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PERSPECTIVE

Acts of kindness make us happier and healthier.

Tripura crosses 4mw solar milestone, hundreds earn from surplus power

AGARTALA
Tripura has recorded a significant leap in renewable energy as it crossed the 4-megawatt mark in solar power generation under the Pradhan Mantri Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Latest data from the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) confirms that 16,965 households in the state have registered for the scheme, with rooftop solar panels already installed on 1,210 homes. These 1,210 households are now supplying 4 MW of clean energy, reducing the state's reliance on conventional sources of power and providing a boost to local sustainability efforts. TSECL officials highlighted that this achievement goes beyond meeting basic electricity needs. A total of 187 consumers have started selling surplus solar energy back to the electricity grid and have collectively earned Rs 53,514, which was credited directly to their bank accounts. TSECL noted, "Many beneficiaries are now not only meeting their own electricity needs but also selling surplus power back to the grid."
Officials recalled that previously, sunset often meant the end of light in many Tripura homes, but the current initiative has changed that scenario. "Today, the same sun is the source of both illumination and income," stated the corporation.
The project's success, according to TSECL, shows that sustainable development is "not confined to power poles—it radiates from within people's lives and aspirations." The solar scheme is now considered a key part of Tripura's journey towards a self-reliant and cleaner energy future.

WHO SAID WHAT

"India must reduce its dependence on foreign technologies, foreign weapons and foreign energy sources,"
-Piyush Goyal, Commerce Minister

CubeTen Partners with IIIT-Manipur to Boost Research and Internship Opportunities

IMPHAL
In a major boost to Manipur's growing technology ecosystem, CubeTen Technologies Pvt. Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Manipur (IIIT-Manipur) to collaborate on digital innovation, research, and skill development.
The agreement, signed on Thursday, aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry needs through joint research projects, practical training, and exposure to emerging technologies in Computer Science Engineering (CSE), Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), and the Internet of Things (IoT).
Speaking at the signing ceremony, Haobam Joyremba, Managing Director and CEO of CubeTen Technologies, described the MoU as a milestone for nurturing young talent in Manipur. "This collaboration will help students gain real-world experience, work on advanced technologies, and create practical solutions for societal needs. Our goal is to empower youth with the skills and confidence to thrive in a technology-driven



future," he said.
Dr. Krishnan Baskar, Director of IIIT-Manipur, said the partnership would foster innovation and strengthen the research culture among students. "Industry partnerships are essential to produce future-ready engineers. This MoU will open



up opportunities for students to engage in live projects, research publications, internships, and even startup ventures," he noted.
Under the terms of the collaboration, CubeTen Technologies will provide structured internships, mentorship pro-

grammes, prototype development support, and exposure to e-governance and digital transformation projects. IIIT-Manipur will facilitate student participation and jointly organize workshops, seminars, and knowledge-exchange programmes to promote academic-industry synergy.
The partnership will also explore joint patents, research papers, technology solutions, and summer training programmes, with an emphasis on building a strong local talent pool to serve Manipur and the broader North-East region.
Founded in 2010, CubeTen Technologies is among Northeast India's leading IT firms, known for its contributions to digital transformation and e-governance initiatives. IIIT-Manipur, designated as an Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament, focuses on producing high-quality manpower and advancing research in the field of information technology.
The event concluded with both institutions reaffirming their shared commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital growth in Manipur—signaling a new era of academic-industry collaboration in the region.

IMPHAL

A court in Manipur has registered a charge order against nine police commandos in connection with an alleged fake encounter and extra-judicial killing, and has fixed November 24, 2025, for framing charges against them.
The Sessions Judge, Imphal East, recorded the charge order after a hearing on October 13, reports stated on Friday.
The case pertains to the killing of Elangbam Kiranjit on May 24, 2009, by a combined team of Thoubal police commandos and the 23 Assam Rifles.
The incident occurred between Sabungkhok and Laikot villages under the Lamlai police station in Imphal East district.
The CBI filed the chargesheet, along with prosecution sanction under Section 197 of the CrPC, against nine accused persons. The names of two other accused, Major Anshuman Badoni and Naib Subedar Govind Singh of the 23 Assam Rifles, are also included in the chargesheet. However, the Central Government has not issued sanction under Section 197 of the CrPC for prosecuting



these two officers.
The CBI took over the case from the Lamlai police station and registered an FIR. It constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) by an order dated June 27, 2017, to investigate cases of extra-judicial killings, following the directions of the Supreme

