

NIA identifies 43 Khalistan supporters involved in violence at Indian Missions abroad

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has identified 43 Khalistan supporters, allegedly involved in violence at the Indian High Commission in London during a protest on

of the agency's efforts to unravel the conspiracy behind the attacks on Indian Missions abroad. "The attacks involved criminal trespass, vandalism, damage to public prop-

erty, and attempts to cause hurt to Indian officials and damage the Consulate building through acts of arson. NIA has used several innovative methods of investigation, including crowd sourcing of information while investigating the larger conspiracy of attacks on Indian Missions, which resulted in identification of 43 suspects. The NIA has stepped up its investigation in these cases in re-

cent months and examined more than 80 persons in India suspected to be part of the conspiracy of the attacks," an NIA spokesperson said. Sharing details of were arrested in ISIS cases, 114 for jihadi terror cases, 45 in human trafficking cases, 28 for terrorist and organised criminal activity and 76 in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) cases," the spokesperson said. "NIA registered a total of 68 cases in 2023, covering a wide spectrum of terror-related incidents. These encompass 18 jihadi terror cases in multiple states, three cases from Jammu and Kashmir, 12 of LWE, seven cases involving terrorist and organised criminal activity in Punjab, five cases of the Northeast, and two cases related to Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN)," the spokesperson added. In 2022, NIA had lodged 73 cases, 19.67 per cent increase from the 61 cases registered in 2021, and is an all-time high for the agency. "The number of persons chargesheeted and convicted stood at 513 and 74, respectively, as against 459 and 79 in 2022," the spokesperson said, adding that the NIA managed to track down and arrest 47 absconders in 2023, 14 more than last year.



March 19 and also who allegedly targeted the Indian Consulate in San Francisco on July 2. According to the NIA, the attacks on the High Commissions of India in Ottawa and London, as well as on the Consulate General of India, San Francisco, US, also remained the focus of the NIA actions on offences against Indian interests abroad through the year, which witnessed more than 50 raids and searches as part

their overall conviction rate, the spokesperson said the agency has maintained a robust overall conviction rate of 94.70 per cent, underscoring the efficacy of its investigational and prosecution expertise, effectiveness and prowess. Last year, the overall conviction rate was 94.39 per cent. "The NIA had this year arrested 625 persons as compared to 490 in 2022 — a nearly 28 per cent increase. Among 625, 65

of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He again deposed before the investigating officer of the case at the ED headquarters in central Delhi, officials said. The money laundering case, filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), stems from a CBI FIR. The probe pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Karti and his close associate S Bhaskaraman by a top executive of Vedanta group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR. According to the CBI, the work for setting up the power project was being executed by a Chinese company and

Fresh gunfight breaks out in Manipur's Moreh

A fresh gunfight broke out on Tuesday morning between security forces and suspected militants at Moreh town in Manipur's Tengenoupal district, po-

lice said. Four police personnel and a Border Security Force constable, who were injured during a gunfight between militants and security personnel on Monday, were airlifted from Moreh town to the state capital Imphal this morning, after two persons, during a search operation, were picked up for allegedly being involved in an attack on

between security forces and militants since December 30 last year. Security personnel retaliated after suspected militants opened fire at them, he



police personnel a day before, a senior officer said, adding that local women tried to secure the release of the two persons. The injured personnel are now being treated at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal, an official of the hospital said. Moreh town near the India-Myanmar border has been witnessing gunfights

said Chief Minister N Biren Singh had recently expressed concern over the attacks on state forces and termed these as a "serious national security threat" and "an attempt to destabilise Manipur". Singh had also said a delegation would soon leave for Delhi to meet representatives of the Centre and apprise them of the developing situation..

was running behind schedule. A TSPL executive had sought re-issuance of project visas for 263 Chinese workers for

Nationwide Truckers' Strike Day 2: Protesters block roads, highways in MP, Gujarat; petrol pumps run dry in Maharashtra, Punjab

With the nationwide transportation strike entering its second day on Tuesday, vehicles lined up outside petrol pumps as fuel

(BNS) for hit-and-run cases. In Maharashtra, the state government has requested police to ensure

and highways across states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and MP. Concerned locals hurried to petrol

away without informing the police or any official from the administration can face punishment of up to 10 years or a fine of Rs 7 lakh. A video circulating on social media from Bhopal this morning captured commuters expressing frustration over the inability to find buses or taxis for travel to Indore after waiting for 1-1.5 hours. Meanwhile, lengthy queues formed at petrol pumps in Himachal's Shimla and Dharamshala as drivers associated with the Transport Association protested against the new hit-and-run law on Tuesday. In Maharashtra, heavy rush was seen outside petrol pumps in Mumbai and Thane as people came to fill up their vehicle tanks fearing shortage of fuel amid the protest by truck drivers.



