



# TRIBUNAL

WHERE OPINIONS  
STAND TRIAL

Year's First issue

# TRIBUNAL

WELCOME, 2026!



## Feature – EU Designates Iran's IRGC as Terrorist Organization.

“Repression cannot go unanswered, any regime that kills thousands of its own people is working toward its own demise.” : Kaja Kallas

The EU has listed Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation, ending years of division over the issue in response to the regime's brutal repression of protesters. The EU also added 15 Iranian government officials and 6 organisations to its sanctions list for their role in “serious human rights violations” in the repression of protesters. he tenure of the interim government”.

More than 30,000 people may have been killed in Iran in the latest wave of repression, according to some estimates as human rights groups say a “revenge” campaign has been unleashed by the regime.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the decision, saying the move was “illegal, political and contrary to international law” as well as a violation of the country's internal affairs.

Reuters

World Business Markets More

My News

EU designates Iran's Revolutionary Guards a terrorist organisation in policy shift

By Lili Bayer and John Irish

Reuters

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EU set to add Iran's Guards to terror list after France U-turn

## GEOPOLITICS: INDIA AND THE WORLD

### India officially becomes BRICS Chair

From 1 January 2026, the BRICS chairmanship officially passes from Brazil to India. For the first time, India, one of the founding members of the group, will lead the expanded format, which now includes 10 countries. The key priorities of India's chairmanship have already been formulated and are centred on rethinking the BRICS concept to "strengthen resilience and foster innovation for cooperation and development", Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the BRICS 2025 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in July. His remarks were published on the website of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.



### This week in history

The liberation of Auschwitz on this day forced the world to confront the reality of the Holocaust, one of the darkest chapters in human history. While the Allies were aware of mass killings, the liberation revealed the industrial nature of the genocide, where around 1.5 million people (mostly Jews) had been murdered since 1940.



### Multi-State Crackdown ("Operation Gang Bust 2026")

Delhi Police have launched 'Operation Gang Bust', a large-scale crackdown on organized crime networks across the capital and adjoining regions, leading to the arrest of hundreds of criminals and the disruption of multiple gang operations as part of intensified law-and-order measures.

### Supreme Court Stays UGC's 2026 Equity Rules Amid Protests

The UGC introduced new equity regulations for universities in 2026, aiming to prevent caste-based discrimination and set up formal complaint and redressal mechanisms. The rules sparked nationwide protests and debate, with concerns over vague definitions and potential misuse of the guidelines. The Supreme Court stayed the regulations, directing the continuation of earlier rules, while Parliament's education panel criticised UGC for ignoring its recommendations.

Ever feel like no matter what you achieve or buy, happiness slips away as quickly as it comes? That's the **hedonic treadmill** – life's invisible loop that keeps your joy running in place. It can be a tool or a teacher. One path: use it as fuel, letting the fleeting bursts of joy from achievements drive you to grow, explore, and reach new heights. The other path: embrace the treadmill as a truth, finding peace in knowing happiness from success is temporary, and learning to savour moments and appreciate life beyond constant striving. Knowing that happiness often adapts, which path will you choose – keep running on the treadmill, or step off and find lasting contentment?

## CURATED INTEL



**WHAT TO WATCH**  
**The Power Tug-of-War**  
 The Supreme Court just signaled a retreat on judicial impeachment, handing the keys back to Parliament. Is this a win for democracy or a loss for judicial independence?

**WHAT TO READ**  
**Budget 2026: No More Freebies?**  
 The Feb 1st Budget is set to ditch "Populist Fiscalism" for "Debt Anchoring." The goal? Slashing the fiscal deficit to 4.4% by prioritizing city-building over cash handouts.

## THE Debate DOCK

With 2026 bringing fresh U.S. tariff pressures over Russian oil imports alongside a landmark India-EU Free Trade Agreement, New Delhi is playing a high-stakes game. Are we still "non-aligned," or have we become the ultimate "transactional" power?

**KEYWORDS FOR CONTEXT:**  
 Tariff Wars: The 2026 U.S. "Penalty" Tax, EU-India FTA: The billion-dollar pivot, Energy Realism: Balancing Moscow crude with Gulf investment.

Send us your submission in [Instagram DM](#), specifying for or against. Get **FEATURED** in next newsletter!

“ **Word of the FORTNIGHT** ”

**STRATEGIC HEDGING**

**THE ART OF NOT CHOOSING SIDES**

**EXAMPLE- “INDIA SIGNING AN FTA WITH THE WEST WHILE BUYING OIL FROM THE EAST IS THE 2026 DEFINITION OF SLEDGE HEDGING.”**

“ **DEMOSPOT** ”

**THE Rs. 23,622 CRORE MILESTONE IN INDIAN DEFENCE EXPORT!!**

Contribution to Defense Exports

Sector	Percentage
Private Sector	65%
Public Sector	35%

30x Growth in Indian Defense Exports Since 2014

Year	Defense Export Growth Index
2014	1
2016	3
2018	5
2020	7
2022	9
2024	11
2026	30

**The Indian Exports witness a staggering 30x growth since 2014. Mostly fuelled by Private Powers (~65%)**

**‘The Arsenal of the Global South’ is now a reality for Mother India!!**

# GEOPOLITICS

EXTENDED

## *Davos 2026: AI Overtakes Geopolitics as Economic Engine*

Nearly 3,000 leaders from more than 130 countries came together at the 56th Annual Meeting held under the theme "A Spirit of Dialogue." Global cooperation is shifting away from rigid multilateralism toward flexible, issue-based partnerships aligned with shared interests. AI and advanced technologies are key growth drivers, but must be matched with investment in people, skills, and social resilience to ensure inclusive benefits.

## *U.S. Intervention and Venezuela's Policy Reset*

The United States carried out a military operation in Venezuela in January 2026, capturing President Nicolás Maduro and triggering widespread international debate over sovereignty and international law.

The operation marked a decisive political turning point in the country, significantly weakening the existing power structure and reshaping Venezuela's governance landscape. In the aftermath, Venezuela enacted sweeping reforms to open its oil sector to foreign investment, ending decades of strict state control in an effort to revive its economy.

- Batch of 2000 donates 23L for IEST sports infra Kolkata: The class of 2000 of Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST), erstwhile BE College, Shibpur, raised over Rs 23 lakh to install permanent flood lighting at the Lords ground on campus so that students can engage in night-time sports activities after classes. In addition to the flood lights, the batch procured a pitch roller and a trolley-mounted telescopic tower ladder for the maintenance of high-mast lights across the campus. The initiative was named 'Project Illumination'.

*Know*   
COLLEGE

- Did you know about an inspiring trio of books written by engineers from Our College Buddhadev Dasgupta, Sudhansu Sekhar Chakraborty, and Amitabha Ghosh?

Dasgupta's Bamaner Chandrasparshavilas blends humour with vivid cultural anecdotes from his own life. Chakraborty's Memoirs of an Engineer shares his journey from post-Partition struggles to establishing a globally recognized engineering firm. Ghosh's Mouja Gangarampur captures the wonder of childhood curiosity and a budding passion for engineering.

भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर

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