Court of India in response to a writ petition filed by the Extra Judicial Execution Victim Families Association (EEVFFAM) and Human Rights Alert (HRA).
Based on a complaint lodged by Jemadar Hollal Haokip of the Thoubal commando unit, the Lamlai Police also registered an FIR on April 24, 2009, regarding the killing of Elangbam Kiranjit.
According to the report, one underdog cadre was killed in an exchange of fire while another escaped.
A 9mm pistol, containing two live rounds and one in the chamber, was also recovered from the encounter site.
During the court proceedings, family members of the late Elangbam Kiranjit testified that he had left home around 3 pm on April 23, 2009, on a bicycle to search for their cow at Thoubal Khuman, carrying a rope and a mobile phone. His body was later found at the RIMS Hospital morgue in Imphal.
The court observed that there exists a prima facie case suggesting that the victim was abducted and killed, as alleged in the CBI's chargesheet.
It also found a prima facie case

indicating that the recovered pistol was planted and that the written report filed by the Jemadar was fabricated.
The chargesheet, along with the prosecution sanction under Section 197 CrPC, names the nine accused as:
Jemadar Hollal Haokip (46), s/o Tongkholum Haokip of Moreh Ward No. 7;
Kameidun Kamei James (38), s/o Iboh of Keikhu Kabui Village;
Laishram Basanta Singh (41), s/o Birsing of Pangei Yangdong Village;
S. Naba Singh (41), s/o (L) Keshori of Kakching Wairi Thongam Leikai;
Darsmol Sakhil Lamkang (41), s/o Bhardamal of Thamal Khurem Village;
Tombing Thangsiamlal Paite (39), s/o (L) Khamzachin of New Lamka Dorcas Veng;
Tantang Moses Maring (36), s/o Tanthang Korung Maring of Langol Village, Pallel;
Serto Tiken Kom (41), s/o Jiten of Mantak Village; and
Mangtilal Vaiphei (42), s/o (L) Ngamjathong of Kamuching.
They have been charged under Sections 302, 34, and 201 of the Indian Penal Code.

RSS national council meeting hears detailed briefing on Manipur unrest



JABALPUR
The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh held discussions on the continuing crisis in Manipur at its three-day national executive council meeting that began on October 30 in Jabalpur's Kachnar City.
Seven representatives from the organisation's Manipur unit presented

field reports on the ethnic violence that has gripped the northeastern state, outlining efforts to restore peace and social stability in affected communities. The briefing addressed ongoing challenges and detailed ground-level measures being implemented to support residents caught in the conflict.
RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale are presiding over the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakarni Mandal Beithak, which has drawn 407 delegates from 46 state units and 11 regional divisions across India. The gathering includes all six joint general secretaries along with provincial chiefs, organisers and field workers. The session, which opened with tributes at a statue of Bharat Mata, is also reviewing the organisation's nationwide programmes. Delegates are assessing this year's Vijaydashami celebrations marking 100 years since the RSS was founded, as well as major outreach initiatives including door-to-door contact campaigns, community gatherings focused on Hindu unity, social harmony meetings and discussions with prominent citizens.
These programmes are designed to strengthen community ties and increase involvement in social service activities, according to the organisation.
The council will spend the next two days evaluating grassroots operations, planning future organisational activities and reviewing work across different regions. The meeting is scheduled to conclude on November 1.

Nagaland govt reaffirms commitment to frontier talks, stresses issue must stay within Article 371(A)

KOHIMA
The Nagaland government has reiterated its commitment to continue discussions on the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNFTA), a long-standing demand of the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO), while asserting that the issue must remain within the framework of Article 371(A) of the Constitution.
Government spokesperson and minister KG Kenye said the matter had entered a "new and delicate phase," requiring "utmost coordination and understanding" among all stakeholders, including the ENPO and the Eastern Nagaland Legislators' Union (ENLU).
"It has been a year since we made it clear that this cannot remain a bilateral dialogue between ENPO and the Ministry of Home Affairs. It must be a trilateral one involving the state government as well," Kenye told reporters on Thursday.
The minister said the state Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, viewed the FNFTA issue as one concerning the "geopolitical territory of Nagaland," adding that every citizen deserved to be informed. He said the government had conducted extensive consultations with public representatives and organisations to prepare recommendations that

would be "acceptable to both sides once the FNFTA is established."
Clarifying the government's position, Kenye stated that the proposed FNFTA would not be a Union Territory, a Sixth Schedule area, or a revival of the 1960s Regional Council, but a "new model" under Article 371(A), which accords special status to Nagaland. "While we wish to accommodate the aspirations of our eastern brothers, the state cannot disown its responsibility. Whatever name or structure the FNFTA assumes, it will remain a part of Nagaland," he emphasised.
According to Kenye, the Centre has returned the state's proposal for further review, seeking more inputs from the ENPO. The Cabinet also noted "a communication gap" between the ENLU and ENPO, which, Kenye said, had caused confusion on key issues. "Leaders from the eastern region must have more internal consultations. Sending proposals without full consent could lead to setbacks," he cautioned.
The minister identified departmental management as one of the main challenges in implementing the FNFTA framework. "The Power Department depends almost entirely on central funding. It would be difficult for the new authority to manage such departments without adequate resources," he noted, adding that similar

concerns applied to Health, School Education, and Higher Education, which might remain under state supervision initially.
Kenye also warned against ENPO's growing reliance on "unmandated bodies" during negotiations, stating that formal talks must take place only between governments and elected representatives.
Reaffirming the state's stand, he said the government would continue efforts to resolve the matter "without compromising Nagaland's territorial integrity" and urged the ENPO and ENLU to work with unity and transparency.
The ENPO, which represents eight tribes across six eastern districts, has been demanding a separate state since 2010, citing decades of neglect. It later agreed to explore an autonomous arrangement under the FNFTA framework. The organisation boycotted both the Lok Sabha and urban local body elections last year to press its demand.
The ENPO has said the FNFTA arrangement would be reviewed after ten years and that any unresolved matters would be pursued through "democratic and political means." It has also maintained that no agreement would be signed without firm guarantees of financial, legislative, and executive autonomy.

