaders who present themselves as champions of the common man. However, if Dissanayake were to introduce the same kind of welfare schemes as Kejriwal did, Sri Lanka risks sliding back into economic chaos.



# SRI LANKA'S KEJRIWAL

Sri Lankan new president looks set to emulate Arvind Kejriwal, but does the communist leader aware of his country's debt mountain?

Sumana

Anura Kumara Dissanayake has emerged as a key figure in Sri Lanka's politics amidst the country's financial crisis. His recent presidential election win, securing 42.31% of the vote, marks a significant shift in Sri Lanka's political landscape. As the first leftist leader to assume the presidency, Dissanayake's victory raises questions about his approach to governance.

Dissanayake's commitment to combating corruption and strengthening Sri Lanka's fragile economic recovery resonated deeply with voters. His promise of



Sri Lanka new president  
Anura Kumara Dissanayake

## KEJRIWAL'S FINANCIAL MESS: A CAUTIONARY TALE

Kejriwal's governance model, once lauded for its accessibility to the common people, now faces intense scrutiny and criticism due to growing financial concerns.

Delhi was proud of Kejriwal's schemes, but now the state is grappling with a deficit. Critics, particularly from the BJP, have pointed out that the city government may not be able to pay salaries to government employees by December 2024.

According to BJP leader Virendra Sachdeva, the deficit is a direct consequence of fiscal policies that focused on populist schemes without adequate funding strategies in place.

Punjab, where AAP also holds power, is similarly struggling under a debt trap of 3.65 lakh crore. The government has not fulfilled



BJP leader Virendra Sachdeva

its second election promise of giving financial assistance of Rs 1000 to every woman in the state. The government is no longer in a position to fulfill this promise because in the

meeting of the 16th Finance Commission held recently in Punjab under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, the government was also asked to find an alternative to electricity subsidy, which was the biggest election promise of the current government of the state

after coming to power.

These experiences serve as a cautionary tale for Dissanayake. If he emulates Kejriwal's path of implementing popular but financially unsustainable programs, then the island nation plunging into further economic hardship is a given.

good governance and focus on the ordinary citizen was vital in his campaign. The Sri Lankan President is often compared to Arvind Kejriwal because of generous social welfare programs. Unlike Arvind Kejriwal, the former Chief Minister of Delhi, whose freebie schemes drained the state's coffers, Dissanayake cannot afford similar luxuries. Sri Lanka's bankruptcy and ongoing recovery efforts demand a more prudent approach.

### Political Parallels with Kejriwal

Arvind Kejriwal's meteoric rise in Indian politics, much like Dissanayake's, was built on ambitious populist promises. In Delhi, Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) implemented popular welfare schemes. Although the opposition parties branded it as "freebies," it is a fact that these schemes solidified his political standing. But, these schemes came at a steep financial cost. From the outset, it is evident that these

schemes have pushed AAP-ruled states into a fiscal quagmire.

Could Dissanayake face a similar fate as he embarks on his presidency, promising economic reforms while tackling a severe financial crisis?

### Dissanayake's Promises

Anura Kumara Dissanayake's campaign focused heavily on economic reform and anti-corruption measures, almost like Kejriwal. Dissanayake became a national hero and his popularity surged, especially among the youth following the economic crisis of 2022, when public frustration with the Rajapaksa family's mismanagement boiled over. Dissanayake became the face of public revolt in 2022 and his leadership is largely attributed to the fall of the Rajapaksa family, which was held responsible for the economic and political crisis in 2022. The Sri Lankans are still raged to the extent that Namal Rajapaksa had to face a crushing defeat



**Dissanayake's tax reform aims to shift the burden from middle- and low-income earners to the wealthy—a policy that is easier said than done. He proposes eliminating taxes on essential goods like food, medicine, and educational materials while increasing welfare benefits and expanding access to affordable healthcare for the poor. But with Sri Lanka's debt exceeding 90% of its GDP, where will the funding come from? Servicing existing loans is already a major challenge, let alone financing new welfare schemes.**

this election.

Dissanayake's promises of creating a corruption-free government and addressing the economic challenges resonated with many Sri Lankans. However, bringing about meaningful change in a country with \$36 billion in foreign debt is a monumental task.

