

Why Rajiv Gandhi's assassination was LTTE's biggest mistake

Jaipur: It was election season in India 33 years ago on May 21 1999, just like today when former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who was about to address a poll rally in Sriperumbudur near Chennai was assassinated by a human bomb, killing 16 people including Rajiv and the attacker Dhanu. 45 people were also seriously injured in this attack. The day is said to have changed the course of India's politics. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was found to be behind this attack.

The trigger

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) an organisation that was agitating for an independent Tamil nation separate from Sri Lanka started raising its head in the island nation in the 70s. Over the years the movement started becoming aggressive and violent while pressing for its demand for a separate nation. In 1983, LTTE men killed 13 Sri Lankan soldiers in Jaffna after which violent conflicts between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army began to increase which escalated into a civil war in the country. This widespread violence also impacted India as millions of Tamil people started coming to India by sea. As LTTE was demanding to create a separate country with the Tamils of India this civil war was thus directly impacting India too. To make matters worse in 1986 Sri Lankan army attacked Jaffna, the stronghold of Tamils killing many Tamil civilians. India sent troops to the besieged Tamils in Jaffna in an operation called 'Pawan'. Colombo stopped the Indian navy from entering which forced India to announce sending help via the air route. After seeing that India was adamant about sending its IAF the Lankan government agreed to compromise with the LTTE. India became a mediator between the two and Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) began deployment to Jaffna in July 1987. After this Rajiv Gandhi also reached Colombo for the signing of the peace agreement. LTTE leader Prabhakaran was called to Delhi where he met Rajiv Gandhi. According to sources, both the then Sri Lankan Prime Minister Jayewardene and Prabhakaran did not want peace at that time. However, it was signed by all three parties in Colombo. Both sides agreed that there would be no fight. In 1989 Rajiv Gandhi lost the elections and the Indian Army withdrew its troops in 1990. Over 1200 soldiers of the Indian Army were martyred in this operation and this decision to send IPKF to Sri Lanka later became the reason for Rajiv's assassination. By sending the peacekeeping force, LTTE became Rajiv's enemy and this eventually led to his assassination in 1991.

Why the assassination was a mistake?

Rajiv's killing led to the proscribing of LTTE as a terrorist organisation in India and from then onwards, India backed Colombo's campaign against the LTTE. The outfit's suicide campaigns and attacks against civilians resulted in the United States declaring the LTTE a Foreign Terrorist Organisation in 1997, and the group was upgraded to Specially Designated Global Terrorist status in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks due to its role in supplying global terror groups. Thus the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi was the biggest mistake of the Tamil Tigers which even the LTTE ideologue Anton Balasingham admitted in a book written by Erik Solheim, Norway's former special envoy to Sri Lanka. This was revealed years after LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his intelligence chief Pottu Amman earlier denied involvement in the assassination. However, LTTE did not stop after killing Rajiv and went on to later kill 10 senior military commanders in a landmine blast in Jaffna in August 1992. Even the assassination of then Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in May 1993, followed by an attack on Colombo's Central Bank in January 1996 killing 100 people and an attack on Colombo's international airport in July 2001 were carried out by the LTTE. The LTTE's unit called Black Tigers carried out several suicide attacks and spread terror on a large scale. LTTE which had continued with killings for almost three decades was finally tamed by the Sri Lankan Army after it killed its chief Prabhakaran in 2009. In 2006, the European Union had also included LTTE in its list of banned terrorist organisations and in 2008, Lankan forces achieved major success and captured major LTTE strongholds. In mid-May the military succeeded in capturing the last rebel stronghold and killing Prabhakaran. Later, the Sri Lankan Army

Amit Shah advises Naveen Patnaik, 77, to retire, Congress says hinting at PM Narendra Modi

Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday suggested that Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik, who is 77 years old, should retire due to his "advanced age and health issues". It prompted Congress veteran P Chidambaram to take a swipe at the home minister, asking if he was hinting at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is 73 years and seven months old. Amit Shah was addressing back-to-back election rallies in Odisha ahead of the third phase of simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly polls in Odisha on May 25. Amit Shah said the ongoing polls are to make Narendra Modi the prime minister for the third term and restore Odisha's glory, which has been "destroyed" by the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD government. Promising that the Bharatiya Janata Party will make a young Odia-speaking 'bhumiputra'

the CM if the party is voted to power in the state, Amit Shah said, "Naveen babu is not keeping well, as a result of which 1.5 lakh government vacancies are not being filled up. If we form the government, we will make appointments to these posts." Reacting to the home minister's speech, former Union minister Chidambaram on Wednesday posted on X, "When Mr Amit Shah said that Mr Naveen Patnaik should retire because of 'advanced age' (77 years) was he throwing a hint to Mr Narendra Modi (73 years, 7 months) -- in case the BJP formed the government?" "It seems that Mr Amit Shah will be the happiest person if the BJP did not form the government and he, not Mr Modi, will sit as the Leader of the Opposition!" Chidambaram added. Chidambaram's swipe at Amit Shah apparently stemmed from Delhi chief min-



