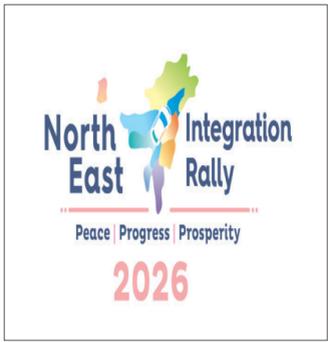




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VOLUME:1, ISSUE 563 | SILCHAR SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com ,www.krctimes.com

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PERSPECTIVE

Focus is a mindset!

Gauhati High Court hosts state-level consultation on safeguarding girl child

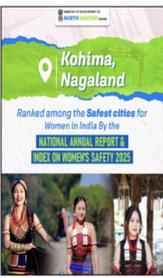
GUWAHATI
The Gauhati High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee on August 30 organised a state-level multi-stakeholders consultation on 'Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment' in partnership with Assam Child Protection Society and UNICEF.

The day-long event, inaugurated by Justice Kalyan Rai Surana, chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee, brought together adolescents, young adults, and delegates from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Nagaland to discuss progress, challenges, and solutions in child protection.

Participants shared experiences of child marriage, violence, and resilience, while panel discussions focused on inter- and intra-departmental cooperation, the role of the judiciary and law enforcement, and the realities faced by frontline workers. Experts emphasised strengthening data systems, victim support services, helplines, survivor care, and safeguarding children in online spaces.

This consultation is part of the preparations for the 11th Annual National Child Protection Stakeholders' Consultation scheduled for October under the guidance of the Supreme Court of India.

WHO SAID WHAT



They say Delhi has metros, Mumbai has nightlife... Kohima has peace of mind. Safest city for women in India - that's how we do it in Nagaland.

~ Temjen Imna Along, Tourism & Higher Education Minister, Nagaland

Northeast set to become South East Asia's healthcare hub: Sonowal



GUWAHATI
Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said that with improved connectivity, new medical institutions and enhanced healthcare schemes, the Northeast is poised to emerge as a hub of South East Asia.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He observed that the health system has been reshaped from infrastructure to access, from affordability to innovation.

He spoke about the rapid expansion of the AIIMS network, noting that from only seven in 2014, India now has 23, including AIIMS Guwahati, which has brought world-class healthcare to the doorstep of the people of the Northeast.

India now has 23, including AIIMS Guwahati, which has brought world-class healthcare to the doorstep of the people of the Northeast

He also referred to flagship reforms such as Ayushman Bharat-PM Jan Arogya Yojana, the world's largest health assurance scheme, which has provided financial protection to over 55 crore citizens and the Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana, which with more than 11,000 kendras has brought affordable medicines to millions of families. He underlined that medical education has also witnessed historic expansion, with the number of colleges and MBBS seats more than

doubling in the last decade, thereby addressing the shortage of doctors and specialists. Sonowal emphasized that modern diagnostic facilities are being established across AIIMS and district hospitals to strengthen early detection and treatment of diseases such as cancer, stroke and cardiac conditions. He also stressed the government's focus on green and sustainable healthcare, citing AIIMS Guwahati as a model of eco-friendly hospital design that reflects a balance between progress and environmental care. Notably, the event INI Radiology Update 2025, organized by the Radiological Forum for Institutes of National Importance (INIs) in collaboration with AIIMS Guwahati, was inaugurated on Saturday. Sonowal described the conclave as a landmark initiative that not only strengthens academic exchange but also reinforces India's vision of accessible and innovative healthcare. He congratulated AIIMS Guwahati and the organizing committee for bringing together experts and young doctors from across the country, noting that the institution has positioned the Northeast as a rising hub of medical excellence.

PM Modi may visit strife-torn Manipur in September



NEW DELHI

If everything falls into place, Prime Minister Narendra Modi may visit the strife-torn state of Manipur in September. According to a report by the Bengali portal Ei Samay, the Prime Minister is also expected to visit Churachandrapur, the epicenter of the violence that has caused distress in the state.

Modi has faced criticism from the Opposition for neglecting the northeastern state amid his nu-

merous foreign trips. He is expected to be in Assam and Mizoram from September 12-14. Incidentally, the last time Modi visited Manipur was in 2022. During his trip to the Northeast, he may also visit Manipur. The Prime Minister is expected to meet with the people affected by the violence and listen to their concerns.

The visit is part of the Prime Minister's ongoing efforts to address regional issues. Details of the trip will be confirmed as the scheduled dates approach.

Rs 51.49 crore lost to cyber fraud in Tripura, says DGP

AGARTALA

Cybercrimes in Tripura have increased, with fraudsters scamming residents of Rs 51.49 crore since 2021. However, Tripura Police have managed to recover Rs 33.84 lakh through prompt intervention.

Tripura's Director General of Police (DGP), Anurag, stated at an awareness workshop that 269 people fell victim to cyber fraud, with Rs 33.84 lakh recovered so far. Additionally, 20,387 bank accounts containing Rs 5.76 crore have been frozen, with recovery expected soon.

The DGP linked the rise in cybercrimes to a lack of awareness and people's greed, which makes them vulnerable to scams like fake government representatives, investment schemes, and offers of fake loans or prizes. He also highlighted an emerging trend of "digital arrests" and social media blackmail.

Cyber fraudsters often operate from outside the state or even abroad, using "mule accounts," fake SIM cards, and VPNs to evade detection.

A senior officer from the Cy-



ber Crime wing explained that delays in reporting scams give fraudsters an advantage.

The DGP provided data showing an alarming increase in the amount of money lost to cybercrimes: Rs 1.98 crore in 2021, Rs 4.62 crore in 2022, Rs 9 crore in 2023, Rs 25.54 crore in 2024, and Rs 9.77 crore up until July 2025. He credited the drop in 2025 figures to extensive awareness campaigns.

The DGP urged citizens to fol-

low better cyber safety practices, like using secure passwords and avoiding suspicious calls or links, sharing cases of victims who lost Rs 2.3 crore in an investment scam and Rs 18 lakh in a fake franchise scheme.

Victims are advised to immediately report financial fraud by dialing 1930 or 112, or by contacting their local police station or the Agartala Cyber Crime Police Station.

Nagaland Medical Students Oppose Plan to Regularise 280 Health Workers Without Exams

KOHIMA

Medical students in Nagaland staged a protest on Saturday against the state government's decision to regularise 280 contractual health workers without conducting competitive examinations.

The demonstration, led by the Nagaland Medical Students' Association (NMSA), took place outside the Department of Health and Family Welfare office in Kohima.