The challenge for Dissanayake will be to implement meaningful reforms while maintaining public support. Dissanayake decided to move ahead with the third review of its nearly \$3 bn programme of support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This is the first time since 1982 that a leftist leader has come to power in Sri Lanka. With leftist policies often favouring state intervention and public welfare, Dissanayake's government may prioritise social safety nets and progressive taxation. This could lead to tensions with international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which are vital for Sri Lanka's recovery.

At the same time, after taking oath, Dissanayake also gave indications about the policies of the government in his first address. He said that Sri Lanka cannot remain isolated and it needs international cooperation. Dissanayake says that he is not a magician but he aims to be a part of the collective responsibility of raising the country struggling with economic crisis.

If Dissanayake veers toward financially impractical reforms, as Kejriwal did, Sri Lanka could face a deeper financial mess.

The China Factor: A Geopolitical Tightrope



**Namal Rajapaksa**

Dissanayake's ascent could also reshape Sri Lanka's international relations, particularly with India and China. His party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), has historically leaned toward China, with whom Sri Lanka already shares deep economic ties. Beijing's control over Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port—leased for 99 years—is a prime example of China's growing influence. Dissanayake's ties to China may complicate Sri Lanka's relationship with India, which has strategic interests in the region.

For New Delhi, a close eye will be kept on Dissanayake's diplomatic maneuvers, especially regarding the Tamil issue and India's strategic goals in the Indian Ocean region. Navigating these geopolitical complexities, while staying on good terms with both India and China, will be yet another challenge for the new president.

## **Will Sri Lanka's Future Mirror Delhi's?**

As Dissanayake assumes the presidency, he finds himself at a crossroads. His ability to manage economic reform while avoiding fiscal irresponsibility could define his legacy. If he follows the path of Arvind Kejriwal—focusing on short-term populist gains over long-term fiscal sustainability—Sri Lanka may face deeper economic troubles, much like Delhi and Punjab. The world watches closely to see if Dissanayake will be a visionary reformer or if his presidency will unravel in financial chaos like Kejriwal's governance model. The coming months will be crucial in determining whether Dissanayake can avoid the pitfalls of populism and guide Sri Lanka out of its crisis, or not.

The current Bangladeshi government led by Mohammad Yunus is buckling under the pressure of Islamic radicals.

# BANGLADESHI BUNGLES

The current administration appears to have caved in to Hefazate-Islam, a radical group, which is calling for text book revisions to make sure that school syllabus is in line with Islamic belief. Meanwhile, the government arrested some secular activists on the grounds that they were pursuing anti-Islamic activities. It has also ordered for the removal of 17 stories and poems by secular and non-Muslim writers from the textbooks. The Lady Justice statue in the premises of the Supreme Court has also been dismantled.

## 🗣️ Vicky Nanjappa

In Bangladesh, the pot was always on the boil. However since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as the prime minister and she fleeing the country, the radical Islamists under the umbrella of the Jamaat-e-Islami are having a field day.

While the minority Hindus in the country continues to be targeted and face persecution on a daily basis, there is also a massive undercurrent which aims at changing the secular nature of Bangladesh.

While the radical Islamists want to ensure that every minority in the country is wiped out so that Bangladesh becomes an all Muslim country, there are also concerns about how these persons are hell bent on changing what the children learn in educational institutions.

There has been a constant demand for a change in the education syllabus in the country. The interim government in the country is facing flak now for dissolving a committee that was formed to look into the revision and improvement of textbooks. The Transparency International Bangladesh described the move as



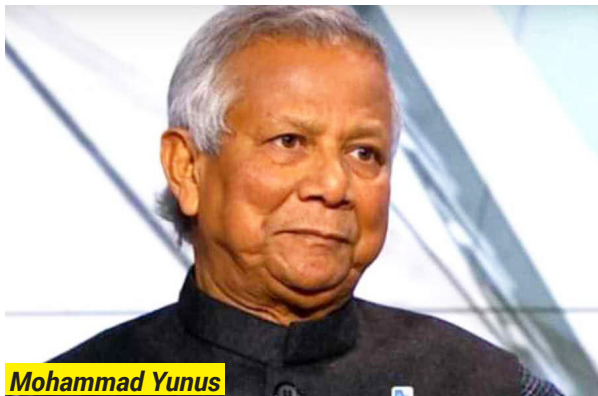
Sheikh Hasina

truly worrisome and said that it is a precedent of compromise with radicals by the government.

A 10 member committee had been formed to

complete and coordinate the activities of revising and improving all textbooks developed and printed by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board. This decision contradicts the vision of a non-discriminatory New Bangladesh and its non-communal spirit, the group also said.