Senior Assam Police officers reshuffled in major transfer drive

GUWAHATI
The Assam government has announced a series of significant transfers affecting senior police officers across the state, marking another round of administrative changes within the force.
Padmanabh Baruah, an IPS officer from the 2016 batch who was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) in Guwahati, has been appointed as Senior Superintendent of Police for Udalguri district. The transfer, which partially modifies an earlier notification from October 17, 2025, takes effect immediately upon his assumption of charge, replacing Pushkin Jain who has been transferred.
Meanwhile, Pushkin Jain, a 2017-batch IPS officer, moves from his position as SSP Udalguri to head the Crime Investigation Department's unit dealing with crimes against women and chil-

dren in Guwahati. He will take charge of the existing vacancy in this critical role.
In another development, the transfer of Jagadish Das, a 2004-batch APS officer who was moved from Senior Superintendent of Police in Sadiya to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Border) in Guwahati on 17 October, has been kept in abeyance pending further orders from the department.
The government has also posted Anjan Pandit, a 2010-batch APS officer who previously commanded the 7th Assam Police Battalion in Charaikhola, Kokrajhar, as Senior Superintendent of Police for CID (Zonal-I) in Guwahati. This appointment modifies an earlier notification dated October 17.
All transfers have been ordered in the interest of public service by the Home and Political Department through notifications dated October 30, 2025.



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DEBATE AND DISSENT, THE INDIAN WAY

India is often praised for its spirituality, poetry, and devotion. What is less known, and usually deliberately forgotten, is that it also built one of the world's strongest cultures of reasoning. Generations of Indian students have been taught that critical thinking began in ancient Greece, evolved in Enlightenment Europe, and entered India through English education. This version of history is incomplete and biased. India has always been a civilisation of questioning minds and debating scholars. Our schools, however, have not told this story.

For decades, Indian textbooks have associated rationality with Europe and tradition with India. They celebrate Socrates, Aristotle and Descartes, but rarely mention Gautama, Kanada, Nagarjuna, or Shankaracharya as logical thinkers. As a result, young minds grow up believing that logic is foreign to our soil. Worse, they begin to assume that questioning authority is un-Indian.

Indian civilisation did not rely on unquestioning belief. It argued, debated, and demanded evidence. The country that produced yoga and ayurveda also developed powerful logic, epistemology, and debate systems. Centuries ago, Indian thinkers asked the same questions modern philosophy asks. What is truth? How do we know what we know? Can knowledge be verified? What is the difference between perception and reality? Far from being passive acceptors of tradition, Indian scholars built competing schools of thought that openly challenged one another. Disagreement was a respected intellectual practice. A short journey through India's intellectual heritage makes this clear.

The Nyaya school developed a formal system of logic that teaches how to examine claims, test evidence, and avoid errors in reasoning. It offered a five-step method to reach logical conclusions, more detailed than the three-part syllogism taught in Western philosophy. Modern students learn about Aristotle's logic, but almost none are exposed to Nyaya, which explains the same skill with greater clarity and practicality.

Buddhist philosophers taught rigorous inquiry based on scepticism. Gautama warned against accepting any scriptural, social, or religious claim without testing it through experience and reflection. The Buddhist method of argumentation exposed contradictions by systematic questioning. That is the essence of critical thinking.

Jain philosophy argued that truth is many-sided and cannot be captured fully from one viewpoint alone. Its method encourages students to compare interpretations before forming a conclusion. In today's world of social media polarisation, this approach teaches intellectual humility and reduces bias.

Vedanta promoted rational reflection as a path to clarity. It used disciplined questioning to remove confusion and sharpen understanding. It insisted on inquiry. Knowledge, it taught, must withstand reasoning before being accepted.

India even developed a structured tradition of debate called vada. Scholars engaged in public reasoning contests with rules for evidence, logic, and fairness. Debate was used as a method to uncover the truth. An education system that once honoured debate now silences it in the name of rote learning.

When Indian students are disconnected from their own traditions of inquiry, they lose confidence in their intellectual heritage. They begin to memorise rather than think. They struggle to analyse arguments, detect false claims, or evaluate evidence. They become passive receivers of information rather than active thinkers.

In a world flooded with misinformation, fake news, and agenda-driven propaganda, reasoning skills are no longer academic luxuries. They are survival tools. India cannot become a global knowledge leader if its students cannot think independently and question intelligently.

The problem is not that we teach Western logic. The problem is that we teach it alone. Indian students are given a single intellectual lens to view reason, while their civilisation's contributions are removed from sight. This creates a false hierarchy of knowledge. It breeds silent inferiority. This is not an argument against Western knowledge—the call is for fairness. Students must be trained to compare ideas, not absorb them uncritically.

The National Education Policy, 2020 acknowledges that India's knowledge traditions must be restored. It states that students must develop critical thinking rooted in Indian and global perspectives. The policy encourages universities and schools to introduce Indian knowledge systems. To think freely, students must stand on intellectual ground they recognise as their own.