ister Kejriwal's repeated claims that Modi would retire from politics once he attains 75 years of age in 2025, in accordance with the saffron party's rules. Arvind Kejriwal has also claimed that the prime minister is seeking votes for Amit Shah as his successor. Modi, however, has dismissed allegations from opposition leaders, asserting that no such arrangement has been made. "I do not have any inheritance of my own, you are my inheritance and you are also my heir," said Modi during his address in Bihar's Maharajganj on Tuesday.

Prashant Kishor predicts these 4 big changes in Modi 3.0

Political analyst Prashant Kishor said the third term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi could see petroleum being brought under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and significant curbs on the financial autonomy of states. In an exclusive interview with India Today, Kishor predicted structural and operation changes to the anti-corruption narrative of the Modi government. "I think the Modi 3.0 government will start with a bang. There will be more concentration of both power and resources with the Centre. There might also be a significant attempt to curtail the financial autonomy of the states," Kishor said. Kishor, who managed Narendra Modi's campaign in 2014, said there was no widespread anger against the Prime Minister and the BJP would win around 303 seats. The political strategist said states currently have three major sources of revenue -- petro-



leum, liquor and land. "I wouldn't be surprised if petroleum was brought under GST's ambit," Prashant Kishor said. Presently, petroleum products like petrol, diesel, ATF and natural gas are outside the ambit of GST. However, they still attract taxes like VAT, Central Sales Tax and Central Excise Duty. While bringing petroleum products under GST has been a long-standing demand of the indus-

try, states have been averse to the idea as it would result in a huge loss of revenue. Bringing petrol under GST will make the states further dependent on the Centre to receive their share of the taxes. He also predicted that the Centre could delay the devolution of resources to states and make Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) norms tighter. The FRBM Act, enacted in 2003, puts a cap on the annual budget deficits of states. "The centre may delay the devolution of resources and off budget borrowing of states will be made tighter," Kishor predicted. Kishor also predicted that India's assertiveness will increase while dealing with geopolitical issues. "At the global level, India's assertiveness will increase while dealing with countries. There is chatter among diplomats of an aggressive Indian diplomacy bordering on being arrogant," he said.

Telugu Actress Hema Recorded Video From Bengaluru Rave Party Raid Site, Confirms Police

In a dramatic turn of events, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda confirmed on Tuesday that popular Telugu actress Hema was present at a rave party titled "Vasu's Birthday: Sunset to Sunrise," which was raided by police on Monday. The party, held at a farmhouse on the city's outskirts, saw the seizure of drugs. Hema had earlier released a video denying her attendance, claiming to be at a farmhouse in Hyderabad. However, Police Commissioner Dayananda refuted this claim. "We have evidence placing Hema at the raided Bengaluru farmhouse. We're investigating how she recorded a denial video from the same location," he said. According to reports, Hema was indeed at the rave party and, after the raid, pleaded with police officers and cried, asking them not to reveal her identity to the media. Under the pretext of visiting the restroom, she sneaked out and recorded a video from the premises of the same farmhouse where the rave party was held. Hema then later released the video claiming that she was

residing in Hyderabad. In the video released on Monday, Hema claimed that she had not gone anywhere and was relaxing at a farmhouse in Hyderabad. "Do not believe the news about me attending a rave party in Bengaluru," she appealed. However, police confirmed that she made the video at the Bengaluru farmhouse that was raided. Police also stated that they had photos of Hema wearing the same dress as in the video while attending the party. Police Commissioner Dayananda further said that no elected representatives were present at the rave party. Blood samples of the participants have been collected. "The rave party was organised in the Electronics City region and was titled 'Sunset to Sunrise Victory.' More than 101 persons attended the party," he said. "MDMA, cocaine, hydro ganja, and other substances were used. A case has been registered at the Electronics City police station regarding this," Dayananda added. The arrested persons have been identified as Y.M. Arunkumar, Raj, L. Vasu, and D. Nagababu. The Anti-Narcotics Wing



of the CCB is awaiting the test results of blood samples and preparing to call in the participants who tested positive for drug consumption for questioning. The organiser had flown over 25 people from Andhra Pradesh to Bengaluru for the event. The police found a pass belonging to an Andhra Pradesh MLA in one of the cars parked at the farmhouse. The party, involving techies and Telugu actors, was held at the G.M. Farmhouse in the Singena Agrahara area near Electronics City. Investigations revealed that an individual from Hyderabad organised the party under the pretext of a birthday celebration.