"In response to the multi-dimensional and unprecedented human rights violations by the authoritarian govt, and the sacrifice of thousands of martyrs, students have paved the way for the creation of a 'New Bangladesh' - a nation committed to the peaceful coexistence and equal rights of all," executive director Iftekharuzzaman, the director of Transparency International Bangladesh said in a statement.



**Mohammad Yunus**

This decision which was taken by the interim government just 15 days after it as formed clearly shows the path that Bangladesh is treading on. The attempt to change the syllabus is a clear sign to spread malice, hatred and hostility against the pluralism.

Bangladesh has also had a history of being non-tolerant towards the amethysts. The radical Islamists have targeted atheists on several occasions. Now they want to change the syllabus and ensure that a radical school of thought is imposed. The new syllabus would lean more towards the preachings in Islam and also look to wipe out the role played by India in the liberation of the country and the support it has offered Dhaka over the years.

Leading demands for these changes are the Jamaat and the Hefazat-e-Islam, which was formed in 2010 to safeguard Islam from anti

**Leading demands for these changes are the Jamaat and the Hefazat-e-Islam, which was formed in 2010 to safeguard Islam from anti Islamic policies. It also sought to end secularism. The Hefazat-e-Islam has openly criticised secularism and called for a revolution and creation of an Islamic State in Bangladesh under the Sharia Law.**

Islamic policies. It also sought to end secularism. The Hefazat-e-Islam has openly criticised secularism and called for a revolution and creation of an Islamic State in Bangladesh under the Sharia Law.

The government has conceded to the Hefazat-e-Islam and arrested some secular activists on the grounds that they were pursuing anti Islamic activities. In 2-17, Dhaka had ordered the removal of 17 stories and poems by secular and non-Muslim writers from the textbooks. The Lady Justice statue from the Supreme Court was also removed following demands by this group. While at first Sheikh Hasina did share good relations with the group, it all changed in 2020 with a new leader, Junaid Babunagar taking over. He ensured that all ties were cut off with the government. Today it is this group under him with the support of the Jamaat which is trying to rapidly change the demographics in Bangladesh.

### **Bangladesh after Hasina's exit:**

While Sheikh Hasina could not entirely do away with these radical elements, she did manage to control them to a large extent. She cracked down on scores of radicals who were protesting against the 5 years of the country's independence and also the visit by India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

However this crackdown resulted in violent clashes. While government buildings were being targeted, the ones who suffered the most were the Hindus in the country.

Former Special Secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing, Amar Bhushan tells Aseema





**Abdul Quader Molla, leader of the Bangladesh jamaat.**

that the problem of Islamic radicalisation always persisted. While Hasina may not have been able to put an end to it during her tenure, she managed to keep under check to a large extent.

However with her ouster, it is players such as the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, the Jamaat and the Hefazat-e-Islam which have been calling the shots. They will look to impose their agenda further and completely try and make Bangladesh a Muslim only country with a radical school of thought, he also says.

These elements also are taking advantage of the fact that the interim government is being headed by Mohammad Yunus, who is perceived to be a Western stooge, with close links Pakistan. For the rational Bangladeshi and the minorities in the country, hope has begun to fade away slowly. It is evident that there is immense interference by Islamabad and the seeds of hatred that were sown after the liberation are taking complete shape today. The interim government would cease to exist in a few months and the country would go to polls. If one looks at the trend today, then it is evident that the BNP with the backing of the Jamaat would end up forming the next government. This would only mean, poor ties with India, the complete Islamisation of Bangladesh and the persecution of the minority Hindus.

### **How it began:**

It is a well known fact that Bangladesh was liberated from Pakistan by India. However post that, the ISI in Pakistan came up with a plan to coordinate with radical elements in Bangladesh.

It was a two pronged plan explains Amar Bhushan. The idea was to radicalise the whole of Bangladesh and also create demographic changes in India. The ISI continued to back the radical elements in Bangladesh. Groups such as the Jamaat were heavily funded by the ISI to bring about a change in the country which would eventually lead to the imposition of a Sharia law to govern the nation. It was also decided that the minority community should be wiped in Bangladesh. The Hindu population which stood at 27 per cent during the partition has fallen to 9 per cent due to persecution, forced conversions and murders, Bhushan says.

The other plan was to infiltrate India with as many illegal migrants. This plan was aimed at creating communal tensions in India and also change the demographics in the country and to a large extent they have been successful he explains.

