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PERSPECTIVE

We are strengthening our health sector through various measures including recruitment of trained doctors who will be serving the people in various nooks & corners of Assam. Recently, we gave appointments to 400 Health Officers who will now spearhead the mission of Healthy Assam.

- Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Northeast's first reusable sanitary pad unit opens in Meghalaya

SHILLONG
Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated a groundbreaking production facility that marks a significant milestone for women's health and environmental sustainability across the northeastern region. The 'She-Rise' unit at Laitkroh represents the first initiative of its kind in Northeast India, dedicated to manufacturing reusable sanitary pads under the Green Meghalaya Initiative. The Shubham Charitable Association spearheaded this Zero Waste Period Mission, transforming a Rs 5 lakh grant from the Chief Minister's Special Fund into a fully operational production centre. "This is the first initiative of its kind in the North East region focused on producing reusable sanitary pads, a remarkable step towards menstrual hygiene, sustainability, and women's health," the chief minister wrote on X. The facility addresses multiple challenges simultaneously - menstrual hygiene awareness, environmental conservation, and women's economic empowerment. Twenty-five local women now have employment opportunities at the unit, creating a ripple effect of financial independence within the community.

The timing proves crucial as India continues grappling with period poverty and environmental concerns from disposable sanitary products.

WHO SAID WHAT

Heartiest congratulations to Linthoi Chanambam on clinching the Gold medal in the 63kg category at the Berlin Junior European Cup 2025! Your remarkable achievement has once again brought immense pride and joy to Manipur and the entire Nation. May your journey ahead be filled with even greater victories.

- N. Biren Singh, Former CM, Manipur

"We don't want to dominate tribal land, but create jobs in BTR": Himanta Biswa Sarma



GUWAHATI

Assam plans 3000 MW thermal power project worth Rs 40,000 crore. Project aims to create up to one lakh direct and indirect jobs. Land owned by 80 families, no forced acquisition assured.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on June 22 said that the state governments stand on the proposed thermal power project in Kokrajhar, amid controversy over land allotment to the Adani Group. Speaking during a cabinet briefing, Sarma said that the government does not intend to dominate or forcibly acquire tribal land in the Bodoland

Territorial Region (BTR) but rather wants to bring investment and employment to the region.

We are planning a 3000 megawatt thermal power project in Assam, and the proposed investment is around Rs 40,000 crore. We thought if such a project is brought to BTR, just like Jagiroad, the people would welcome the initiative, said the Chief Minister. We don't want to dominate tribal land. We want to create jobs in BTR, he added. Sarma said that the massive project could generate about one lakh jobs directly and indirectly. He said that the land in question approximately 3000 to 4000 bighas is held by

only about 80 families. I appeal to use this land not just for Adani or Ambani but even for a medical college or educational institute. The goal is to create infrastructure and development, Sarma said. The CM also said that if there is strong opposition to the project in BTR, the government will consider shifting it to Dhubri or Goalpara. We wanted to do it in BTR so that the area grows, improves and employment increases, he said.

The project has triggered protests in Kokrajhar Parbatjhora area. On June 16, BTR Chief Executive Member Pramod Boro responded to the protests assuring that no land would be taken without consent. No ones land will be taken forcefully. We are open for dialogue with village protection committees, Boro said after a high-level meeting attended by senior officials, including representatives from the Adani Group and APDCL. Boro said that such a large-scale investment could create permanent jobs unemployed youths. We want development without displacement, he said. Meanwhile, the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) has also supported the decision after discussions saying that they are satisfied that the project would not harm local communities.

Dolu airport clears key hurdle as public hearing concludes peacefully



SILCHAR

In a major step forward for infrastructure development in southern Assam, the public hearing for the proposed Greenfield Dolu Airport in Cachar district was successfully conducted without incident, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Monday.

Calling it a "significant milestone," the Chief Minister said the peaceful conclusion of the hearing brings the state one step closer to transforming Barak Valley into a major hub of connectivity and development.

"Gratitude to all stakeholders for their cooperation and support," Sarma posted on social media, thanking residents, local authorities, and

other participants for their constructive role. The Dolu Greenfield Airport project has been envisaged to boost regional air connectivity under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme and enhance socio-economic opportunities for the people of Barak Valley, including districts like Cachar, Karimganj, and Hailakandi. With the successful conclusion of the public hearing — a mandatory step under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process — the project now moves closer to securing final environmental clearance and implementation.

The state government views the project as a cornerstone in its long-term strategy to ensure balanced development between the Brahmaputra and Barak valleys.

Pradyot Debbarmann calls on Centre to ensure pro-India government in Bangladesh



AGARTALA

Tipra Motha Party founder Pradyot Kishore Debbarmann has voiced concern over the evolving political scenario in neighbouring Bangladesh.

Expressing his apprehensions of anti-India forces taking over the reins of the neighbouring country, Debbarmann said, "If anti-India forces come to power there, it could destabilize Tripura, Meghalaya, and Assam," he warned.

He urged the Centre to ensure the Md Yunus regime allows deposed PM Sheikh Hasina's party, Awami League, to contest the next elections.

"So far, I understand, the Md Yunus regime will not allow Sheikh Hasina to contest elections. In the

absence of the Awami League, it is either the BNP or other fundamentalist forces that will take over power in Bangladesh, and we, the border states, will face troubles for that," he noted.

He also issued a strong appeal to all political parties in Tripura to refrain from nurturing illegal Bangladeshi immigrants as a vote bank, warning of grave political and demographic consequences if such practices continue.

In a live social media address, Debbarmann alleged the presence of illegal immigrants in areas under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), including Chakmaghat and Killa-Bagma.

"Our party activists have spot-

ted a group of 16 to 20 illegal Bangladeshi nationals sheltering in Chakmaghat. In Killa-Bagma too, another group moves stealthily, hiding during the day and entering villages at night," he said.

He urged political parties not to shield illegal migrants for electoral gains. "There's a tendency to see them as culturally or linguistically similar. But emotional ties must not mislead us. These individuals are not part of us," Debbarmann said. "Tripura must unite beyond party lines to counter this demographic threat."

Debbarmann also called on the government to assign paramilitary forces with the task of detecting and deporting illegal immigrants. He expressed dissatisfaction with the state administration's performance in handling the issue, suggesting they require a more centralized and stringent approach.

On the long-awaited implementation of the Tiprasa Accord, Debbarmann revealed that he had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting urgent action.

"The Home Minister assured me that he will take steps within the next three weeks. The delay is sending the wrong message across the Northeast," he added.

Manipur's Linthoi Chanambam becomes first Indian to win gold at Berlin Junior European Cup



IMPHAL

Linthoi Chanambam made history at the Berlin Junior European Cup 2025, becoming the first Indian judoka to win gold at the prestigious tournament. The 18-year-old from Manipur triumphed in the -63kg category, a major leap from her earlier world title in

the -57kg class at the 2022 Cadet World Championships in Sarajevo.

Competing against 618 athletes from 37 countries, Linthoi delivered a standout performance for Team Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS), overcoming a series of tough international opponents. Her final bout saw her defeat a top-seeded Polish judoka, sealing a landmark victory for Indian judo on the European stage.

"This win means everything," she said after the medal ceremony, acknowledging the crucial role of her coaches and family in her journey.

Linthoi's success in Berlin adds to a growing list of accolades, including gold medals at the 2022 Asian Cadet and Junior Championships in Bangkok. She first rose to national prominence with titles at the 2018 Sub-Junior Nationals and the 2021 Senior Nationals in Chandigarh.

Starting judo at the age of eight in Mayang Imphal, Linthoi has trained at IIS since 2017 under Georgian coach Mamuka Kizilashvili. Her latest win not only cements her status as a top contender in international judo but also reinforces her path toward the 2028 Olympics — a goal now within striking distance.