Serious about producing independent thinkers and reclaiming Indian reasoning traditions must move from policy pages to classrooms. Teachers should be trained in Indian argumentation frameworks to use reasoning tasks in daily classes. Simple reasoning modules drawn from Nyaya, Buddhist logic, the Jain idea of many viewpoints, and Vedanta's reflective method should be introduced from Classes 6 to 12.

Schools and colleges should run vada-style debate clubs. College students should get humanities electives that study Indian epistemology as part of global philosophy. Most importantly, classrooms should build bridges by teaching Indian and international knowledge, showing that rational inquiry belongs to everyone.

Some worry that bringing Indian traditions into education will promote cultural bias. The opposite is true. This reform fights bias. By acknowledging all knowledge systems, we prevent the domination of one tradition over others. The purpose of education is not to glorify the past. It is to learn from it and build better thinkers for the future.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.

- Dorothy Day

Patel Era of Indian Politics

PRABHAT KISHORE

The world has seen a large number of great men, who had reserved their name & fame in the history through their merit and work, but met rare persons, who has changed not only history but geography of a country without shedding a drop of blood. Born on 31ST October 1975, in a poor Kisan family of Patelad (Gujarat) Vallabh Bhai Patel was the such uncommon person who did the impossible task of integrating 560 princely states to Indian union. A constructive engineer in politics, a recognized umpire in disputes and an organizer of victories in campaigns, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel is all this but something more.

Although, Patel is much credited for his particular work of preventing fragmentation and Balkanization of India, but a large number of decisive facts have been brushed under the carpet in the Indian history. As Machiavelli wrote – "History is written by the victors". The history of independent India was written and overseen by that faction of the Congress party which emerged victorious in the leadership tussle on the eve of independence with the partisan support of none other than the all-powerful and universally venerable Mahatma Gandhi. The history taught by the Congress governments in the independent country totally concealed the happening of debarring Patel from Congress leadership.

Congress Presidency :
On 2nd September 1946, Nehru was invited to form the Interim Government and to be its Vice President (defacto Prime Minister) by the then Viceroy, Lord Wavell, manifestly because he (Nehru) happened to be the Congress President at that time. He got this post in 1946 mainly through Mahatma Gandhi's intervention in his favour, for none of the provinces has proposed his name. As per constitution of the Congress, its President was elected on the majority of Provincial Congress Committee's recommendations. Despite Gandhiji's open statement for Nehru on 20th April 1946, twelve out of fifteen provincial Congress committees recommended Patel's name and three abstained from nomination process. Obviously, the overwhelming majority in favour of Sardar Patel, was a challenge to Mahatma Gandhi as well.

According to Kripalani (the then general secretary of Congress), "Gandhi expressed his deep concern over the proposal of the provinces, because transfer of power was certain as hinted by the British Prime Minister in London on 16th February 1946 and he (Gandhi) wanted to see Nehru as the Prime Minister at any cost. Then Kripalani obtained fifteen signatures of some working committee members and a few local AICC members of Delhi (who were not the legitimate body to nominate the Party President) as per Gandhi's instruction and duly proposed Nehru's name. It must be noteworthy that the last date for receiving recommendations from the provincial Congress committees (29th April 1946) had already expired".

It's not that Gandhi was not aware of the immorality of this exercise to overlook the overwhelming support for Patel. He had fully realized that what he was trying to bring about was wrong and totally unfair. In fact, he tried to make Nehru understand the reality. A shell-shocked Nehru was defiant and made it clear that he will not play second fiddle to anybody and he may even leave the party. Gandhi knew that Nehru could go upto any extent for power, whereas Patel could sacrifice without any hesitation. Patel also not get struck on the issue as he was aware that any break up in the party would send wrong signal at such a crucial juncture. The Congressmen were not happy with Gandhi's choice; but then for the sake of unity and in reverence to Gandhi, they endorsed it. Disappointed Rajendra Prasad remarked that Gandhi had once again sacrificed his "trusted lieutenant" in favour of the "glamorous Nehru".

Thus, setting aside all rules and regulations, Nehru was elected (selected) the Congress President. A few days later on 16th May 1946, a 3-member "Cabinet Mission" arrived in India, which suggested the formation of an Interim Government at the centre and to constitute Constitution Assembly.

In Kripalani's words, who was instrumental in proposing Jawahar's name, "It was certain that if Jawahar's name had not



been proposed illegally, then Sardar would have been elected as the Congress President. In that event, Patel (and not Nehru) would have been invited to head the Interim Government (on 2nd September 1946) and to be the first defacto Prime Minister. It is reasonable to think that as head of the Interim Government Patel (who always demonstrated his edge over Nehru in party control and management) would have further consolidated his position as the unchallenged leader of the party and as de jure Prime Minister when independence came on 15TH August 1947. Due to Gandhi's restiveness Patel, despite having overwhelming support, "missed the Bus".

From the defacto position, de jure Prime Ministership for Nehru was not a very difficult move. As Gandhi was still alive in 1947 and his opt-repeated declaration about Nehru being his "political heir" was well known; hence Nehru was unanimously elected the leader of Congress Parliamentary Party; and, as such, he became the first PM of Independent India.

