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PERSPECTIVE

25 June 1983.
That historic World Cup win under Kapil Dev's leadership was not just a cricketing triumph, it was a moment that ignited a billion dreams.
That victory taught us to believe, to aspire and to lead with courage.

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Land conditions stall health projects in Nagaland: Minister

KOHIMA
Nagaland Minister for Health and Family Welfare, P. Paiwang Konyak, has expressed concern over land donors attaching conditions that hinder the timely development of health infrastructure projects in the state. His remarks came during an inspection of the newly upgraded Community Health Centre (CHC) at Satakha in Zunheboto district, as part of the second phase of his state-wide "Viksit Nagaland for Viksit Bharat" tour. Calling on landowners to treat land donation for public health projects as a noble and selfless act, the minister said, "Such conditions are creating unnecessary delays. If we receive full cooperation, CHC Satakha can become a model health centre." He reiterated his commitment to completing the facility and enhancing healthcare services.

Paiwang Konyak also announced that the strength of healthcare personnel will be increased once the CHC becomes fully operational. He urged citizens to enrol in the Chief Minister's Health Insurance Scheme (CM-HIS) and Ayushman Bharat to ensure universal access to free healthcare.

Highlighting the importance of legal compliance, the minister warned that pharmacies operating without proper licenses or under unqualified personnel would face cancellation. "The cancellation process will continue as per the law," he said.

WHO SAID WHAT

As Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla creates a new milestone in space for India, the whole nation is excited and proud of an Indian's journey into the stars. He and his fellow astronauts of Axiom Mission 4 from the US, Poland and Hungary prove the world is indeed one family - 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

My best wishes for the success of this mission, which reflects the enduring partnership between NASA and ISRO. The wide ranging experiments to be performed by the crew will lead to new frontiers of scientific studies and space exploration.

- President of India

Rs. 5,000 Cr Black Money Unearthed in Assam & Northeast: I-T Dept

GUWAHATI

The Income Tax Department has detected 'black money' worth nearly Rs 5,000 crore in Assam and other states of the Northeast over the past eight years.

This has once again turned the spotlight on systemic tax leakage and shadow economies thriving across the region.

According to information available, a significant surge has been reported during the fiscal year 2023-24 during which the investigation wing of the department detected Rs 1,049 crore of unaccounted money, which is more than three times more than Rs 298 crore detected in 2022-23.

However, it was in the year 2020-21 that Rs 1517 crore black money was detected, the highest ever between 2016-17 and 2023-24.

"This sharp uptick marks one of the highest recoveries by the department in recent memory, reflecting both the scale of hidden finances and the beefed-up efforts of the tax authorities," an Income Tax official told this reporter.



However, the department has conducted only 50 targeted searches in Assam in the last eight years. In 2023-24, only five searches were conducted by the IT department. Similarly, in the preceding two years, only eight searches were conducted. In the last eight, the year 2020-21 saw the highest number of searches at 19.

Sources in know of the investigations said that the recovered assets include cash, property documents, and digital records, pointing to layered routes of money laundering, shell firms, and tax evasion.

While the names of the individuals and companies remain officially undisclosed due to legal sensitivities, insiders hint at a mix of high-profile businessmen, contractors, and politically exposed persons under the radar.

However, sources maintained that the recoveries still trail behind the more industrialized and urbanized states of the country.

"If undisclosed income is admitted by the assessee during the search, and the tax and interest are paid and a return is filed, a penalty of 30 per cent of such undisclosed income is payable. In all other cases, penalty is leviable at 60 per cent," a legal expert said.

According to sources, hundreds of individuals and entities across the region are still under the scanner and that they would soon face crackdowns after due intelligence-gathering and forensic financial tracking.

Sources also said that amid the surge in recovery of black money, there is also a rise in voluntary compliance, especially among small and medium business units and professionals, which is a good sign.

NEW DELHI

In a sharp critique of the Modi government, the Congress party on Wednesday accused the administration of orchestrating a sustained and dangerous assault on Indian democracy over the last eleven years—an era it termed as "Undeclared Emergency@11."

The opposition party alleged that civil liberties have been curtailed and hate speech has run rampant under the current regime.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, issued a statement claiming that government critics are routinely demonized, hate and bigotry are being actively propagated by those in power, and peaceful protests have been met with vilification. He noted that protesting farmers were branded as "Khalistanis" and supporters of a caste census were dismissed as "urban Naxals."

"The very individuals who glorify the killers of Mahatma Gandhi are being celebrated. Minority communities live in fear for their safety and property. Marginalized groups, especially Dalits, are being disproportionately targeted. Shockingly, ministers who make hate-filled remarks are being rewarded with promotions," Ramesh asserted.

His remarks came on a day when the government is marking 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' on the anniversary of imposition of Emergency by the then Indira Gandhi government in 1975. It is the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency. In a statement, Ramesh said, "Over the past eleven years and thirty days, Indian democracy has been under a systematic and dangerous five-fold assault that can be best described as Undeclared Emergency@11."

He also cited alleged "attacks on the Constitution, tax terrorism and Intimidation of Businesses and institutions, control over the Media and misuse of investigative agencies" to claim that an "undeclared emergency" was in place.

Ramesh also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought a "400 Paar" mandate in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to change the Constitution and undermine B.R. Ambedkar's legacy—a mandate the people of India decisively rejected.

Tripura assures 80-day food stock, 10-day fuel supply amid railway disruption



AGARTALA

Amid the disruption caused by a damaged railway track in the Halong-Jatinga section of Assam, the Tripura government has assured that the state has sufficient stock of food and essential commodities for over 80 days while fuel, to last for the next 10 days.

A senior Tripura government official said that a review meeting was held with the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) officials to assess the situation after a landslide, triggered by ongoing road repair work by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), damaged the tracks on Monday evening by dislodging boulders and debris onto the railway line.

"We have reviewed the current stock of essential commodities, including fuel. As of now, there is no cause for panic. The state has adequate reserves," the official said.

According to the official, Tripura currently has a 10-day stock of fuel, a 5-day stock of LPG cylinders, rice sufficient for 86 days, wheat for 56 days, and an adequate supply of pulses.

"During the meeting, NFR officials informed us that it will take at least three days to restore railway connectivity. They are providing

regular updates, and we are maintaining constant coordination. Restoration work is underway on a war footing, and we are hopeful that the situation will be resolved within three days," the official added.

Meanwhile, the Northeast Frontier Railway, in a press statement, confirmed the cancellation of four express trains from Agartala due to the disruption.

"In light of the recent landslide that led to disruption of train services in the Lumding-Badarpur hill section, continuous efforts are underway by the Railways and State authorities for early restoration. A high-level emergency meeting was convened to assess the situation and plan immediate action. It was attended by senior officials from N. F. Railway, the State Government, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and other concerned agencies. Train operations had to be suspended to ensure the safety of passengers and railway assets," the statement read.

The NFR added that heavy machinery, equipment, and manpower have been deployed at the site to clear the debris and restore the tracks.