Nagaland targets TB-free status by 2025 as religious leaders join elimination drive

SHILLONG

Nagaland has accelerated its fight against tuberculosis by enlisting religious leaders to combat stigma and boost awareness, a strategy that could prove crucial for the state's ambitious goal of eliminating TB by 2025.

Governor La Ganesan convened a high-level review meeting at Raj Bhavan, Kohima, on Monday to assess progress under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. The session revealed a comprehensive approach that leverages the state's strong religious fabric to reach remote communities where TB detection remains challenging.

The Governor emphasised that religious leaders possess a unique influence to address the social stigma surrounding tuberculosis, which often prevents patients from seeking timely treatment. This community-based strategy represents a significant shift from purely medical interventions to socially inclusive healthcare delivery.

Health Minister Paiwang Konyak outlined the department's multi-



pronged strategy focusing on surveillance strengthening, improved treatment access, and targeted outreach to vulnerable populations. The state

has intensified efforts in remote areas where healthcare access remains limited.

A key development from the meeting was the push for more Nikshay Mitras - donors who provide nutritional and social support to TB patients. Officials noted that proper nutrition significantly improves treatment outcomes and patient quality of life, making community support essential for successful recovery.

Commissioner and Secretary Anoop Khinchi highlighted ongoing prevention initiatives and early detection programs. The department has prioritized inter-sectoral coordination, recognizing that TB elimination requires collaboration beyond the health sector.

Principal Secretary Y. Kikheto Sema, representing the Chief Secretary, announced plans for special health camps across all districts. These targeted initiatives aim to accelerate case detection and ensure immediate treatment access, particularly in underserved areas.

The meeting revealed detailed TB prevalence data and updates on diagnos-

tic services, treatment adherence rates, and community health worker contributions under the National TB Elimination Programme. Officials presented encouraging progress in outreach activities, though challenges remain in reaching the most remote communities.

Church leaders and faith-based organisations will play a central role in the revised strategy, helping disseminate information and encouraging behavioural changes at the grassroots level. This approach acknowledges the deep religious connections within Nagaland's communities.

The state's comprehensive approach combines modern medical interventions with traditional community networks, potentially serving as a model for other northeastern states facing similar healthcare delivery challenges in remote terrain.

All stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to intensive collaboration, viewing the 2025 TB elimination target as achievable through sustained community engagement and strengthened healthcare systems.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 506

LOS ANGELES IS NOW A BATTLE GROUND

Los Angeles, the city of angels (Mexican), is on fire on Reality TV playing to the advantage of the master of the Apprentice show and Art of the Deal as the city of Hollywood battles the federal government over its powers to federalize the state national guard on matters of crime and policing as it rides roughshod in its pursuit of illegal immigrants keeping an election pledge that brought the Republican Party led by Donald Trump to power in 2024 November elections.

It all started with ICE – Immigration Customs Enforcement – agents storming popular shopping centres such as Home Depot to whisk away Latino workers considered illegal immigrants with an alleged criminal record.

The situation was exacerbated when a very popular union leader, David Huerta, leader of several unions in the state, was detained and hurt besides an Australian got shot in an overtly armed excessive use of force by the national guard which was federalized without the consent of the state governor who belongs to the Democratic Party.

The state of California has sued the federal government for its alleged illegal action as the 10th amendment in the constitution forbids the federal government to interfere in a state's law and order situation, which is a state subject, by federalizing the national guard against the state overruling its powers.

The city has been on fire as protesters against Trump's immigration policy have torched cars, vandalised public places provoking Trump to federalise the national guard and deploying 700 special marines from the army to riot the riots as he seeks to push through his agenda against aliens on which he was voted to power. The federal guard action using weapons to control the riots is going live on TV as a reality show much to the advantage of the Republican supporters who support Trump on his agenda.

The upcoming gubernatorial battle in New Jersey is another testing ground for Trump's 2nd term endorsement from the people in a largely blue state where governor Democrat Phil Murphy cannot contest again as he has exceeded his term.

Trump in 2024 elections stormed into the bastion of the two blue states New Jersey and California reducing the Democrats margin but failed to stake the states. White House officials say that Trump has a mandate to carry out his hard-line immigration agenda and that politically, battling it out with a blue state is a winning issue for them.

President Donald Trump's immigration agenda has met a groundswell of opposition in Los Angeles, the country's second-largest city. California, which was carved out of the erstwhile larger Mexico, has a dominant immigrant population consisting of Latinos mostly from Mexico.

The White House has retaliated threatening to arrest California's governor Gavin Newsom and mobilized Marines to support National Guard troops in defending federal property – even though state officials say they don't want the assistance and are now suing the administration.

For the White House, this scene – Trump battling a blue state over his signature issue – is a political win, officials said. It's a nationally watched saga on live TV, of the sort that has long defined his career: a made-for-TV moment. Trump's Art of the Deal and Apprentice show playing larger than life on nationwide Television, he is enjoying every moment of it as it fuels groundswell of support for his actions from the GOP supporters.

"We're happy to have this fight," a White House official said, emphasizing that politically, the administration sees it as a winning issue. Democrats and immigration activists have broadly blasted the Los Angeles operation as illegal and inhumane and insisted that it's all about politics – and not about sound public policy.

"This Administration's actions are not about public safety – they're about stoking fear," former Vice President Kamala Harris, a Los Angeles resident who ran against Trump last year, wrote in a statement.

But Trump allies argue that it's simply Trump carrying out the headline immigration agenda that was the centrepiece of his campaign. NBC News spoke with four White House officials, in addition to other Trump supporters, who requested anonymity to speak candidly. Best places to visit in Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is what America voted for, period," a Trump adviser said. "This is the America First focus that got the president elected and is driven by nothing else than what he promised American voters." "Look at the violence, the attacks on law enforcement," the adviser added. "If Democrats want to support that, let them. This is why we win elections, and they do not." Trump advisers also pointed to the fact that the president's immigration policies continue to get high marks in most public polling.

Trump advisers say the president also points to the fact that he got more votes in California in 2024 than in his previous campaigns, even though he still badly lost the heavily Democratic-leaning state. The administration's response to the protests does seem to have one eye on the reaction in conservative media, a space increasingly dominated by pro-Trump influencers.

The Trump adviser, asked about McGraw's involvement, said: "This is an important moment in American history. People have a right to see it in a way not unfairly skewed by a biased mainstream media." The adviser wouldn't elaborate on how McGraw, whose presence was first reported by CNN, was able to have front-line access to the federal immigration operations. A spokesman for McGraw didn't respond to a request for comment.

Republicans more broadly also see the fight as a political winner and say Democrats are functionally taking the bait on an issue in which polling has given Trump an advantage. "I think it is a symptom of how far left this party has done when you have major Democrats standing on the side of illegal aliens that are torching vehicles," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told Fox News on Monday. "It is one of the reasons the Democratic Party is struggling so much nationally," he added.

Matthew Bartlett, a Republican strategist and former Trump administration official, said the raids shouldn't be a surprise because immigration is a "legitimate issue" the voters have signalled they care about. "There is no political upside in defending or denying the images of burning cars, rioters and looting and the destruction," he said of Democrats. "Best places to visit in Jammu and Kashmir."

