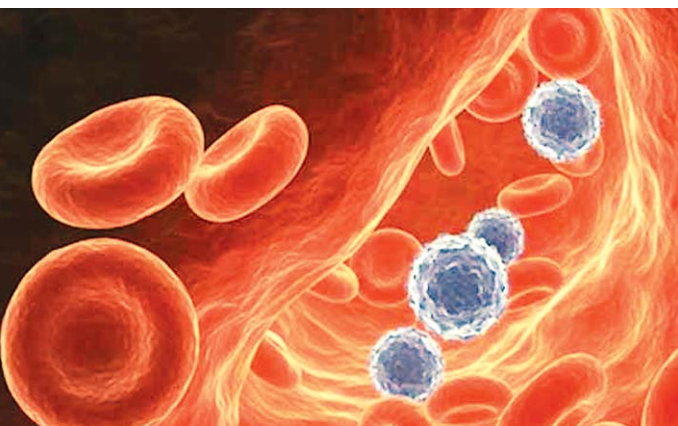


#RARITY

An Unknown Blood group Just Found

World's First Rare Blood Group Discovered in Bangalore Woman: A Historic Medical Breakthrough



In a groundbreaking medical discovery, scientists have identified a previously unknown rare blood group antigen in a 38-year-old woman from Karnataka's Kolar district. This unprecedented finding emerged when the woman, initially typed as O Rh-positive, the most common blood group, required a cardiac surgery. However, none of the available standard O-positive blood units were compatible with her blood, signaling an unusual blood type.

The case was referred to the Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre's Advanced Immunohematology Reference Laboratory, where advanced serological testing revealed her blood was 'pan-reactive,' reacting with all donor samples tested. Despite testing 20 family members, no compatible match was found. The woman's surgery was successfully completed without a transfusion, and her blood samples were sent to the International Blood Group Reference Laboratory (IBGRL) in Bristol, UK for further analysis.

After ten months of meticulous research and molecular testing, international experts confirmed the presence of a new antigen within the Cromer (CR) blood group system. Named CRIB, with 'CR' representing Cromer and 'IB' denoting India, Bangalore, this discovery marks the first-ever identification of the antigen worldwide. The announcement was made at

the 35th Regional Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion (ISBT) held in Milan, Italy, in June 2025. The Rotary Bangalore TTK Blood Centre has since established a Rare Donor Registry in partnership with Karnataka State Blood Transfusion Services, IIH (ICMR, Mumbai), and the International Society of Blood Transfusion to support patients with rare blood types like CRIB.

Dr. Ankit Mathur of the Rotary Centre highlighted the significance of this discovery: "This breakthrough reinforces India's important contribution to rare blood group research. We have successfully managed multiple rare blood cases in the past, such as Rh null and In B negative types, all recognized internationally."

Rare blood groups like CRIB pose serious challenges in transfusions, organ transplants, and surgeries worldwide. Identifying new antigens improves transfusion safety by enhancing compatibility testing and donor matching. This discovery places India at the forefront of global immunohematology research and paves the way for improved healthcare outcomes, greater awareness, and innovative treatments for rare blood types.

This historic finding underscores the importance of continuous innovation in blood science, showing that routine medical procedures can sometimes lead to breakthroughs with far-reaching global impact.



Kamakhya Yoni.



Ambubachi Mela.



Kamakhya Temple.

Many legends still persist on the curse of Kamakhya on the Cooch Behar royal family. Gayatri Devi's brother Jagaddipendra Narayan met with a fatal accident just a few days after he visited Guwahati. Her nephew Virajendra Narayan, and the Rajmata of Kota's brother also died a few days after visiting Gauhati. It is also said that while visiting a photographic exhibition in Jaipur, the Rajmata Gayatri Devi accidentally cast her eyes on a photograph of Kamakhya temple. Possibly, this was one of the reasons for her 'falling out' with the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi during the Emergency of 1975, which further led to her temporary incarceration in Tihar jail along with common criminals.

# Come To Her Only With Devotion



It was late 1970, and we, of the Hunter strike Squadron, were based in Hasimara, to the east of Bengal. Active fighter flying would take place in well demarcated sectors, all of which had 'holding points.' Two important holding points were Cooch Behar (Charlie Bravo) and Alipur Duar (Alpha Delta). Once we were tasked to carry out a detachment at Gauhati, which we were all looking forward to. However, our tea club major domo, Balbir, refused to accompany us, as long as any Bengali from Charlie Bravo was part of the detachment. When asked to explain, Balbir came out with the story of Kamakhya Temple in Gauhati and the cure of the Goddess Kamakhya on the Cooch Behar Royal Family. It is said that Nara Narayan (of Cooch Behar Royal Family) was told by his brother Sukladhwaja that the Goddess visits her temple at night and performs a dance. They convinced the priest to let them in at the night and see the dance. This angered the Goddess Kamakhya, who killed the priest and cursed the Royal family of Cooch Behar that they and their descendants would never have the



Kamakhya temple.