"Continuous joint monitoring and coordinated efforts are in progress, and train services are expected to resume once the safety of the line is ensured," it added.

Make Petrol Rs 100 for Muslims, Rs 25 for me, I'll join BJP: Akhil Gogoi's scathing remark on 'communal' politics

GUWAHATI

Rajior Dal chief and Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi on made a strong pitch for an opposition alliance in Assam, asserting that the proposed tie-up with the Congress is not for political gain but to safeguard the future of the state and its people.

Speaking to reporters in Dhemaji, Gogoi urged Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Gaurav Gogoi and Congress leaders to view the alliance as a moral and strategic necessity. "We are not seeking an alliance for the benefit of Rajior Dal. In fact, we might win fewer seats on our own."

But this is about defeating the tyrannical regime that has taken hold of Assam under Himanta Biswa Sarma," Gogoi said.

He accused the BJP-led state government of stifling dissent through police intimidation and what he described as a return of "secret killings." "Till this tyrant leader is politically ousted, the people of Assam will not experience true freedom," he added.

Slamming the BJP for "selling

off the country's assets" and indulging in divisive politics, Gogoi said, "You cannot govern a state by fuelling Hindu-Muslim hatred. This tactic has its limits."

In a scathing attack on the Chief Minister, Gogoi alleged that Sarma was directly responsible for inciting communal tensions. "It is repeatedly proven that beef is thrown in temples by his own party workers. Himanta Biswa Sarma should have been in jail for provoking such acts. If I were the CM, I would have hanged him 27 times," he said.

He also expressed anger over rising prices and the government's response to criticism. "Whenever I speak on inflation, the CM claims I am anti-Hindu. If being Hindu means cheaper prices, then fine — make petrol ₹100 for Muslims and ₹25 for me, and I'll join BJP," Gogoi said sarcastically.

Gogoi's remarks come amid growing political realignments ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections, with opposition parties exploring possibilities of a united front to take on the BJP's formidable electoral machinery.

Tripura CM declares war on drugs, highlights state's role as trafficking corridor



AGARTALA

On the occasion of International

Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha sounded a strong

warning against drug peddlers, declaring a "war against drugs" and highlighting Tripura's growing vulnerability as a trafficking corridor due to its proximity to the Bangladesh border.

During an event organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau, Tripura Zonal Unit, the Chief Minister also flagged off a motorcycle rally and attended a blood donation camp held to mark the occasion.

"Drug traffickers are using Tripura as a corridor. Greed drives this illegal trade, but our children are the ones suffering. It is their blood that this menace stains," Saha said.

To tackle the crisis, the state government has announced the establishment of drug de-addiction centres in all eight districts, with Rs 2 crore allocated for each.

The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) has sanctioned Rs 198 crore for the initiative, which also includes a state-of-the-art centre in Agartala. The authorities have already held

the ground-breaking ceremony for the project.

Emphasizing early intervention, Saha warned about the health risks faced by injectable drug users, noting that prompt treatment can suppress HIV viral loads and prevent progression to AIDS.

He also stated that the government will strictly regulate existing private de-addiction centres under new guidelines.

"We will implement rules to monitor private facilities. Ministers and MLAs have already met to address the issue comprehensively," he said.

Asserting a zero-tolerance approach, the CM vowed that drug traffickers would not be spared. He pointed to a significant rise in enforcement action, with drug seizures up by 103 per cent and narcotics destruction rising by 130 per cent between 2023 and 2025.

Saha reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding the youth and breaking the state's link in the cross-border drug trade.

Manipur court sentences man to 10 years' RI for sexual assault on minor

IMPHAL

A Fast Track Special Court in Manipur has sentenced a 50-year-old man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) under Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for sexually assaulting a minor girl. The judgment was delivered on Tuesday by Judge Rajkumari Memcha of Fast Track Special Court No. 1. The convict, Mayengbam Inao, was also directed to pay a fine of Rs 5,000. In case of non-payment, he will have to undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

The court also ordered that the time the convict had already spent in judicial custody be deducted from the total sentence. Inao was brought before the court from Manipur Central Jail, Sajiwa, Imphal East district, for the sentencing hearing which followed the conclusion of the trial on June 21, 2025.

In addition to the sentence, the court directed the state government to provide a compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the victim and her family. The amount is to be disbursed from the Victim Compensation Fund or any

other appropriate scheme under Section 357-A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) within 30 days of receiving the court order. The compensation was granted in consideration of the trauma endured by the minor, the need for rehabilitation and medical support, and the financial condition of the victim's family.

According to court records, the incident took place on May 12, 2019, at Pishum Oinam Leikai in Imphal West district. The assault occurred inside a bathroom while other adult members of the household were distributing kerosene oil at a nearby community hall under Singjamei Police Station.

The case came to light the same day when the minor girl complained of pain to her mother. A complaint was subsequently filed by the victim's father at Singjamei Police Station.

Inao was arrested on May 16, 2019, and remanded to judicial custody on May 22, 2019. The chargesheet was submitted by the Investigating Officer, Sub-Inspector G Kitty Sharma, initiating the legal proceedings that led to the conviction.



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ALARMING PAK-TURKISH NEXUS



In the rapidly evolving theatre of global security, drones have emerged not only as tools of surveillance but also as lethal agents of warfare and clandestine operations. The recent spate of drone-enabled weapon smuggling operations in Punjab, specifically involving Turkish-made PX5 pistols, underlines an alarming trend that India can ill afford to ignore. The increasing use of drones by Pakistan, bolstered by Turkish logistics and arms support, is reshaping the very nature of cross-border conflict and internal destabilisation. Traditionally, arms smuggling across the Indo-Pak border was confined to human couriers and rudimentary methods. Today, cheap and precision-guided drones have replaced these old tactics, providing enemy actors with a stealthy, remote, and low-risk method of delivering sophisticated weaponry and narcotics. The recent seizures are just the tip of the iceberg.

The May conflict between India and Pakistan served as a testbed for this evolving strategy. During this four-day border confrontation, Pakistan deployed Turkish drones – including combat-capable UAVs and kamikaze models – with tactical support from Turkish advisors. Reports of Asisguard Songar drones being shot down and forensic confirmation of Turkish involvement reflect an overt and alarming level of cooperation between the two countries. This is not merely a bilateral problem; it is a regional security concern with global ramifications. Drones are not merely being used for military conflict – they are being repurposed as tools of proxy warfare. The smuggling of PX5 pistols into Punjab, clearly linked to terror modules and narcotics cartels, is intended to fuel internal unrest, enhance the capabilities of anti-national elements, and erode the state's control over law and order. Punjab, already a sensitive frontier state, is being deliberately targeted to reignite the fires of militancy through this influx of foreign arms.

The broader implications are chilling. Across the world, drone warfare is no longer confined to border incursions or strategic aerial strikes. The Ukrainian drone attacks inside Russian territory and Israel's alleged drone operations within Iranian borders mark a new phase of warfare – internalised, deniable, and devastating. In these scenarios, drones are assembled or activated from within the target country, removing the conventional culpability associated with cross-border strikes. This strategy of plausible deniability complicates diplomatic responses and strains traditional security paradigms.

