



Editor

The task is about improving the lives of those living now and those who are to be expected to join them soon at the existing rate of TFR. How to achieve that for all Indians when educational attainments are not up to the mark and the workforce lacks basic skills and the country's employment rates are still one of the lowest.

Indians don't need larger families, only a better life

It may suit the political viewpoint of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Samaj, ideological parent of the ruling BJP, to keep igniting the debate over population in India, as its chief Mohan Bhagwat did in saying most recently that a society would perish if its population growth rate fell below 2.1 and that the total fertility rate (TFR) needs to be at least three, towards which he recommends parents to have at least three children.

What the RSS chief did not bring up, wisely enough, this time is the comparative growth rate of communities as designated by religion because that could only add an incendiary element at a time when

the debate is already loaded with differing views on India's population growth and desired controls over population that have yielded positive results over the last few decades.

As the world's most populous country, India, with a population now exceeding 144 crore, is already weighed down with numbers that defeat the demographic dividend often spoken of when referring to the young average age of the country's people. Even at the current growth rate, India is projected to have a population of 150 crore by 2030 and 166 crore by 2050.

To put such a dividend from greater human capital to good use, there would have to be opportunities



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for productive employment, which can come only with higher education standards, skilling and training, of course, provided that economic growth can be sustained to provide for a population growing even at the lower TFR.

The focus should not so much be on population control, which is not a problem now, as about raising the standard of living and quality of life of a country with so many people. Only a far higher economic growth than the currently projected 7 per cent can even attempt to provide improved standards of living for all. The challenge of providing for people in sheer terms of total number in one country can easily be guessed at when we see the figures in perspective.

It is not only the RSS that is viewing the TFR of 2.1 in a different light as the chief ministers of southern states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have also been advocating larger families as they feel the south, having followed the family planning concepts better for decades, will suffer when and if the parliamentary seats for each state are recast proportionate to their population in this decade.

How wrong all of them can be is best reflected when considering how difficult it is

already for governments to provide basic education to children, job opportunities for the working age population and healthcare for all, most of all for the ageing population. Very soon India will have the largest working population in the world, and it will continue to be

workforce lacks basic skills and the country's employment rates are still one of the lowest.

While arguing about TFR and the perceived political need for larger families, sight should not be lost of the fact that 81.35 crore people are being given free foodgrains in



a problem that only about a quarter of the women are employed.

The task is about improving the lives of those living now and those who are to be expected to join them soon at the existing rate of TFR. How to achieve that for all Indians when educational attainments are not up to the mark and the

2024 and India ranks 101 out of 116 nations on the Global Hunger Index despite a vast PDS system. Politicians must think before speaking to people on the need for larger families. They may believe it is good politics, but it is very poor economics when it comes to providing for the country's people.

Tribal Society And Pride Of Birsa Munda



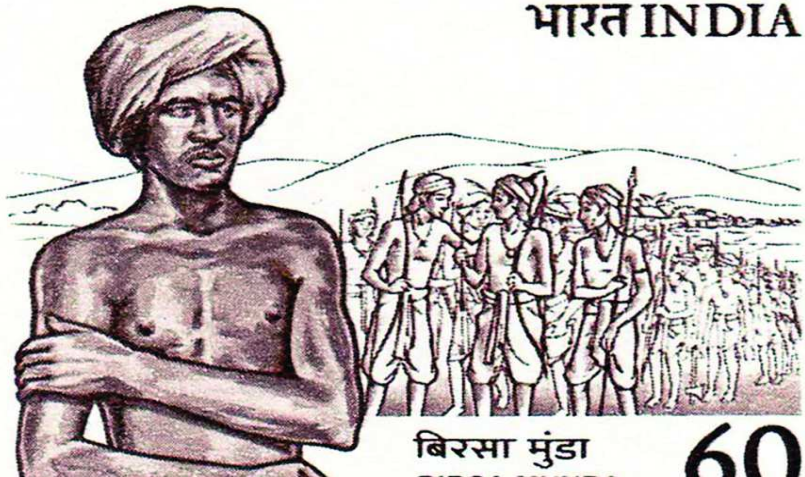
“ On his 150th birth anniversary, it is a moment of immense pride that both the central and state governments are working relentlessly to turn his dreams into reality.

● Vishnu Deo Sai, CM - Chhattisgarh

The tribal society of India is rich in history, culture, and valour, with a legacy marked by struggle for identity, freedom, and dignity. This society has been fighting for its rights and freedom for centuries. The symbol of this wonderful heritage is Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who raised his voice against the exploitation of the tribal society.

Born in Ulihatu (now in Jharkhand) in 1875, Birsa Munda's life, struggle, and sacrifices for the preservation of tribal autonomy and culture are etched in the history of India. The struggle (Ulgulan) to save the tribal identity, autonomy and culture is unforgettable. Due to his contribution and sacrifice for the tribals, Birsa Munda is fondly called as "Dharti Aaba" (God on Earth), a symbol of respect and reverence towards him by the tribal community.

Bhagwan Birsa Munda dreamt of an exploitation-free, egalitarian society. Following his ideals, the state of Chhattisgarh is constantly striving for the all-round development of the tribal society.



Since the BJP government came to power at the Centre, significant steps have been taken towards the empowerment of the tribal community. Under the leadership of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, states like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand were formed so that tribal-dominated areas could be developed and their identity could be respected.

This decision provided the tribal community an opportunity to preserve its traditions and cultural heritage. The ST Commission was made independent and empowered to bring the tribal community into

the mainstream so that their voice could be heard effectively.

On his 150th birth anniversary, it is a moment of immense pride that both the central and state governments are working relentlessly to turn his dreams into reality.

Birsa Munda aimed at empowering tribal communities. In line with this vision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Gaurav Yojana and the PM PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) Vikas Mission to ensure the all-round development of tribal society. These



schemes have been created to realise the overall development and self-reliance of the tribal society.

In recognition of the invaluable contributions of tribal heroes across the country, Prime Minister Modi declared November 15 as "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas".

Prime Minister Modi's special dedication towards the tribal society is playing an important role in the development of Chhattisgarh. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, various schemes have been introduced to uplift the tribal society, with special emphasis on the development of Chhattisgarh. The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Unnat Gram Abhiyan, which aims to empower five crore tribal people across 63,000 villages, is a transformative step in improving the lives of tribal families in the state. These programmes focus on providing basic infrastructure like roads, telecom connectivity, electricity, housing, health services, and education in remote tribal areas.

The government of Chhattisgarh is committed to

the overall development of tribal regions, which constitute nearly 30 per cent of the state's population. Special schemes have been launched to elevate their standard of living. For instance, under the Niyad Nella Nar Yojana, crucial facilities like housing, healthcare, and education are being provided to 96 villages in Maoist-affected areas, significantly improving the quality of life for these communities. Additionally, the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Special Health Assistance Scheme is providing financial assistance of up to ₹ 20 lakh for the treatment of serious diseases in poor tribal families.

The state government has also allocated ₹ 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and rural development, with a special focus on tribal areas.

In the field of education, Chhattisgarh is setting new standards with the establishment of 75 Eklavya Adarsh Residential Schools and 15 Prayas Residential Schools in Maoist-affected regions. These institutions aim to provide tribal children with quality education and opportunities to com-

pete at higher levels. Textbooks in 18 local languages have been introduced to facilitate learning in mother tongues, and the state is also developing 263 schools as model institutions under the PM Shri scheme.

To improve road connectivity, the Bharatmala Project is constructing an economic corridor connecting Raipur to Visakhapatnam, which will benefit the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh. This project will boost trade, create employment opportunities, and bring tribal communities into the economic mainstream.

The forest resources of Chhattisgarh are a key part of tribal life. In a bid to ensure fair pricing for forest products, the government has increased the rate for the collection of tendu leaves from ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 5,500, benefiting more than 12 lakh families. Alongside this, 10,000 bio-input resource centres are being established to promote organic farming and sustainable practices.

Our government has introduced various incentive schemes under the new industrial policy to economically empower the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories and increase their participation in the industrial sector.

To empower the communities living in the forest area of the state, homestays and tourism are being promoted in tribal dominated areas like Bastar and Surguja, as well as local sports activities like Bastar Olympics are being enriched. This step will not only preserve



A large part of Chhattisgarh has been affected by Naxalism.

the cultural identity of the state but will also provide employment and economic independence to the local people.

Under the new industrial policy, special incentive packages have been prepared for those Naxalites who want to surrender and return to the mainstream. Under this, surrendered Naxalites will be encouraged for entrepreneurship. They will be given vocational training as well as financial assistance, so that they can give a new direction to their lives and lead a respectable life in the society.

Special provisions have been made in Chhattisgarh's new industrial policy for the development of tribal society and employment generation. The policy will provide concessions

on setting up industries in tribal-dominated areas, which will increase economic opportunities in these areas. Along with this, special schemes have been made to promote traditional tribal art, handicrafts, and forest product processing. The government wants the tribal society to become self-reliant by taking advantage of these opportunities.

Thanks to the efforts of the central government, especially under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, tribal communities are experiencing a new era of hope, pride, and self-respect.

As we commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, we are reminded of his vision of a self-reliant, prosperous, and respected tribal society.

Inspired by his ideals, the government of Chhattisgarh is committed to ensuring that every tribal citizen of the state receives their rightful share of development, dignity, and prosperity.

Our government will continue to make continuous efforts in this direction and together we will build a self-reliant and prosperous tribal society.