BJP expels singer-politician Pawan Singh for contesting against NDA candidate

The Bihar Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday expelled Bhojपुर singer Pawan Singh for contesting the Lok Sabha elections 2024 against the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)'s official candidate as an Independent candidate from the Karakat seat. Pawan Singh had earlier announced his decision to contest from Karakat Lok Sabha constituency as an Independent candidate. Though Pawan Singh was believed to be a member of the BJP, party sources remained silent on the matter earlier. The singer-turned-politician had reportedly sought a ticket from Rashtriya Janata Dal before opting to contest independently. In a post on X, Pawan Singh earlier wrote, "There will only be development. There won't be any noise. We will give a new dawn to Karakat." Earlier, Pawan Singh's mother Pratima Devi withdrew her candidature from Bihar's Karakat Lok Sabha seat. Rashtriya Lok Morcha head and former Union minister Upendra Kushwaha is contesting as the NDA candidate from the south Bihar seat, where Pawan Singh decided to contest after declining a BJP ticket from Asansol in West Bengal. The Election Commission of India has confirmed Pratima Devi's withdrawal, who had filed her nomination as an independent candidate on May 14. Speculations were rife that her entry into the race was at the behest of her son, who feared rejection of his own nomination. May 17 was the final day for the withdrawal of nominations from Karakat seat, scheduled for polls on June 1. Pawan Singh's decision to contest against the NDA nominee drew criticism from some BJP leaders, including Union minister RK Singh, who is seeking re-election from the neighbouring Arrah Lok Sabha seat.

IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Varanasi turns back to offload overbooked passenger



New Delhi: An IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Varanasi was forced to return to the airport on Tuesday after the crew found an overbooked passenger standing in the rear of the aircraft. As the flight prepared for takeoff, the crew noticed the unauthorised passenger and alerted the pilot. Flight number 6E6543 turned back to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai, where the passenger was offloaded. "The flight returned to the bay and the passenger was offloaded," said passenger Akhilesh Chaubey. "The airline then checked the cabin baggage of all passengers on board before proceeding with the take-off after a delay of at least an hour." IndiGo attributed the error to a mix-up during the boarding process. "A standby passenger was allotted a seat reserved for a confirmed passenger," a spokesperson explained. "The error was noticed prior to the departure of the aircraft, and the standby passenger was de-boarded. This led to a slight delay in the departure of the aircraft. IndiGo will take all measures to strengthen its operational processes and regrets the inconvenience caused to customers," the spokesperson added. Airlines frequently overbook flights to minimize the risk of departing with empty seats. However, strict regulations framed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) exist to protect passengers from being denied boarding on valid tickets, Hindustan Times. If an alternative flight is arranged within an hour, no compensation is required, according to the regulations notified in 2016. For delays of up to 24 hours, airlines must pay 200% of the booked one-way basic fare, with a maximum limit of Rs 10,000.

Delhi LG Vs CM Kejriwal Over Swati Maliwal's 'Assault'; AAP Says She Is Working For BJP

Hours after Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Tuesday backed AAP MP Swati Maliwal over the latter's alleged assault at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house by his close aide, the Aam Aadmi Party has responded saying that LG's letter in the matter is proof that Maliwal is working for the Bharatiya Janata Party. AAP's statement came after Delhi LG supported Maliwal over her alleged assault allegations against Bibhav Kumar and questioned Kejriwal's silence in the matter. In a statement issued by Delhi's Raj Niwas, Saxena, who is often criticised by the AAP-led Delhi government, claimed that Maliwal called him and narrated at length "her traumatic experience" out of "sheer anguish".

Delhi LG Backs Swati Maliwal

In the letter, VK Saxena said Swati Maliwal called him and told him about the "intimidation and shaming that she is being subjected to by her own party colleagues". "Yesterday, she called me out of sheer anguish, describing at length her traumatic experience, and the subsequent intimidation and shaming that she is being subjected to by her own colleagues. She also expressed concerns over reported tampering of evidence and coercion against her," Saxena said in a statement. "I would have expected that at least for the sake of pro-



priety, my CM would have come clean, rather than being evasive and dodgy. His deafening silence speaks volumes of his stance on safety of women," he added.