The incident of 1946 was not the first time that Patel was debarred from the leadership. Earlier on several occasions Nehru superseded him through Gandhi's intervention. In 1929, for Congress presidency, ten provincial recommendations were for Gandhi, five for Patel and three for Nehru. After Gandhi's refusal, the natural chance was for Patel. But Gandhi intervened for Nehru and he (Nehru) ultimately became the Congress President.

In 1931, Patel was elected the President of the Congress in Karachi session. Again in 1937, his name was considered for Congress Presidency; but knowing Gandhi's wish, he himself suggested the re-election of Nehru. As chairman of party election committee, Patel show his credibility in provincial elections held in 1937 and 1946, when Congress got a majority in most of the provinces.

Overall Command :
After becoming the defacto Prime Minister, Nehru gave up the Congress presidency in October, 1946. Patel wanted Kripalani to succeed him. But as Kripalani found that the Government did not consult him on any matter, he resigned. Gandhi then wanted that Jai Prakash Narayan or Narendra Dev, both of whom were Congress socialist leaders, should succeed Kripalani. But Patel wanted Rajendra Prasad to be the Congress president. Prasad took over the charge from Kripalani. In December 1946 Nehru wanted N. Gopalswami Aiyangar to be the President of the Constituent Assembly, but instead had to agree to Patel's choice Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

On the question of nominating the first President of Indian Republic, Patel gave his blessing to Rajendra Prasad for the post; but Nehru, was of view that C. Rajagopalachari (the then Governor General) should be given the responsibility. Ultimately, Rajendra Prasad became the first President of Indian Republic on 26th January 1950.

Nehru was not quite happy with the retention of crucial Home portfolio by Patel. But even from the Interim Government

time, Patel insisted on keeping it despite considerable pressure from the Viceroy Mountbatten with Nehru's apparent concurrence. There were great ideological rifts between right-leaning Patel and left-leaning Nehru on various policies such as, economic, industrial, educational, agriculture, border security issues and others. But despite being the Deputy Prime Minister, Patel had not only the control on the party organisation but also over the government. Ministers like N.V. Gadgil, R.R. Diwaker, R.K. ShanmukhamChetty, C.H. Bhabha and J.D. Daulatram were staunch supporters of Patel, whereas S.P. Mukherjee, Jagjivan Ram and Baldev Singh were also inclined towards him.

Thus, despite being debarred from leadership, Patel and his supporters always demonstrated their edge not only over Nehru but even over Gandhi in Party affairs. In addition to showing Patel's superior strength in the party, the outcome of the Presidential election had another ominous implication. In September 1950, the two contestants for Party Presidentship were J.B. Kripalani and P.D. Tandon – who had the blessing and support of Nehru and Patel respectively. Indeed, the contest was seen as a trial of strength between P.M. and Deputy P.M. all over the country. Several newspapers, national as well as abroad, described and commented upon it in that light. Tandon (1306 votes) won by defeating Kripalani (1092 votes). With the Party under the overall control of his protégé, Patel would have made it increasingly difficult for Nehru to function as leader of the Parliamentary wing and ultimately as the PM. But luckily for Nehru, that was not to be, for Patel passed away suddenly on 15th December, 1950 in Mumbai.

Cleaning operation :
After Patel's death, Nehru's political and functional constraints disappeared. The Patelites in the cabinet were left leaderless. Although Patel was dead, his protégé, Tandon was still the Congress President and as such in overall control of the party organisation. So Nehru's first effort was directed towards capturing the Congress Organisation with a majority working committee of his choice. But being unable to do so, he resigned from the working committee. This was followed by a few more resignations. Finding himself isolated, Tandon resigned and Nehru was crowned as Congress President (alongwith Prime Ministership) in October 1951.

After the 1952 general elections, Nehru came in full form and dropped out all the Patelites - Gadgil, Munshi, Diwaker, and Bhabha - from the council of ministers. He had planned to axe Baldev Singh & Jagjivan Ram too, as they were suspected to have well wishers of Patel. However, Jagjivan Ram was retained at the instance of President Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The 14-member new council of Ministers was full of Nehru's handpicked men – Kailash NathKatju, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gopal Swami Aiyangar, C.D. Deshmukh, T.T. Krishnamachari, V.V. Giri, C.C. Biswas, Amrit Kaur, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai. The other two ministers

MaulanaAbulKalam Azad and Jagjivan Ram were no more challengeable threat to Nehru. Thus in 1952, the Party as well as Government were freed from Patel and his shadow (loyalists). Actually it was the beginning of "Nehru Era" and end of "Patel Era" of power politics in India.

Rajaji, the first Indian Governor General and later Home Minister in the Nehru cabinet (till 1952), regarded that, "Gandhi had made a blunder mistake in wanting that Nehru and not Patel should be the PM. Had Nehru been the Foreign Minister and Patel the Prime Minister, India would have avoided many of errors she was led into under Jawahar and (from) the glamour(of) egalitarianism, associated with communism, which captivated his innocent heart."