(This article is written by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Chhattisgarh, on the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas")

A glimpse of Chhattisgarh's folk culture was seen in the capital Delhi, CM Sai said- Chhattisgarh has an important role in building a strong India

A large number of people witnessed the rich culture and art of Chhattisgarh at Pragati Maidan in the country's capital Delhi. The occasion was the Chhattisgarh State Day celebrations at the 43rd India International Trade Fair where folk artists of Chhattisgarh gave a wonderful cultural presentation at the Amphitheater.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the Chhattisgarh State Day celebrations. He visited different stalls in the Chhattisgarh Pavilion and encouraged the artists. Chief Minister Sai, in his address, described the state as a "land of possibilities" and said that Chhattisgarh is now playing an important role in the creation of a "strong India". Many effective steps have been taken by the government to promote infrastructure development, innovation in agriculture, and industries in the state. Our aim is to make the state a leader in the field of education, health, and employment. Chhattisgarh is ready to create a global identity with a combination of its cultural heritage and modern development, CM said .

Cultural evening organized at Pragati Maidan on Chhattisgarh State Day celebrations

In the cultural evening, artists from Chhattisgarh pre-



sented dances performed on various festivals in Chhattisgarh. The audacious dancers set the floor on fire with their energetic performances, using traditional props, traditional costumes, sprightly moves, and oodles of energy. The fun-filled burlesque kept the audience spellbound. The spectators witnessed the zeal and energy of Chhattisgarhi artists.

On the Chhattisgarhi folk stage, splendid performances of traditional folk dances like Gaura-Gauri, Bhojali, Raut Nacha, Sua and Panthi were given. Through dance, the



artists gave a live presentation of the folk art and cultural diversity of Chhattisgarh. The artists introduced the audience to the religious tradition of Gaura-Gauri and Bhojali, the emotional songs of Sua dance, and the live folk traditions of Chhattisgarh through Raut Nacha. Along with this, the audience was immersed in spirituality and devotion through Panthi and Karma dance.

On this occasion, Chhattisgarh's Investment Commissioner posted in Delhi Ritu Sain, Chief Minister's Secretary Rahul Bhagat, Culture Department Secretary Anbalgan P, Public Relations Commissioner Ravi Mittal, Residential Commissioner Shruti Singh and Official Language Department Director Vivek Acharya, Minor Forest Produce General Manager Manivasan S, CSIDC General Manager Vishwesh Kumar, and other officials were present.

The player from Chhattisgarh who wins gold medal in Olympics will be given incentive amount of Rs 3 crore, the silver medal winner will be given Rs 2 crore and the bronze medal winner will be given Rs 1 crore

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai today on Monday November 18, 2024 attended the closing ceremony of CM Trophy India International Challenge Badminton Competition 2024 organised at I Sports Badminton Arena located at Mowa in the capital Raipur. Addressing the ceremony, Chief Minister Sai said that the Chhattisgarh government is committed to promoting the sports talent of the state. The best possible facilities are being provided to the players and better sports infrastructure is being developed. He said that the player from Chhattisgarh who wins gold medal in the Olympics will be given an incentive of Rs 3 crore, the silver medal winner will be given Rs 2 crore and the bronze medal winner will be given Rs 1 crore.

While addressing the closing ceremony of CM Trophy India International Challenge Badminton Competition 2024, Chief Minister Sai said that it is a matter of great happiness that this badminton tournament is being organised in Chhattisgarh, in which partici-



pants from 10 countries are participating. Sports is not just a medium of competition, but it is a symbol of unity, discipline and dedication. It makes the youth positive and energetic. Makes them emotionally strong. We are constantly promoting sports in Chhattisgarh. There are many talented players in our state. We are also implementing the Khelo-India scheme of the Government of India in all the districts of Chhattisgarh.

The Chief Minister said that whenever I get an opportunity. I try to understand the expectations of the players by talking to them. I encourage them for their achievements. Just yesterday, I spoke to Dhamtari's badminton player Ritika Dhruv on a video call and congratulated her for her achievements at the national level.

The Chief Minister also said that Ritika told me that her father works as a laborer

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for a living and her mother is an Anganwadi assistant. Despite the struggles, Ritika has performed brilliantly in badminton. I assured Ritika that you should move ahead and bring glory to your parents as well as the whole of Chhattisgarh. We will fully support you.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said that similarly, a few days ago, I spoke to Nisha, a mountaineer daughter of Chhattisgarh, on the phone. Nisha wants to conquer Mount Kilimanjaro of the East African country Tanzania. She also wants to conquer Mount Everest. Her father is a rickshaw-puller. I came to know that due to poor financial condition, that daughter is not able to go for mountaineering. I assured her of all kinds of support from the government and yesterday I approved an amount of Rs. 4.75 lakh for Nisha.

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The Chief Minister said that our government is committed to promote sports tal-

ent. We will also provide all facilities so that players can progress in the field of badminton. The Chief Minister congratulated the men's doubles winners Hariharan and Ruban Kumar. He also congratulated all the participants and organizers of the CM Trophy India International Challenge Badminton Competition 2024. The Chief Minister welcomed the players from abroad and all the members of their team to Chhattisgarh.

On this occasion, Chhattisgarh Badminton Association President Vikram Sisodia, General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, Rakesh Shekhar, Gautam Mahanta along with officials of the Badminton Association, players and a large number of sports lovers were present.



What Trump's victory means for Ukraine, Middle East, China, rest of world

Donald Trump's return to the White House in January 2025, combined with a Republican-led US Senate, was widely feared among international allies and will be cheered by some of America's foes. While the former put on a brave face, the latter are finding it hard to hide their glee.

On the war in Ukraine, Trump is likely to try to force Kyiv and Moscow into at least a ceasefire along the current front lines. This could possibly involve a permanent settlement that would acknowledge Russia's territorial gains, including the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the territories occupied since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

It is also likely that Trump would accept demands by the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, to prevent a future Ukrainian Nato membership. Given Trump's well-known animosity to Nato, this would also be an important pressure on Kyiv's European allies. Trump could, once again, threaten to abandon the alliance in order to get Europeans to sign up to a deal with Putin over Ukraine.

When it comes to the Middle East, Trump has been a staunch supporter of Israel and



Saudi Arabia in the past. He is likely to double down on this, including by taking an even tougher line on Iran. This aligns well with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's current priorities.

Netanyahu seems determined to destroy Iran's proxies Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis in Yemen and severely degrade Iranian capabilities. By dismissing his defence minister, Yoav Gallant, a critic of his conduct of the offensive in Gaza, Netanyahu has laid the ground for a continuation of the conflict there.

It also prepares for a widening of the offensive in Lebanon and a potentially devastating strike against Iran in response to any further Iranian attack on Israel.

Trump's election will embolden Netanyahu to act. And this in turn would also

strengthen Trump's position towards Putin, who has come to depend on Iranian support for his war in Ukraine. Trump could offer to restrain Netanyahu in the future as a bargaining chip with Putin in his gamble to secure a deal on Ukraine.

Pivot to China

While Ukraine and the Middle East are two areas in which change looms, relations with China will most likely be characterised more by continuity than by change. With Chinese relations being perhaps the key strategic foreign policy challenge for the US, the Biden administration continued many of the policies Trump adopted in his first term - and Trump is likely to double down on them in a second term.

A Trump White House is likely to increase import tariffs,

and he has talked a great deal about using them to target China. But Trump is also just as likely to be open to pragmatic, transactional deals with Chinese president Xi Jinping. Just like in relations with his European allies in Nato, a serious question mark hangs over Trump's commitment to the defence of Taiwan and other treaty allies in Asia, including the Philippines, South Korea, and potentially Japan. Trump is at best lukewarm on US security guarantees.

But as his on-and-off relationship with North Korea in his first term demonstrated, Trump is, at times, willing to push the envelope dangerously close to war. This happened in 2017 in response to a North Korean test of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The unpredictability of the regime in Pyongyang makes another close brush of this kind as likely as Trump's unpredictability makes it conceivable that he would accept a nuclear-armed North Korea as part of a broader deal with Russia, which has developed increasingly close relations with Kim Jong-un's regime.

Doing so would give Trump additional leverage over China, which has been worried over growing ties between Russia and North Korea.

Preparing for a Trump White House

Friends and foes alike are going to use the remaining months before Trump returns to the White House to try to improve their positions and get things done that would be more difficult to do once he is

in office.

An expectation of a Trump push for an end to the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East is likely to lead to an intensification of the fighting there to create what the different parties think might be a more acceptable status quo for them. This does not bode well for the humanitarian crises already brewing in both regions.

Increasing tensions in and around the Korean peninsula are also conceivable. Pyongyang is likely to want to boost its credentials with yet more missile - and potentially nuclear - tests. A ratcheting-up of the fighting in Europe and the Middle East and of tensions in Asia is also likely to strain relations between the US and its allies in all three regions. In Europe, the fear is that Trump may make deals with Russia over the head of its EU and Nato allies and threaten them with abandonment.

This would undermine the longevity of any Ukrainian (or broader European) deal with Moscow. The relatively dismal state of European defence capabilities and the diminishing credibility of the US nuclear umbrella would not help to encourage Putin to push his imperial ambitions further once he has secured a deal with Trump.

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but help to encourage Putin to push his imperial ambitions further once he has secured a deal with Trump.