The protest follows an August 18 government notification announcing the regularisation of COVID-era appointees, including medical officers, dentists, Ayush practitioners, and nurses, through a departmental screening process. NMSA officials argued that this bypasses constitutionally mandated recruitment procedures and violates the Nagaland Health Service Rules, 2006, which require all Class-1 gazetted posts to be filled through the Nagaland Public Service Commission (NPSC).

"This decision undermines meritocracy and violates Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution, which guarantee equality before the law and equal opportunity in public employment," NMSA president Pito S. Rochill said during the protest.

The student body demanded an immediate revocation of the notification and insisted that all future appointments in the health sector be conducted through open competitive examina-

tions via NPSC. "We are not against those who served during the COVID-19 pandemic. But if regularisation must happen, it should be done through fair and open procedures," NMSA general secretary Bonoto P. Zimo added.

The protesters warned that bypassing written exams for Class-1 posts sets a dangerous precedent. "Why are recruitment rules in place if they are not to be followed?" Rochill asked, calling the government's move "illegal and arbitrary."

While a previous court plea regarding the issue was dismissed, NMSA leaders stressed that the dismissal does not give the government authority to proceed unchecked. They are in the process of appealing and exploring legal remedies if necessary.

According to sources, the regularisation process, including medical fitness tests and interviews, began on August 27. NMSA leaders criticised the lack of prior notification and alleged that the process lacked transparency.

The protesters called on civil society, student organisations, NGOs, and the general public to support their demand for justice and fair recruitment. Rochill said, "If we allow this to happen, we are accepting a system that ignores merit and institutional integrity. We will continue this protest with our members, parents, and supporters until the order is revoked."

SILCHAR

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is set to begin a two-day visit to Barak Valley on Sunday afternoon, blending cultural homage with development commitments ahead of the 2026 Assam Assembly elections.

The visit comes shortly after the BJP-led NDA's significant victory in the May 2025 panchayat elections, securing 300 of 397 Zila Parishad seats. This tour aims to solidify support in a region crucial to the alliance's electoral strategy.

Sarma's visit will start at 2:30 PM with a darshan at the Kachakanti Temple in Udharbond, symbolizing spiritual unity. At 3:15 PM, he will unveil a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Silchar, highlighting infrastructure development and regional cohesion.

The highlight of the day will be the inauguration of Barak Valley's first Mangal Pandey statue at Sahid Mangal Pandey Chowk at 4:00 PM, a Rs 15 lakh bronze tribute expected to attract large crowds.

Later, Sarma will visit the residence of the late MP Kamalendu Bhattacharjee and attend a

Ahead of 2026 Elections, Assam CM Embarks on Barak Valley Visit



youth-focused event at the Silchar Tennis Club.

The evening will feature the release of a book on Vaishnavite philosophy and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's vision, reinforcing the BJP's ideological stance.

Sarma will visit Patharkandi in Assam's Sribhumi district on September 1 to focus on flood relief and connectivity before returning to Guwahati.

In the 2021 Assam Assembly elections, the BJP won 60 of the

126 seats, forming a government with the NDA.

With Barak Valley's 15 seats up for grabs, Sarma's visit blends heritage and progress, potentially strengthening the NDA's 2026 goal of securing 95 seats.

As the CM focuses on unity, it remains to be seen whether this visit will lead to lasting development or serve primarily as electoral momentum. The valley's response may shape Assam's political future.



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VOLUME:1, ISSUE 563

MIG-21: THE LEGEND OF INDIAN SKIES

As the Indian Air Force prepares to bid farewell to the MiG-21 with a formal ceremony in September, an era in India's aviation history quietly draws to a close. For over six decades, this Russian-origin fighter jet has been the backbone of the IAF, shaping its combat capabilities and writing some of the most glorious chapters in India's military history. The MiG-21's journey with the IAF began in 1963, and since then, it has become synonymous with India's air power. During the 1965 war, it established itself as a formidable interceptor. In 1971, it turned the tide in India's favour, delivering decisive blows deep inside enemy territory. The audacious strike on the Governor's House in Dhaka on December 14, 1971, which precipitated Pakistan's surrender two days later, is a story etched in golden letters in the annals of military history. No other fighter in India's inventory has a war record as distinguished and impactful as the MiG-21. The aircraft's relevance did not diminish with time. It proved its mettle again in the Kargil War of 1999 under Operation Safed Sagar. And even in the 21st century, when fourth- and fifth-generation fighters dominate the skies, the MiG-21 continued to make headlines. The downing of a Pakistani F-16 by a MiG-21 Bison during the 2019 Balakot standoff remains an iconic moment—a testament to its enduring capability and the skill of IAF pilots.

Yet, every legend must eventually bow out. The MiG-21, despite its illustrious career, could not defy the laws of time and technology. Modern warfare demands multi-role capabilities, advanced avionics, stealth, and network-centric warfare readiness attributes beyond the reach of this Cold War-era design. The recent spate of crashes and the difficulty in sourcing spare parts were clear indications that its operational life was stretched beyond its limit. Safety concerns, coupled with maintenance challenges, made the decision inevitable. As Air Chief Marshal rightly said, "Everything has a time and place. The technology is outdated, and it is time to move to new platforms."

The IAF has already embarked on its next phase, with indigenous Tejas fighters gradually taking the place once held by the MiG-21. While the MiG-21 was a gift of Indo-Russian cooperation—its licensed production at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited marking the high point of bilateral defence ties—Tejas represents a leap into indigenous capability. However, whether any aircraft can match the combat record and emotional resonance of the MiG-21 remains an open question. The farewell of the MiG-21 is also a reminder of the strategic significance of Indo-Russian defence cooperation. This partnership began with the MiG-21 deal and evolved into an enduring military alliance encompassing advanced aircraft, tanks, submarines, and air defence systems like the S-400. The transfer of technology for MiG-21 production was unprecedented in its time and laid the foundation for India's aerospace industry. In that sense, the MiG-21 was not just a fighter jet—it was a symbol of friendship, technological progress, and strategic trust. For the pilots who flew it, the MiG-21 will always remain special. Its simplicity, raw power, and agility made it a pilot's aircraft. Many IAF legends earned their wings and wrote their stories of bravery in its cockpit. Generations of air warriors have lived and fought with the MiG-21, and their exploits will inspire future aviators for years to come.

September's farewell at Chandigarh, the very base where the MiG-21 was first inducted, will be a solemn occasion. It marks the end of a historic chapter but also the beginning of a new era powered by indigenous innovation. As India looks forward to Tejas, Rafale, and future-generation fighters, the MiG-21 will remain immortal—a timeless sentinel of the skies that guarded India for 62 years. The last sortie of the Air Chief himself is a salute on behalf of an entire nation to an aircraft that was more than metal and engines—it was an emotion, a legacy, and a legend. The MiG-21 may retire, but its roar will echo forever in the skies of history.