A feeling that things have spun out of control in California and that the government can't effectively govern. ... It has changed the conversation from illegal immigration to a breakdown in society. (of law and order). Still, there has been some disagreement – at least in public messaging – about how far to push in going after California Democrats, a break between what may be politically popular with the base and what's politically realistic.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He who is not satisfied with a little is satisfied with nothing."
-Epicurus

RISE OF INDIA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AT THE G-7 SUMMIT 2025

PROF D MUKHERJEE

The 2025 G-7 Summit in Banff, Alberta, Canada, marked a pivotal moment in global diplomacy. While India's presence was significant, her role must be interpreted with precision and grounded in verifiable data. This write up provides a research-driven assessment of India's measured impact on the summit, supported by confirmed economic, diplomatic, and strategic discourses as of June 2025. The Summit is observed to have been a transformative juncture in international relations, spotlighting Her ascent from invited guest to a key influencer shaping global narratives. This write-up explores the paradigm shift in global power dynamics observed during the summit, with special emphasis on the emergence of India as a central force in a rapidly transitioning multipolar world and underscores the diminishing clout of traditional Western powers alongside the growing influence of Mother India as a policy-shaping global actor.

The G-7 Summit held from 15-17 June 2025 in Banff, Alberta, Canada, was a defining moment in international diplomacy. Originally conceived in the 1970s to unite the world's most industrialized democracies—namely the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom—the G-7 has long been a bastion of Western economic and political influence. However, the 2025 Summit marked a departure from past conventions, both in participation and in outcomes. The G-7, once an exclusive club of industrialized democracies, has historically addressed issues ranging from economic crises to climate change and security. Yet its Western-centric framework has faced increasing scrutiny in light of emerging powers from the Global South. India, previously relegated to observer status, has undergone a strategic transformation. More critically, her foreign policy—characterized by strategic autonomy, non-alignment, and inclusive development—has begun to resonate globally. The 2025 Summit served as a platform where India's evolving role was not only acknowledged but widely respected.

The Group of Seven (G-7) has traditionally served as a forum for the world's most advanced economies. As global dynamics evolve, the group increasingly invites voices from influential non-G7 nations to reflect a more multipolar world. India, the world's most populous country and the fourth-largest economy with a nominal GDP of \$4.19 trillion according to NITI Aayog, has gained prominence through consistent economic growth, digital innovation, and strategic diplomacy. Her foreign policy emphasizes strategic autonomy, regional engagement, and global multilateralism. Her invitation to the 2025 G-7 Summit aligns with Her increasing inclusion in high-level international forums such as the G20 and BRICS. What began as a potentially marginal presence evolved into a central axis of the summit's discourse. For years, India had attended G-7 sessions without permanent status. This year, however, her presence was not merely noted but actively sought after. Multiple geopolitical shifts, including the waning dominance of Western powers and India's rising global clout, converged to position her as one of the most influential voices at the summit while the economic metrics on records support this ascendance.

The summit stands as a testament to the emergence of a new world order, with notable shifts in global power dynamics. While the U.S. and Europe continue to wield influence, their relative dominance is being recalibrated. The IMF (2024) reports that the U.S. economy grew at 2.1% and the Euro Area at 1.2%, whereas India expanded by over 6%, signalling a stronger growth



trajectory. The Summit centred on geopolitical security, economic resilience, and technological governance. India's participation, alongside Brazil and South Africa, enabled broader Global South perspectives in key deliberations. Her strategic and diplomatic engagement is shaping a new global roadmap that favours diplomatic consensus over geopolitical discord. Her strength lies in economic reforms, technological capacity, and an independent, pragmatic foreign policy. The World Bank (2023) acknowledged Her Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a model of inclusive innovation. In 2023, Her UPI platform processed over 100 billion transactions (NPICI, 2023), representing a leap in financial inclusion. She has fortified bilateral ties with France, Japan, and the EU in sectors such as defence, green energy, and semiconductors. Her leadership during the 2023 G20 presidency underscored Her commitment to digital equity and supply chain resilience.

There has been a clear paradigm shift in India's role at the 2025 G-7 Summit, from guest participant to strategic contributor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended as an invited observer, participating in discussions on food security, AI governance, and critical mineral supply chains. His inclusion was supported by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who underscored India's economic significance. Despite ongoing diplomatic strains between India and Canada, no bilateral meeting between Modi and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was reported. While India did not shape the final communiqué, her involvement added credibility to the summit's emphasis on diverse global perspectives. Her growing international influence is substantiated by economic strength, technological innovation, and strategic outreach. As of 2024, India is the fifth-largest global economy, with a GDP exceeding \$3.7 trillion (IMF) and a 2023 growth rate surpassing 6%, unmatched by any G-7 nation. By 2025, She has advanced to the fourth position in terms of nominal GDP.

India's technological achievements are equally notable. The UPI alone processed over 100 billion transactions in 2023, reflecting Her strides in digital empowerment. NPICI's robust infrastructure has revolutionized domestic payments and attracted interest from nations like France, Singapore, and the UAE, all of which are exploring similar systems through partnerships with Indian fintech firms.

Internationally, India is one of the leading contributors to United Nations peacekeeping missions, exemplifying Her commitment to global peace and security. With thousands of troops deployed worldwide, her presence is both operational and symbolic of Her responsible global leadership. India's digital public goods—including Aadhaar, CoWIN, and ONDC—have gained global recognition for scalability and inclusivity. These platforms serve as models for other developing nations. Her thriving tech ecosystem, boasting over 100 unicorn startups as of 2024, continues to

attract substantial foreign direct investment (FDI). With growing investment in fintech, semiconductors, and manufacturing, she is evolving as a global innovation hub and a critical component in diversified supply chains. At the 2025 G-7 Summit in Banff, India emerged as a diplomatic fulcrum in an increasingly multipolar world. India's presence reflected her influence rooted in strategic autonomy, economic performance, and diplomatic prudence. India's foreign policy—long shaped by principled neutrality—was on display during the recent Iran-Israel military escalation. While refraining from endorsing either side in the UN Resolution vote, India reinforced her belief that wars begin when diplomacy fails and asserted that diplomacy remains the only sustainable solution to geopolitical conflict. This abstention was not indifference but a calibrated signal—India would neither succumb to bloc politics nor validate militarism.

These factors collectively affirm that India's rising role is grounded in concrete achievements across economic, technological, and diplomatic domains. Her presence at the 2025 G-7 Summit, even as an invited guest, carried weight and influence. The Summit reflects a balanced and realistic recognition of India's international standing. While not yet a central decision-maker, India's inclusion validates her strategic and economic importance. Rather than depicting her as a dominant leader, evidence suggests that she is a vital contributor to shaping multipolar global dialogue. The 2025 G-7 Summit highlighted a shifting world order in which non-G7 nations like India are gaining increased recognition. Though India is not yet redefining global leadership, she is actively shaping global debates on digital innovation, South-South cooperation, and climate resilience.

To maintain economic momentum and global relevance amid rising geopolitical tensions, India must continue infrastructure investments, uphold fiscal discipline, and drive export-led growth through initiatives like PLI and Make in India. Enhancing cybersecurity and forming global digital partnerships will amplify Her soft power. Expanding strategic partnerships with ASEAN, the Middle East, and the Global South, while strengthening alliances such as Quad and I2U2, will broaden Her strategic depth. To navigate global uncertainties, she must ensure access to critical resources and champion a peaceful, rules-based international order grounded in democratic values. Her rise is not abrupt nor absolute but supported by consistent economic progress, digital innovation, and a balanced diplomatic stance. Her increasing importance should be seen through a clear, realistic lens: as an influential and emerging force whose voice is essential in shaping a complex, interdependent world. She must now pursue proactive diplomacy in contributing to a balanced new world order. The G-7 Summit marked a shift from viewing India as a passive participant to recognizing her as a stabilizing voice in

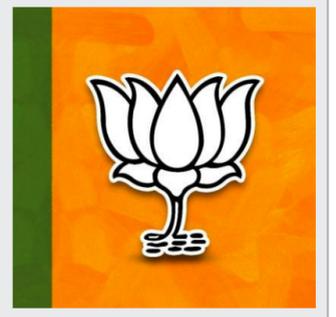
turbulent times. As Western influence gradually rebalances, India's pragmatic, dialogue-driven approach positions her as the world's credible neutral mediator—a nation uniquely suited to champion peace, foster connectivity, and advance diplomacy over confrontation. In an age of fractured geopolitics, India is not just rising—she has been redefining what responsible global leadership looks like and India must continue with her conscience supported approach to resolving conflicts.