In the Middle East, Netanyahu would be completely unrestrained. And yet while some Arab regimes might cheer Israel striking Iran and Iranian proxies, they will worry about backlash over the plight of Palestinians. Without resolving this perennial issue, stability in the region, let alone peace, will be all but impossible.

In Asia, the challenges are different. Here the problem is less US withdrawal and more an unpredictable and potentially unmanageable escalation. Under Trump, it is much more likely that the US and China will find it hard to escape the so-called Thucydides trap - the inevitability of war between a dominant but declining power and its rising challenger.

This then raises the question of whether US alliances in the region are safe in the long term or whether some of its partners, like Indonesia or India, will consider realigning themselves with China.

At best, all of this spells greater uncertainty and instability - not only after Trump's inauguration but also in the months until then.

At worst, it will prove the undoing of Trump's self-proclaimed infallibility. But by the time he and his team come to realise that geopolitics is a more complicated affair than real estate, they may have ushered in the very chaos that they have accused Biden and Harris of.

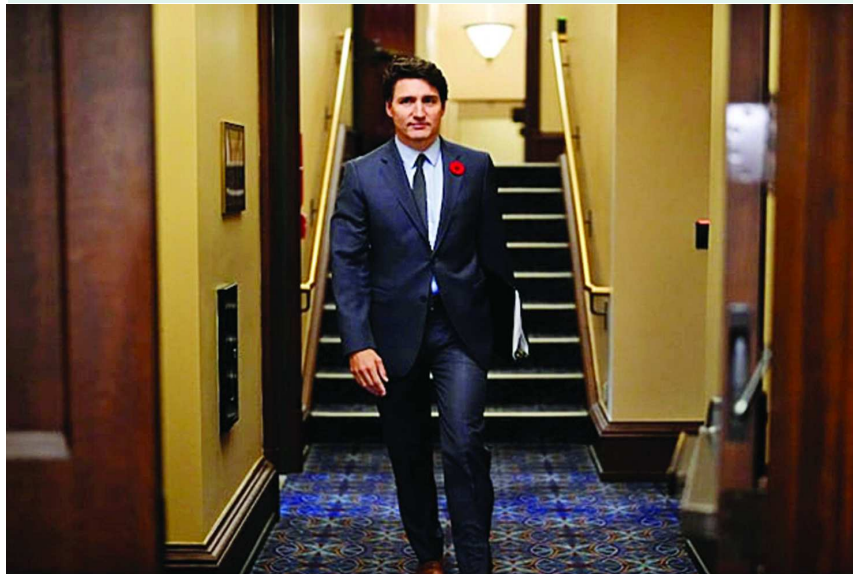
India A "Cyber Adversary", Says Trudeau Government, New Delhi Shreds Claim

The Justin Trudeau-led Canadian government's latest action suggests it has started treating India as an enemy country. India has been added to a list of enemy nations in terms of cyber security and has been labelled a 'cyber adversary'. New Delhi today called it another Canadian strategy to attack and malign India internationally.

In a press conference on Saturday, November 2, 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs also said that under Trudeau's administration, senior Canadian officials have openly confessed that Canada is seeking to manipulate global opinions against India. The foreign ministry also said that like other instances, these allegations in their cyber security report are made without a shred of evidence.

"We see this as another Canadian strategy to attack and malign India. Their senior officials have openly confessed that Canada is seeking to manipulate global opinions against India. As on other occasions, allegations are made repeatedly without a shred of evidence," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said at a press conference in New

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The Justin Trudeau-led Canadian government has put India in a list of enemy countries.

Delhi on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

WHAT CANADA ALLEGED

In its most recent report about cyber security, titled 'National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026', the Government of Canada has called India a "cyber adversary".

In the report it claimed that, "India's leadership almost certainly aspires to build a modernized cyber program with domestic cyber capabilities. India very likely uses its cyber program to advance its national security imperatives, including espionage, counter-terrorism, and the country's efforts to promote its global status

and counter narratives against India and the Indian government. We assess that India's cyber program likely leverages commercial cyber vendors to enhance its operations."

It further claimed that "We assess that Indian state-sponsored cyber threat actors likely conduct cyber threat activity against Government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage. We judge that official bilateral relations between Canada and India will very likely drive Indian state-sponsored cyber threat activity against Canada." The report also claimed that "countries that aspire to become new centres of power within the global system, such as India, are building cyber programs that present varying levels of threat to Canada."

Canada made these claims under 'Section 1' of its cyber security report titled 'Cyber Threat From State Adversaries' which it says "introduces the state cyber threat ecosystem and discusses the cyber threats to Canada." India has been added to the list of enemy countries which include China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

CANADA HARASSES INDIAN DIPLOMATIC STAFF

The Justin Trudeau-led Canada government has started violating all established international diplomatic norms in its hateful and spiteful pursuit to malign India in order to cater to its domestic political motives and objectives. Diplomats and other Indian mission staff are being kept under round-the-clock surveil-

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lance and are even being intimidated routinely.

In a move that highlights its double-standards, Justin Trudeau's administration, which harps on a "rules-based" order has itself not being following any established rules, diplomatic norms and practices. India today called out Canada for indulging in such illegal activity to harass and intimidate Indian officials in diplomatic missions. New Delhi has called such surveillance activity a "flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions".

The foreign ministry also said that by citing technicalities the Canadian government cannot justify that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation.

In its official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said, "Some of our officials have recently been informed by the Canadian government that they have been, and continue to be under audio and visual surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted."

It added that "New Delhi has formally protested to the Indian government as we deem these actions to be a fla-

grant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions. By citing technicalities the Canadian government cannot justify that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation."

The foreign ministry concluded by saying that "Our diplomatic and consular persons are already functioning in an environment of extremism and violence. This action of the Canadian government aggravates the situation and is incompatible with established diplomatic norms and practices."

Comments

India and Canada are currently in the midst of the worst-ever diplomatic spat between the two nations. India has blamed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alone for the fallout between the two countries. Trudeau has openly been supporting terrorism, extremism, separatism and violence against India by personally sharing space and politically being a part of the Khalistani narrative. He has been seen at Khalistani rallies and hate speeches against India. Trudeau is dependent on this vote bank for his political gains.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY MINORITY STATUS SC OVERRULES 1967 VERDICT ON ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY MINORITY STATUS

The Supreme Court on November 8, 2024 pronounced the verdict on whether Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) holds minority status under Article 30 of the Indian Constitution, which grants religious and linguistic minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions. SC overruled Basha judgment which said an educational institution can claim 'minority tag' only if established and managed by a minority community and said a regular bench will decide whether AMU is a minority institution based on the indicia laid down by the 7-J bench.

The case centers on the 1981 amendment to the AMU Act, which granted minority status but was seen as incomplete. AMU, originally founded in 1875, became a central university in 1920. Critics argue that its government funding disqualifies it from minority status, while supporters contend it retains its character. The decision will resolve decades of legal challenges regarding AMU's constitutional status.

SC verdict on AMU:

Comprehensive win for minority rights, says AMU fraternity on SC ruling

The Aligarh Muslim University community



Supreme Court of India - Poto credit - PTI

expressed satisfaction on Friday regarding the Supreme Court's decision about the institution's minority status, affirming it aligns with the core principles that led to the university's establishment. "It is a comprehensive win for minority rights in general and AMU in particular," professor Faizan Mustafa, an authority on constitutional law and former AMU registrar who had presented this case to the Supreme Court in his ex-officio capacity, was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

On Friday, the Supreme Court assigned the matter of Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) minority status to a fresh bench whilst invalidating the 1967 verdict which had

determined that the university's establishment through central legislation prevented it from being classified as a minority institution.

SC verdict on AMU: Congress leader Shama Mohammad on the Supreme Court verdict

"They wanted to take away the minority status of AMU. Even in that the SC said it has to go to a different bench. Till then, AMU will have the minority status. These are things which the BJP brings when there is an election and the SC is replying to them. This shows there is justice and democracy in this country," she said.

AMU, Professor Mohd. Aasim Siddiqui, Member

Incharge, PRO Department, AMU says, 'We welcome and accept this judgement'

The apex court by 4:3 majority verdict said the issue of AMU minority status to be decided by a regular three-judge bench. The bench said that in order to determine whether an institution is a minority institution, what needs to be looked at is who established the institution. Following the verdict, Aligarh Muslim University staff welcomed the decision and stressed to act on the further course of action.

SC verdict on AMU:

Student celebrates verdict

"We welcome the SC decision... We celebrated and we are very happy with it," said the student

SC verdict on AMU: AMU Vice Chancellor Prof. Naima Khatoon honours the verdict

"Everybody honours the Supreme Court judgment; we also respect it. We will just wait. We will discuss with our legal experts and then examine the matter. I am not in a position to say anything right now," she said.

SC verdict on AMU:

General Secy and spokespersons of All India Shia Personal Law welcomes verdict

"I welcome this verdict because it is hoped that the 3-judges bench of Supreme Court will give a favourable judgement to continue the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University," he said.

SC verdict on AMU:

Lawyer & petitioner Azam Mir speaks on SC verdict

"The court 4:3 held that the 1963 judgement which held that AMU is not a minority institution was incorrect and it

“ The Aligarh Muslim University community expressed satisfaction on Friday regarding the Supreme Court's decision about the institution's minority status, affirming it aligns with the core principles that led to the university's establishment. "It is a comprehensive win for minority rights in general and AMU in particular," professor Faizan Mustafa, an authority on constitutional law and former AMU registrar who had presented this case to the Supreme Court in his ex-officio capacity, was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

is overruled. It has set parameters for what is required for an institution to be established by a minority," said the petitioner.