For India, this means that old methods of border security and intelligence gathering may no longer be sufficient. Smuggling drones can easily bypass ground-based detection systems, fly low to avoid radar, and deliver payloads with pinpoint accuracy. The availability of Turkish arms on Indian soil is proof that Pakistan's rogue elements, with Turkish backing, are successfully breaching India's internal security. More worryingly, the drones are not just dropping arms – they are enabling a hybrid form of warfare that combines terror, crime, and foreign interference.

To counter this new threat landscape, India must adopt a multi-pronged strategy, including drone detection and neutralisation systems, and full-body vehicle scanners at all checkpoints – especially trucks crossing inter-state and international borders – must be made mandatory. Prevention and early interception remain our most potent tools against such stealth tactics. At the diplomatic level, Turkey's growing military and logistical support to Pakistan must be addressed through backchannel pressure and engagement with mutual allies. The global community must be made aware of this Turkey-Pakistan nexus, especially in destabilising South Asia.

The cheap cost, wide availability, and devastating potential of drones have made them the most attractive tools for asymmetric warfare. From smuggling arms to launching coordinated attacks, drones are rewriting the rules of engagement. The smuggling of Turkish PX5 pistols into Punjab, facilitated through drones, is not just a law and order problem – it is a symptom of a larger geopolitical manoeuvre that demands urgent and strategic attention. India must treat these developments as a red alert. Extraordinary vigilance, technological preparedness, and international diplomatic efforts are no longer optional – they are imperative. In this age of deniable drone warfare and state-sponsored smuggling, being reactive is not enough. Proactive, preemptive security infrastructure and policy coordination are the needs of the hour to safeguard our sovereignty and maintain internal stability.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Nothing is more terrible than to see ignorance in action.
- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

TRUMP IN MIDDLE EAST A NEW ORDER IN CONTRACTS



JULIUSZ GOJTO

During his four-day visit to the Middle East in mid-May, US President Donald Trump concluded unprecedented trade agreements worth over \$2 trillion. These include, among others, obtaining Saudi Arabia's declaration of investment in the US of \$300 billion, an economic exchange agreement with Qatar worth \$1.2 trillion and trade and defence contracts worth \$243.5 billion, plus \$200 billion trade agreements with the UAE. The Trump administration presented these agreements as a success not only economically, but also geostrategically – intended to contribute to the stabilisation of the region through economic development and deepening defence cooperation.

The economic aspect is obvious: the scale of the obligations is unprecedented, the numbers arouse both admiration and enthusiasm and often surprise, bordering on disbelief. But what do these data say about the politics in the region? For many, they are heralds of Washington's new approach to the Middle East. Alongside the delights, there are also many questions, the most important of which concern the essence of this change, the mechanisms behind it, and its significance for the region's future.

This was Trump's first foreign visit in his second term. It came quite late, counting from the moment of his re-election. However, this delay is symptomatic, considering the pendulum logic of American foreign policy described by Kissinger, as actions of current administration constitute only a swing towards isolationism. For other reasons, the choice of Middle East is not surprising. It's a consistent continuation of the vision of foreign policy in which the region becomes not so much a space of conflicts as a market – a place of exchanging influence for investments, security for the smiles of autocrats, sanctions for momentary loyalty.

A policy implemented not only in this region, although it is particularly expressive here. Trump has been pushing it since his first term in 2017. Its features are primarily transactional, personalisation, revisionism and deinstitutionalisation – all in the framework of isolationism, as visible as it is shallow.

If politics is understood as the art of achieving goals – with the proviso that the way to achieve them is also important – then for Trump it is a brutally simplified logic of a transaction that justifies the means, prioritising short-term profits and spectacularity. He doesn't hide the fact he's driven by the desire to secure investments in the US and projects that could transform the unstable region into a profitable "resort for investors". As he himself said in Riyadh: "Before our eyes, a new generation of leaders is transcending old divisions and building a Middle East based on trade, not chaos." According to this logic, peace and stability are not values in themselves, but side effects of investments, infrastructure projects and lucrative contracts.

The balance of the visit speaks for itself: Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE promised billions of dollars in investment in American infrastructure, technology and energy. In

return, Trump offered, as he put it, "technology, security and a new vision of peace." Foreign policy has been monetised here – reduced to a pure arithmetic of profits, in which ideological or moral dilemmas have no place. Additionally, the puzzle being implemented here undoubtedly also considers the challenges in the Far East due to the growing tensions in relations with Beijing.

Trump's trip to the Persian Gulf – like his spectacular visit to Riyadh in 2017 – is a demonstration of the personalization of international relations and the belief that personal relationships between leaders (or rather people in power) give meaning to relations between states. His meetings with heir to the throne of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, Emir of Qatar, Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, and UAE leaders were not interstate consultations, but rather a dialogue of leaders, bypassing traditional procedures and diplomatic channels.

Personalisation, although effective in the media, carries both consternation and serious risk: it subordinates national interest to the emotions and private interests of one person. Of particular significance is the meeting with Ahmed al-Sharaa, for whose head – as a jihadist terrorist – Washington was ready to pay millions of dollars in reward just a year ago. Another manifestation is the replacement of lofty values with personae and prejudices. The visit was manifested by an undisguised fascination with wealth, luxury and presumption of agency that they bring. It's not the first time that US president is impressed by both the ostentatious splendour and glitz available only to petrodollar monarchies, as well as the accompanying nonchalance in demonstrating power – a trait characteristic mainly of autocrats.

On Trump's Middle East policy, former US ambassador to Syria Robert Ford says: "It's a rejection of the neoconservative approach. It's a much more restrained doctrine, focused on promoting business. Trump has not even invoked soft power but has focused on investment in America and young entrepreneurs from the Middle East." Trump does not resolve burgeoning conflicts, he temporarily immobilises them with money and promises. It's a strategy of managing chaos through the appearance of stabilisation.

Trump's visit can't be interpreted in isolation from his overall perspective on the international order. It is a revisionist vision – although not in the traditional, aggressive sense of the word, but rather as a consistent undermining of the existing framework and rules. Trump does not seek to build new institutions or security architecture, on the contrary, his actions are aimed at dismantling the existing order, which he considers ineffective, corrupt or unfair to the US. In place of institutions, he promotes ad hoc arrangements, bilateral contracts and direct relations with leaders – preferring the logic of the deal over the logic of the system. In practice, this is a return to the 19th century philosophy of the balance of power and ad hoc diplomacy.

This has tangible consequences for both US institutions and the international system. Trump has consistently weakened the significance of traditional bodies that direct

ly and indirectly shape foreign policy: State Department, Pentagon, intelligence agencies and control bodies, academic circles, and even think tanks. In the international arena, he has marginalised NATO, the UN system, and other multilateral formats.

The administration's actions are being conducted by a narrow group of loyalists, bypassing analytical apparatuses, allied consultations, and with a complete abandonment of institutionally rooted procedures.