Between 2013 and 2016 a number of seculars, atheists, writers, bloggers and publishers were targeted by radical Islamists. By July 2 2016 a total of 48 people were killed as they were considered to be anti Islam.

In 2010, the Sheikh Hasina led Awami League established a war crimes tribunal to investigate the crimes committed during the Bangladeshi war of 1971. In 2013, Abdul Quader Molla a leader of the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam party was sentenced to life imprisonment by the tribunal. The mildness of the sentence was questioned by many bloggers and writers who called for a death penalty. This is another reason why several such secular elements came under attack by the radical Islamists.

The days ahead for Bangladesh looks tough. What started off as a students's movement was clearly hijacked by the radical Islamists, who now call the shots in the country. Under Hasina, there was a certain amount of control. However with her out of the country, the radical elements are having a field day. And what better situation for them with a government that is entirely in their support and the ISI being in overdrive mode to fund and support them logistically.



**Muslim extremists are calling for the beheading of Hindu leader Ramgiri Maharaj.**

# **RAMGIRI MAHARAJ**



**Muslim protestors in Maharashtra are calling for the beheading of Hindu sage Ramgiri Maharaj for his comments about Prophet Muhammad. MLA Nitesh has warned that Hindus would not keep quiet this time.**

## **Parikshit Dhume**

**T**his August, a significant incident unfolded in Maharashtra, igniting tensions between the Muslim and Hindu communities. The turmoil stemmed from remarks made by Hindu religious leader Ramgiri Maharaj during a



**AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel**

sermon in Panchale village in Nashik's Sinnar region.

During the sermon on August 16, the pontiff referred to the marriage of Prophet Mohammed to Aisha, while speaking about the situations prevailing in Bangladesh.

Within no time, followers of Islam were out on the streets, demanding for the killing of Ramgiri Maharaj. "Gustakh-e-Nabi Ki Eki Saza, Sar Tan Se Juda," slogans reverberated in several pockets of Maharashtra and several other places across the country, where protesters emphasized that there can be only one punishment for disrespecting their Prophet and that is death.

The episode raises questions: Why is the establishment turning a blind eye to the seriousness and the grave repercussions of the "Sar Tan Se Juda..." slogan which has already scared and bruised the social fabric of India several times in the past.

MLA Nitesh Rane came to the aid of the Hindu Mahant and said Muslims should read their own religious scripts and find out whether what Maharaj said was not mentioned in their religious scriptures. In a television debate, he also challenged Muslims that they should prove Mahant wrong with their own religious books. Threatening to kill Ramagiri Maharaj or any



**In 2021, Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan called for the beheading of Dasna Devi Temple head priest Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati for his statement about Islam.**



**BJP leader Nupur Sharma**

Hindu leader cannot be tolerated. If Muslims did harm to Maharaj, he said Hindus would not remain quiet this time.

## **Sar Tan Se Juda... Time-tested Tool?**

Notably, a massive protest rally took place in Karnataka's Kudachi. Other than Karnataka, protests were held in Rajasthan's Bhilwara, Uttar Pradesh's Amroha, Maharashtra's Aurangabad and Mumbra, and in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh.

The violent protesters, forgetting that they were living in a democratic country that practices Freedom of Expression, kept forth an unconstitutional demand for the assassination of the Mahant.

But, is this the first time that the Muslim community has come out in the open shouting





**Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) member Jitendra Awahad**

out this murderous slogan? The answer is a 'No'. The followers of Islam have resorted to chanting this hate-laden slogan that has its origin in Pakistan.

The current protests against Ramgiri Maharaj bear a striking resemblance to the global outrage sparked by former BJP leader Nupur Sharma's comments earlier. Just as Sharma faced intense backlash and threats for her statements regarding Islam, Maharaj finds himself in a similar predicament. The demands for decapitation punishment in both cases have raised concerns.

So, is Sar Tan Se Juda only a slogan, or has it been acted upon so far? One cannot help but recall the cold-blooded killing of Kanhaiya Lal Teli, a tailor from Udaipur, in Rajasthan, who was beheaded by two radical Islamists, over a social media post supporting Nupur Sharma. This, many said, was a reminder for the Hindus that "Sar Tan Se Juda.. was not just a slogan.