sight of her again. Maharani Gayatri Devi, being a member of the Royal family, was impacted by this curse, leading her to avoid this temple and even change flight routes to avoid Gauhati when overflying this route. Even when bypassing Gauhati altogether, the Maharani would close her eyes and cover her face with her pallu. Balbir also warned us, that in Gauhati, we should never measure dawn by the crow of a rooster and instead use our Alarm Clocks. This is due to the legend of Narakasura, a demon king who was a devotee of the Devi. Many legends still persist on the curse of Kamakhya on the Cooch Behar royal family. Gayatri Devi's brother Jagaddipendra Narayan met with a fatal accident, just a few days after he visited Guwahati. Her nephew Virajendra Narayan, and the Rajmata of Kota's brother, also died a few days after visiting Gauhati. It is also said that while visiting a photographic exhibition in Jaipur, the Rajmata Gayatri Devi accidentally cast her eyes on a photograph of Kamakhya temple.

The Kamakhya Temple and the associated Ambubachi Festival revolves around a natural process in women 'menstruation.' This natural phenomenon continues to be shrouded in stigma and restrictive behaviour in many parts of India, but in Assam, they buck this trend in the strongest possible way with worship.

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The Kamakhya Temple and the associated Ambubachi Festival revolves around a natural process in women 'menstruation.' This natural phenomenon continues to be shrouded in stigma and restrictive behaviour in many parts of India, but in Assam, they buck this trend in the strongest possible way with worship. Here, menstruation is not avoided, but celebrated and honoured. Here, the natural process of a women's body is revered as sacred, a sharp contrast to the hush and taboo that usually greets it elsewhere. The Ambubachi festival, held during the menstrual cycle of the Goddess, gives respect to fertility, rebirth and the protective forces of nature. Historically, it is also a period when agricultural activities

## #KAMAKHYA



Kamakhya Devi temple.



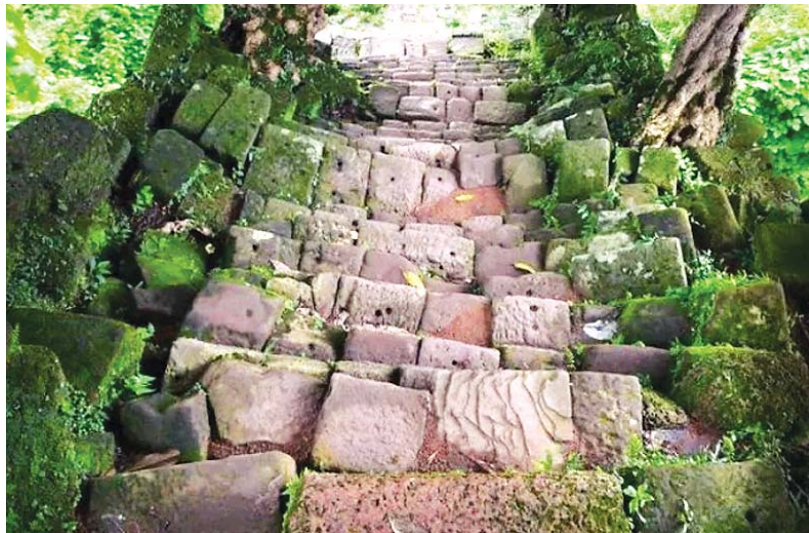
The garbhagriha.

Kamakhya is described as the yielder of all desires, the young bride of Shiva and the giver of salvation. Shakti is known as Kamakhya. Tantric rituals are basic to worship her. There exists a tradition among the priests that the Garos, a matrilineal people worshipped the earlier Kamakhya site by sacrificing pigs.

Durga. The origin of this temple involves the myth of Sati, the wife of Lord Shiva, who sacrificed herself on a fire after her father insulted Shiva. A grief-stricken Shiva carried her body and started performing his mighty *Ugra Tandava* or Dance of Death. To restore balance, Lord Vishnu dismembered the body of Sati with his Sudarshana Chakra. The places where her body parts fell became *Shakti-Peethas*. It is believed that Sati's Yoni (genitals and womb) fell on Nilachal hill, where the temple is now located. Another legend connects the temple's origin to Lord Kamdev, the God of Love, who regained his beauty and lost powers after finding Sati's Yoni there. The name 'Kamakhya' is said to be derived from this event as the place where Kamdev found the missing parts of his body. This is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas and is well known for its association with the Goddess of Divine feminine

power and fertility. This temple is famous for the Ambubachi Mela, an annual festival that celebrates the Goddess' menstrual cycle, which is believed to be a time of intense energy and power. Kamakhya is described as the yielder of all desires, the young bride of Shiva and the giver of salvation. Shakti is known as Kamakhya. Tantric rituals are basic to worship her. There exists a tradition among the priests that the Garos, a matrilineal people worshipped the earlier Kamakhya site by sacrificing pigs. According to the *Kalika Purana*, Kamakhya temple is the spot where Sati used to retire in secret for a carnal union with Shiva. One of the most intriguing aspects of the Kamakhya Mandir is the Ambubachi Mela, a unique festival

that celebrates the menstruation of Goddess Kamakhya. According to



The incomplete stairs.