(The author is an educationist, a management scientist and an independent researcher)

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Democracy gets crushed inside the West Bengal Assembly again! BJP MLA and Chief Whip Dr. Shankar Ghosh assaulted inside the Bengal Assembly, with even his glasses shattered by marshals. When elected Opposition leaders aren't safe in the House, what hope is left for the people? BJP CAN'T BE SILENCED.

- BJP West Bengal



RE-SHAPING OF ENERGY AND GEOPOLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SATYAJIT DAS

Financial markets and policymakers are concerned about developments in the Middle East and their effects on energy markets. The market price for oil for future delivery is trading around the mid-sixties per barrel, well below the spot price and below the average inflation-adjusted price for two decades. Despite the growth of renewables, especially solar and wind power, oil and gas, alongside coal, remain the staple source of energy underpinning modern economies and societies. Currently, the world consumes around 100 million barrels of oil daily (around 50 percent for transport and 20 percent for petrochemicals). No significant decline is forecast due to limited alternatives for heavy transportation and as a chemical feedstock. Natural gas is around 23 percent of the world's total energy consumption and provides a quarter of global electricity.

The Gulf region is the world's most important energy producer, accounting for around 50 percent of proven reserves. It produces around 33 percent of the world's oil and approximately 17 percent of natural gas. Any severe disruption would affect availability and price flowing through to economies.

The absence of concern comes from a perception of ample supplies. In the leadup to the current crisis, OPEC, driven by Saudi pressure, increased

output, causing sharp declines in price exacerbated by slowing demand from decelerating economic activity, particularly in China. In a repeat of 2015, Saudi Arabia sought to punish producers who exceeded quotas agreed upon between member states. It may have been to placate President Donald Trump, who has consistently sought lower oil prices. Saudi Arabia's objective is to maintain its market share as low prices make US shale oil and gas uncompetitive and accelerate the use of a potentially stranded resource. The spreading conflict alters the equation. There is increased stockpiling and consumption—military aircraft are not designed for fuel efficiency. The most serious threat comes from collateral damage to energy facilities or the weaponisation of oil and gas supplies.

Israel, whose declared objective is destroying Iran's nuclear capabilities and unseating its leaders, may target oil and gas facilities to increase pressure on the regime. Iran exports up to 2 million barrels of oil and refined petroleum products daily (around 2 percent of total oil supply). This loss may not be covered by other producers whose capacities are already strained due to lack of infrastructure, in part because of under-investment in the shift away from fossil fuels. Only Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Russia, whose capacity is hobbled by sanctions, may have

actual additional available capacity.

The US entry into the war has changed its dynamics. Iran may seek a total or selective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—the chokepoint of global energy supplies—through which a fifth of the world's oil supply passes. A long-standing rule in the Persian Gulf states is that if Iran is under threat, it will seek to prevent regional competitors from selling their oil. Even though free passage is still theoretically possible, many shipping companies are already reluctant to transit the narrow waterway due to insurance concerns. The charter costs of large crude carriers (capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil) from the Gulf to China have more than doubled (from around \$20,000 to just under \$48,000 per day).

Another option is to attack other Gulf nations' oil facilities, which has happened previously. American and Israeli military bases in these countries increase this risk. Iranian-backed domestic militias, already in place, could undertake these attacks. Iraq, which supplies over 4 million barrels of oil per day, is vulnerable due to the location of its infrastructure in Basra, close to Iran, and the history between the two nations.

Iran will be reluctant to attack Gulf neighbours with whom they have carefully re-established rela-

tions and a modus vivendi over recent years. This suggests another option—a coordinated oil embargo on the US, Europe and supporters of Israel.

While Arab unity is elusive and never guaranteed, there is a historical precedent—the 1973 oil embargo by Arab members of OPEC in response to the Yom Kippur War and the US support for Israel. The crucial players are West-leaning Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar. Despite competition with Iran for regional influence and the Sunni and Shia schism, there are reasons that these nations may act.

First, they fear regional instability if the present Iranian regime is toppled. Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria highlight the West's lack of staying power and appetite for casualties and cost to engineer the outcome they state.

Secondly, Western denial of Iran's right to even peaceful nuclear capabilities affects the ambitions of at least Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It leaves the region subservient to Israel as its only nuclear-capable actor consistent with Washington's policy to preserve Israeli military superiority.

About 14 per cent expressed concerns about political or social situation and 16 per cent about climate change or environmental degradation.

Assam: ONGC inches closer to sealing Sivasagar gas leak, declares areas beyond 500m safe



GUWAHATI

Gas leak from ONGC well threatens thousands in Sivasagar. Over 3,000 people affected with many displaced from homes. Continuous water blanketing reduces fire risk during sealing.

Efforts to contain the gas leak from an ONGC crude well at Bhatiapar in Sivasagar, which had triggered widespread panic and displacement, are entering their final stages. According to ONGC officials, complete control is expected shortly, with international experts working in tandem with ONGC's Crisis Management Team (CMT) in round-the-clock operations.

The leak, which initially posed a serious threat to around 75 nearby families, quickly escalated into a wider humanitarian crisis, affecting more than 3,000 people as toxic

emissions spread and evacuations intensified. Residents remain hopeful for adequate compensation and sustained government support as they continue to reel under the incident's after-effects.

In a recent public advisory, ONGC announced that residents living beyond a 500-metre radius of the leak site can safely return home. Scientific assessments conducted on-site have found no trace of hydrocarbon presence beyond 30 metres from the well, which ONGC termed a "positive development."

Officials also confirmed that gas pressure inside the well has reduced, making the site safer for engineers to proceed with final sealing operations. To mitigate the risk of fire, ONGC has been carrying out continuous 'water blanketing' to suppress volatile gases.

The well capping process—a

technically complex and hazardous task—is now in motion. So far, the response team has evacuated over 10 trailer-loads of rig components, with most of the derrick structure dismantled. The operation now hinges on the removal of tubing from the derrick using a long boom crane, which marks the final step before the well can be permanently sealed.

To facilitate this, heavy machinery and specialised tools are being transported to the site. ONGC described the capping process as one of its most sensitive and high-risk field operations in recent years.

Meanwhile, ONGC continues to assist the district administration in managing relief efforts. Round-the-clock medical services have been deployed for evacuees staying in relief camps. The corporation reiterated its commitment to the welfare of affected residents

Assam government grants SEBC status to transgender individuals in state

GUWAHATI
Assam officially recognises transgender persons under SEBC category. Benefits apply only to permanent residents of Assam. Move aligns with 2014 NALSA Supreme Court verdict.

Assam government has officially granted Socially and Educationally Backward Class (SEBC) status to individuals identifying as transgender or third gender. The decision, rooted in the Supreme Court's landmark 2014 verdict in the NALSA vs Union of India case, was announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma following the state Cabinet meeting on Sunday.

"This is a historic step for Assam. In compliance with the Supreme Court's directive, transgender persons in the state will now be recognised under the SEBC category," said CM Sarma while addressing the media. "This will help integrate them into the mainstream of development and public welfare," he added.

However, the Chief Minister clarified that the benefits under this provision will be limited to permanent residents of Assam. "This scheme is meant exclusively for native transgender individuals. Those who have migrated from other states for work, education, or other reasons will not be eligible," he stated.