Trump likes to say: "We don't want other people's wars. Let them get along with each other." But this declaration of isolationism is a facade. The US still, more or less directly and openly, engages in conflicts if it sees a chance for profit. What Trump considers 'interest realism' is in fact a pursuit of minimising costs and maximising profits.

That is why he has no hesitation in abandoning former allies if agreements with them do not bring immediate benefits.

In Qatar, Trump applied similar logic, based on a cool calculation of profits and losses – it was not about building alliances or stabilising the region, but about concluding lucrative investment agreements. About "deals" with the powerful of this world – regardless of their systems and roles in regional conflicts.

The announcements of a new agreement with Iran are also in this spirit: limiting uranium enrichment in exchange for access to some of the frozen funds and lifting selected sanctions. For Israeli experts, such an approach has generally meant "only buying time, not solving the problem." American analyst Trita Parsi points out demanding that Iran completely abandon its uranium enrichment programme – so-called zero enrichment – is not only unrealistic, but downright harmful. The pushing of this demand by American hawkshas so far led to breakdown of negotiations, paradoxically accelerated development of Iranian nuclear programme, and strengthened the aggressive rhetoric of Iranian propaganda.

Although we are talking about the Middle East, it is impossible to ignore the internal conditions co-shaping Washington's new policy. The American political scene is increasingly divided between supporters of strong isolationism and promoters of the expansion of national interests. Trump finds himself ideally in this dynamic: as a representative of the world of big capital, but at the same time a populist opposing the "Washington swamp".

The Middle East is therefore also becoming a stage for a shadow theater for domestic use: it's here that Trump can show his voters that he is able to conclude "the best agreements", with "anyone who respects US and invests in America", as he said in Dubai.

Billion-dollar and even trillion-dollar transactions, including defence and investment contracts, are evidence of the consistent implementation of the election slogan America First. Additionally, through praise for the region's leaders and lack of criticism on human rights issues, Trump signals a departure from traditional diplomatic norms in favour of a specific understanding of pragmatism and realpolitik, bordering on cynicism. This has been met with mixed reactions in American politics. While Trump's supporters see it as evidence of effectiveness and independence, critics have raised concerns about the policy's moral implications and impact on US' traditional alliances.

Does the new security architecture in Middle East, built by Trump, have a chance of survival? Opinion is divided. On one hand, there's optimism – "a transaction is better than war", that "money is a more effective language than missiles". On the other – warnings that a transactional understanding of politics means freezing problems, temporarily suspending chaos, which can return at any moment when the balance of power changes.

Trump is not a madman; however, he is a pragmatist who understands politics in terms of market mechanics. The problem

is the world doesn't function like a stock exchange, and Middle East is not a development project in Miami or Manhattan. It's an area where fragile social, ethnic and religious relations are torn apart not by lack of money, but lack of hope, and their shape is the result of centuries-old processes – including wars and foreign interventions. Trump's transactions do not restore hope – they only replace it with illusions.

These cost him nothing, which does not mean they are free. On the contrary: their price is the growing desperation and sense of injustice among entire nations, local communities, and individuals in the region

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Today marks fifty years since one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history, the imposition of the Emergency. The people of India mark this day as Samvidhan Hatya Diwas. On this day, the values enshrined in the Indian Constitution were set aside, fundamental rights were suspended, press freedom was extinguished and several political leaders, social workers, students and ordinary citizens were jailed. It was as if the Congress Government in power at that time placed democracy under arrest!
#SamvidhanHatyaDiwas

- Narendra Modi, PM



ISRAEL-IRAN WAR HAS TO STOP UNCONDITIONALLY

DR ARUN MITRA

Two telephone calls that shook me and are still haunting were that I made to my acquaintances today. I could feel the anguish when I called my friend in Srinagar whose son is studying medicine in Tehran and with whom they are not having easy contact in the present situation. The family is much worried about his welfare but find themselves helpless. They had not expected Israel's attack on Iran since the negotiations about Iran's nuclear programme were going on between the US and Iran.

Another call I made was to my Iranian class mate during medical college days; fear and pain in his mind were quite apparent because of uncertainties in the time to come. His wife had been quite sick lately and in this advanced age they are not able to manage easily.

Any violent situation, more so an all-out war brings about pain, fear, uncertainty which can become cause of mental health problems that continue for a long time and affect the mental faculties & capacity to perform even after the situation has improved.

Unfortunately the world is now passing through deep crisis of war and violence,

probably worst ever after the end of the Second World War. As a teenage boy living near the India-Pakistan border I had witnessed the pathetic condition of families who had to shift from the villages adjoining the border to the town and were dependent on supply of food or other essential items by the town people. Children were not attending school. There was no privacy of a family. This led to serious mental health issues among them. As a medical student I watched the similar scenario again in 1971. Now when the wars have been imposed on the people to the worst scenario in the Middle East, it is easy to comprehend as to what mental crisis they must be passing through.

Over 55000 people have been killed in the Israeli onslaught on the innocent civilians of Gaza, majority of them being women and children. Reckless attacks on Syria, Lebanon and the west bank coupled with forcefully made resettlement colonies in the west bank by Israel are matter of grave concern. The aggression started after the Hamas's violent attack on Israel on 7th October 2023. But response by the Israel has been disproportionate. As a result the humanitarian crises in Gaza is at its peak. After the unprovoked attack by Israel on Iran the war between the two

has taken very serious turn. Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel has in very explicit terms said that his aim is regime change in Iran. The US president Donald Trump is asking Iran to surrender unconditionally.

In 1979 the government of Shah of Iran was toppled by a people's movement led by Ayatollah Khomeini. People were opposed to Shah as he was selling Iran's interests to US the companies. There were several groups opposed to the Shah including liberals, communists but Ayatollah Khomeini led group emerged as the main force. However they established a theocratic fundamentalist state and unleashed repression against those who held different views, even eliminated many of them. Imposed several restrictions on the women.

We have recently seen women's movement in Iran with the slogan 'Women, Life and Freedom'. The Iranian regime however essentially maintained an anti-imperialist character.

On the other side the Jewish Theocratic state of Israel has been siding with US imperialism and flouting the international humanitarian laws with impunity. The Israel and the US have now made their intent clear that they want to

control the resources of the Middle East and want to strengthen their geo political interests in the region.

There are reports in the social media that Israelis are asking Indians to go back. The Indian workers are not being allowed to go to shelters. What the government of India will do is to be seen. Indian students are stranded in Iran. Their being brought to India is a big task.

It is therefore important that war must end. Former Chief of Indian Army General MM Naravane has said while addressing a diamond jubilee function of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India in Pune in May 2025, "that a war is not a romantic or Bollywood movie but a very serious and expensive last resort". When the war breaks out, there is death and destruction, Narvane said.

"It has its own costs, the cost of rebuilding, but also the cost of military equipments that is lost."

Present day wars are being imposed upon the common civilians by the military industrial complex who are out to sell the arms and earn profit through falsification of the events and raising hyper-nationalism. The civil society has to raise its voice against such profitmaking business which is completely inhuman.