Kanhaiya Lal was not the only one who paid a heavy price for supporting Sharma. Umesh Kolhe, Munish Bhardwaj, Ankit Jha, Shanu Pandey and Nishank Rathore are some others who were attacked for supporting Nupur Sharma's freedom of speech. Most of them are

dead today. Kanhaiya Lal was butchered with a cleaver and the gruesome act was videographed by his murderers. Rathore's body was found on a railway track and a cryptic message was sent to his father, which read Gustakh-e-Nabi Ki Ek Hi Saza...."

Not to forget the episode of how Islamists shouted out the same slogan outside a police station on Gir Somnath against Hindu activist Kajal Hindustani alleging that she made an anti-Islamic speech during the Ram Navami celebration. Kajal has spoken at length about the forced religious conversion of Hindu girls.

In 2021, Aam Aadmi Party MLA Amanatullah Khan called for the beheading of Dasna Devi Temple head priest Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati for his statement about Islam.

Kamlesh Tiwari murder also has the same tone. He too was killed in the most barbaric manner after thousands of Muslims took to the streets in several cities of India, openly calling for the public beheading of Tiwari.



**Hindu activist Kajal Hindustani**

## **Ramgiri Maharaj's Defense**

In response to the backlash, Ramgiri Maharaj clarified his statements, claiming that only a small portion of his one-and-a-half-hour sermon had been selectively edited to create sensationalism. He argued that his comments

were contextualised within discussions about leadership responsibilities, drawing parallels between historical figures from the Mahabharata and the current plight of Hindus in Bangladesh. Maharaj emphasised that he intended to urge Hindus to unite rather than incite division.

“Only a portion of the entire one-and-half-hour-long video has been trimmed and made viral to sensationalise the matter. I was speaking in the context of the duty of an emperor and what he should do for the welfare of his people. I was talking about stories from Mahabharat and mentioned Bhishma Pitamah and Dharamraj Yudhister, and while discussing the stories, the topic of Bangladesh appeared, and I raised my concern over the atrocities Hindus are facing in that country.

I only said that if we are not careful, similar incidents can occur in India as well. I said so referring to Bangladesh and their culture of marriage as practiced in Islam. The only motive was that Hindus should unite,” he said.

However, by late October, the Maharashtra government reported that approximately 67 FIRs were filed against Ramgiri Maharaj statewide due to his comments.

## Political Reactions

The incident has drawn responses from various political leaders. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) member Jitendra Awhad and AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel claimed that Maharaj’s remarks reflected a broader political



***Kanhaiya Lal Teli, a tailor from Udaipur, in Rajasthan who was killed brutally***



***Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde defended Ramgiri Maharaj, emphasising the state’s rich tradition of saintly figures and asserting that no harm should come to them.***

conspiracy, rather than genuine religious sentiment. Awhad expressed disbelief that a respected religious leader could make such statements without a hidden agenda, suggesting that political motivations might be at play given the support Maharaj has received from state authorities.

In contrast, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde defended Ramgiri Maharaj, emphasising the state’s rich tradition of saintly figures and asserting that no harm should come to them. Shinde’s comments came during the Harinam Saptah event, where he praised Maharaj’s contributions to society.

“Sar Tan Se Juda” sloganeering has evolved into a tool to silence those with differing viewpoints. A clear pattern emerges when observing recent developments. In a nation as diverse as India, with its

multitude of religions, cultures, and beliefs, such slogans are weaponized to inflame communal tensions, promote fanaticism, incite mob violence, and ultimately destabilize the nation’s social fabric. These slogans are a direct assault on the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression.

Is it not time for the authorities to take decisive action against religious extremists who take to the streets, openly calling for the beheading of anyone they perceive as having insulted their faith? At its core, this issue is a battle between a culture of violent retaliation and the preservation of free expression.



# THE ART OF ESCAPE

## From Fleeting Gateways to profound Journeys / Purushartha



🕒 Anshika Agarwal

**H**ave you ever gotten burnt out from the mundane routine and yearned to lose yourself amidst the towering peaks of majestic mountains or the soothing caress of sun-kissed shores by leaving all the weight of the world behind? Whether it's connecting to breaking the shackles of 9 to 5 in the movie 'Tamasha' or relating to the POV of Lost Aditya in 'Jab We Met' to take a random train to nowhere, we want to escape our world more often than ever.