SC verdict on AMU: Senior advocate MR Shamshad on the Supreme Court judgment regarding Aligarh Muslim University

MR Shamshad said, "Aligarh Muslim University was established by minority and administered by minority - that's what was contended and that has been the case of AMU since the beginning. The 1967 judgment stated that if Parliament has passed a legislation, then the word established will be treated as if it has been established by Parliament and not by minority. That view has been overruled by the five judges. Now, in terms of this judgment, the regular bench will decide the matter. The main issue is whether it was established by minority or it has been administered by minority. If it is established by minority then

the matter ends. Obviously, in this process, the court will examine whether it has been administered or not. Now, this issue will have to be argued before the regular bench and the regular bench will decide this matter."

AMU hearing live: Aligarh Muslim University, Professor Aftab Ahmad says will decide next action after reading SC verdict

Professor Aftab said, "SC majority judgement has not said anything about the minority status. So it will remain as a minority institution. We will read the judgement and decide the next course of action."

AMU hearing live: Omar Saleem Peerzada (PRO-AMU) on Supreme Court verdict

"AMU honours the decision of the SC... For now, we are dedicated to maintaining academic actions, nation-building, and inclusivity," said the PRO.

AMU hearing live: Justice S C Sharma says opinion neither

concurring nor dissenting

Justice S C Sharma said his opinion is neither concurring nor dissenting with the majority opinion authored by CJI Chandrachud. However, he agreed with dissents that the 2-J bench could not have referred the case directly to a 7-J bench.

AMU hearing live: Justice Datta goes against CJI opinion, rules AMU is not a minority institution

Justice Datta asked can a 2-J bench tomorrow doubt 'basic structure doctrine' propounded in Kesavananda Bharati case and refer it to 15-J bench directly? The majority opinion will set a very dangerous opinion, he said and ruled that AMU is not a minority institution.

AMU hearing live: Constitution does not permit preferential treatment

Justice Sharma said Constitution does not permit any preferential treatment to minority institutions vis-a-vis other institutions. What is needed is bringing minority educational institutions on par with other institutions.

AMU hearing live: Justice Dipankar Datta differs with CJI opinion

Justice Dipankar Datta fundamentally differed with CJI's majority opinion which validated AMU reference by a 2-J bench directly to a 7-J bench after doubting the 5-J bench verdict in Aziz Basha.

AMU hearing live: Case papers to be placed for fresh bench

SC says case papers be placed before CJI for setting up fresh bench to decide validity of 2006 Allahabad HC verdict.

AMU hearing live: SC majority verdict says issue of AMU's

minority status must be decided on basis of tests laid down by apex court

SC majority verdict said that issue of AMU's minority status must be decided on basis of tests laid down by apex court.

Additionally, in January 2006, Allahabad HC had struck down provision of 1981 law by which AMU was accorded minority status.

AMU hearing live: Justice Kant criticises manner in which the case was referred by a 3-J bench

Justice Kant strongly criticised the manner in which the case was referred by a 3-J bench to present 7-J bench and termed it as a judicial impropriety on the part of the smaller bench and also on part of the then CJI in accepting the request.

AMU hearing live: Justice Surya Kant says no need to reopen inquiry into character of AMU

Justice Surya Kant said the five-judge bench of SC in Aziz Basha case had correctly decided that AMU was not a minority institution, which has attained finality, and that there is no need to reopen the inquiry into the character of AMU.

AMU hearing live: CJI leads majority verdict

Majority opinion was by CJI D Y Chandrachud, for himself and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. Separate dissenting opinions were rendered by Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and S C Sharma.

AMU hearing live: SC overrules 1967 Basha judgment

SC overruled the Basha judgment which said an educational institution can claim

'minority tag' only if established and managed by a minority community. SC said a regular bench will decide whether AMU is a minority institution based on the indicia laid down by the 7-J bench.

AMU hearing live: SC lays down indicia for determining whether an educational institution is a minority institution

SC's 7-Judge bench by 4 to 3 majority verdict laid down indicia for determining whether an educational institution is a minority institution but did not answer whether Aligarh Muslim University is a minority educational institution. It overruled 1967 judgment in Aziz Basha.

AMU hearing live: 'Not necessary that minority can only be implemented if the persons of the minority administer the institution,' says CJI Chandrachud

The CJI said that it is not necessary that the purpose of minority can only be implemented if the people of the minority administer the institution.

AMU hearing live: CJI says there are four separate judgement

Four judges out the the seven-judge bench have given majority verdict, while three judges pass dissent judgement, said the chief justice.

AMU hearing live: Seven-judge Constitution bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud assembles to pronounce verdict

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud heading the 7-judge bench says there are four judgements in the case. Four judges give majority verdict, while three judges pass dissent judgement.

AMU Hearing Live: AMU's

financial ties to the government

Critics claim AMU received over Rs 5,000 crore in central funding between 2019 and 2023, much more than other central universities like the University of Delhi, suggesting the institution serves national, not minority, interests.

AMU Hearing Live: Aligarh BJP MP Satish Gautam speaks ahead of SC verdict

BJP MP from Aligarh, Satish Gautam said, "AMU case is under consideration in the SC. Even in the Lok Sabha, I have raised the issue of reservation in favour of SC, ST, and OBCs at least 10 times. We have faith in the SC verdict... All central universities follow the rules of reservation but the same is not the case with AMU."

AMU Hearing Live: Arguments against AMU's minority status

Opponents, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, argue that AMU's significant central government funding and its national importance status disqualify it from claiming minority status.

AMU Hearing Live: Arguments supporting AMU's minority status

Proponents, including lawyer Kapil Sibal, argue that the composition of AMU's governing council, with 37 Muslim members out of 180, still qualifies it as a Muslim minority institution, emphasising the application of Article 30 of the Constitution.

AMU Hearing Live: BJP government's stance on AMU's status

The BJP-led NDA government opposes the 1981 amendment, referencing the 1967 Supreme Court verdict in

the S Azeez Basha case, which ruled that AMU, as a central university, cannot be considered a minority institution.

AMU Hearing Live: AMU Act amendments at the center

The 1920 AMU Act established the university, and the 1951 amendment removed the requirement for religious instruction. The 1981 amendment, granting minority status to AMU, has been criticised by the court as "half-hearted" in restoring the pre-1951 status.

AMU Hearing Live: Court judgment reserved in February after days of hearings

On February 1, the bench reserved its judgment after hearing arguments for eight days on the issue of AMU's minority status, particularly concerning the 1981 amendment to the AMU Act.

AMU Hearing Live: Constitution bench composition for the verdict

The verdict will be pronounced by a seven-judge constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, along with Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma.

AMU Hearing Live: Supreme Court to announce verdict on AMU's minority status

The Supreme Court is expected to announce its verdict soon regarding whether Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) will enjoy minority status under Article 30 of the Constitution.

The Supreme Court pronounced the verdict on whether Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) holds minority status under

Article 30 of the Indian Constitution, which grants religious and linguistic minorities the right to establish and administer educational institutions. CJI DY Chandrachud heading the 7-judge bench said there are four judgements in the case. Four judges give majority verdict, while three judges pass dissent judgement. SC overruled Basha judgement which said an educational institution can claim 'minority tag' only if established and managed by a minority community. SC said a regular bench will decide whether AMU is a minority institution based on the indicia laid down by the 7-J bench.

The case centers around the 1981 amendment to the AMU Act, which attempted to accord the university minority status but was criticized for not fully restoring its pre-1951 status. The legal debate dates back to the university's foundation in 1875 as the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College and its transformation into a university in 1920. The 1951 amendment removed compulsory religious instruction, and in 1967, the Supreme Court ruled in the S. Azeez Basha case that AMU, as a central university, could not be considered a minority institution. Supporters of AMU's minority status argue that it retains its character despite receiving government funding, while opponents contend that its status as a central university and significant financial support from the government disqualifies it from minority status.

The matter has been under legal scrutiny for decades, with multiple challenges and appeals, including against the Allahabad High Court's 2006 verdict that struck down the 1981 amendment. Stay with us for latest updates:

Congress-ruled states ATM of party's 'shahi parivar': PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday November 9, 2024 said that wherever a Congress government is formed, that state becomes the ATM (Automated Teller Machine) of the party's 'shahi parivar'. "We won't let Maharashtra become the ATM of Congress," Modi said, addressing a campaign rally in Akola for the November 20 state assembly elections.

"I challenge the shahi parivar of Congress to prove if they ever visited Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's panchteerth," Modi said.

Modi has coined the term panchteerth to denote Amedbkar's birthplace in Mhow, the place in London where he stayed while studying in the UK, Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur where he embraced Buddhism, his 'Mahaparinirvan Sthal' in Delhi, and 'Chaitya Bhoomi' in Mumbai.

People of Haryana foiled the conspiracy of Congress by following

the 'Ek hai to safe hai' (we are safe if we are united) mantra, Modi said.

"The Congress knows that it will be strengthened only if the country is weakened. The policy of that party is to pit one caste against the other," he said. Also Read - D

Modi said the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra means corruption and scams of thousands of crores of rupees.

"In my first two terms as the PM, I have given four crore pucca houses to the poor," Modi said.

"I have come to seek your blessings for the BJP-led Mahayuti (grand alliance) in the Maharashtra assembly

elections," he said.