The move is aimed at extending the benefits of affirmative action in education, employment, and social welfare to a community that has long remained on the fringes of policy discourse.

Meghalaya police arrest security guard in MP in Raja Raghuvanshi murder case

SHILLONG
A special investigation team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police on Sunday arrested a security guard in Madhya Pradesh in connection with the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, a senior officer said.

The SIT had on the previous day arrested a property dealer for concealing a bag belonging to Raghuvanshi's wife Sonam, who hid it in a flat in Indore after the murder last month.

With the fresh apprehensions, the total number of people arrested in the case rose to seven.

"Meghalaya Police SIT arrested one Silome James from Bhorasa toll-gate in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh while he was trying to flee to Bhopal around 8 pm on Saturday. He is a property dealer and had leased a building in Heera Bagh Colony in Indore where Son-

am had stayed and kept the jewellery and other items she took with her after the incident," East Khasi Hills district SP Vivek Syiem told.

Later, they nabbed a security guard, identified as Balla Ahirwar, from his village around 2 am on Sunday. He was posted at the property.

The two will be produced in a court in Indore, seeking a transit remand for being taken to Shillong for further investigation, he added.

Raghuvanshi went missing on May 23, and his mutilated body was recovered on June 2 from a deep gorge near a waterfall in the Sohra area of East Khasi Hills district.

Sonam, accused of conspiring with her alleged lover to kill her husband, surrendered on June 8 before police in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur district, while four other accused have been arrested from different locations in MP and UP.

AAEA demands accountability for mishaps in 'abandoned' oil/gas wells

GUWAHATI

Expressing concern over the Sivasagar crude-oil well gas leakage in the last few days, a northeast India based forum of graduate engineers have urged both Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) to come clear about the so-called 'abandoned' wells, which have the potential to harm human life, property and environment, as the concerned private parties operating such wells often do not come forward to take responsibility. All Assam Engineers Association (AAEA), in a statement, also appealed to the Union government in New Delhi to hold the concerned ONGC/OIL officials accountable for any disaster at an oil or gas well after having declared it 'dried up'.

"It's apprehended that some corrupt ONGC/OIL officials declare certain oil/gas wells as 'old one' so that private



parties can then enter, seize the opportunity to drill, and extract benefits (with the secret understanding of sharing such benefits with the concerned corrupt officials of state-sponsored ONGC/OIL). Is there any mechanism to monitor the

concerned officials after they declare a loaded oil/gas well as 'dry one', and thereby facilitate private parties in oil/gas extraction in lieu of personal gain?" said AAEA president Er Kailash Sarma, working president Er Nava J Thakuria and secretary Er Inamul Hye.

The Bhatiapar-Bari Chuk (Sivasagar) and 2020 Baghjan (Tinsukia) OIL well blowout remind the same story where private parties were operating the well (after these were assumed to be lacking sufficient oil/gas reserves), and accidents took place. It means that no lessons have been learnt on how to prevent such practices. Shockingly, India as a nation still does not have an efficient response team to deal with disasters of such magnitude, so expert teams from countries like Canada or the USA have to be urgently brought in to address the problems, added the AAEA statement.

Assam Police thwart separatist revival as DHD-U militants lay down arms

SUSHANTA ROY

DIPHU: In a major boost to regional security, ten members of the newly-formed militant group Dimasa Halan Dui United (DHD-U) surrendered before the Assam Police in Dhansiri, Karbi Anglong district, on Sunday, expressing their desire to join the mainstream. The surrender, overseen by Karbi Anglong Superintendent of Police Sanjib Kumar Saikia, APS, marks a significant breakthrough following a sustained intelligence-led operation. The Assam Police recovered a significant cache of arms from the group, including one AK-47 rifle, three pistols, a grenade, and several rounds of live ammunition. According to police sources, the operation, initiated in April, was launched after intelligence reports indicated that DHD-U was mobilising to revive an under-



ground separatist movement in the hill districts.

The outfit, primarily comprising youths from the Dimasa tribal community, had reportedly begun recruiting members and gathering weapons. SP Saikia credited the surrender to meticulous intelligence coordination and persistent tracking of the group's activities. "This surrender reflects our unwavering commitment to maintaining peace and stability in Karbi Anglong," he stated. "The investigation will continue, and we are determined to thwart any attempts to disrupt harmony in the region." The early interception of DHD-U's plans is believed to have prevented a potential resurgence of armed militancy in Assam's hill districts.

Security agencies view this crackdown as a strong deterrent to other insurgent groups and a reassurance of their efforts to uphold law and order in the region.

Arunachal: TMPK launches blockade in Jonai over brutal killing of Mising youth in state



ITANAGAR

The Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK), the apex student body of the Mising community, has launched a protest blockade at Jonai in Assam's Dhemaji district, demanding justice for the gruesome killing of 22-year-old Prabash Doley, a daily wage labourer from the Mising tribe, in Chimpu, Arunachal Pradesh.

TMPK's External Affairs Secretary, Redep Jack Doley, stated that the agitation began at 6 AM on Monday from Dekapam village, the victim's native place, and marks the first phase of a broader statewide movement. The organisation has demanded life imprisonment for the accused and adequate compensation for Doley's bereaved family.

The union has also urged Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu to intervene personally and transfer the case to Assam's Dhemaji district to ensure a fair and transparent investigation.

"We will be submitting a

memorandum to CM Khandu. His continued silence, along with that of Arunachal's civil societies and student bodies, is deeply disappointing," Redep told NewsFy, while appealing to people on both sides of the border to maintain peace and harmony.

According to police reports, Prabash Doley, a resident of Misamora village in Dhemaji, was employed at a construction site near a Bharat Petroleum outlet in Chimpu. On the night of June 18, he was allegedly attacked with a sharp weapon by Tai John (26), the owner of a nearby car wash. The incident reportedly followed an altercation over noise generated during construction activities.

Doley was discovered critically injured by the roadside and later declared dead. His body was sent for post-mortem at TRIHMS, Naharlagun. The accused has been arrested by the Capital police and is currently in custody.

TMPK has warned of intensifying its agitation if the demands are not met and justice is delayed.

Manipur: Four PREPAK militants arrested in Imphal, huge arms cache found in foothills

IMPHAL
Security forces in Manipur have intensified search operations and area domination exercises across vulnerable regions of the hill and valley districts. These efforts, aimed at curbing militant activities and illegal arms possession, have yielded substantial and multiple arrests.

A meticulously executed operation in the Makhabasti area under Jiribam Police Station led to the seizure of a major cache of arms and explosives. The recovered items include:

- One M4 Carbine with magazine
- One INSAS rifle with two magazines
- One SLR rifle with one magazine
- One country-made SLR with magazine
- Four country-made SBBL guns
- One pompy gun
- Four empty pompy bombs
- One 36-hand grenade
- Approximately 150 grams of PK (gelatin)
- One metre of Cordex wire
- One pistol with magazine
- Sixty rounds of 7.62 mm AK ammunition



Nine rounds of 7.62 mm SLR ammunition
Five rounds of 5.56 mm live ammunition
PREPAK (PRO) Cadres Arrested in Imphal East

In another intelligence-driven operation on June 22, four cadres of the proscribed outfit PREPAK (PRO) were apprehended from various locations in Imphal East district. The arrested individuals have been identified as:

- Thingbajam Philip Singh of Kongba Kshetri Leikai
- Lourembam Kumar Meitei alias Kanto of Lourembam Leikai (presently at

Sawombung Relief Camp)
Lashram Haridas alias Holaiba of Uripok Sorbon Thingnel
Yumnam Akash Singh of Hiyanglam Awang Leikai, Kakching District