Thus the crucial presidential election of the Congress in 1946 was the turning point in the history of India. If Patel, the People's choice, had been the head of the Indian Government, the national, international, economic, agricultural, education, industrial, defence, Border security issues, Tibet issue and other policies all would have been different and the great India might have emerged as a " Super Power " in the world. (The Author is a technocrat and educationist)

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

The Election Commission of India has initiated a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to ensure accuracy and transparency in the voter lists. This process aims to identify duplicate, outdated, or ineligible entries while safeguarding the rights of genuine voters. In Manipur, the exercise will help maintain a clean and credible electoral roll, reflecting every eligible citizen's voice. The public is advised to verify their voter details, update any changes in address or personal information, and cooperate with officials during the verification process. This administrative measure to strengthen our democratic framework, and no eligible voter will be excluded. ~ Sanajaoba, Research Scholar, Department for South-East Asian Studies, Manipur University.



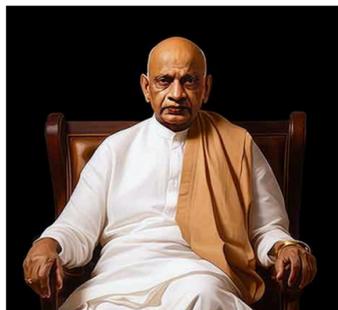
SARDAR PATEL'S VISION AND THE MEANING OF NATIONAL UNITY TODAY

GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT

Every year, on October 31, India observes Rashtriya Ekta Diwas - National Unity Day - to honour the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Few figures shaped the foundations of the Republic as decisively as Patel, who brought together more than 560 princely states after 1947 to create a single political entity.

Patel's realism, patience and firmness prevented the subcontinent from fracturing in the wake of Partition. Junagarh, Hyderabad, and Jammu & Kashmir might well have slipped into uncertainty but for his persuasion and resolve. The idea of unity he espoused was never uniformity; it was a federation of minds and hearts bound by shared heritage. That belief remains India's anchor in an age of widening diversities and new aspirations.

The decision in 2014 to commemorate Patel's birthday as National Unity Day recognized that unity is not a settled fact but a continuous act of national renewal. Across the country, schools, civil organizations and citizens reaffirm the pledge to uphold the nation's integrity. Events



such as the Run for Unity embody Patel's call for collective action - reminding us that patriotism must move from sentiment to participation.

This year 150th birth anniversary will be observed with special programs at Ekta Nagar near the 182-metre Statue of Unity - itself a monumental tribute to Patel's nation-building legacy. Cultural parades, tableaux from States, and performances by over 900 artists will celebrate the idea that India's strength lies in its many voices speaking as one.

In a country where languages, faiths and folk traditions coexist in profusion,

culture has long served as the most durable bond of unity. Institutions under the Ministry of Culture - from Zonal Cultural Centers to national museums - work to democratize heritage, ensuring that no region feels isolated from the national narrative.

Programs such as Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat institutionalize this spirit by pairing States and Union Territories for exchanges in language, cuisine, and art. When students in Maharashtra learn Bihu or young performers from Assam stage Lavani in Pune, they practice Patel's idea that knowing one another is the first step to standing together.

Tourism, too, is an instrument of cohesion. The Dekho Apna Desh campaign and an upgraded Incredible India Digital Platform encourage citizens to explore their own land - from Punjab's Golden Temple to Kerala's backwaters, from Assam's tea gardens to Rajasthan's deserts. In 2024 alone, domestic tourism crossed 294 crore visits, reflecting a surge in curiosity and pride among Indians about India.

Schemes like Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD go beyond infrastructure to create local livelihoods. When a woman in Nagaland runs a homestay for visitors

from Gujarat or an artisan in Jodhpur sells crafts to travelers from Tamil Nadu, they exchange more than goods - they share experiences that knit the Republic closer.

Unity, Patel taught, is a task renewed in every generation. It must be defended against the fragmenting impulses of indifference, ignorance and regionalism. The Panch Pran - the five resolves of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - place the pledge of national solidarity at the heart of India's journey towards 2047.

As India marks the sesquicentennial of Sardar Patel's birth in 2025, the true homage to the Iron Man lies not in marble or memory, but in ensuring that every Indian feels part of the same national story. Whether through a cultural performance, a museum exhibit, or a journey across States, each act of participation strengthens the invisible threads that bind this civilization together.

In Sardar Patel's words and in Prime Minister Modi's reiteration of them, unity remains both the means and the goal of India's destiny - Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

(The author is Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Government of India)

“Zubeen’s death is linked to his last movie”: Akhil Gogoi

SIBSAGAR

Sibsagar MLA and Rajior Dal chief Akhil Gogoi on October 31 reignited public debate over the mysterious death of Assam’s cultural icon Zubeen Garg, claiming that the singer’s demise is “deeply connected” to his final film *Roi Roi Binale*, which released statewide the same day.

Speaking to the media before attending the premiere at 8:50 AM, Gogoi said that *Roi Roi Binale* carries a profound emotional weight for the people of Assam, as it represents not just Zubeen’s last cinematic work, but also a reflection of his unfulfilled dreams.

“I will not only urge the people of Assam to watch this film, but I am sure that after watching it, they will unite in demanding justice for our beloved Zubeen Garg,” Gogoi said. “The movie will give us strength and a positive energy to continue the fight for truth.”