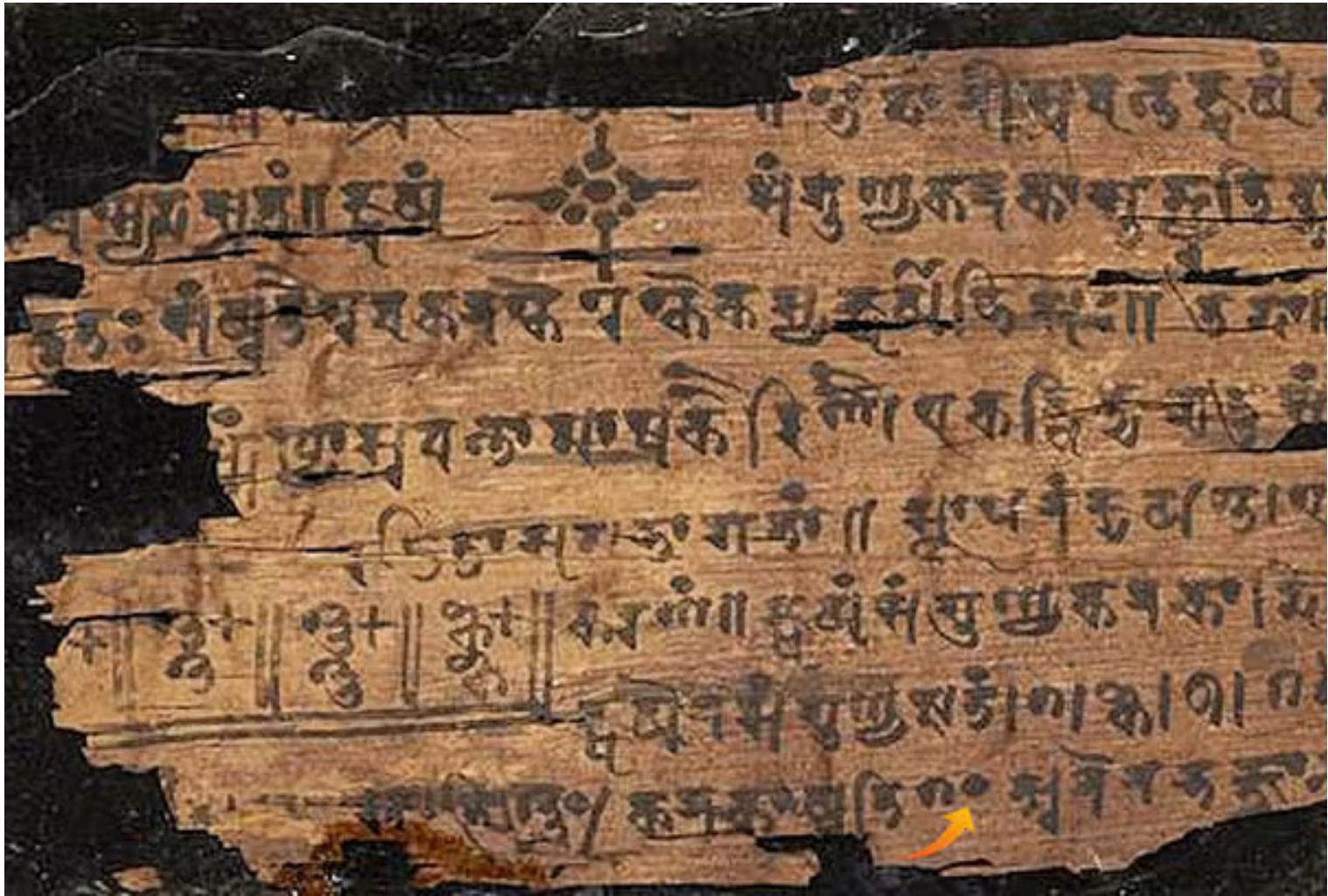
Searching for escape in different spectrums of life, some find their refuge in art while others seek unknown travel destinations. Some party their day-to-day worries away while others are perpetually in need of a so-called break.

But why this constant urge to flee, you might

wonder? Is it a mere whim, a fleeting fancy to escape the monotony of everyday life? Or is it something deeper, something rooted in the very essence of our being? Why does your mind resist the return to reality with such fervor?

The primary cause of these emotions is the unhappiness of ordinary days and the intense desire to create extraordinary ones. During the weekdays, we often find ourselves slipping into robotic routines, just getting through each day while chasing the next weekend. We waste more than three-fourths of our life energy to earn that one-fourth of leisurely weekend respite from the world. How is this a fair trade? Social media is flooded with the 'Take me back' and 'Can't wait to go back' posts of vacations. Unfortunately, even after our much-needed vacation, the overwhelming aspect of our other three-fourth life remains unchanged.