Based on their disclosure, security forces recovered a massive arms stockpile from the foothills of Kalika under Porompat Police Station in Imphal East. The haul included:

- 02 SLR rifles
- 02 .303 rifles
- 01 light machine gun
- 01 modified .303 sniper rifle
- Multiple magazines: SLR (10), .303 (2), LMG (.303-5, INSAS-1), INSAS rifle (1)

Ammunition:
74 rounds of 7.62 LMG live ammunition
08 rounds of M4 (5.56) live rounds
341 rounds of .303 live ammunition
114 training cartridges (.303)
19 HD cartridges (SLR) training ammunition

Other assorted training ammunition
Grenades and Explosives:
04 36-hand grenades
01 Chinese hand grenade
03 white phosphorus/smoke grenades
02 smoke grenades
10 tube launching 1As and 01 tube launcher
13 detonators (including 36-hand grenade type and cap type)

Several empty cartridges and cases
In a separate operation, Manipur Police apprehended a 35-year-old PLA (People's Liberation Army) cadre identified as Sanasam Rajesh Meitei, a resident of Hiyangthang Mayai Leikai, Imphal West.

He was reportedly involved in a series of extortion cases targeting schools and private clinics in the Nambol area. Security forces have reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region. Extensive combing operations and intelligence-led search missions are expected to continue in the days ahead to dismantle militant networks and secure arms caches.

Quest!

Get a small pan and fill with water. Add some vanilla extract and cinnamon and put on the stove. Your house will smell like a bakery.

Iran-Israel conflict: Congress asks govt to show moral courage, slams it for not condemning US strikes



NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump's decision to unleash American air power on Iran makes a "mockery" of his own calls for the continuation of talks with Iran, the Congress said on Monday and slammed the Modi government for neither criticising nor condemning the US bombing and Israel's aggression.

The opposition party reiterated the absolute

essentiality of immediate diplomacy and dialogue with Iran. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said President Trump's decision to unleash US air power on Iran makes a mockery of his own calls for the continuation of talks with Iran.

"The Indian National Congress reiterates the absolute essentiality of immediate diplomacy and dialogue with Iran.

The Government of India must demonstrate greater moral courage than it has so far," he said.

"The Modi Government has unequivocally neither criticised nor condemned the US bombing and Israel's aggression, bombings and targeted assassinations," Ramesh said on X.

It has also maintained a deafening silence on the genocide being perpetrated on the Palestinians in Gaza, he added.

His remarks come after the US bombed three major nuclear sites -- Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan -- in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy". The US attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities has triggered fears of a wider regional conflict, with many leading countries and blocs calling for restraint.

Indian Army boosts firepower with two deep strike Pinaka rocket regiments

NEW DELHI

Adding to its deep and quick strike capability, the Indian Army is set to raise two more regiments of the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) system in the coming months. The Army is also expected to receive the equipment for two additional regiments by the end of this year. Currently, six Pinaka regiments are already operational along the northern border with China and the western border with Pakistan.

"The training of the troops is underway for the two regiments which will be fully operational in next few months," a source in the defence and security establishment told. The source added, "We are also expecting that the launchers, equipment and systems for the remaining two units will be delivered by end of this year and if everything goes as planned, they will become operational in the first half of 2026."

In artillery terms, a "unit" is also called a "regiment." Each regiment has three batteries, and each battery includes six Pinaka launchers.

At the current pace, the number of Pinaka regiments will increase to eight this year and is expected to reach ten regiments by 2026.

"The equipment will be allotted to the other two regiments by the end of this year," sources said, adding that the training for these regiments will begin soon. Initially, troops will train with the older regiments and later independently until they are fully operational.

A battery of six Pinaka launchers can fire 72 rockets in just 44 seconds, destroying enemy targets across an area of 1000 metres by 800 metres.

The name 'Pinaka' comes from Indian folklore and is known as the bow of Lord Shiva.

The Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher is a 214-mm rocket system, and along with the Smerch multi-rocket launcher, is one of the most powerful rocket systems in the Army's



arsenal. These systems can deliver large volumes of firepower quickly and hit targets deep inside enemy territory with precision.

Out of the six Pinaka regiments already in service, two were part of an additional order of six regiments placed in 2020. These two regiments were raised in 2024. In August 2020, the defence ministry signed contracts with Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML), Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) to supply these systems to the Regiment of Artillery at a cost of around Rs 2,580 crore.

The six operational Pinaka regiments currently have 114 launchers equipped with Automated Gun Aiming & Positioning Systems (AGAPS), 45 Command Posts to be supplied by TPCL and L&T, and 330 vehicles to be supplied by BEML.

The Pinaka rockets, which are developed in India, can hit targets up to 38 km away at sea level. Their range increases significantly in mountainous areas, which boosts the Army's deep strike capability even further.

The Indian Army is planning to add 22 regiments of the indigenously

developed Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers (MBRLs) to its firepower. These new systems, which come with automated gun-aiming, positioning systems, and command posts, will eventually replace the old Russian-made Grad BM-21 rocket launchers.

Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Pinaka is set to become the main rocket artillery system for the Army. It is designed to quickly fire a large number of rockets at important enemy targets, especially in sensitive border areas.

The Pinaka will boost the Army's long-range attack capabilities along the northern borders, where it will work alongside other artillery systems like Bofors guns, Ultra Light Howitzer M777, and upgraded L-70 air defence guns.

The Army's long-term plan is to fully phase out the older Grad rocket systems and replace them with the more advanced and locally made Pinaka regiments to strengthen its firepower.

DRDO successfully test fired extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket

from a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).

Grad-21 is also a multi-barrel rocket launcher system of the Russian (erstwhile Soviet Union) origin of the 1960's vintage. It was first used by the Soviets in the 1969 Sino-Soviet war and it can fire a salvo of 40 rockets.

The raising of the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) regiments is an important part of the Indian Army's overall artillery modernisation plan. In the field of long-range rocket artillery, the indigenously developed Pinaka is expected to become the backbone of the Army's modernisation efforts, with ongoing upgrades to improve its range and accuracy.

The Indian Army is also working on a larger plan to modernise and standardise its artillery units. This process, known as demediumisation, is aimed to be completed by 2042. As part of this plan, most artillery units will be built around 155 mm X 52 calibre guns, which will include new and improved guns and systems.

Currently, the Indian Army uses a mix of 105 mm, 122 mm, and 155 mm guns. However, many of the guns in use are still the old Indian Field Guns (IFG) and Indian Light Guns (ILG) from the 1970s and 1980s.

For the Pinaka system specifically, work is progressing on developing extended-range (ER) rockets that can accurately hit targets up to 75 kilometres away.

In 2023, the defence ministry gave approval for the procurement of 6,400 Pinaka rockets worth Rs 2,800 crore and in February 2025, contracts worth Rs 10,147 crore were signed for a variety of ammunition for the Pinaka MBRLs.

The Regiment of Artillery is one of the oldest arm which was raised on 28th September 1827 and is the second largest arm of the Indian Army, after the infantry. It is also referred to as the 'God of War' due to its deep, widespread and damaging firepower capable of blunting enemy might.

INTERNATIONAL

Nations react to US strikes on Iran, with many calling for diplomacy

WASHINGTON

Several close US allies urged a return to the negotiating table in the wake of American strikes on Iran that fueled fears of a wider conflict, while noting the threat posed by Tehran's nuclear program.

Some countries and groups in the region, including those that support Iran, condemned the move while also urging de-escalation.

US President Donald Trump had said Thursday that he would decide within two weeks whether to get involved in Israel's war with Tehran. In the end, it took just days. Washington hit three Iranian nuclear sites early Sunday.