'Maliwal Working For BJP,' Alleges AAP

Responding to LG Saxena's letter backing Maliwal, AAP said that LG's letter is a proof that "Maliwal is working for BJP". "BJP is coming up with new conspiracies every day in the elections. BJP is losing and Modi ji's sinking boat is supported by Swati Maliwal." Replying to LG VK Saxena, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj in a post on X said, "Perhaps you have forgotten, the wrestler daughters who won medals for the country were sitting on a dharna at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. They were sitting in the sun and rain. They had to file an FIR that BJP MP Brij Bhushan had repeatedly sexually exploited them. Then the Delhi Police under you did not even register an

FIR. Tell me why it was not registered?" "The FIR was also registered on the orders of the Supreme Court. But despite the case under Section 354, the BJP MP was not arrested even for a day. Delhi Police is under you, tell me why he was not arrested? Why did you remain silent on the whole issue?" he questioned. Asking the LK to take a litter peek inside, Bhardwaj added, "Then were you not worried about the international image of Delhi and India? The police under your command brutally beat these daughters at midnight. Tell me what action did you take? The same night Swati Maliwal was also dragged on the road by the police. Tell me what action did you take?"

Swayi Maliwal Assault Case

Swati Maliwal on May 13 accused Bibhav Kumar, Kejriwal's close aide, of repeatedly slapping and kicking her in the drawing room of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence. She further claimed that Kejriwal was inside her house when she was allegedly being assaulted by Bibhav. Meanwhile, AAP has refuted Maliwal's claims and supported Bibhav Kumar, claiming that the former Delhi Commission For Women chief barged into the Chief Minister's house without "prior appointment".

Stampede-like situation at Akhilesh Yadav's rally as crowd rushes towards dais

VARANASI A stampede-like situation was witnessed at a public meeting of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lalganj Lok Sabha constituency of Azamgarh on Tuesday as the crowd broke the security protocol, including barricades, and rushed towards the dais while some people also tried to climb the pandal pole. The police, however, dispersed the crowd and took control of the situation. This came a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Yadav abandoned a joint poll meeting in the Phulpur area of Prayagraj without delivering a speech as their supporters broke through barricades trying to reach the dais. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav had reached Kharewa to address a public rally, seeking support

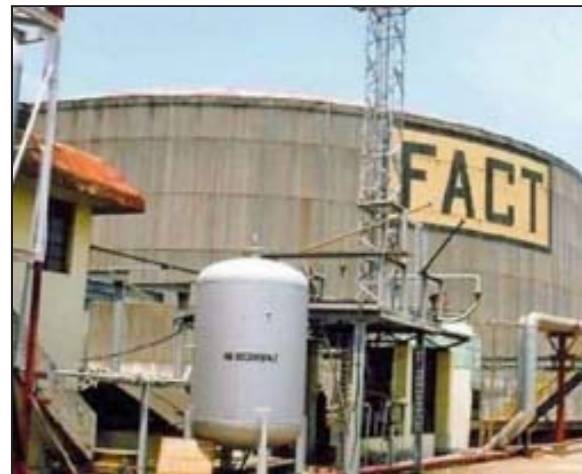
for party candidate Daroga Prasad Saroj. As he started addressing the people, the crowd went uncontrollable due to which a stampede-like situation prevailed for some time. A person at the rally said the cops used mild force to disperse the crowd. Yadav addressed the meeting after the situation came under control. "This time, whatever strategy they (BJP) have made, the people of Uttar Pradesh have made up their mind to wipe them out," said the SP chief. Launching an attack on the BJP, the SP chief said 140 crore people of the country will not give the saffron party even 143 out of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha. "The quantity of ration will be increased if our government is formed. Earlier, they (BJP



govt) gave free data, but when mobile phones came into everyone's hands, they stopped it. And when farmers came to buy urea, they were given nano urea," he added. He said Azamgarh's history will change on May 25.

Indian Emulsifiers' bumper debut; stock lists at 225% premium over IPO price

Shares of Indian Emulsifiers Limited made a blockbuster market debut on May 22 after listing at Rs 430, a premium of 225.76 percent over the issue price of Rs 132 on the NSE SME platform. The listing gains top grey market estimates where shares traded with a premium of 181 percent. The grey market is an unofficial ecosystem where shares start trading much before the offer opens for subscription and continue to trade till the listing day. The Rs 42.39-crore public offer, which was a fresh issue of 32.11 lakh equity shares, witnessed robust investor interest as the issue was subscribed a massive 460 times. Non-institutional investors bought 779 times their allotted quota, while



retail investors picked 485 times their portion. QIBs purchased 176 times their portion. Incorporated in 2020, Indian Emulsifiers manufactures and supplies specialty chemicals, including esters, amphoteric, phosphate esters, imidazolines, and wax

emulsifiers. The company plans to utilize the net proceeds from the issue to fund several key objectives. These include capital expenditure requirements for plant and machinery, civil work, and associated installation costs. Additionally, the funds will support the company's working capital requirements and general corporate purposes. The price band of the offer has been fixed at Rs 125-132. Disclaimer: The views and investment tips expressed by investment experts on Moneycontrol.com are their own and not those of the website or its management. Moneycontrol.com advises users to check with certified experts before taking any investment decisions.