***Bakhshali manuscript, with the numeral "zero" represented by a black dot and indicated in this picture (Photo: National Geographic/Wikimedia Commons)***

Our current education and lifestyles churn us into efficient, problem-solving machines. We navigate the daily grind with practiced ease, but the yearning for something more, something beyond the practical, gets neatly tucked away. Temporary escapes offer a fleeting taste of liberation like stolen sips of water—they quench the immediate thirst but leave us clinging desperately to those precious moments.

Escape is not merely a reprieve from the mundanity of life but a visceral need, an essential part of our humanity. We yearn for it because it nourishes our souls, replenishes our spirits, and reconnects us with the essence of our being. So, the core question we must

ask is: Is escaping recharging you and your soul to come back to reality with a renowned purpose? Or simply trap us in a cycle of needing an escape from escape itself like a parched traveller stumbling upon an oasis in the desert, only to find it vanish like a mirage?

The human desire for escape is a constant current throughout history. Today, it manifests in our insatiable appetite for travel, adventure, and fleeting experiences. However, this contemporary concept of escape lacks the depth and purpose it held in ancient Indian traditions, which involved a conscious journey towards spiritual awakening. It's not just about physical escape, but a journey towards

liberation, enlightenment, or inner peace.

In Sanskrit, there are two kinds of escape: Palanam and Apagamanam. While both words convey the idea of escape, Palanam implies a more urgent or forced departure, while Apagamanam can be used for a more neutral or planned leaving. Palanam denotes escaping from reality, whereas Apagamanam represents the time-tested practice of seeking refuge in the forest, somewhere in the wild to find oneself again.

Beyond philosophical concepts, escape has been a common theme in Indian literature since time immemorial. Society used various means, including traditions and rituals like Yajna, offerings, meditation, etc., to escape from the Maya (world) now and then.

Our ancient wisdom has always warned us that getting lost in the illusionary reality comes easy, but establishing the right priorities in life is where the struggle begins. To overcome this very problem, Hinduism developed the Purushartha, a framework for living a balanced and meaningful life. This construct, comprising Dharma (righteous duty), Artha (material security), Kama (desire), and Moksha (liberation), encourages individuals to not only pursue spiritual well-being but also align with the materialistic realm that surrounds them. Rather than chasing wealth devoid of meaning, it prompts contemplation of life's deeper questions, such as liberation from the cycle of rebirth, known as Samsara. Acting as a pathway to seek balance in different phases of life, Purushartha can be interwoven throughout life with the natural shift in age, circumstances, and evolving priorities. In the past, people sought to escape from the world to find this very balance in life.

With the advent shift towards a tangible reality where matter reigns supreme, the Charvaka School of thought is gaining prominence. The digital age as we know it today believes in living a life full of pleasures, perceiving the world through our five senses

with the notion of 'Living Big'. Consequently, we have lost touch with the two crucial pillars of the four Purusharthas, i.e., Dharma and Moksha, which give a sense of direction to an individual's life. Dharma being the basis of all our actions and Moksha being the destination, our society is left in the middle of a sea without any destination or purpose in mind due to the over-indulgence in Artha and Kama.

There is a reason why all the great scriptures and religions advise one to grow beyond this Existential Nihilism and encourage individuals to pursue a life beyond survival instincts and explore the world beyond the limits of their logical minds. The yearning to find inner self and liberation keeps our thirst to escape worldly concerns (Moh-Maya) alive, driving a person subconsciously. What we see today in people around us is the same inherent tendency to escape from the world, just without any awareness.

Escape is an essential action, but we need to figure out why, from what, and for how long. What we as a society need is to use these gateways to realign ourselves to find the greater truth, to find that very balance of Purusharthas. As the desire to explore in us is greater than ever, the burning fire of escape in the world needs a direction.

Let us use the concept of escape as a springboard for self-discovery, not an avoidance tactic. As we embark on our physical and spiritual journeys, both individually and as a society, may we find the balance and purpose that eludes so many in today's world.

(The paper is the author's individual scholastic articulation. The author certifies that the article/paper is original in content, unpublished and it has not been submitted for publication/web upload elsewhere, and that the facts and figures quoted are duly referenced, as needed, and are believed to be correct).

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