It remained unclear how much damage had been inflicted, and Iran said it reserved the right to "resist with full force." Some have questioned whether a weakened Iran would capitulate or remain defiant and begin striking with allies at US targets scattered across the Gulf region.

Here is a look at the global reaction: United Nations

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said he was "gravely alarmed" by the use of force by the United States.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control — with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region, and the world," he said in a statement on the social media platform X. "I call on Member States to de-escalate."

"There is no military solution. The only path forward is diplomacy."

United Kingdom
British Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned of escalation beyond

the Middle East as he called for all sides to negotiate a diplomatic end to the crisis, saying stability was the priority in the volatile region.

The U.K., along with the European Union, France and Germany, tried unsuccessfully to broker a diplomatic solution in Geneva last week with Iran.

Starmer said Iran's nuclear program posed a grave threat to global security.

"Iran can never be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon and the U.S. has taken action to alleviate that threat," Starmer said.

Russia
Dmitry Medvedev, who serves as deputy head of President Vladimir Putin's Security Council, said several countries were prepared to supply Tehran with nuclear weapons.

He didn't specify which countries, but said the U.S. attack caused minimal damage and would not stop Tehran from pursuing nuclear weapons.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly condemned" the airstrikes and called them a "a gross violation of international law, the U.N. Charter, and U.N. Security Council resolutions."

US President Donald Trump arrives to speak from the East Room of the White House in Washington, Saturday, June 21, 2025, after the US military struck three Iranian nuclear and military sites, directly joining Israel's effort to decapitate the country's nuclear program, with Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Iraq
The Iraqi government condemned

the U.S. strikes, saying the military escalation created a grave threat to peace and security in the Middle East. It said it poses serious risks to regional stability and called for diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the crisis.

"The continuation of such attacks risks dangerous escalation with consequences that extend beyond the borders of any single state, threatening the security of the entire region and the world," government spokesman Bassem al-Awadi said in the statement.

Egypt
President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi warned of "grave repercussions" for expanding the Middle East conflict and urged a return to negotiations.

Saudi Arabia
Saudi Arabia, which previously condemned Israel's strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities and military leaders, expressed "deep concern" about the U.S. airstrikes, but stopped short of condemning them.

"The Kingdom underscores the need to exert all possible efforts to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. US President Donald Trump arrives to speak from the East Room of the White House in Washington, Saturday, June 21, 2025, after the US military struck three Iranian nuclear and military sites, directly joining Israel's effort to decapitate the country's nuclear program, with Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

Qatar
Qatar, which is home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East, said it "regrets" escalating tensions in

the Israel-Iran war.

Its Foreign Ministry in a statement urged all parties to show restraint and "avoid escalation, which the peoples of the region, burdened by conflicts and their tragic humanitarian repercussions, cannot tolerate."

Hamas and the Houthis
Both the Houthi rebels in Yemen and Hamas condemned the U.S. strikes.

The Houthi political bureau in a statement called on Muslim nations to join "the Jihad and resistance option as one front against the Zionist-American arrogance."

Hamas and the Houthis are part of Iran's so-called Axis of Resistance, a collection of pro-Iranian proxies stretching from Yemen to Lebanon that for years gave the Islamic Republic considerable power across the region.

Lebanon
Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said the U.S. bombing could lead to a regional conflict that no country could bear and called for negotiations.

"Lebanon, its leadership, parties, and people, are aware today, more than ever before, that it has paid a heavy price for the wars that erupted on its land and in the region," Aoun said in a statement on X. "It is unwilling to pay more."

Pakistan
Pakistan blasted the U.S. strikes as a "deeply disturbing" escalation just days after it nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his diplomatic intervention with the India-Pakistan crisis. "These attacks violate all norms of international law," the government said in a statement. "Iran has the legitimate right to defend itself under the U.N. Charter."

Bangladesh's election commission chief arrested for manipulating polls during his tenure



DHAKA

Bangladesh's former chief election commissioner K.M. Nurul Huda has been arrested on charges of manipulating elections during his tenure, police said.

Dhaka metropolitan police's Deputy Commissioner Mohidul Islam on Sunday said Huda was arrested in the case filed by former prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) against the former election commission chief and 18 others, including deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Election Commission officials said this was probably the first time that a former CEC has been detained over issues related to elections, the Daily Star newspaper reported.

Earlier in the day, the 77-year-old, who oversaw the elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024, was assaulted by a mob outside his Uttara residence.

Uttara West police sta-

tion chief Hafizur Rahman said, "We went to the scene after being informed" that a mob has surrounded Huda. We have brought him into our custody.

Another police officer said the mob raided Huda's residence located at Uttara area in Dhaka and dragged him out of his house before the arrival of police.

Videos circulating on social media show a group of people thrashing Huda with shoes, garlanding him with footwear, and throwing eggs at him from close proximity.

In the videos, the mob was seen abusing him with filthy language and continuing to beat him even after the police arrived at the scene.

Huda would spend the night at the police's detective branch office and would be produced before a court for consequent legal actions, he said.

The BNP filed a case against 19 people, including Huda, for conducting general elections in 2014, 2018

and 2024 under the Hasina regime "without people's mandate".

Hasina had won all these elections.

The assault on Huda triggered an uproar on social media, prompting Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus' interim government to issue a statement around midnight.

"The mob-created unruly situation and the physical assault on the accused has drawn the government's attention. The government urges citizens not to take the law into their hands," the statement said.

It also warned of appropriate actions against such people.

Yunus took over as the head of the interim government after Hasina was ousted in a massive student-led protest in August last year.

She fled to India following the toppling of her Awami League government. Most senior leaders of the Awami League and ministers and senior officials of the ousted regime were arrested or fled the country after the fall of the then government.

Several of these leaders, including ministers, in the past several months have come under mob attack, particularly on court premises.

Bangladesh's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence at 32 Dhanmandi in Dhaka, which was turned into a memorial museum, was demolished by a mob using bulldozers in February this year.

Karnataka Meitei Association demanded for sending one Manipuri MLA in Assam Assembly in 2026



Last Saturday, the members proudly commemorated the 2nd Foundation Day of the Karnataka Meitei Association - a resilient platform dedicated to humanitarian service, community welfare, and unity among Meiteis in Karnataka and across the globe. Founded on the pillars of transparency, commitment, and social responsibility, KMA continues to

stand as a beacon of hope and solidarity for our people, especially in times of adversity. The program was led by association's leaders and was honored by the presence of Meitei activist Dr. Maimom Santi Kumar Singha as the guest of honor. Dr. Santi Kumar is the Working President of Assam's pioneering Meitei organization, the National Manipuri Progressive Front,

and also serves as the General Secretary of the ST Demand Committee Assam. Together, the members engaged in an in-depth discussion on the vital importance of uniting the Meitei community to safeguard our people, land, and cultural heritage, especially focusing on the Meitei community in Assam, as the upcoming Assam state general

election approaches. The program concluded with the following resolution of the association.

1) In order to secure constitutional safeguards for our fellow minority Meiteis in Assam and to advance their cultural and socio-economic development, it is imperative that we now have a Meitei representative in the Assam State Legislative Assembly. KMA strongly calls for a unified and collective stand from all sections of the Meitei community in Assam towards this crucial goal.

2) For over 50 years, the absence of a single Meitei representative has hindered our progress, weakened our voice, and left our people behind in comparison to other communities in Assam. Further delay risks rendering our people politically invisible and endangering the very question of our identity and survival in Assam.

It is KMA's sincere hope that this long-awaited aspiration becomes a reality in the upcoming 2026 General Elections. To this end, we extend our full support and welcome all initiatives and alliances that work toward this shared goal.

