

Putin's Biggest Rival Alexei Navalny Dies In Prison | The Life & Death Of Russian Opposition Leader

Why In The News?

- The **Death Of Alexei Navalny**, A Vociferous Vladimir Putin Critic And Russia's Most Prominent Opposition Figure, Has Triggered Widespread Speculation Of A Kremlin-Orchestrated **Political Assassination**.



Alexei Navalny An Anti-Corruption Crusader

- Navalny, 47, Was A Lawyer Who Rose To Prominence As **An Anti-Corruption Crusader** In The Late 2000s. He Was Convinced Putin's System Of Personal Rule Was Completely Reliant On Sycophancy And Corruption.
- At The Forefront Of The 2011-12 Anti-Putin Demonstrations, **Navalny Was Among The First To Be Arrested**. Upon His Release, He Continued To Protest Against Putin, And In 2013, Ran In The Moscow Mayoral Elections.
- Against All Odds, With Next To No Media Coverage And Facing Incumbent Putinally Sergey Sobyenin, He Garnered Over **27 Per Cent Of The Vote**, But Was Subsequently Barred From Running For Public Office.
- Nonetheless, **Navalny Remained In Russia's National Consciousness**, In Addition To Gaining Admiration From The West. In 2013, He Launched His

YouTube Channel Where He Produced Slick Videos Lampooning Putin And Exposing The Opulent Lifestyles Of Russia's Elite.

- Today, This Channel Boasts Of **Over 6.2 Million Subscribers**, And Has Continued To Produce Extremely Popular Anti-kremlin Content, Even After Navalny's 2021 Arrest.



Алексей Навальный ✓

@NavalnyRu · 6.22M subscribers · 509 videos

Persecuted By The Kremlin

- The Kremlin Has Gone To Great Lengths To Portray Navalny As An **“Extremist”**, And A **“CIA Puppet”**.
- In August 2020, Navalny Fell Ill On A Flight From Siberia To Moscow. He Survived And Was Flown To Berlin, Where He Was Treated For The **Effects Of Novichok**, A Neurotoxin Developed In The Soviet Union, And A **Weapon Of Choice For Russian Secret Agents**.
- Despite The Attempt At His Life, He Returned To Russia In 2021, Where He Was **Arrested On Arrival For Violating His Parole**.
- He Had Been In Prison Ever Since. In August 2023, He Was Handed A 19-year Sentence On Charges Ranging From Creating And Funding An Extremist Organisation And **“Rehabilitating Nazism”**, To **“Involving A Minor To Commit Illegal Acts”** (Stemming From The Fact That People Under 18 Attended Navalny's Rallies).
- Navalny, However, **Maintained His Innocence**, Saying That All Charges Against Him Were Fabricated To Keep Him Out Of Public Life. Amnesty International Recognised Him As A **“Prisoner Of Conscience”** A Term Used For The Non-violent Expression Of Their Conscientiously held Beliefs.

Sent To Arctic Prison

- In December 2023, He Was Moved To The IK-3 Penal Colony, Also Known As The **Polar Wolf Colony**, Some 1,900 Km Northeast Of Moscow, And Inside The Arctic Circle.

- One Of Russia's Toughest Penal Colonies, "Inmates Endure Long, Dark, Cold Winters As Well As Clouds Of Mosquitoes In The Summer,". He Also Spent More Than **280 Days In Isolation**, His Spokesperson Kira Yarmash Said Last Month.
- Navalny Was The Last Prominent Putin Critic Still In Russia. Others Have Either Fled The Country Or Died Under Mysterious Circumstances. In 2015, Opposition Leader **Boris Nemtsov** Was Shot Dead On A Moscow Bridge, A Stone's Throw From The Kremlin.



- In August 2023, **Wagner Chief Yevgeny Prigozhin** Died In A Plane Crash, Weeks After Leading An Armed Mutiny. Putin Heads To Polls Next Month, All But Unchallenged, As He Seeks To Extend His Reign Till 2030.