Naga students body launches youth awareness on Inner Line Permit in Kohima

KOHIMA

The Naga Students' Federation's Inner Line Regulation Commission (ILRC) launched its first youth awareness programme on the Inner Line Permit (ILP) at Kohima College on Tuesday.

The campaign aims to educate young Nagas about the ILP system, which stems from the 1873 Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation.

Organised under the leadership of All Naga College Students' Union (ANCSU) President Tenyesinlo Bukh, the programme began with an invocation by Dr. Theyiseino Keditsu. In his welcome address, Bukh urged the students to become informed stakeholders in the region's legal and cultural future. Kohima College's Principal also stressed the ILP's importance in safeguard-

ing indigenous rights.

NSF Vice President Mteising introduced the ILRC's formation and objectives, while ILRC Chairman Senchumo Nsn Lotha gave a detailed presentation on ILP provisions and compliance. Lotha emphasized that while Nagaland possesses the ILP as a regulatory "weapon," its proper application remains weak. "We have the gun but don't know how to use it, while others like the Mizos use theirs effectively," he remarked.

Clarifying NSF's position, Lotha stated that the federation is not against the entry of outsiders, but insists on strict adherence to the law. He explained that the ILP is a temporary travel document and must not be mistaken for long-term residency permission. "Once expired, the holder must exit the inner line zone unless an extension is granted," he said.

He further elaborated on the colonial origins of the ILP, saying it was introduced by the British both to protect the Nagas' interests and to manage their own populations in the plains. "Our fight is not confrontational but cooperative. We seek to preserve what is rightfully ours with the government's cooperation," he said, urging students to join the cause.

Concluding the session, ILRC Member Secretary Seve R. Vadeo reminded the audience that the ILP is not just a colonial relic but a vital legal safeguard. "It protects our land, identity, and economic rights. Our youth must rise in defense of this regulation—our future depends on it," he said.

The ILRC plans to conduct similar sensitisation events across Nagaland in the coming months.



Gauhati HC flags record-keeping lapses in Foreigners Tribunals, asks Assam govt to provide training

GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has raised serious concerns over the "haphazard" maintenance of records in Assam's Foreigners Tribunals (FTs), urging the state government to consider training tribunal members and superintendents for better case management.

The observation came during the hearing of a writ petition filed by one Gobinda Saha, who had earlier been declared an "illegal foreigner" by a tribunal in Nagaon district. A division bench comprising Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and Justice Malsri Nandi later set aside the FT's order after examining the case records.

While reviewing the tribunal's documentation, the court noted multiple instances of mislabelled and overlapping exhibits. "All the exhibited documents, with overlapping as indicated hereinbefore, are not found to have been referred and discussed by the learned Tribunal," the court noted, adding that the petitioner had likely not received adequate assistance from his counsel either.

The judges expressed dismay at the disorganised state of the records, which reportedly took over two hours to decipher with the help of private secretaries. "Having seen the haphazard manner in which the records of Case No. FT 2451/2011 has been maintained, the court is inclined to direct the Registry to transmit a copy of this order to the Commissioner and Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Home and Political (B) Department," the bench said. The court asked the department to consider conducting formal training programmes for FT members and superintendents on proper documentation practices. It also instructed that a copy of the order be circulated to all Foreigners Tribunals across the state.

Sikkim observes 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' to mark 50 years since 'Emergency'

GANGTOK

The Sikkim government on Wednesday, June 25 observed Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas to mark the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency in 1975 — widely considered one of the darkest periods in the country's democratic history. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, accompanied by his cabinet colleagues, led a symbolic procession bearing the national flag through Gangtok, paying homage to the countless individuals whose rights and freedoms were curtailed during the 21-month period of Emergency.

Speaking at the event, CM Tamang emphasized the importance of preserving constitutional values and learning from history. "June 25 is not merely a date, but

a reminder of the dangers of authoritarianism and the enduring strength of our Constitution," he stated. The observance of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas is aimed at honouring those who resisted the Emergency and suffered incarceration, censorship, and oppression. It also seeks to raise awareness about the need to safeguard civil liberties and promote the values enshrined in the Constitution.

The Emergency, declared by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on June 25, 1975, led to widespread suspension of fundamental rights, press censorship, mass arrests of political opponents, and centralization of power — events that have since been regarded as a significant deviation from democratic governance.

150 arrested, mastermind identified in Dhubri communal disturbances



DHUBRI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said over 150 people have been arrested and the alleged mastermind behind the recent communal disturbances in Dhubri has been identified.

This comes in the wake of heightened tensions in the district after cattle parts were allegedly thrown near a temple during Eid al-Zuha, triggering widespread unrest.

Addressing the media during his second visit to Dhubri in ten days, the Chief Minister reviewed the law-and-order situation and assured strict action against those responsible for disturbing communal harmony.

"The mastermind has been identified. So far, over 150 people have been arrested in connection with the incidents. Investigations are progressing swiftly," Sarma stated.

He emphasised that shoot-at-sight orders issued during night curfew hours remain in place, highlighting the government's zero-tolerance approach to communal violence.

Sarma also revealed that the state is considering the establishment of a permanent Indian Army base in Dhubri to bolster security in the sensitive border district. "We are in discussions with relevant authorities. A permanent army camp would greatly help in maintaining peace and enhancing our preparedness," he said.

The Chief Minister further added that intelligence and police presence would be intensified across strategic locations in the district. "Peace and communal harmony will be maintained at all costs," he asserted.

The district administration continues to maintain strict vigil, with security forces deployed in sensitive areas and curfew restrictions partially enforced.

The incidents in Dhubri have sparked political debate and concern across the state, with calls for swift justice and sustained efforts to prevent future flare-ups.

Assam: Thousands protest in Karbi Anglong demanding justice for minor rape victim

KARBI ALONG

Thousands from Karbi Anglong gathered on June 24 demanding justice for Ayushi Purty. Protest led by AASAA-KADC and allied organisations called for death penalty. Ayushi was found murdered after going missing on June 22, sparking outrage.

Thousands of residents from Karbi Anglong District, Assam, took to the streets on June 24 to demand justice for Ayushi Purty, a six-year-old girl who was brutally raped and murdered. The protest, spearheaded by the All Adivasi Students Association of Assam Karbi Anglong District Committee (AASAA-KADC), Adivasi Jani Sakti Sangati, and other organisations, called for the death penalty for the accused, Ranjit Basumatary, alias Babu. The tragic event has ampli-



fied calls for swift and severe justice within the community.

The incident occurred when Ayushi, from Amrajan under Bokajan Police Station, was reported missing on June 22, 2025. Her body was found the next day, confirming the circumstances of her death that have caused widespread grief and outrage. The protest illustrates the collective desperation and demand for justice among residents, who are standing in solidarity with the

bereaved family. The community's outcry is a testament to their determination to see justice served and to prevent such tragedies in the future.