local beliefs, during this time, the goddess undergoes her annual menstrual cycle and the temple remains closed for three days every year. Devotees consider this period highly auspicious, believing that the Earth becomes fertile and much more receptive to prayers. The waters of the nearby Brahmaputra River are said to turn red, symbolizing the Goddess' sacred menstruation. Pilgrims from far and wide gather to witness and participate in this profound spiritual phenomenon, seeking blessings of fertility, prosperity and spiritual renewal. During the Ambubachi Mela festival, a white cloth is placed near the Yoni of the deity. After three days, the cloth turns red due to Goddess' menstruation. This red cloth is then cut into smaller pieces and given to the devotees as a sacred offering. This red cloth is known as the *Ambubachi Vastra*, and is believed to be soaked in the Devi's menstrual fluid. There is an ancient tale which goes like this, Narakasura proposed to the Goddess, who to avoid marrying him, set a challenge for him to build a staircase from the bottom of the hill to the temple in one night. Narakasura almost succeeded, but the Goddess tricked him by making a rooster crow before dawn, causing him to abandon the work. The remnants of the unfinished staircase known as *Mekheulaaja path* can still be seen at the temple. A devoted and pious Hunter Pilot can also see it from the air.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#GLOBAL SOUTH

"Global Trade Earthquake" - Oprah

Oprah Winfrey highlights India's Historic Shift in Global Trade Strategy, signaling a New Global Order.



In a powerful and deeply motivational 23-minute speech, global media icon Oprah Winfrey laid bare India's bold and historic decision to reshape its global trade alliances by ending its long-standing dependency on Western powers, particularly the United States. Instead, India is forging closer ties with Russia and China, signaling a significant realignment in international relations. This move, as Oprah emphasized, transcends economics, it is a powerful declaration of sovereignty, self-respect, and the emergence of a new world order led by the Global South.

Oprah's speech masterfully blends geopolitical insight with a stirring call to national dignity. She framed India's decision as a 'global trade earthquake,' shaking the foundations of a system long dominated by Western nations. For decades, India maintained economic and diplomatic ties heavily influenced by the West, but recent shifts in its multipolarity by strengthening these ties, India aligns itself with other nations reshaping global diplomacy and economics.

Oprah's words also shone a spotlight on the awakening of the Global South. She described how countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America are stepping onto the world stage with renewed confidence, challenging outdated global narratives and demanding respect and equitable treatment. India's move embodies this awakening, a refusal to bow underlines a new era where nations like India assert control over their destiny, unshackled by former



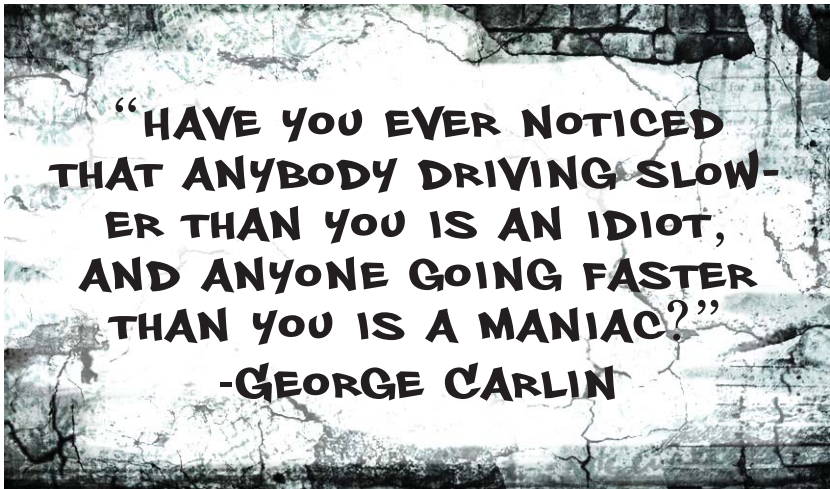
dependencies. The speech further highlights the rise of a multipolar world, one where global power is no longer monopolized by a few Western countries but distributed among emerging powers like India, Russia, and China. Oprah discussed how India's strategic pivot eastward towards Russia and China is not merely a transactional alliance but a symbolic and practical affirmation of this multipolarity. By strengthening these ties, India aligns itself with other nations reshaping global diplomacy and economics.

Oprah's closing remarks were a heartfelt call to action. She urged nations and individuals alike to embrace this period of transformation, stand firm on their principles, and contribute to a world that respects sovereignty and shared leadership. Her message resonates beyond geopolitics, inspiring anyone who values leadership, courage, and dignity in the face of adversity.

Oprah Winfrey's speech presents India's bold foreign policy shift not only as a strategic move but as a defining moment in global history. As the Global South rises and the world order transforms, India emerges as a beacon of self-respect and power, leading a new chapter in international relations, one that promises a more balanced and just world.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



## ZITS