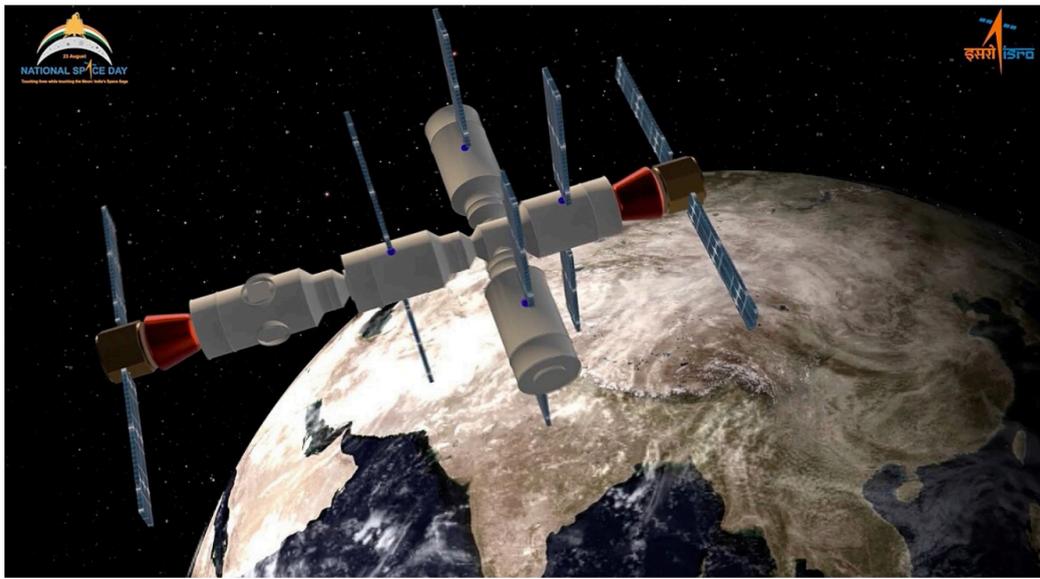
QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't worry about whether or not I am now happy. Today is only chapter one. We have yet to write the book."

- Lois Wyse

'India will have its own space station by 2035'

Gaganyaan is poised to be a pivotal moment for India's space aspirations, reaffirming its human spaceflight capabilities and advancing scientific knowledge with Earth-benefiting applications, says Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State, Science and Technology in the interview.



Here are excerpts:
Q/ What will be the biggest outcome of Gaganyaan for India's space future?

India's ascent in the space sector has already begun and is recognised globally. We are no longer followers, we are equal partners in international collaborations. The Gaganyaan mission will mark another defining moment. It will not just reaffirm India's capabilities in human spaceflight but add to our scientific knowledge. Alongside experiments like those performed by astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station on microgravity, agriculture and life sciences, the mission will provide insights with applications on earth. This will further establish India as a leader in space exploration while we continue to use space technology for infrastructure, development and ease of living.

Q/ With young astronauts like Shukla coming in, how crucial is the role of youth in shaping our human spaceflight journey?
Youth are indispensable to India's future in every sector, including space. More than 70 per cent of our population is below the age of 40, so naturally, they are the torch-bearers of Viksit Bharat. In space, youth have an edge because of the physical and mental adaptability required. For instance, among the four astronauts trained for Gaganyaan, Shubhanshu was the youngest and that was an advantage. Space missions demand quick acclimatisation, something younger individuals can handle more efficiently.

Q/ Do you think Gaganyaan will open doors for scientists, engineers and women astronauts?

Absolutely. There is no distinction between men and women in space science. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi first announced Gaganyaan on August 15, 2018, he said Bharat ka ek beta ya beti wado go to space. At present, the four selected astronauts happen to be men from the Air Force, largely because they possessed advanced training. But going forward, we will see astronauts from outside the forces, including women. Globally, women have been at the forefront of space exploration. Even in India, many ISRO projects have been led by women scientists, whether it was Chandrayaan, Aditya or others.

Q/ Will Gaganyaan pave the way for India to join international human spaceflight missions or set up its own space

station?
India is scheduled to set up its own space station, named Bharatiya Antariksha Station, by 2035. The prime minister has also referred to the "Sudarshan suraksha chakra", where space technology will play a key role in national security. So, 2035 will be a landmark year. ... Five years after that, India aims to send missions to the surface of the moon with humans on board.

Q/ With India advancing in semiconductor and AI technologies, how is the government aligning the semiconductor mission with space-grade needs for projects like the Bharatiya Antariksha Station?

Semiconductors will have wide applications, including in space missions. Similarly, small modular reactors will be vital, not just in dense or inaccessible regions on earth but also for long-duration space expeditions. These technologies will be crucial for sustaining future projects like the space station.

Q/ What kind of experiments would you like to see Indian astronauts perform during missions to the moon or Mars?

In the recent mission, experiments were grouped into seven categories. Life sciences were especially important. For instance, the study of myogenesis-muscle wasting and regeneration in microgravity has direct relevance for conditions like cancer, diabetes or even recovery from fractures on earth. Another set studied cognitive effects of prolonged screen exposure, which is highly relevant in today's digital era. We also experimented with growing seedlings like fenugreek in microgravity, which could aid research in regenerative biology and genetic applications.

The key point is that space experiments are not limited to astronauts in orbit, they yield benefits for people on earth and advance the idea of 'Vishwaguru Bharat'.

Q/ After SpaDeX, when will India begin monetising space docking and satellite servicing for global clients?

We have already started gaining experience with docking and undocking through SpaDeX. The upcoming Chandrayaan-4 mission, expected around 2028, will involve multiple modules performing complex docking and undocking manoeuvres. This will give us the expertise required for larger projects like the space station. Once space tourism becomes viable, docking technology will also be critical for passenger safe-

ty. Over time, monetisation will follow as India offers docking, servicing and tourism infrastructure for global clients.

Q/ India plans to launch 52 spy satellites in five years through public-private partnerships. How will national security be ensured in such collaborations?

Safeguards are already in place. We have created IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre), which regulates public-private partnerships in space. It determines the scale and nature of collaborations, ensuring security considerations are fully addressed. At the same time, we have liberalised the sector by permitting foreign direct investment. This balance of regulation and openness allows innovation without compromising national interests.

Q/ A Rs 1,000-crore venture capital fund has been cleared, but space-tech funding fell last year. How will this fund support startups?

Until a few years ago, startups in space were almost unheard of. Today, we have nearly 400, with some already becoming successful entrepreneurs. Startups are not just about launching rockets, they span areas like mapping, smart cities, agriculture, telemedicine and telecommunications.