"On this day in 2019, the Supreme Court of the country gave its verdict on Ram Temple. This date of November 9 will also be remembered because, after the decision of the Supreme Court, people of every religion showed great sensitivity," Modi said.

"This feeling of nation first is the biggest strength of India," he said.

In the 10 years from 2014 to 2024, Maharashtra has continuously blessed the BJP wholeheartedly. There is a reason behind Maharashtra's trust in the BJP. The reason for this is the patriotism, political understanding, and vision of the people of Maharashtra," Modi said



Congress trying to re-open citizenship controversy: Assam CM

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma here on Tuesday November 5, 2024 said that the Congress party was trying to complicate the problem for Hindu Bengali in Assam.

Accusing that his government was trying to resolve the citizenship issues of Hindu Bengalis in the state, Sarma told reporters, "We are trying to resolve the Bangladeshi tag of Hindu Bengalis but Congress party was trying to politicise the issue by raising the issue once again they are trying to subject Hindu Bengalis of the state under fresh harassments."

Assam Congress accused the Bharatiya Janata Party of fielding a "Bangladeshi" as the candidate for Dholai, one of the five Assembly constituencies in the State where by-polls will be held on November 13.

Sarma brushed off the allegation against the candidate, Nihar Ranjan Das, while stating that he is born and brought up in Assam but by raking up this issue, the Congress party was trying to put Hindu Bengalis in trouble. "If this issue surfaces once again there will be no problem for Mr Das but many innocent Hindu Bengalis may



get notices of their citizenship and common Hindu Bengalis may face harassment. We are trying to resolve this controversy one by one."

It is significant that during the party's campaign on Sunday, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhupen Kumar Borah said that the BJP was trying to set a precedent by fielding a candidate with doubtful citizenship.

"The allegation against the BJP candidate was made at a public forum by Amiya Kanti Das, who is close to chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma," Borah said, asking the chief minister to come clean on the Dholai candidate's status.

Amiya Kanti Das withdrew his candidature from the Dholai seat after filing his papers as an Independent candidate.

The BJP candidate said that he has not been losing sleep

over the "lies" the Congress has been spreading. "The outpouring of support for me has made the Congress jittery. The allegation is best ignored," he said.

The Dholai unit of the BJP said that their candidate studied and taught at the Irongmara School near southern Assam's Silchar town.

Eight candidates are vying for the Dholai seat, which was vacated by former transport minister Parimal Suklabaidya after he became the MP from Silchar. Among the BJP candidate's rivals are Dhruvrajyoti Purkayastha of Congress and Gour Chandra Das of the Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist).

While Congress is contesting all five seats going to the by-polls, the BJP is contesting three. The latter's regional allies - Asom Gana Parishad and United People's Party Liberal - are contesting a seat each.

1984, the year that changed India



“

Forty years after Punjab was gripped by militancy, the idea of Khalistan still haunts the State and the Hindu votebank the Congress cynically created then has been hijacked by the BJP

Ajaz Ashraf | The writer is a senior journalist.

The bruising diplomatic battle between India and Canada over the killing of a Khalistan activist is a testament to the events of 1984 still haunting us 40 years later. Nineteen eighty-four witnessed the death of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who terrorised Punjab as he resuscitated the idea of Khalistan. It was also the year the Golden Temple was militarily attacked, and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated. It was the year of a pogrom against the Sikhs, underscoring the emergence of the Hindu card and the Indian State's vicious conduct against its religious minorities.

Yet 1984 might not have been as cataclysmic as it was. The genesis of the Punjab militancy lay in the battle of supremacy between the Akali Dal and the Congress there. The grand old party patronised Bhindranwale to weaken the moderate Akali leadership, a story vividly recounted in former Research and Analysis Wing official G B S Sidhu's *The Khalistan Conspiracy*.

The Congress had the choice of two potential candi-



dates for checkmating the Akalis. Sidhu quotes Congress leader Kamal Nath telling late journalist Kuldip Nayar that Bhindranwale was chosen over the other candidate because the latter didn't seem the "courageous type." Nath confessed, "We would give him money off and on, but we never thought he would turn into a terrorist." Bhindranwale even campaigned for three of Congress candidates in the 1980 Lok Sabha elections.

The Akalis sought to mobilise support on the Anandpur Sahib resolution, adopted in 1973, which sought autonomy for Punjab

on all subjects other than foreign relations, defence, currency and general communications. This maximalist demand was watered down in 1978, and the Centre and the Akalis entered into negotiations over the sharing of river water with Haryana and Rajasthan, transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, and a list of religious-cultural issues.

The Akalis soon became desperate to stitch a deal with the Centre, for they feared Bhindranwale hijacking the Dharam Yudh Morcha that was launched to pressure the Centre to grant concessions to Punjab. Bhindranwale's popu-

larity had been growing because of his strident oratory over the injustices done to Punjab. After a Centre-Akali agreement was nixed last minute courtesy of the Congress, Bhindranwale turned the Golden Temple into his headquarters, and began to order the killing of Hindus, Sikhs who differed from him and State officials.

Realising that the Congress had reared a monster, Mrs Gandhi, in June 1984, ordered military operations to flush out militants from the Golden Temple complex.

Bhindranwale died in the fire-fight that lasted days, as also did scores of pilgrims trapped in the complex. The most sacred space of the Sikhs was devastated, roiling their religious sentiments.

In hindsight, it can be said Mrs Gandhi's Punjab policy was aimed at consolidating Hindus behind her, by exploiting their fears over militancy and balkanisation of India. Rediffusion's Ajit Balakrishnan, hired to design the Congress election campaign, had already created, before Mrs Gandhi was assassinated, advertisements such as the one asking newspaper readers, "Will the Country's Border Finally Move to Your Doorstep?"

The assassination of Mrs Gandhi, on October 31, triggered countrywide violence against Sikhs. Thousands were killed, and countless women raped. Congress leaders led Hindu mobs in Delhi even as the State allowed the carnage to continue for days. The

“ That darkled memory has been a crucial factor in the formation of the Sikh identity and consciousness abroad, argues scholar Harleen Kaur. The earliest indication of events in Punjab reverberating in Canada was that of Sikh terrorists blowing up midair an Air India flight in 1985, killing 329 passengers. Indeed, the memory of 1984, passed from one generation to another, deepens at the occurrence of every incident that is perceived to reflect the Indian State's hostility toward the Sikhs, as will certainly the recent allegation of Delhi targeting advocates of Khalistan in Canada and the United States.

Hindus consolidated behind the Congress, evident from Rajiv Gandhi leading the party to over 400 Lok Sabha seats in the 1984 elections. The victory emboldened the Congress to thwart attempts to bring to justice the perpetrators of the 1984 pogrom.

Sidhu wrote that it was during this period that the migration of Sikhs to Canada registered a spurt. The 1981 Canadian Census reported 94,803 Sikh residents; the number grew to 192,608—a 103 per cent rise—in 1991 and to 312,802 in 2001. They carried to the adopted land their memory of the injustices meted out to them, and the State's connivance in the 1984 violence.

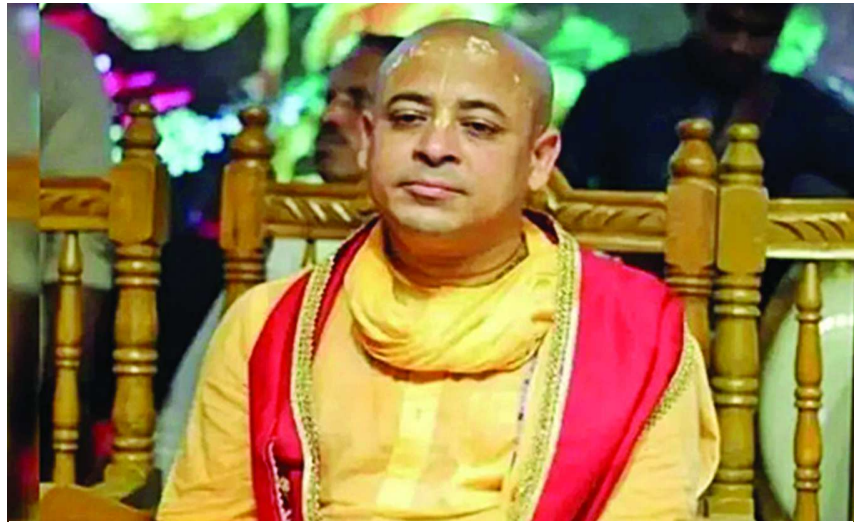
At home, the Bharatiya

Janata Party hijacked the Hindu votebank the Congress built through its blood and iron policy in Punjab, first through the demolition of the Babri Masjid and then, in 2002, through the Gujarat riots. As in 1984, so in 2002, the State deliberately allowed the carnage of Muslims. As it was for Rajiv Gandhi at the Centre in 1984, so it was that then Chief Minister Narendra Modi swept to a stunning victory in the 2002 Assembly elections. It enabled him to become the custodian of the Hindu votebank, kept intact and expanded over the last 10 years through the demonisation of religious minorities. And so, the ghosts of 1984 still possess and torment India.

Who Is Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, Hindu Leader Arrested In Bangladesh

Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a former ISKCON priest and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was arrested on November 25 by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's detective branch. The Hindu monk and spiritual leader was arrested on a sedition charge, which stems from his actions at a rally held in Chittagong in October. Accused of disrespecting the Bangladesh flag, the case was lodged under the country's 1860 Penal Code.

1. Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, known within the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) community as Sri Chinmay Krishna Prabhu, is an influential religious leader in Bangladesh. As President of Pundarik Dham, he has long been a voice for those seeking religious freedom and minority protection. He previously held the position of divisional organising secretary for ISKCON in Chattogram. ISKCON Bangladesh said recently that he had been removed from all positions in the organisation months ago.
2. He was born in May 1985 in Karianagar village, located



The Hindu monk and spiritual leader Chinmoy Das has become the centre of significant controversy in Bangladesh following his arrest

- in the Satkania Upazila of Chattogram. Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari gained recognition for his skills as a child orator within religious circles. His spiritual journey began at a young age, and by 1997, at just 12 years old, he took diksha (initiation) and joined ISKCON as a brahmachari.
3. Mr Das's arrest came after a high-profile rally in Chittagong on October 25, 2024. The precise motive behind the charges against him remains unclear, but reports indicate that he faces accusations of disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag during a protest rally.

- Mr Das, along with 18 others, has been charged with sedition. Just days before his arrest, on November 22, he spoke at a rally in Rangpur, denouncing the acts of violence on the Hindu community. On November 26, a Bangladesh court denied Mr Das's bail petition and ordered his detention.
4. A few months ago, Mr Das was relatively unknown. His rise to prominence began when violence erupted against the Hindu community in Bangladesh and their temples following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime in August. This turmoil

brought the 39-year-old monk into the public eye as he emerged as a key figure advocating for the rights and safety of Hindus in the country. In just a few months, Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari has become one of the most prominent leaders of the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

- In response to Brahmachari's arrest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India expressed "deep concern" over the court's decision to deny him bail. An MEA statement emphasised that the arrest occurred against the backdrop of widespread violence against Hindus and other minority communities in Bangladesh. The MEA pointed out that these attacks, including arson, looting of minority-owned properties, theft, vandalism, and desecration of temples and deities, have continued unchecked. It was noted that despite these attacks, religious leaders like Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, who advocate for peaceful change, are facing charges, while the perpetrators of violence remain unpunished.

What happened in the Chinmay Krishna case?:

From saint jailed in Bangladesh, protests to PM Modi-Jaishankar meeting

The issue of arrest of ISKCON saint Chinmay Krishna Das in Bangladesh is in discussion. Minorities in Bangladesh have come out on the streets



What happened in the Chinmay Krishna case?:

From saint jailed in Bangladesh, protests to PM Modi-Jaishankar meeting

The issue of arrest of ISKCON saint Chinmay Krishna Das in Bangladesh is in discussion.

Minorities in Bangladesh have come out on the streets in protest against the action against the Hindu saint. Now this issue has heated up in India as well. The Government of India is constantly monitoring this issue. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday November 28 , 2024 informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the situation in Bangladesh. Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs had expressed concern over the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna.

in protest against the action against the Hindu saint. Now this issue has heated up in India as well. The Government of India is constantly monitoring this issue. Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday November 28 , 2024 informed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the situation in Bangladesh. Earlier, the Ministry of External Affairs had expressed concern over the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna.

Protests have also started in India against the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das. Reacting to this matter, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said that the Government of India should raise this matter with Bangladesh.

Let us know through the timeline what is the case of Chinmoy Krishna Das's arrest? When and why was he arrest-

ed? How did the Government of India react to the incident? Where and what protests are taking place in India? How is India keeping an eye on the situation in Bangladesh?

Ruckus over arrest of Hindu saint in Bangladesh

25 November

In Bangladesh, ISKCON saint Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari was arrested on Monday (25 November) on charges of sedition. On Monday afternoon, Chinmay Krishna Brahmachari was arrested from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka. Bangladeshi officials claim that Chinmoy Krishna Das was arrested in a case registered against him on 30 October. In fact, on October 25, Chinmoy and 18 others were accused of hoisting a saffron flag over the national flag of Bangladesh at the New

Market intersection in Chittagong. On the night of October 30, a case was registered against Chinmoy and 18 others under sedition at Kotwali police station.

Chinmoy Krishna Das, also known as Brahmachari Chandan Kumar Dhar, is the spokesperson of Sanatan Jagran Manch and leader of Chittagong ISKCON. According to ISKCON Chittagong, 37-year-old Chinmoy Krishna is from Satkania Upazila of Chittagong. He is known for his religious speeches. Chinmay Krishna Das came into the limelight after the change of power in Bangladesh in August this year. In fact, on August 5, 2024, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left the country amid the ongoing violence in Bangladesh. With the change of power in the country, Hindu houses and temples were vandalized on a large scale. In response to this, Sanatan Jagran Manch was started and Chinmoy Das was appointed its spokesperson. Amidst the unrest in Bangladesh, the voice of Hindus is raised by this forum regarding the violence against Hindus. Chinmoy, who emerged as a prominent voice against the violence on minority Hindus of Bangladesh, was arrested on Monday on charges of sedition, which has now created a ruckus.

26 November

On Tuesday afternoon (26 November), a court rejected Chinmoy Krishna Das' bail plea and ordered him to be sent to jail. On the other hand, protests also started in

Bangladesh after the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu. Protests and rallies were held in different parts of the country on Tuesday afternoon and evening. People of the Hindu community took to the streets in many cities including the capital Dhaka, Chittagong, Feni, Faridpur, Jhalakathi, Chandpur, Jahangirnagar, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi.

On the afternoon of November 26, 2024 a clash broke out between law enforcement agencies, lawyers and followers of Bangladesh Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari in Chittagong. Assistant Public Prosecutor Saifullah Islam died and six others were injured during the demonstration. The injured include Sribas Das, Sharku Das, Chotan, Sujit Ghosh, Utpal and Enamul Haque.

On Tuesday, the Indian government reacted for the first time to the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das. The Ministry of External Affairs expressed deep concern over the arrest and denial of bail to Chinmay Krishna. It said, 'This incident comes after several attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh. We urge the Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety of Hindus and all minorities, including their right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.'

At the same time, late on November 26, 2024 the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh opposed the statement given by India and called it an 'internal matter of Bangladesh'. The

ministry said that this is their internal matter and India's comment can sour the relations between the two countries.

November 27

Protests started in India too demanding the release of Hindu saint Chinmoy Krishna Das arrested in Bangladesh. The West Bengal unit of BJP protested outside the state assembly on Tuesday (November 26) and demanded the release of the Hindu saint. The next day i.e. on Wednesday (November 27), BJP MLAs gheraoed outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata.

Apart from this, on Wednesday November 27, 2024 itself, many parties including BJP, Congress, AAP, TMC expressed their opinion on this issue. The country's main opposition Congress expressed deep concern over the 'atmosphere of insecurity faced by religious minorities in Bangladesh'. The party said the arrest of the ISKCON saint is the latest example of this. The Congress said it hopes that the Government of India will put pressure on the Bangladesh government to take necessary steps and ensure the safety of life and property of minorities.

On Wednesday November 27, 2024 Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal expressed solidarity with the Hindu saint and termed his arrest as 'unjust'.. Kejriwal appealed to the central government to intervene in the matter. BJP MP and former Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb also condemned the arrest of

INDAGATION

Chinmoy Das and criticized Bangladesh for being 'undemocratic'. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan also expressed concern over the arrest of the ISKCON saint and urged the Mohammad Yunus-led Bangladesh government to stop atrocities against Hindus.

The arrest of Hindu monk Prabhu Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh led to protests in India and Bangladesh as well as other countries. A

group of Indians gathered in Helsinki, Finland and New York, USA in support of the Hindu religious leader and expressed their solidarity.

On November 27, 68 retired judges and officials and an MP appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene in the arrest of ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh and the increasing violence and discrimination against Hindus there. These officials and judges demanded

the Modi government to immediately intervene in the Bangladesh case and ensure the release of Chinmoy Krishna Das.

28 November

On Thursday, the Bangladesh government suffered a major setback when the Dhaka High Court refused to ban the activities of ISKCON. In a petition filed on Wednesday, High Court lawyer Mohammad Moniruddin had demanded a ban on ISKCON. However, the High Court refused to pass the order.

On the other hand, the issue of arrest of ISKCON saint Chinmoy Krishna Das is constantly in the news in India. On Thursday November 28, 2024 West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee spoke on the Bangladesh issue in the Assembly and said that she is with the Center in this matter. CM Mamata said, 'We do not want any religion to be hurt. I spoke to ISKCON. This is a matter of another country and the central government should take appropriate action against it. We are with the central government in this issue.'

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and discussed the issue of attacks on religious minorities, including Hindus, in neighboring Bangladesh. During this, they also discussed the issues of arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari and damage to the temple in Chittagong district. After the meeting, Jaishankar can inform both the houses of Parliament on this issue on Friday November 29, 2024 . .



Meta Opens Its AI Models to US Defense Agencies and Contractors

Meta has granted approval for US government agencies and defense contractors to use its AI models, opening the door for Meta's technology to play a key role in military and national security efforts.

The Facebook-parent company is making its large language models, called Llama, available to more than a dozen US agencies and contractors, including Lockheed Martin Corp., Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corp. and Palantir Technologies Inc.

While Meta's AI models are open source, meaning they are free for developers to use, the

company's "acceptable use policy" forbids people from using them on any projects related to "military, warfare, nuclear industries or applications, [and] espionage," among other things.

But Meta is making an exception for US defense agencies and their contractors as it works to expand its reach in the public sector and increase Llama's foothold in the burgeoning AI arms race.