A massive road procession was held, starting from the AASAA-KADC office and culminating at Ayushi's residence in Amrajan. Protesters of all backgrounds carried banners and placards, reinforcing their solidarity with Ayushi's family and emphasising their demand for swift justice. This large and diverse turnout signifies the depth of the community's commitment to addressing such crimes comprehensively. Their presence was not just a show of support but a powerful statement against the rising tide of violence.

Anil Toppo, Chief Advisor of the All Adivasi Students Association of Assam, Central Committee, addressed the gathering, urging for

the imposition of capital punishment on the accused. He stated, "This is a crime that shakes the conscience of our society. We demand the strictest punishment to ensure justice for Ayushi and to deter such atrocities in the future." His address underscored the community's call for a stringent legal response to prevent future incidents.

In response to the public outcry, the Bokajan Police arrested Ranjit Basumatary on June 24, 2025, and registered a case against him at Bokajan Police Station. While the arrest is a pivotal step, community leaders and civil organisations continue to push for a transparent and expedited legal process to ensure justice is served promptly. The community remains vigilant, demanding not only justice for Ayushi but also systemic changes to protect their children.

Empty classrooms, empty promises: Storm damaged school in South Garo Hills still in ruins, GSU seeks accountability



SHILLONG

Highlighting the dire state of educational infrastructure in remote villages of South Garo Hills, the Garo Students' Union (GSU), Mindikgre Regional Unit, has made a formal appeal to the Government of Meghalaya, urging the immediate construction of school buildings in the Mindikgre area. The plea, signed by Greneth M. Sangma, President of the GSU's regional unit, was addressed to the Director of School Education & Literacy in Shillong and the Sub-Divisional School Education Officer in Baghmara.

The student union have raised alarming conditions of seven government schools, including several primary, upper primary, and one secondary school — many of which are functioning without proper infrastructure or basic furniture for years. The schools listed include: Rompa A.sim Govt. L.P. School (Est. 1952)

Bagangre (Samkagre) Govt. L.P. School (Est. 1975)

Mmaingre Govt. L.P. School (Est. 1965)

Gara Songgital Govt. L.P. School (Est. 1935)

Dokgre Govt. L.P. School (Est. 1964)

Balkal A.sim Govt. Deficit U.P. School (Est. 1961)

Mindikgre Adhoc Secondary School (Est. 1966)

Rompa A.sim Govt. L.P. School, for instance, has remained in ruins since being devastated by a storm in 2012, despite repeated reports and requests submitted by the school's headmaster. Similarly, the Balkal A.sim U.P. School — frequently used as a central venue for government events — has been left unattended despite its importance.

The condition of Mindikgre Adhoc Secondary School has drawn particular concern from the GSU, which describes the building as "life-threatening" for students and staff. The union has requested its immediate upgrade to a government deficit secondary school — noting that it is the only secondary institution serving the entire region.

The GSU further alleged that despite annual proposals submitted by school authorities for the construction and repair of buildings, district and government officials have remained largely unresponsive.

This inaction, the union argues, has not only jeopardized the safety of children and teachers but has also stifled the overall learning process in rural communities.

Calling for an independent inquiry and detailed report, the GSU has urged authorities to take swift and concrete action to remedy the situation.

"This is not merely an infrastructure issue — it is a crisis affecting the educational future and safety of rural students," said Greneth M. Sangma.

Meghalaya Police get 3-day remand of Indore man linked to Raja Raghuvanshi murder probe

SHILLONG

A man accused of helping cover up evidence in the high-profile murder case of Raja Raghuvanshi has been taken into custody by Meghalaya Police. Lokendra Singh Tomar, owner of the Indore flat where Raja's wife Sonam Raghuvanshi reportedly stayed after fleeing Meghalaya, was remanded to police custody for 72 hours on Tuesday.

Tomar was detained on Monday from a flat in Gwalior's Gandhi Nagar area after Indore's DCP (Crime) coordinated with local police. He spent the night at Mohana police station before being formally handed over to Meghalaya Police the next morning. "He was produced in district court and sent on three-day transit remand," confirmed station in-charge Rashid Khan.

According to police, Tomar is accused of aiding in the destruction and concealment of crucial evidence linked to the murder. East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police V. Syiem had



earlier confirmed Tomar was wanted in the case.

Tomar, however, denies any involvement. "I am aware of allegations. I had given my flat on rent in Indore. I do not know anyone in this case," he told reporters while being escorted by police. "The bag being talked about was not with me. Apart

from this, nothing has been recovered from me. I used to talk only to James."

Investigators believe that after the murder, Sonam hid a box containing important evidence in Tomar's Indore flat. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) earlier arrested property dealer Silome James in Dewas and a security guard, Balla Ahirwar, in Ashok Nagar

Uttar Pradesh, on June 8.

So far, eight people have been arrested in connection with the case, including Sonam, Kushwaha, three contract killers, and others allegedly involved in hiding evidence. Tomar is the latest to be taken into custody as investigators try to unravel the full extent of the conspiracy.

Quest!

Boredom is the single largest contributor to the use of drugs and alcohol among teens.

Axiom-4 mission with India's Shubhanshu Shukla finally lifts off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center



NEW YORK

After multiple delays, the Axiom-4 mission with Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, finally took off from the Kennedy Space Centre's at 12:01 pm IST towards the International Space Station.

After a 28-hour journey, the spacecraft is expected to dock with the International Space Station (ISS) at around 4:30 pm (IST) Thursday. The astronauts are slated to spend around 14 days on the ISS.

The announcement of the new launch slot came Tuesday morning, just a day before the mission that was previously scheduled for June 22.

Peggy Whitson, former NASA astronaut and director of human space-

flight at Axiom Space, will command the commercial mission, while ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will serve as pilot.

The two mission specialists are ESA (European Space Agency) project astronaut Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and HUNOR (Hungarian to Orbit) astronaut Tibor Kapu of Hungary.

The Axiom-4 mission has run into multiple delays, first on account of inclement weather and then due to leaks detected on SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and later on the Russian module of the International Space Station.

The launch opportunity comes after NASA and Roscosmos officials discussed the status of

the recent repair work in the transfer tunnel at the aft (back) most segment of the orbital laboratory's Zvezda service module, NASA said.

"NASA and Roscosmos have a long history of cooperation and collaboration on the International Space Station. This professional working relationship has allowed the agencies to arrive at a shared technical approach and now Axiom Mission 4 launch and docking will proceed," said acting NASA Administrator Janet Petro.

As part of a collaboration between NASA and ISRO, Axiom Mission 4 delivers on a commitment highlighted by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send the first ISRO astronaut to the station, the NASA statement said.

No Indian will ever forget how spirit of Constitution was violated: PM Modi on Emergency

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday that no Indian will ever forget the manner in which the spirit of the Constitution was violated during the Emergency, as he affirmed his government's commitment to strengthening constitutional principles.

In a series of posts on X on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, Modi said it was one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history.

The values enshrined in the Constitution were set aside, fundamental rights suspended, press freedom extinguished and a large number of political leaders, social workers, students and ordinary citizens jailed, he noted.