This fund is meant to give them the financial support needed to scale up. Space has suddenly become a lucrative career option. Aerospace engineering, once a niche stream, is now among the most sought-after branches in IITs. That shift itself shows the rising opportunities in this sector.

Q/ India has targeted 8 per cent of the global space market by 2033. Beyond satellite launches, what technologies will help India compete with SpaceX and China?

Much of the focus is on rockets and launches, but nearly half of space applications are on earth. Space technology is integrated into agriculture, infrastructure and even warfare. Take the PM Gati Shakti scheme; it uses satellite imagery to save time, money and paperwork, directly contributing to economic growth. Similarly, space inputs help farmers decide the timing of sowing and cropping. These savings are as valuable as wealth generation. That is why we expect India's space economy, currently around \$8 billion, to grow fivefold in the next decade to \$40-45 billion, helping India climb global rankings.

Q/ Would you encourage civilians, not

just Air Force pilots, to join India's astronaut pool?

Definitely. At the moment, Air Force pilots are better prepared because of their training in high-altitude jets, but this is just the beginning. In the future, our astronaut pool will expand to include civilians, women, biotechnologists, space physicians and even media professionals to record missions in real time. As the ecosystem grows, India will need a larger and more diverse pool of astronauts to meet its ambitious plans.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Dear PUCL, please take note of the following report.

@PUCLIndia

While you were busy engineering Meetei as Anti-India, you are taking sides of Pro US Chin-Kuki Narco-Terrorist Separatist Groups. US Evangelist

Arrested in Nepal for

Alleged Links with Kuki

Militants Kathmandu:

Daniel Stephen

Courney, an American

Christian evangelist, has

been arrested by Nepal

Immigration Authorities

on charges of unlawful

activities. According to

reports cited by Indian

Defence Update on X,

Courney allegedly made

a secret visit to Manipur

where he is accused

of supplying drones,

military equipment,

and training to Kuki

militants.

~ Khuraijam Athouba,

Indigenous People's

Rights Activist



WHEN UNITY COULD HAVE CHANGED INDIA'S FATE

PROF SURESH CHANDER

Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh never met, the Sikhs and Marathas stood apart at Panipat, and a century later Sikhs and Scindhias sided with the East India Company. Our history books remain silent on these lost chances that shaped centuries of subjugation.

History often turns not only on the wars that were fought but also on the alliances that never materialised. In India's past, moments of disunity proved more decisive than defeats in battle. The 17th and 18th centuries show how fractured leadership and missed opportunities left the subcontinent vulnerable first to Afghan invaders and later to British colonists.

Chhatrapati Shivaji (1630-1680), crowned in 1674, was a visionary who laid the foundations of the Maratha Empire through daring campaigns, administrative reforms, and a relentless defence of swaraj against Mughal domination. Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708), the tenth Sikh Guru, was equally transformative. In 1699, he created the Khalsa, turning the Sikhs into a spiritual and martial brotherhood that could withstand persecution.

Both men faced the same adversary: Aurangzeb (1618-1707), the Mughal emperor whose bigotry and cruelty alienated vast sections of his empire. Shivaji fought him on the battlefield; Guru Gobind Singh resisted him through the sword and the pen, famously writing his

Zafarnama to the emperor.

Yet Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh never met. Their struggles ran parallel but separate. Imagine if they had joined hands—the Marathas striking from the Deccan and the Khalsas from the north. Aurangzeb's imperial power, already stretched, might have collapsed decades earlier. Instead, the Mughal empire lingered until Aurangzeb's death in 1707, leaving a fractured legacy that others would exploit.

The Missed Opportunity at Panipat, 1761

By the mid-18th century, the Marathas had risen as India's paramount power, their influence stretching from the Deccan deep into the north. The Sikhs, though fragmented into twelve misls (confederacies), had become a formidable presence in Punjab, harassing Afghan invaders and asserting control over the countryside.

In 1761, Ahmad Shah Abdali—also known as Ahmad Shah Durrani—marched into India with a vast Afghan army, intent on crushing Maratha power. The Third Battle of Panipat followed on January 14, 1761. It was one of the bloodiest battles of the 18th century. Contemporary accounts suggest that over 100,000 men were killed in a single day. The Marathas fought with extraordinary bravery, but they stood alone.

The Sikhs, though strong in Punjab, did not align with the Marathas. Distrust, distance, and disunity kept them apart. Abdali's forces butchered the Marathas, leaving their empire gravely weakened. Panipat was more than a battlefield

disaster; it was a turning point that destroyed the prospect of a united indigenous power dominating northern India. Had the Sikhs and Marathas joined forces, Abdali might have been crushed and the subsequent century of political instability, which opened the doors for British expansion, could have been avoided.

A Century Later: Loyalty to the Company

A hundred years after Panipat, disunity once again defined India's fate. In 1857, the great revolt, against the East India Company broke out. Soldiers, peasants, princes, and common people across north India rose against British rule in what came to be remembered as the First War of Independence.

Yet the Sikh armies, who had been defeated in the Anglo-Sikh wars of 1845-46 and 1848-49, chose to side with the British rather than the rebels. The memory of betrayal by both Hindu and Muslim rulers during their own wars shaped this decision. Similarly, the Scindhias of Gwalior—descendants of the once-mighty Marathas—remained loyal to the Company, helping suppress the uprising.

The result was predictable. The rebellion, fractured and unsupported by India's strongest military forces, collapsed within a year. Once again, the absence of unity prolonged foreign domination—this time for nearly a century more.

The Price of Disunity

The tragedy is not that Indians lacked courage or vision. Figures like Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh embody both in abundance. The Marathas

at Panipat fought with legendary valour, and the freedom fighters of 1857 displayed extraordinary determination. But courage divided cannot overcome organised adversaries. Abdali at Panipat and the British in 1857 triumphed less because of their strength and more because India's strongest powers stood apart.

Contrast this with Europe. When Napoleon Bonaparte threatened continental order, Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Austria—often bitter rivals—repeatedly set aside differences to form coalitions. They fought together, again and again, until Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo in 1815. Europe learned the value of unity against a greater foe; India, tragically, did not.

Conclusion

If Shivaji and Guru Gobind Singh had joined hands, Aurangzeb's tyranny might have ended sooner. If the Sikhs and Marathas had stood together at Panipat, Abdali might have been destroyed. If both had resisted siding with the Company in 1857, the struggle for freedom might have taken a different trajectory.

The history is not only about what happened; it is also about what did not. And in India's case, what did not happen—unity at decisive moments—proved fatal. This article presents the facts—leaving it to historians to explain why that unity never materialised.