"As an American company, and one that owes its success in no small part to the entrepreneurial spirit and democratic values the United States upholds, Meta wants to play its

part to support the safety, security and economic prosperity of America - and of its closest allies too," wrote Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, in a blog post Monday November 4, 2024 ..

Meta is also making Llama available to similar government agencies and contractors in the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, a spokesperson confirmed. Those nations have an intelligence-sharing partnership known as Five Eyes.

Israel, the closest US ally in the Middle East, was not included on the current list of partners.



Meta Opens Its AI Models to US Defense Agencies and Contractors. (Photo: Bloomberg)

INDAGATION

The move comes on the eve of the US election and at a time when Meta faces some concerns about the potential of developers in countries like China to use Llama for military applications.

Large language models are the foundation of the current AI boom and can be used for a variety of services, including powering chatbots. In the world of defense and security, Llama could help with tasks like data analysis and synthesizing documents, or to "track terrorist financing or strengthen our cyber defenses," Clegg wrote.

Meta will not have a say in how US agencies or its partners use the Llama technology, but a Meta spokesperson said via email that "it is the responsibility of countries leveraging AI for national security to deploy AI ethically, responsibly, and in accordance with relevant international law."

Meta's motivation to work with US defense agencies is driven in part by its intention to further establish Llama as a dominant foundation for AI products globally. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg made Llama open source because he wants to have more control over the next major technological wave - a strategy that only works if Meta's technology is ubiquitous.

On an earnings call last week, Zuckerberg said he was trying to get "the public sector to adopt Llama across the US government." The latest update could help with that goal and also pave the way for Zuckerberg to further develop relationships with elected officials.

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Meta has been criticized over the years for its role in policing user speech and an alleged failure to protect young people online. Former President Donald Trump has taken several shots at Zuckerberg in recent months, even suggesting he might try and put the Meta founder in jail if he is re-elected to the White House.

Meta is also framing its decision to work with US defense agencies as a way of preventing US adversaries, like China, from gaining ground. "We believe it is in both America and the wider democratic world's interest for American open source models to excel and succeed over models from China and elsewhere," Clegg wrote.

Nargis Fakhri: 'No contact for 20 years...,'

Is Nargis Fakhri shocked by the murder charges on her sister Alia?

Nargis Fakhri needs no introduction. The actress earned a lot of praise for working in Imtiaz Ali's film 'Rockstar'. However, now Nargis has come into the limelight for some other reason. Nargis' sister Alia Fakhri has been accused of murdering her ex-boyfriend in America. According to the information, Alia set fire in the garage which led to the death of her ex-boyfriend and his girlfriend. Now everyone is waiting for the actress' reaction on this matter. However, there is very little hope of a reaction from her. Why? Let's find out-

Nargis Fakhri was also unaware of the matter

There are reports that Nargis Fakhri has nothing to explain in this matter. A close source associated with the actress confirmed that she has not been in touch with her sister for more than 20 years. Like everyone else, Nargis also



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came to know about the incident through the news. This makes it clear that Nargis was also completely unaware of this and like common people, she also came to know about this incident from news channels and newspapers.

Alia killed her ex-boyfriend

Prosecutors claim that 43-year-old Alia Fakhri intentionally set a fire in a garage in Queens on November 23. As a result, her ex-boyfriend Edward Jacobs, 35, and her

friend Anastasia Etienne, 33, died on the spot.

Why did she take such a big step?

According to the allegations, Aaliya wanted to resume her relationship with Jacobs, but Jacobs refused to do so. Due to this, Aaliya lost her temper and resorted to arson. Fakhri has been charged with four counts of first-degree murder, four counts of second-degree murder and arson. According to the Queens District Attorney's office, the

next court hearing will be on December 9.

Fakhri's mother gave this reaction

Alia Fakhri's mother has expressed disbelief over her daughter's involvement in this deadly fire. She said in a statement, 'I don't think she can kill anyone. She is a girl who cares for everyone.' Alia Fakhri is currently in custody at Rikers Island, New York City's largest jail, and has pleaded not guilty to the charges. If she is convicted of this serious crime, she faces a possible life sentence.



How second Trump presidency is likely to threaten abortion rights, women's healthcare globally World

In the aftermath of the US election, much focus has been on the consequences for abortion rights across the US, and whether this will affect state-led initiatives to roll back restrictive legislation.

What has received much less attention is what will happen next to abortion services, sexual and reproductive health, and health more widely across many parts of the world, as a direct result of a decision President Trump is likely to take on his first day in office.

The US is by far the largest donor of aid for global health, providing 15.8 billion US dollars (7.8 billion pounds) in 2022, compared to the next three largest donors Germany (4.4 billion US dollars), Japan (3.2 billion dollars), and the UK (2 billion US dollars). That means restrictions and reductions on that aid can have enormous consequences around the world.

The potential impact of these restrictions on how countries can use their public health funding is significant; the performance of the previous Trump administration suggests health organisations are right to be worried about what may be coming.

Research over decades shows that when the global gag rule is in place the health of women and children in particular are put at risk.



A study in Kenya, for example, found sexual and reproductive health services (which may include abortion services but also offer critically important services for pregnant and new mothers, infants, and children) were closed. Stocks of contraceptives also declined as a consequence of these restrictions on how aid was spent. In Uganda, organisations reportedly stopped providing services designed to reduce death from unsafe abortions, worried even this might fall into the vague definitions of 'abortion services.'

Leading international reproductive health charity MSI Reproductive Choices saw its overall funding fall by 17 percent in 2017 during Trump's first term, over its refusal to agree to the terms of the global gag rule. In some countries, abortion rates rose by up to 40 percent, with many expected to

be unsafe, as US funding for safe abortion facilities disappeared.

There's likely to be an increase in maternal and child mortality. The death rate from safe abortions is very small (around 1 per 100,000 births). Unsafe abortions, by contrast, are incredibly dangerous, with a death ratio of 200 per 100,000 abortions.

This type of restriction on how US aid can be spent doesn't just affect abortion services. It also undermines wider sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning access and information. The result is that unwanted pregnancy rates increase at the same time as abortion service provision is reduced, with the inevitable consequence of pushing many women into dangerous unsafe abortion procedures. One study suggested an additional 30,000

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maternal and child deaths occurred annually as a direct result.

A review of research findings on the impact of these public health restrictions carried out by policy organisation KFF, showed declines in the usage of modern contraception, increases in pregnancies, and rates of unsafe abortions.

The effect of advice on and availability of modern contraception, especially condoms, also brings with it additional health challenges. Best practice has long suggested integrating sexual health services with other health services including HIV testing and treatment, screening for some cancers, and antenatal care, can improve health outcomes. Undermining one aspect of these services has a knock-on effect on all of them. A 2022 study suggested that across highly US-aid-dependent countries, there have been an additional 90,000 new HIV infections every year when the global gag rule has been in force.

Reduced access to contraception

Nepal, which enshrined the right to abortion and requires all government health facilities to offer free abortion services in its 2018 Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, is one country that could be particularly badly affected. The US is the largest bilateral donor for health in Nepal and has provided more than three-fifths of aid for family planning and reproductive health under President Biden. One study found maternal and child health services in Nepal as a

“ In 1984, President Reagan implemented the Mexico City Policy (which became widely known as the global gag rule), under which any organisation providing abortion services (defined widely from actual abortion provision to basic advice) was banned from receiving US aid - even if that funding was not being spent on abortion services. Since then, Democratic administrations have removed this rule, only for succeeding Republican presidents to reinstate it.

Based on his track record in his first presidency, Trump is likely to bring back this kind of restriction on aid when he returns to the White House. His first administration reintroduced this policy and vastly expanded the scope of its focus well beyond family planning services to include HIV/AIDS treatment, sanitation, and public health more widely.

The amount of funding affected by these rules rose from around 600 million dollars under the Bush-era workings of the global gag rule to around 12 billion US dollars. The ruling will apply not just to the organisations directly receiving USAID funding, but to any organisation they work with, even if using non-USAID funds for that work.

whole worsened under Trump's last term, not just those parts linked to abortion services.

Contraception services declined and stocks frequently ran out, increasing the risks of unwanted pregnancies. Organisations working on abortion were also often excluded from Ministry of Public Health consultations, despite abortion being legal in the country, over government fears of the consequences for US aid flows. When these kinds of restrictions are in place the number of abortions has increased. And much of that increase is happening in unregulated, dangerous places, adding to the risk of death for pregnant women.

What might happen next?

Under previous US presidents, other donors have increased their commitments in order to try and protect sexual and reproductive health services and wider public health from the devastating impact of US policy.

It is critical that donors, especially those in Europe (including the UK), announce their plans now for how they will step up their support to protect women's health and access to safe abortions, in order to prevent the closure of these vital services. Not just for the next four years but for the longer term.

Maharashtra elections 2024: Can Camp Fadnavis weather Shinde storm?



Race for top job heats up, with Sena asking for another two-and-a-half years as CM for Eknath Shinde, while BJP state leaders want Fadnavis to take charge

● Dharmendra Jore | is political editor of an English Daily published from Mumbai

The massive mandate for the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) in the Maharashtra elections has drawn a thick line between it and its allies, one of which is an ideological partner and the other not in full agreement with the ideology the BJP advocates. It is the line that separates a bulkier BJP from the rest and allows it to test new things if need be. It wields command over the allies despite their increased strength and stature.