The prime minister said, "It was as if the Congress Government in power at that time placed democracy under arrest."

The Modi government had announced last year that the Emergency anniversary will be commemorated as "Samvidhan Hatya Diwas".

The 42nd Amendment, which made extensive changes to the Constitution and was reversed by the Janata Party government, is a prime example of the shenanigans of the Congress government that imposed Emergency, he said.

He added that the poor, marginalised and downtrodden were particularly targeted, including their dignity insulted.

"We also reiterate our commitment to strengthening the principles in our Constitution and working together to realise our vision of a Viksit Bharat.

May we scale new heights of progress and fulfil the dreams of the poor and downtrodden," Modi said.

Saluting every person who stood firm in the fight against the Emergency, the prime minister said these were the people from all over India, from all walks of life, from diverse ideologies who worked closely with each other with one



aim: to protect India's democratic fabric and to preserve the ideals for which freedom fighters devoted their lives.

"It was their collective struggle that ensured that the then Congress Government had to restore democracy and call for fresh elections, which they badly lost," he said.

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said the Congress leaders should "repent" on June 25 every year, as he recalled the imposition of Emergency under the party's rule on this day 50 years ago.

Taking a veiled dig at Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Scindia on Tuesday said nothing can be achieved by just "roaming around" with a copy of the Constitution.

He also accused the Congress of playing politics over Babasaheb Ambedkar, a day after the party leaders staged a protest seeking the installation of the statue of the Constitution's chief architect on the premises of the Madhya Pradesh High Court's Gwalior bench.

The minister said the Grand Old Party had defeated Ambedkar in elections by fielding a candidate against him.

"The political party which

trampled Babasaheb's Constitution through a dark chapter on June 25, 1975 (when Emergency was imposed) is now talking about the Constitution.

Nothing can be achieved by just roaming around with the (copy of) Constitution in hand.

The Constitution has to be kept alive in the soul," Scindia told reporters.

The BJP MP further said the Congress and its leaders should repent on June 25 every year.

"The party which fielded a candidate against Ambedkar and defeated him in elections, the party whose government removed Babasaheb from the council of ministers, is now glorifying him. This is akin to a thief scolding a police officer," he added.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal recalled the role of people who fought for democratic values during the imposition of Emergency. The minister dubbed the 21-month long Emergency as a "black chapter" in the history of the country's democracy.

"This was the time when freedom of expression, civil rights and constitutional values were

crushed," he wrote on X. He recalled the role of those who fought for rights in that "dark period" while facing inhuman torture and oppression with indomitable courage. BJP president J P Nadda said the Congress continues to have the same dictatorial mindset that was behind the imposition of the Emergency 50 years back, stating that it believes only one family has a right to govern the country.

In his remarks on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, he said the Congress is still unable to reconcile to the idea of a person from a humble background, like Narendra Modi, as prime minister.

While Rahul Gandhi and the Congress cite the Constitution, he said the opposition party has still not apologised for the Emergency, the 21-month period between June 1975 and March 1977 during which opposition leaders were jailed, the press censored and civil liberties suspended by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi.

Democratic amendments were introduced to the Constitution and its soul was distorted, he said of the era.

Nadda claimed that the law and order situation in the Congress-ruled states remained as it was in the Emergency, marked by suppression of dissent, religious appeasement and arrogance of power.

Recalling the jailing of opposition leaders, including from the Jana Sangh, the forerunner to the BJP, during the period, Nadda noted that Modi as an RSS functionary had then defied the government and spread awareness among people about the excesses of the Congress.

Nadda also urged people to read the book, 'The Emergency Diaries - Years that Forged a Leader, which highlights Modi's role in fighting the Emergency.

It is necessary to keep the memory of the Emergency and its consequences alive, he said, asserting that Indira Gandhi had turned the country into a laboratory for family rule and cult of personality.

INTERNATIONAL

NETANYAHU CLAIMS 'HISTORIC VICTORY,' SAYS 'WE SENT IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM DOWN THE DRAIN'

TELAVIV

In a video statement on Tuesday summing up the war against Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that Israel "achieved a historic victory" that would "abide for generations" following the US-brokered ceasefire to end the 12-day conflict.

He said Israel removed "two existential threats — the threat of destruction via nuclear weapons and the threat of destruction via 20,000 ballistic missiles" that Iran was moving to build. Israel would have faced destruction in the near future "if we hadn't acted now."

US President Donald Trump acted "in an unprecedented fashion," the prime minister said, thanking him for "his part in defending Israel, and removing the Iranian nuclear threat."

Netanyahu said the historic development — a US strike on Iran in support of Israel — was "the fruit of a diplomatic campaign I led with [Strategic Affairs] Minister Ron Dermer," and praised the American forces who "destroyed" the underground Fordo enrichment site.

"Israel has never had a friend like President Trump in the White House, and I thank him greatly for our joint work," said Netanyahu, hours after a livid Trump blasted Israel for striking Iran both after the impending ceasefire was announced and for responding to Iranian missile attacks after the truce took effect.

Yet, in his video statement, Netanyahu lauded Israel's attack on Iran early Tuesday morning before the ceasefire took force — the same massive strike Trump bragged about in front of the cameras.

The prime minister also said Israel destroyed Iran's ballistic missile production program and landed "the most severe blow in [the regime's] history."

"We sent Iran's nuclear program down the drain," Netanyahu stated. "If someone in Iran tries to restore that program, we will act with the same determination, the same power, to cut off any such attempt." "I repeat: Iran will not have a nuclear weapon," he vowed, adding that — with



Iran's axis in tatters — Israel will open an "axis of prosperity and peace of the nations of the region" and beyond.

He briefly mentioned Israel's ongoing war in Gaza, and said: "We must defeat Hamas and bring back the hostages."

Only hours before the prime minister publicly praised Trump for his support, the president expressed in no uncertain terms on Tuesday that he was furious, in a rare if not unprecedented public display of frustration with Israel by an American leader.

"I'm not happy that Israel's going out now," the president told reporters Tuesday, as Israeli jets were responding to Iranian missile strikes earlier in the day.

"There was one rocket that I guess was fired overboard [by Iran]. It was after the time limit, and it missed its target. And now Israel's going out. These guys gotta calm down. Ridiculous..."

During a phone call following his public tirade, Trump warned Netanyahu in "exceptionally firm" terms not to retaliate against Iran's violation of the US-brokered ceasefire, a White House source told Axios.

The Prime Minister's Office subsequently laid out the timeline of Iranian missile attacks and its own response earlier Tuesday, stressing that the ceasefire was set for 7 a.m., and four hours earlier, "Israel attacked forcefully in the heart of Tehran, hitting regime targets and killing hundreds of Basij and Iranian security forces."

"Shortly before the ceasefire went into effect, Iran launched a barrage of missiles, one of which claimed the lives of four of our citizens in Beersheba," continued the statement.