(The author is former Head of Computer Engineering Department in G B Pant University of Agriculture & Technology)

BTC Polls: UPPL releases fresh list, Congress & BPF respond in multi-cornered race

KOKRAJHAR

With just 22 days left for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections, political parties in the region have intensified preparations, unveiling fresh lists of candidates as the battle for control of the council enters a decisive phase.

The ruling United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) on Sunday released its second list of 16 candidates, approved by the Central Working Committee and announced by party president Pramod Boro.

Key nominees include Boro himself from Goibari, Ranjit Basumatary (Nichima), Ukhil Mushahary (Kachugaon), Khampa Borgoyari (Chirang Duar), and Mariam Toppo (Nonai Serfang).

The list also features a mix of seasoned leaders and new entrants such as Prosen Brahma, Mursida Begum, Ranju Ahmed, and Gobinda Chandra Basumatary, reflecting a strategy of balancing experience with fresh representation.

The UPPL had earlier declared its first list of 18 candidates on August 22, sparking both celebrations and protests



in different constituencies. Boro, whose name was absent from the first phase, had reassured supporters that the party core committee was working with a clear strategy.

On Saturday, other major players including the Congress, Bodoland People's Front (BPF), and Alternative Party of

Boroland (APB) also declared their candidates.

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) announced a large slate of 37 names, signalling its intent to expand its presence in BTR politics.

Among the key figures are Rancheana Basumatary (Jamduar), Ranana Jay

Narzary (Soraibil), Kwrrwm Mushahary (Kachugaon), Sahar Ali (Fakiragram), Dwimu Roje (Dotma), and Matilal Basumatary (Banargaon).

The BPF, led by Hagrama Mohilary, released its second list of 10 candidates, including Jangila Hazowary (Manas Serfang), Khalilur Rahman (Thuribari), Diganta Goyari (Salbari), Swmkhwr Boro (Koklabari), and Jiten Muchahary (Goibari). This comes after its first list of 22 names announced on August 5.

The relatively new Alternative Party of Boroland (APB) also unveiled eight nominees in its second phase, with names like Md Delwar Hossain (Guma), Harkuliash Basumatary (Jamduar), Nara Basumatary (Soraibil), and Manoj Mushahary (Banargaon).

The party is seeking to establish itself as a credible challenger to the established forces.

With the UPPL, Congress, BPF, APB, BJP, and other regional outfits now fielding candidates across constituencies, the BTC elections are shaping up to be a high-stakes, multi-cornered contest.

Thadou leader Pu Nehkam Jomhao murdered

SUSHANTA ROY

DIPHU: A wave of grief has engulfed the community following the brutal abduction and murder of Pu Nehkam Jomhao, a 59-year-old chairman of the Thadou Literature Society (TLS) and local shopkeeper. The incident occurred around 7:30 PM on August 30 at his residence in Chonghang Veng, Manja, around seventeen kilometers from Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam. Authorities report that Kuki militants kidnapped and killed him, confessing to the act, before discarding his body in the Jamuna River under Manja police station's jurisdiction.

The team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is making every effort to locate the body, but continuous rainfall has caused the Jamuna River to swell, and as of this report, the deceased's body remains could not be fished out. Six suspects have been arrested by the Karbi Anglong Police today including a village headman in con-

nection with the crime, though the prime motive behind the murder remains unclear.

The Thadou Students' Association-General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) in an obituary message has mentioned that, Pu Nehkam Jomhao had become a target due to his courageous participation in the Imphal Peace Meeting, where he worked tirelessly to foster unity between the Thadou and Meitei communities.

Known for his dedication to dialogue and reconciliation, he faced opposition from anti-peace elements intent on disrupting harmony. His death is regarded as a profound loss to the Thadou tribe, where he was a cherished guardian of language, literature, and cultural identity.

The Thadou Students' Association-General Headquarters (TSA-GHQ) in its message has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of this community leader, highlighting the significant void left by his untimely demise.

Arunachal activist accuses NHPC of violating forest laws on Dibang project

ITANAGAR

Local environmental activist Rakhini Mipi has voiced serious concerns regarding the construction of the 2,880 MW Dibang Multipurpose Project (DMP) in Arunachal Pradesh Lower Dibang Valley district.

Mipi has accused the NHPC Limited of "irresponsible work ethics" and several significant violations of environmental laws.

According to Mipi, the NHPC has allegedly violated key legislation, including the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, the Forest Rights Act of 2006, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974.

He claimed that construction activities, particularly for tunnels and approach roads, have involved the reckless dumping of debris, or "muck," directly into the Dibang River.

After his repeated appeals to authorities were ignored, Mipi said he was forced to file a case against the company with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to seek intervention.

Mipi's concerns were further validated during a personal inspection on July 13, where he documented numerous violations along the approach roads from Asoh Pani to the project site. He reported finding trees that had been indiscriminately felled not just for construction, but also for creating labor camps and for use as firewood. This is in direct violation of regulations that mandate providing LPG gas for cooking to all laborers.

Tripura minister condemns alcohol, DJ use during idol immersions

AGARTALA

Tripura's ARDD and SC Welfare Minister Sudhangshu Das has voiced concern over the practice of idol immersions accompanied by alcohol consumption and loud DJ music, calling it inconsistent with traditional Hindu cultural values.

The minister emphasised that such practices deviate from the sanctity and decorum of religious rituals, urging communities to adhere to traditional customs during festivals.

"Immersing the idol of Thakur while drinking

alcohol and dancing with DJ music is not the culture of traditional Hinduism. Therefore, I request all the well-informed people of our society to come forward against this bad culture," Das stated.

The minister further emphasised the need to guide the younger generation on the right path through correct and spiritual practices.

"We have to remove the wrong path and take it to the right path," he said.

Concluding his message, Das extended his wishes for good health and a meaningful life for all.

Guv Bhalla steps in as fuel shortage grips Manipur, 192-vehicle convoy rolls out from Jiribam

IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has reviewed the depleting stocks of fuel and LPG in the State in the aftermath of the frequent landslides along the NH-2 and NH-37, the two lifelines of the State, officials said on Saturday. The review meeting was held on Friday.

In order to replenish the stocks and ensure adequate availability of fuel for domestic and commercial requirements, the meeting decided that the State Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (CAF&PD) Department, in coordination with the State police and Indian Oil Corporation Limited, would arrange a special convoy exclusively for bringing petroleum fuel (petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel) and LPG, according to a press release issued by CAF&PD sec-



retary N Kheda Varta Singh on Saturday.

The convoy, which left Jiribam in the early hours of Saturday, consists of 158 tankers carrying petrol and diesel, five trucks carrying ATF, and 29 trucks transporting LPG. The vehicles are expected to reach Imphal within two to three days, the release stated.