Questioning the credibility of the ongoing investigation, Gogoi expressed skepticism over the state government’s claim that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) will file a chargesheet within a month. He said it was “impossible to deliver justice” in such a short time, given the “lack of progress” by the CID team that recently visited Singapore under Special DGP (CID) Munna Prasad

Gupta. “The CID team returned without any solid evidence, document, or statement from Singapore authorities,” Gogoi alleged. “It looks like the Chief Minister has already planned the outcome — a ‘fitting chargesheet’ designed to close the case conveniently.”

He further asserted that the chargesheet, once filed, would not secure conviction under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), and accused the government of “staging a drama” to pacify public outrage.

Drawing a comparison with the APSC cash-for-job scam, Gogoi said, “Just as the accused in that case may walk free after the court’s verdict, Zubeen’s justice too risks being buried under political theatrics.”

Highlighting procedural lapses, Gogoi said investigators are legally bound under Section 112 of the BNSS to seek a “letter of request” from a court to approach foreign authori-

ties for evidence, and must obtain prior Union government approval under Section 208. “These procedures were ignored,” he claimed, warning that the accused might easily get bail once the chargesheet is filed.

He also alleged that the government plans to keep the accused in custody until the 2026 Assam Assembly elections by tagging them in additional financial irregularity cases.

Adding that he had personally reached out to CID officials, Gogoi said, “I offered to give my statement to the Special DGP, but I have not received any response to date.”

As *Roi Roi Binale* opened to packed theatres across Assam, fans celebrated Zubeen Garg’s final artistic gift with tears and pride. Yet, amid the applause, Gogoi’s remarks have reignited a burning public sentiment — that the mystery behind Zubeen’s death still demands clear answers and justice.

African Swine fever outbreak: Papum Pare DC imposes ban on pig transport

ITANAGAR

The Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate of Papum Pare district, DC in charge Tame Yajum, has issued a prohibitory order under Section 7 of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009, following reports of suspected African Swine Fever (ASF) cases in several parts of the district.

According to the order, the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer (DAH&VO) reported 29 suspected ASF cases in Gorubandha and Taramjuli under Banderdewa Circle, 10 in Kimin, 3 in Doimukh, and 2 in Papu Nallah. The ASF virus, which affects pigs, is highly contagious and fatal, with no available vaccine or treatment, posing



a serious economic threat to pig farmers.

To prevent the further spread of the disease, the Deputy Commissioner has prohibited the inter-state and inter-district movement or transportation of pigs and pig products through the livestock and police check gates at Hollongi, Gumto, Kimin, Banderdewa, and Kakoi until further notice.

The Superintendent of Police,

ADCs of Balijan and Kimin, SDO Doimukh, and Circle Officers of Banderdewa and Gumto have been directed to maintain strict vigilance and ensure enforcement of the order at all check gates.

The prohibitory order was issued on October 30, 2025, under the signature of Smt. Tame Yajum, i/c Deputy Commissioner-cum-District Magistrate, Papum Pare District, Yupia.

Gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria brought from Assam jail to Punjab in Batala murder case



GUWAHATI

Gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria has been brought to Punjab from Silchar Jail in Assam on a production warrant in connection with the murder of gangster Gurpreet Singh Gora, also known as Gora Bariar, an official said on Thursday.

Bhagwanpuria was produced before a Batala court and remanded to three days of police custody. He was brought to Punjab on Wednesday night amid tight security arrangements.

Gora Bariar was shot dead on May 26 at a petrol pump located along the Ghuman-Shri Hargobindpur road in Batala. Police have already arrested Nilson Masih, a close associate of Bhagwanpuria, for allegedly masterminding the murder at his behest. Investigators said Masih was accompanied by three others during the attack.

Bhagwanpuria had been lodged in Assam since March, following his detention under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. He has been linked to several major criminal cases, including the 2022 killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

Tripura to host ‘Unity Promo Fest-2025’ in Belonia to boost tourism



AGARTALA

The Tripura Tourism Department is all set to organize the second edition of the ‘Unity Promo Fest-2025’ in Belonia, South Tripura, as part of its continued effort to promote tourism and enhance infrastructure across the state.

Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury chaired a review meeting on Thursday to assess preparations for the upcoming festival. He said that the growing interest of visitors following last year’s Tourism Promo Fest has inspired the government to take the event to new destinations this year.

“Like last year, the Tourism Department is organizing the Unity Promo Fest again, but this time, it will be held in Belonia, one of the most scenic regions in South Tripura,” the minister said, adding that the two-day event will also feature activities and promotions at other key tourist spots across the state.

A preparatory meeting was held at the Belonia Dak Bungalow, chaired by Minister Chowdhury and attended by Zilla Parishad Chairman, MLAs Pramod Reang and Swapna Majumdar, as well as senior officials from the Tourism Department, district administration, and police.

The minister emphasized that the government is committed to turning Tripura into a premier tourism destination by investing in better facilities, improved connectivity, and promotional events that highlight the state’s cultural and natural beauty.