supply was impacted in cities across the country. The three-day strike was launched by truck, bus and tanker drivers to protest against the stringent jail and fine regulations under the newly-launched Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita

an uninterrupted supply of petrol and diesel. Meanwhile, commuters in Madhya Pradesh encountered travel inconvenience on Tuesday due to ongoing strikes. Since Monday, protestors have blockaded roads

pumps in various cities, fearing disruptions in fuel supply due to the agitation. Under the new law, which replaced the colonial era Indian Penal Code, drivers who cause a serious road accident by negligent driving and run

Karti Chidambaram appears before ED again in Chinese visa money laundering case

Congress MP Karti Chidambaram appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday for a fresh round of ques-

Nadu was questioned in this case on December 23 last year and the central agency recorded his statement under the provisions

of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). He again deposed before the investigating officer of the case at the ED headquarters in central Delhi, officials said.



tioning in a money laundering case linked to issuance of visas to some Chinese nationals in 2011, official sources said. The 52-year-old legislator from Sivaganga Lok Sabha seat in Tamil

The money laundering case, filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), stems from a CBI FIR. The probe pertains to allegations of Rs 50 lakh being paid as kickbacks to Karti and his close associate S Bhaskaraman by a top executive of Vedanta group company Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd. (TSPL), which was setting up a power plant in Punjab, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR. According to the CBI, the work for setting up the power project was being executed by a Chinese company and

which Rs 50 lakh allegedly exchanged hands, according to the CBI FIR. The CBI had last year raided the premises of the Chidambaram family and arrested Bhaskaraman even as Karti was questioned by it. Karti has earlier said that the ED probe was a "fishing and roving" inquiry and that he has submitted documents to the agency in the past. He had called the case "most bogus", asserting he was "certain that he never facilitated even a single Chinese national in their visa process, let alone 250." He had said this case an attempt to target his father senior Congress leader P Chidambaram through him. This is the third money laundering case against Karti with the INX Media and Aircel-Maxis cases being probed by the ED for some years now.

Madame Tussaud-like 'Ramayan Wax Museum' underway in Ayodhya

When Ayodhya becomes the cynosure of all eyes on January 22, Sunil Kandallor, 52, will be rueing the "bureaucratic and legal delays" that held up his project, which will still be under construction even as the Ram Temple is inaugurated. The thought doesn't dampen his mood for long, for the first phase of his fourth and most ambitious museum of wax sculptures is expected to be ready by April-May this year. With about 100 life-size wax statues of Rama, Sita, Hanuman and all the other important characters from Ramayana, the first phase will depict 30-35 scenes from Ram Katha, including Sita's Swayamvar, Vanvaas and Lanka Dahan. The museum will be called Ramayan Wax Museum, Sunil said. The Rs 7-crore museum project was bagged by Sunil last April and construction is in full swing on the 2.5 acre allotted to him by the Ayodhya Municipal Corporation. "We applied for the museum tender and turned out to be the only applicant. So the government floated a second tender. Again, we were the sole applicants. It seems we are really the only people in the country with the kind of expertise this museum needs," says Sunil. And these are not just tall claims, for his wax museums in Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu), Thekkady (Kerala) and Lonavala (Maharashtra) are well known for their 170 life-size statues of celebrities like Nationalist Congress Party's Sharad Pawar, social activist Anna Hazare, Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray, actor-politician M G Ramachandran, actor Rajnikant, cricketer Sachin Tendulkar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Sunil's brother Subhash said, "We made Modi ji's statue in 2013, when he was still the Gujarat Chief Minister. He inaugurated it at a function in Mumbai." Developed on the lines of London's Madame Tussauds, these wax statues have earned frequent appreciation for their life-like appearance. While Sunil is the artist and the creative brain, his siblings Subhash and Sujit manage the administrative and logistic aspects of the museums. The Kandallor siblings hail from Kerala but live in Lonavala. Since the past four months, Subhash and Sunil have shifted base to Ayodhya. Talking about the Ayodhya project, Sunil said, "For Ayodhya, we have started making moulds for the first 80 statues. Five of my workers are making moulds based on my models, drawings and instructions. I will do the final shaping and painting on each of them."