3) As part of its Q3 and Q4 agenda, KMA will initiate the collection of statistical data on Meiteis residing in Bangalore and across Karnataka. This vital exercise will lay the foundation for a well-defined roadmap to advance the association's long-envisioned initiatives aimed at the welfare and empowerment of the Meitei community in the region. We earnestly request the support and cooperation of our people to make this important endeavour a success.

The media release was sent by the Information and Publicity Cell of Karnataka Meitei Association.

"GHOST IN THE JUNGLE"



A STORY BY ASHK MACHHANVI

In the heart of the dense jungle, near a small village, there lived a ghost. His name was Shanku, but his presence was felt by all who dared to venture into the jungle after dark. The villagers believed that the ghost was the spirit of a man who had died under mysterious circumstances in the abandoned house on the outskirts of the jungle.

The villagers were afraid of the ghost and would often warn tourists and visitors to return home before sunset. "Don't venture into the jungle after dark," they would say. "The ghost will get you."

Many people had claimed to have seen the ghost's shadow lurking in the trees, and some had even heard strange noises coming from the abandoned house in the night. The ghost was said to be very effective during dark nights, and his presence would send chills down the spines of even the bravest of adventurers. Many people dared to disturb, and later their bodies were found hanging under mysterious circumstances.

One stormy night, a group of friends decided to explore the abandoned house.

They had heard the stories about the ghost, but they didn't believe them. As they approached the house, they felt a strange chill in the air.

Suddenly, the wind died down, and an eerie silence fell over the jungle, and there was total silence in the atmosphere, not even a leaf could move.

The friends entered the house, laughing and joking, but their merriment was short-lived. As they explored the dusty rooms, they began to feel a malevolent presence around them. It was as if the ghost was watching them,

The friends entered the house, laughing and joking, but their merriment was short-lived. As they explored the dusty rooms, they began to feel a malevolent presence around them. It was as if the ghost was watching them, waiting for them to make a wrong move.

Suddenly, the friends heard a strange noise coming from the room above. It sounded like footsteps, heavy and deliberate. The friends froze, their hearts pounding in their chests. They knew that they had to get out of the house, fast.

As they turned to leave, they saw a shadowy figure standing in the doorway. It was the ghost. His eyes glowed with a malevolent light, and his presence seemed to fill the entire room. The friends were paralysed with fear, unable to move or speak.

The ghost began to move towards them, his eyes fixed on them with an unspeakable hatred. The friends knew that they were doomed. But just as the ghost was about to reach them, a bright light filled the room, and the ghost let out a blood-curdling scream.

The friends took advantage of the distraction to make a run for it. They stumbled out of the house, gasping for air, and didn't stop running until they were back in the safety of their village.

The next day, the villagers told the friends that they had seen a pandit (a Hindu priest) entering the abandoned house. The pandit had performed a pooja (a ritual) to calm the ghost's spirit and help him find peace.

As the days passed, the villagers noticed that the ghost's presence was no longer felt in the jungle. The tourists and visitors who had previously been afraid to venture into the jungle after dark now felt safe.

The ghost had finally found peace, and his spirit had been released from the mortal world.

The villagers believed that the pandit's pooja had helped the ghost find mukti (liberation), and they were grateful for his intervention. The abandoned house, which had once been a symbol of fear and dread, was now a symbol of hope and liberation.

As for the friends, they never forgot their terrifying encounter with the ghost. They realised that some mysteries were better left unsolved and that some secrets were too terrible to be revealed.

They returned home, grateful to be alive, and never spoke of the incident again.

But the legend of the ghost lived on, a cautionary tale about the dangers of meddling with forces beyond our understanding.

The villagers would tell the story of the ghost to their children and grandchildren, warning them to stay away from the abandoned house and to never venture into the jungle after dark.

And so, the story of the ghost in the jungle became a part of the village's folklore, a reminder of the mysterious and often terrifying world that lay just beyond the edge of our everyday reality.

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Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcplacements> Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to [InfoCom Solutions at: infocom.krc@gmail.com](mailto:InfoComSolutions@krc@gmail.com) Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krcstudentinternship> or www.krcfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participant receives a digital participation certificate. Send articles at: info@krcfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest> www.krcfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

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BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM



10 JAN
NE Cultural Fest
Any Form of Art and Cultural showcase can be showcased here. The Top performances will be invited to perform in the Main Event. Schools, Colleges, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.





11 JAN
Adventure Sports
Trekking & Canoe, Obstacle Navigation, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Technique, Water Sports.



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders. Includes NGOs, and Government officials, for better planning, awareness, and disaster management and preparedness programs. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.

10 Jan
Barak Festival: Peace Progress & Prosperity



Barak Festival

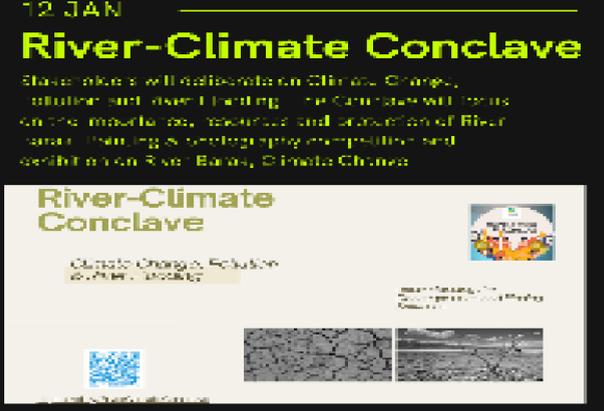
Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



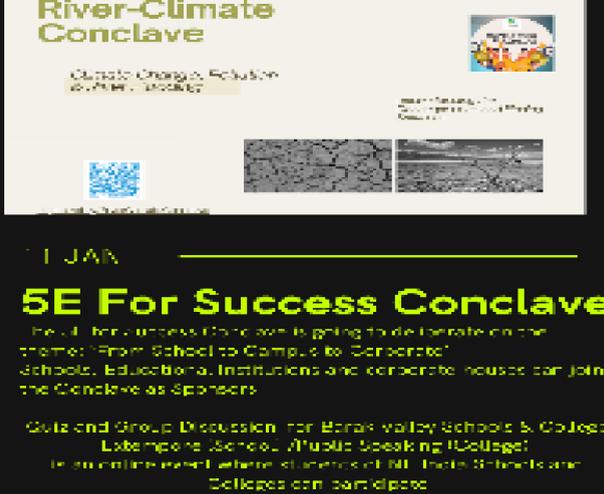
JAN'25
Online Global Fest
All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



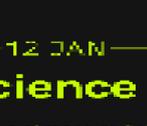
10 JAN
Media Conclave
Media Conclave (Webinars, Seminars, Guest Panel, Talks and Conferences) are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Webinars panel talks, seminars, symposiums, master & corporate talks, speeches, panel discussions, webinars.



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
State leaders will deliberate on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, treatment and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competition and exhibition on River Barak, Climate Change.



11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
The 4th Annual Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: 'From School to Campus to Corporate'. Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors. Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & Colleges. Extension: School/Institute Speaking Competition. In an online event, former students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.



Barak Festival

Band Night | 10 JAN
Musical Night | 11 JAN



10-12 JAN
Science Studio
Use a glimpse of Science to arts through digital. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents. Raw science into real-life experiences of students.



10-12 JAN
E-Sports
Full Blown! Don't miss! CASH PRIZES | Trophy



DEC-24-JAN'25
Photography
Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture. Real-Time Photography Contest of 'Barak Festival 2025'.



11 JAN
film festival
Award-Giving (Best movie) Film from Manipur. Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, W & Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet.



10-12 JAN
Book Bank
Anti-Book Campaign. Book Bank. Book Bank. Book Bank. Buy one Sell one.

5E SUCCESS

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

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