The Manipur Government has assured that all necessary

steps are being taken to ensure adequate fuel availability for both domestic and commercial requirements.

In the first week of August, the Churachandpur district administration, in coordination with the State Government and the Indian Air Force, successfully conducted the airdropping of essential commodities to landslide-affected remote villages under the Henglep subdivision.

According to official reports, around 18 villages under Henglep subdivision have remained cut off since July this year following multiple landslides due to incessant rainfall along the Churachandpur-Tipaimukh Road section of the National Highway 2. In another development, Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, accompanied by his wife Jyoti Bhalla, visited Andro town in Imphal East District on Saturday. The visit was undertaken to connect with the rich cultural heritage of the region and understand the concerns of the local community.

The Governor also witnessed the traditional rice wine making process. At the Common Facilitation Centre for Pottery and Terracotta Crafts, the Governor and his wife witnessed a wide array of indigenous pottery products, highlighting Andro's rich craftsmanship.

Nagaland's Kezoma village hosts first millet festival to promote climate-resilient crop

KOHIMA

The first edition of the Millet Festival was celebrated on Saturday at Zakie Ground in Kezoma village, Kohima district.

The event was organised by the Kezoma Village Council in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and supported by the Department of Tourism, Government of Nagaland.

President of the NDPP Agri & Allied Organisation and Managing Director of Okusa Toyota, Y. Vikheho Swu, attended as the special guest. In his address, Swu underscored the growing



importance of millets as climate-resilient crops, highlighting their nutritional value—rich in fibre and minerals, naturally gluten-free—as well as their role in boosting farmers' incomes and ensuring long-term food security.

The festival featured folk performances, speeches by village leaders, and displays showcasing Kezoma's rich agricultural heritage.

Organisers said the initiative seeks to raise awareness about millet's health benefits, encourage cultivation, and inspire younger generations to carry forward traditional farming practices.

Mizoram nears historic milestone as Bairabi-Sairang railway line nears completion

AIZAWL

The railway line spans 51.38 km, linking Aizawl to the national network. Engineers built 48 tunnels and 142 bridges across challenging terrain. Trial runs and safety checks completed with speeds up to 90 km/h approved.

Mizoram is on the verge of a historic achievement as the Bairabi-Sairang railway line nears completion, bringing the state capital Aizawl onto India's national railway network for the first time.

Spanning 51.38 kilometres, the project promises to revolutionize connectivity in the state, reducing travel time and opening new avenues for trade, tourism, education, and healthcare. Engineers have overcome challenging terrain, constructing 48 tunnels totaling over 12 kilometres and 142 bridges, including Bridge No. 196, which stands at 104 metres—the second-highest pier bridge in Indian Railways. The project also features five road overbridges and six un-

derpasses to integrate road and rail networks seamlessly.

Around 95 per cent of the physical work is complete, with 97 per cent of the funds utilised. The Northeast Frontier Railway conducted a successful trial run in May 2025, followed by safety inspections in June. The Commissioner of Railway Safety has cleared the line for passenger operations, with trains allowed to run at speeds of up to 90 km/h.

Once operational, the new rail link will cut the Guwahati-Aizawl journey from 14-18 hours by road to about 12 hours by train. The Sairang Railway Station, just 12 km from Aizawl, will serve as the capital's rail gateway with two platforms, three tracks, and modern facilities.

The project, whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, is set to be formally inaugurated by him on 13 September 2025, marking a landmark moment in Mizoram's development and strategic connectivity.

Manipur security forces intensify crackdown on militants, illegal activities; 8 arrested

IMPHAL

Manipur police and security forces have stepped up operations across the state, recovering arms, ammunition and contraband in recent days. Eight individuals were arrested.

The police, on August 30, detained Md. Sahid (35), of Sora Karanchi Mayai Leikai, Kakching district, at Tengnoupal check post and seized 40 boxes of illegal "WIN" cigarettes from his possession.

On the same day, an active cadre of the Revolutionary People's Front/People's Liberation Army (RPF/PLA), identified as Laishram Sanjoy Singh (52), of Sagolmang Khewa, Imphal East, was arrested from Yunnam Patlou Chingiel and a mobile phone was recovered from him.



Security forces also arrested four PLA cadres on August 29 from near border pillar 86 in Tengnoupal district. The arrested men were identified as Chabungbam Nanaocha Meeitei, 21, of Imphal East; Waikhom Thoi Meitei, 30, of Imphal East; Ningthoujam Rakesh, 25, of Thoubal; and Tekcham Nanao Singh, 25, of Imphal West.

In a separate operation on August 30, forces arrested an active cadre of the Socialist Revolutionary Party

(SOREPA), Maisnam Abhi Singh alias Khomba, 40, of Imphal West, from Sangaiprou FCI crossing. He was reportedly involved in extortion activities in the valley area, and demand letters of SOREPA, an Aadhaar card, and a two-wheeler were recovered from him. On August 29, another operation led to the arrest of PREPAK (Pro) cadre Konjengbam Bijen Singh alias Korou, 41, of Bishnupur district, from Tera Urak checkpoint.

A major cache of arms and explosives was also recovered during search operations. On August 30, forces recovered two DBBL guns, three pistols with magazines, two pump-action guns, two hand grenades, assorted live rounds, and communication sets from Kongba Maru Hill Range under Imphal East. Another recovery on the same day from the IVR connecting Ngairangbam and Longa Koreing villages in Imphal West yielded one SLR, one INSAS rifle, a modified .303 rifle, locally made weapons, pistols, magazines, night vision equipment, ammunition and two Baofeng radio sets.

Meanwhile, Manipur Police continued their drive against traffic violations. On August 30, a total of 57 challans were issued to offenders amounting to Rs. 1 lakh, while on August 29, tinted films were removed from nine vehicles.

Officials said the intensified operations underscore the security forces' commitment to curbing militant activities, illegal trade, and law-and-order violations across the state.

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Is 'new normal' to be defined by Chinese bullying, 'government's spinelessness': Congress



NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Congress attacked the Centre on Sunday and asked whether the "new normal" is to be defined by Chinese bullying and "government's spinelessness".

The Congress also asked whether the Modi government's push on reconciliation with China is de facto legitimising its territorial aggression.

In his meeting with President Xi in Tianjin, Modi said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Prime Minister Modi's meeting with Xi Jinping today must be evaluated in the following context - In June 2020, Chinese aggression in the Galway Valley cost 20 of our bravest of brave jawans to sacrifice their lives. Yet,

rather than identify the Chinese aggression, on June 19, 2020, Prime Minister Modi gave an (infamous) clean chit to China."