The BJP has 136 MLAs including four from small allies, Shinde Sena has 57, and NCP (AP) 41 legislators. The MVA has ended up with 49, which includes Congress's 16, Thackeray Sena's 20, NCP (SP)'s 10, and four from small allies.

The very sense of things changing overnight is enough to create unrest among the partners, especially the Shinde Sena. The NCP has nothing to lose; it stands to gain, perhaps more than expected. The question here is whether the BJP will have as much in its share, and also take the CM's office away from Eknath Shinde. How



Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis interact after winning the Maharashtra Assembly elections on Saturday. Pic/Shadab Khan

will the alliance dharma play out for Shinde and Ajit Pawar?

Devendra Fadnavis, CM Eknath Shinde, and Ajit Pawar address the press after winning the state Assembly elections. Pic/Shadab Khan

Cut to the past. There was a time when the Congress had 200 plus seats in the state Assembly. The Congress then started fighting battles within, instead of taming the rising Opposition (the BJP, the Sena, and later NCP). The days of

Congress dominance were gone when alliance politics emerged as a permanent feature since 1995. It was shaped further to give subsequent four governments of the parties sharing an ideology.

There was an aberration much before this happened. Sharad Pawar, in his first tenure as the CM (July 1978 to February 1980) had formed a coalition of ideologically different parties -- his Congress (Socialist) breakaway, the leftist

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parties, and the Janata Party was a mix of right-wingers and socialists. Later, as a non-playing captain in 2019, Pawar formed such a government once again, with his NCP, Congress, and Shiv Sena forming the MVA. A few days before MVA was founded, his nephew Ajit Pawar had made a short-lived government with an ideologically opposite BJP. Pawar has been denying his hand in the NCP-BJP formation and the return of Ajit Pawar, though his nephew and others in the know have said time and again that it was Pawar senior who had agreed to such a formation, not only in 2019 but also in 2017. All these formations were short-lived.

The long introduction to this piece is to differentiate between the previous "ideologically mixed" dispensations, and the one that came into existence in 2023. It is the first such pre-poll alliance that has been granted grand approval by voters. The endorsement could be attributed in great

“ The very sense of things changing overnight is enough to create unrest among the partners, especially the Shinde Sena. The NCP has nothing to lose; it stands to gain, perhaps more than expected. The question here is whether the BJP will have as much in its share, and also take the CM's office away from Eknath Shinde. How will the alliance dharma play out for Shinde and Ajit Pawar?

measure to the BJP's record individual gain, and its 'gelling well' with allies. Yet, the BJP's commanders may face some resistance. There is likelihood of the allies bargaining for more share in power, and rightly so -- the CM's office (Shinde Sena) and plum ministries (both allies), included. Crowded as never before, the BJP's state house is already tense, fearing largesse at the hands of their high command. So, it is to be seen if the Sena and NCP are

allowed to eat into what the BJPwallahs call their legitimate share, particularly the CMO. They don't want a repeat of June 2022, where Devendra Fadnavis was demoted to reward Eknath Shinde for his adventure of dividing the Shiv Sena that had enabled BJP to retain power after two-and-a-half years. But in doing so, the BJP has remained without the CM's office because of the MVA experiment and later for the purpose of honouring

Sensing the BJP's eye on the top job, the Shinde camp has invoked their 'daring do' the rebellion of 2022 that split the undivided Sena to justify their demand for the CMO for their party boss, at least for the first two and half years, if not for full term. They say it was because of their revolt that the BJP could return to power, without which the national party's exponential growth in the state would not have been possible.

The BJP camp has 'the chosen one' in the hero of their victory, Devendra Fadnavis, who they want the high command



Devendra Fadnavis celebrates victory outside the BJP office at Nariman Point. Pic/Atul Kamble

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to install as the next CM, or else see the majority of the party's rank and file get frustrated and aimless again despite the triumph. For Fadnavis, his biggest strength to stake claim on the CM's office is the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh which has worked very closely with him to win the elections. The RSS went deep into rural and urban pockets. It found Fadnavis as the most popular leader among the local rank and file, and also among voters. Fadnavis's core values and working style perfectly fit the agenda on which BJP won a massive mandate.

The 54-year-old RSS volunteer was born to a politician father who worked as an MLC. He rose through the ranks, from a city corporator, mayor, MLA to two-time CM before working as the Opposition Leader in the Assembly, and later as a reluctant Dy CM. All through, he managed trou-

bles/insults that the then-alliance partners inflicted upon him in the first five years as the CM. He joined hands with the Sena and NCP breakaways to give it back to his political rivals. Fadnavis is constant at the state's political centre stage among many variables.

"If Fadnavis, who was the CM, can be deputy CM, why can't Shinde? Isn't 2022's sacrifice enough for our party?" asked a senior BJP leader, who is rooting for Fadnavis. For him and many others, Fadnavis is the only face in the state BJP that deserves the honour, because the ex-CM meted out injustice two years ago, and because of his resilience, man-management skills, vision, and his killer instinct that has propelled the party to a new peak against all adversities. Another leader said that the party's act of replacing the established and winning leaderships in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan should not be

repeated in Maharashtra, because the state BJP doesn't need it. However, a stronger party that faces the weakest ever opposition in the legislature and outside it could afford to have a new leader, or just let Shinde continue for some time as the CM before replacing him with its own representative, said another leader, with a note of caution. "You know how unpredictable our leadership is," he said.

Not much time is left before the BJP leadership takes a call on the CM's candidate and also on the policies that it would need while dealing with the allies. By the time you read this on Monday, the picture would be clear for the Shinde Sena, NCP (Ajit Pawar) and more importantly the BJP camps. Bright or gloomy? It depends on how they take it and mean it.

1978 Year Sharad Pawar became CM for the first time



US universities urge foreign students to return before Trump's swearing-in.

Several American universities have issued travel advisories for their international students as well as staff and urged them to return to the US before President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration in January next year amid concerns over travel bans that may be enacted by his administration. Trump will take the oath of office on January 20 and has announced that he will sign several executive orders on issues of economy and immigration on his first day as the 47th President of the United States

Amid concerns over the disruptions caused by travel bans during his first term as president, several top US universities are issuing travel advisories for their international students and faculty who may be travelling outside the country around Trump's inauguration.

According to data from the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the Institute of International Education, India and China made up over half (54 per cent) of all international students in the United States.

But for the first time since 2009, India became the leading place of origin with 331,602 international students in the



President-elect Donald Trump (AP)

United States in 2023/2024, reflecting a 23 per cent increase from the prior year, surpassing China, according to data from the 'Open Doors 2024 Report on International Educational Exchange'.

China was the second leading place of origin, despite a 4 per cent decline to 277,398 students. It remained the top-sending country for undergraduates and non-degree students, sending 87,551 and 5,517, respectively.

Associate Dean and Director at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) International Students Office David Elwell in a post following the presidential elections said that with every election, "when there is a change in administration on the federal level there can be

changes in policies, regulations, and legislation that impacts higher education as well as immigration and visa status matters".

Elwell urged students to assess their travel plans over the upcoming winter break, noting that new executive orders under Trump may impact travel and visa processing.

In addition, election transitions also impact staffing levels at US Embassies/Consulates abroad, which could impact entry visa processing times.

"Students who would need to apply for a new entry visa at the US Embassy/Consulate abroad to return to the US in their student status should assess the possibility of facing any extensive processing times and have a backup plan if they must travel

abroad and wait for a new entry visa to be issued. Any processing delays could impact students' ability to return to the US as planned," Elwell said.

The Office of Global Affairs at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in an advisory recommended that its "international community-- including all international students, scholars, faculty and staff under UMass immigration sponsorship" strongly consider returning to the US before the presidential inauguration if they are planning on travelling internationally during the winter holiday break.

While noting that this was not a requirement or mandate from UMass, nor was it based on any current US government policy or recommendation, the university added that "given that a new presidential administration can enact new policies on their first day in office (January 20) and based on previous experience with travel bans that were enacted in the first Trump administration in 2017", the Office of Global Affairs is making this advisory out of an abundance of caution to hopefully prevent any possible travel disruption to members of our international community.

"We are not able to speculate on what a travel ban will look like if enacted, nor can we speculate on what particular countries or regions of the world may or may not be affected."

The Wesleyan Argus, the college newspaper of Wesleyan University, said in a report that the university has been "evaluating the potential future impacts" of the Trump administration on international and undocumented students.

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"Much uncertainty surrounds the possible changes to American immigration policy that could be enacted by the Trump administration beginning January 20, 2025."

The report added that Wesleyan's Office of International Student Affairs (OISA) has been "concerned about sweeping policy changes" that could be implemented soon after Trump's inauguration.

"With the presidential inauguration happening on Monday, January 20, 2025, and uncertainties around President-elect Donald Trump's plans for immigration-related policy, the safest way to avoid difficulty re-entering the country is to be physically present in the US on January 19 and the days thereafter of the spring semester," an email sent on November 18 to international students studying under the F-1 visa read, according to the Wesleyan Argus

report.

"With the presidential inauguration happening on Monday, January 20, 2025, and uncertainties around President-elect Donald Trump's plans for immigration-related policy, the safest way to avoid difficulty re-entering the country is to be physically present in the US on January 19 and the days thereafter of the spring semester," an email sent on November 18 to international students studying under the F-1 visa read, according to the Wesleyan Argus report. Within a week of his first term as president, Trump had in January 2017 signed an executive order banning nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries - Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen - from entering the US for 90 days, causing massive disruptions among communities and outrage and concerns by civil rights organizations.