"At 7:06 a.m., Iran launched one missile into Israeli territory and at 10:25 a.m., two more missiles. The missiles were intercept-

ed or fell in open areas without casualties or damage. In response to Iran's violations, the Air Force destroyed a radar array near Tehran."

Trump did not mention the slain Israeli civilians in his tirade, which came before he left the White House for a NATO summit in The Netherlands.

Also Tuesday, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said that "despite the phenomenal achievement, we must keep our feet on the ground. Many challenges lie ahead. We must remain focused; there is no time to rest on our laurels."

"We have concluded a significant chapter, but the campaign against Iran is not over. We are entering a new phase, one that builds upon the achievements of the current operation. We have set Iran's nuclear project back by years, and the same goes for its missile program," Zamir said during an assessment, according to remarks provided by the IDF.

"Now, the focus returns to Gaza, to bringing the hostages home and toppling Hamas rule," he added.

Israel and Iran entered into open conflict on June 13 when Israel launched airstrikes targeting Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile program. Israel said the campaign was necessary to prevent the Islamic Republic from realizing its declared plan to destroy the Jewish state.

Iran retaliated to Israel's attacks by launching over 550 ballistic missiles and around 1,000 drones at Israel. Iran's missile attacks killed 28 people and wounded thousands in Israel, according to health officials and hospitals. Missiles hit apartment buildings, a university, and a hospital, causing heavy damage.

US forces bombed three crucial nuclear sites in Iran on Sunday, ending more than a week of speculation over whether it would join the campaign. Iran retaliated Monday evening with a missile attack on a major US airbase in Qatar that did not cause any casualties, and hours later Trump announced the ceasefire, which was implemented Tuesday.

Trump plays deft hand with Iran-Israel ceasefire but doubts remain



WASHINGTON

With his surprise announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, US President Donald Trump has turned his flair for social media into diplomatic deftness, despite continued uncertainty in the Middle East.

Israel, Iran and Trump himself all declared victory after 12 days of conflict that culminated Saturday in the United States bombing Iran's key nuclear sites.

After facing criticism — even within his base — for breaking his campaign promises against military intervention abroad, Trump was able to show a quick way out, and to portray himself, despite the bombing, as a peacemaker.

"I don't think the Israeli government was able to sustain a long-term war, but I think the main factor here was President Trump. He did not want to see a new war in the region break out under his watch," said Will Todman, a senior fellow at the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"That is what changed the calculation for Israel and for Iran as well."

Trump startled even close aides and allies by announcing the ceasefire on social media late Monday, the middle of the night in the Middle East — just after Iran fired missiles at a US base in Qatar, in what appeared to be a choreographed response as the rockets were easily shot down.

Trump chose not to

ed Qatar, did the hard work of quiet diplomacy as they sought a return to calm in their region.

"Trump vocally used his troll power to try to restrain the actions of Israel and Iran, but that matters less compared with the role that these countries continuously play," Katulis said of Gulf Arab states.

Katulis, who worked on the Middle East for former president Bill Clinton, said the Trump administration's tactical military operations, combined with "a heavy dose of strategic communications" confused Americans and global actors alike "about what it is we're actually trying to get done."

A prolonged US military campaign "had the potential to really fracture President Trump's own base of support," said Jonathan Panikoff, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

But now, "my guess is the majority of his MAGA and other Republican base will stay relatively unified, even if they were unfrilled in some quarters," he said.

While traditional hawks of Trump's Republican Party largely cheered the Iran strikes, they were widely but not universally denounced by rival Democrats.

Annelle Sheline, who resigned from the State Department to protest policies under former president Joe Biden and is now at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said it was critical for Trump to enforce the ceasefire.

She noted Israel has bombed Lebanon and Gaza during truces, saying Netanyahu believed he enjoyed "America's unconditional support."

"Trump demonstrated that he can rein in Israel when he chooses to do so. Now he must do the same to insist on a ceasefire in Gaza," she said.

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growth. Chief guest of the function Karuna Shashtri Mahather was felicitated by both the organizations, following which a lively discussion providing valuable insights to the rich cultural heritage of Bharat took place. Vote of thanks was offered by Krishna Mriganka Barman and the meeting attended by Basistha Bujarbaruah, Kshetra Pracharak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Hiteswar Chakraborty of Pragya, Novanita Sarma of Buddha Chetana Bharat along with an esteemed gathering of scholars, students and common individuals interested in philosophy and spirituality, concluded by reciting national song Vande Mataram.

GUWAHATI

With an aim to explore the connections between Buddhist philosophy and Sanatan tradition of Bharat, an intriguing lecture was organized at Vivekananda Kendra in Uzan Bazar locality of the prehistoric city on 22 June 2025. Jointly organized by Pragya (a socio-cultural organization) and Buddha Chetana-Bharat (a social association), the lecture titled 'Buddhist Philosophy & Teachings in Bharatiya Sanatani Tradition', attracted a large number of distinguished personalities as listeners. The program began with the welcome speech by Arup Bujarbaruah preceded by the lighting of sacred lamps followed by a Bhakti song sung by Sharat Raag.

Buddhist philosophy, including the four noble truths outlining the nature of suffering and the path to liberation and also the eightfold path. He highlighted the wrong narrative, set in the last 120 to 150 years, that Buddhism is entirely separate from Hinduism. Another wrong narrative remains in circulation that Buddhism does not endorse idol worship and finally Indian culture. He also stated that British colonial administration and a section of Indian elements played a role in shaping the narrative of Buddhism as a distinct and separate religious practice from Hinduism.

"It is high time to stand strongly against the wrong narratives and highlight those similarities between Hinduism and Buddhism as both the religion originated in ancient Bharat sharing a common cultural and philosophical context and both traditions aims to achieve liberation or enlightenment," said Dutta, adding that the paths and interpretations may differ on both traditions but both recognize the importance of karma, dharma, and the pursuit of spiritual

Asom Gaurav Soumya- deep Dutta, while delivering the lecture stated key principles of



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ACTIVITY PROGRAM



10 JAN
NE Cultural Fest
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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. Subject to event schedule and availability.



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave
State of the river will be discussed 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.

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



Barak Festival
Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion



REGISTER HERE

Contact: **WP: 0721300019**
info@krcfoundation.org

10 JAN
Media Conclave
Media Conclave (Media Conclave, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'. Welcome your views, suggestions, proposals, queries & contribute for our sponsors, guides, speakers, members.



11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave
The 4th 5E For 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.



BARAK FESTIVAL 2025
PAINTING CARNIVAL
NE CULTURAL FEST
E-SPORTS
FILM FESTIVAL | EXHIBITION
BOOK CLUB | AWARDS & GUEST
RARE BIRDS | RECORDS LIVE

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

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'

10-12 JAN
E-Sports
Full-Blown Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



Barak Festival
Band Night | 10 JAN
Musical Night | 11 JAN

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10-12 JAN
Book Bank
Anti-Book Campaign Book Bank Drive | Donate | Reuse | Recycle

10-12 JAN
Book Club
Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

10-12 JAN
Painting Carnival
Water Colour and Oil and Saw Paper Campaign

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



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