He said the Army Chief has demanded a full restoration of the status quo on the border with China in Ladakh. "Despite failing to achieve that, the Modi government has pushed forward on reconciliation with China, de facto legitimising their territorial aggression," he said.

On July 4, 2025, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt.

Gen Rahul Singh spoke forcefully and candidly on China's 'jugalbandi' with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, he said.

"Rather than respond to this unholy alliance, the Modi government has quietly accepted it as fait accompli and is now rewarding China with state visits," Ramesh said on X.

China has announced a gigantic hydel project on the Yarlung Tsangpo that has

very grave implications for our Northeast, he said, adding the "Modi government has not spoken a word on this issue".

Ramesh claimed that uncontrolled 'dumping' of imports from China continue to devastate our MSMEs.

"Unlike other countries, we have largely let the Chinese importers have free rein," he said.

"Is the 'new normal' to be defined by Chinese aggression and bullying and our Government's spinelessness?" Ramesh said.

In his televised opening remarks during his meeting with Xi, Modi said the welfare of 2.8 billion people is linked to cooperation between India and China.

The talks between the two leaders on the margins of the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in this northern Chinese city came against the backdrop of turbulence triggered by the Trump administration's tariff tussle.

Modi landed in Tianjin on Saturday evening from Japan in the second leg of his two-nation trip.

It is the Indian prime minister's first trip to China after the eastern Ladakh border row that began in May 2020.

The prime minister held talks with the Chinese president in October last year in Russia's Kazan, which took place days after India and China reached an understanding to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Welfare Of 2.8 Bn People Is Linked To India-China Ties: PM Modi To President Xi

TIANJIN

India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Chinese President Xi Jinping as the two leaders held wide-ranging talks on Sunday to reset the bilateral relations.

In his televised opening remarks, Modi said the welfare of 2.8 billion people is linked to cooperation between India and China.

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The prime minister held talks with the Chinese president in October last year in Russia's Kazan, which took place days after India and China reached an understanding to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh.

In his remarks, Modi noted that there is peace and stability along the border following last year's disengagement process, adding that direct flights between the two countries are being resumed.

The prime minister also made a mention of the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

There was consent between our Special Representatives on border management, he said.



India and China have a framework called the Special Representatives on the boundary question to address issues relating to the border.

"We are committed to take forward our cooperation based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity," Modi said.

The prime minister also congratulated Xi on China's successful presidency of the SCO.

The specific outcomes of the Modi-Xi talks are not yet known.

Ahead of his trip to Tianjin, Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order.

In an interview with Japan's The

Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi said stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

"Given the current volatility in world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order," Modi said in the interview published on Friday.

Modi's trip to China comes less than a fortnight after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India.

Following Wang's wide-ranging

talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the two sides unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship.

The measures included joint maintenance of peace along the contested frontier, reopening border trade and resuming direct flight services at the earliest.

In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump's tariff regime declared illegal — what next as case heads to US Supreme Court?

WASHINGTON

A US appeals court has dealt a major blow to President Donald Trump's trade policy, ruling that his sweeping use of emergency powers to impose tariffs was illegal. The ruling, while temporarily leaving the tariffs in place until October, has set the stage for a Supreme Court battle that could redefine presidential authority in trade. Here's a detailed look.

The court's decision

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, in a 7-4 ruling, said Trump exceeded his powers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

The judgment upheld an earlier ruling by the Court of International Trade, which had also struck down the tariffs.

However, the appeals court allowed the duties to stay in place until October 14, giving the White House time to appeal.

Trump reacted on Truth Social: "The United States of America will win in the end."

On April 2 (Liberation Day), Trump imposed a 10% baseline tariff on nearly all US trading partners. He also announced "reciprocal tariffs" of up to 50% on countries with which the US ran trade deficits.

Since returning to office in January, Trump invoked IEEPA to establish a 10% baseline tariff, with higher rates for dozens of economies, though AFP did not cite a maximum figure.

In addition, both agencies note that Trump used emergency powers to target Canada, Mexico and China, citing drug trafficking and migration as grounds for the duties.

Important distinction: The court ruling applies only to tariffs imposed under IEEPA. It does not affect Trump's steel, aluminium, auto or



China-specific tariffs levied under separate trade statutes.

Why did the court strike them down?

At the heart of the ruling lies the question of what counts as a "national emergency."

The court found that while IEEPA gives the president wide authority to regulate commerce during emergencies, it does not explicitly grant the power to impose tariffs or taxes.

The judges wrote: "The statute bestows significant authority on the President to regulate commercial transactions and the use of property, but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like."

In essence, the court rejected Trump's claim that trade deficits or drug flows across borders could be treated as emergencies warranting blanket tariffs.

Judges wrote that Congress was

unlikely to have intended to give presidents "unlimited authority" over tariffs.

The decision largely upheld a May ruling by a New York trade court, but allowed the tariffs to remain in place temporarily while the administration appeals to the US Supreme Court. Four dissenting judges sided with Trump, saying IEEPA is not an unconstitutional delegation of power, leaving a possible legal path for his team.

The ruling is not just about constitutional law — it carries enormous financial and diplomatic implications.

AP reports that tariff collections had surged to \$159 billion by July, more than double the revenue compared to the same period last year.

If the tariffs are struck down permanently, the US Treasury could face billions in refund claims from importers.

Trump used the tariffs as lever-

age to pressure the European Union, Japan, and the UK into signing new trade agreements.

AFP points out that if the tariffs collapse, these deals could unravel, leaving US negotiators empty-handed.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick warned the appeals court that suspending the tariffs would damage US "strategic interests" and undercut ongoing negotiations.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent went further, saying the US risked "dangerous diplomatic embarrassment" if the policy crumbled.

The Trump administration is preparing an appeal to the Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority. Until then, the tariffs remain in force.

If the Supreme Court upholds the lower court ruling, Trump will still have other legal avenues, though narrower:

These tools are more limited and would not allow Trump to replicate the sweeping powers he claimed under IEEPA.

If the courts permanently block Trump's use of IEEPA, India and other emerging economies stand to gain by avoiding across-the-board duties.

However, sector-specific tariffs, on steel, pharmaceuticals, or IT hardware, could still be imposed through other trade statutes, meaning Indian exporters are not fully in the clear.

This case is about more than tariffs. It is about whether a US president can use "emergency" powers to reshape global trade unilaterally.

If Trump wins at the Supreme Court, future presidents could wield tariffs as a standing foreign policy weapon, bypassing Congress.

If the court strikes him down, it will mark a historic limit on executive trade authority, reaffirming Congress's constitutional role in taxation and tariffs.

Red Cross chief warns Gaza City evacuation plan 'impossible' under current conditions



GENEVA

The head of the international Red Cross on Saturday denounced Israel's plans for a mass evacuation of Gaza City ahead of a military takeover, insisting there was no way it could be done safely.

"It is impossible that a mass evacuation of Gaza City could ever be done in a way that is safe and dignified under the current conditions," International Committee of the Red Cross president Mirjana Spoljaric said in a statement.

"Such an evacuation would trigger a massive population movement that no area in the Gaza Strip can absorb, given the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and the extreme shortages of food, water, shelter and medical care," she warned.

Her comments came after Israel's military on Friday declared Gaza City "a dangerous com-

bat zone", as it prepared to conquer the occupied Palestinian territory's largest city after almost two years of war.

The Israeli military did not call for the population to evacuate immediately but the army's Arabic-language spokesman, Avichay Adraee, said on Wednesday that the city's evacuation was "inevitable". Buildings that were destroyed during the Israeli ground and air operations stand in the northern Gaza Strip as seen from southern Israel, Saturday, Aug. 30, 2025.

Israel is under mounting pressure at home and abroad to end its devastating offensive in Gaza, where the vast majority of the population has been displaced at least once and the United Nations has declared a famine.

The UN estimates that nearly a million people currently live in Gaza governorate, which includes Gaza City and its surrounding

in the north of the territory. Any evacuation order "would be imposed on civilians who are already traumatised by months of fighting and terrified by what could come next", Spoljaric said.

"Many are unable to comply with evacuation orders because they are starving, sick, injured or suffering from physical disabilities," she pointed out, stressing that "all civilians are protected by international humanitarian law (IHL), whether they leave or stay behind, and must be allowed to return home".

Spoljaric highlighted that when evacuation orders are issued, Israel must do everything to ensure that civilians have satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition, and that families are not separated.

"These conditions cannot currently be met in Gaza," she said. "This makes any evacuation not only unfeasible but incomprehensible under the present circumstances."

The ICRC president reiterated the call for an immediate ceasefire, a mass-influx of aid and for Palestinian group Hamas to release its remaining Israeli hostages.

"Any further escalation of the conflict will only lead to more death, destruction and displacement," she said.

Trump's Tariffs: India's Second 1991 Moment



In an unexpected development, India now faces a 50 per cent tariff on its goods exports to the United States, a hurdle higher than that of almost any other country in the world.

As a result, the government needs to consider how it should respond.

While there are political considerations that it will need to take into account, the objective is clear from an economic point of view: Mitigate the damage, so India can return to rapid growth.

Unfortunately, this task is complicated because overseas prospects have dimmed even as the domestic economy has been slowing down.

How severe is this tariff shock?

will not only affect trade flows -- it will rattle investor confidence, disrupt supply chains, and chip away at India's long-term export competitiveness.

The real risk lies in these ripple effects, which extend far beyond the immediate numbers.

To understand why, consider the plight of three types of firms.

The first and the most obvious are global manufacturers. India has been pitching itself as the next global manufacturing hub, especially for firms exporting to the US or diversifying away from China.

This was seen as a potential game-changer for India's growth path.

With a young, increasingly

them, worsening US-India relations could make the parent firms wary of expanding here.

That would be a serious setback, since services exports have been a cornerstone of India's post-Covid growth.

Finally, consider domestic manufacturers. They may not export much but many of them rely heavily on foreign inputs.

If India even considers imposing retaliatory measures on the US, to add to those imposed earlier on China, it risks stalling their investment plans further.

The tariff shock, therefore, threatens to ripple through the entire economy. Added to this, high-frequency data already points to an economic slowdown.

Non-food bank credit growth has slipped to 10 per cent from 14 per cent a year ago, merchandise exports rose just 2 per cent in April-June, GST collections slowed to 6 per cent from 11 per cent, passenger vehicle sales have slumped, indicating sluggish urban demand, and the real estate boom of the past few

years has stalled, creating a growing stock of unsold homes in major cities.

In other words, the US tariff shock could not have come at a worse time.

How should India respond? First and foremost, India must resist the temptation to turn inward.

Protectionism has never delivered rapid growth -- India's own pre-1991 record proves it, and no other country has succeeded that way.

The US may be leaning protectionist now, but India cannot afford to repeat that mistake. Instead of turning inward, India should help its exporters by deepening trade ties with multiple other countries. The deal with the United Kingdom is a welcome step, while negotiations with the European Union are vital and must be expedited.

India should also pursue agreements with East and Southeast Asia, to integrate more firmly into global supply chains.

That will mean lowering its tariff and non-tariff barriers, which remain among the highest in Asia.

In today's interconnected world, a strategy of self-sufficiency would be self-defeating.

At the same time, Indian policymakers must move beyond fire-fighting and implement reforms that unlock India's growth potential.

Reviving private investment, boosting manufacturing competitiveness, and creating jobs at scale will require cutting red tape, simplifying regulations, improving the ease of doing business, and investing in skills and not just physical infrastructure.

Recent announcements -- such as the rationalisation of GST rates and the setting up a reforms committee -- are encouraging, but the real test will lie in the details and, above all, in implementation.

Finally, this setback must not push India into an anti-US stance.

Frictions are inevitable in such relationships, but the US remains far too important an economic partner to sideline.

India's long-term objective should be to strengthen, and not weaken, its economic engagement with the US, by negotiating progressively better and more comprehensive trade deals.

In many ways, this could be India's second 1991 moment.

The crisis may not be as visible this time, but the stakes are just as high: The economy is at a crucial crossroads, and any policy misstep now could trap India in lower-middle-income status for decades to come.



Many analysts have argued that its impact will be limited.

They point out that goods exports to the US account for only 2 per cent of India's gross domestic product or GDP, only two-thirds of which will be affected, since pharmaceuticals, electronics, and petroleum products have been exempted.

However, this line of reasoning overlooks the bigger picture. The US is not just India's largest export market -- it is also a critical economic partner.

Consequently, the tariff shock

skilled workforce and democratic stability, the advantage seemed clear.

However, that edge has now been wiped out by a 50 per cent US tariff.

Even at the reciprocal 25 per cent imposed on August 7, India would remain less competitive than most of its Asian rivals who face only 19 to 20 per cent tariffs on their US exports.

If this differential persists, India risks losing out on a once-in-a-generation chance to become the world's manufacturing workshop.

It's not only exporters of goods who stand to lose. The impact could extend to services exporters too.

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11 JAN
Adventure Sports
Trekking | Canyoneering | Sport Climbing | Disaster Management Technique | Water Sports



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave
Theme: Silchar
POTENTIAL, ISSUES & CHALLENGES



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



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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
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10-12 JAN
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Band Night | 10 JAN
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