“Unacceptable”: AIUDF MLA Rafiqul Islam after Bangladesh national anthem sung at Congress meet in Assam

GUWAHATI

All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) leader Rafiqul Islam expressed his resentment after the national anthem of Bangladesh ‘Amar Sonar Bangla’ was allegedly played at a meeting of the Congress committee of Sribhumidist, and said that this was unacceptable.

He said that people of Assam should not recite the national anthems of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Rafiqul Islam said, “I believe that the people of Assam should not sing Bangladesh’s national anthem during official meetings. What happened at the Congress meeting was unacceptable. The Chief Minister of Assam invoking the NSA in this matter is a bit too much. The people of Assam should not recite the national anthems of Pakistan or Bangladesh, is what I believe.”

Earlier, calling it a “blatant disrespect” to the people of India, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday or-



dered the state police to register a case in the matter.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Minister Sarma said, “Two days ago, the district Congress committee of Sribhumidist performed the national anthem of Bangladesh in place of the national anthem of India. This is a blatant disrespect of the people of India. It is in line with the new claim by some Bangladesh citizens that the north-east will eventually be part of Bangladesh.”

“I have instructed Assam Police to register a case against the district committee of Sribhumidist and take action as per law,” the CM added.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla also slammed Congress over the incident and said that the opposition party loves Bangladeshi infiltrators, adding that they are putting “votebank-niti” over “rashtranti”.

“Assam government has ordered the action against Congress

party functionaries that has sung the Bangladeshi national anthem. Congress has not only joined hands with Pakistan but with Bangladesh too. Congress loves Bangladeshi infiltrators. They are endorsing the anti-India agenda, which is coming from there. Necessary action must be taken,” he said.

However, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi came to the defence of state unit leaders and said that ‘Amar Sonar Bangla’ was composed by Rabindranath Tagore, reflecting the sentiments of Bengali culture.

“The BJP has always insulted the Bengali language, Bengali culture and the people of Bengal. Their IT Cell has also insulted people of Bengal in the past. They have shown ignorance by not knowing the history of Rabindranath Tagore. I think the people of Bengal and Bangladeshi-speaking people in different parts of the country have recognised that the BJP only uses them for votes,” he said.

Pre-test for Census 2027 to begin in Assam’s three districts from November 10

GUWAHATI

The Central government will conduct a pre-test for the forthcoming Census of India 2027 in selected areas of Assam, in consultation with the State Government. The pre-test for house-listing and housing census will be undertaken from November 10 to 30 in three districts — Dibrugarh, West Karbi Anglong, and Hailakandi.

In Dibrugarh district, the exercise will cover Wards 16, 17, and 18 of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation under Dibrugarh East Revenue Circle. In West Karbi Anglong, it will be conducted in 23 villages under Donka Revenue Circle, while in Hailakandi, the pre-test will take place in seven villages under Hailakandi Revenue Circle. To facilitate the process, the Commissioner of Dibrugarh Municipal Corporation



and the District Commissioners of Hailakandi and West Karbi Anglong have been designated as Principal Census Officers by the General

Administration Department, Government of Assam.

Prior to the field operation, a pre-test of self-enumeration will be car-

ried out from November 1 to 7, allowing residents of the selected areas to enumerate themselves digitally through a dedicated online portal.

The Census of India 2027 will be a landmark exercise as it will be the country’s first fully digital census. All aspects of data collection, entry, verification, and monitoring will be executed through secure digital platforms, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and transparency.

The Director of Census Operations-cum-Chief Principal Census Officer, Assam, has appealed to all residents of the selected sample areas to extend full cooperation during the fieldwork. Enumerators and supervisors will visit households to collect information essential for the successful conduct of the census pre-test.

Rs 20,000 reward announced as rare Pesquet’s Parrot goes missing from Aizawl Zoo



AIZAWL:

A smuggled exotic bird that had been kept at the Aizawl Zoo, has been stolen, zoo authorities said on Wednesday. The missing bird, a Pesquet’s Parrot, had been at the zoo since February last year. Its disappearance was discovered around 8:30 am on October 29. Officials believe that the theft occurred some time between 4 pm on October 28 and 7 am the next day.

The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Aizawl Wildlife Division, said that an FIR has been lodged at the Sairang Police Station in connection with the incident, while the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau,

Kolkata, has also been informed.

Officials said a departmental inquiry is under way, as the possibility of insider involvement cannot be ruled out. A cash reward of Rs 20,000 has been announced for anyone providing information leading to the arrest of the culprit.

Mizoram has increasingly become a conduit not just for drugs and arms but also for the trafficking of exotic animals. Situated along a porous border with Myanmar, the State has seen multiple large-scale seizures of illegal wildlife consignments. Also Read - Arunachal-Assam bond strengthens as Nyishi, Mising bodies ink Treaty of Friendship In October 2022, authorities in Champhai district rescued 140 exotic animals and birds, including 30 tortoises, 22 pythons, 55 crocodile hatchlings and other rare species. The consignment was believed to have come from Myanmar via the border. In May 2024, a vehicle was intercepted at a checkpoint in Kanmun region and 24 exotic animals (18 snakes, four turtles and two monkeys) bound for Tripura were found, underlining the ongoing use of the corridor for wildlife trafficking. In April 2025, six persons, including a Myanmar national, were arrested in Champhai district after 31 exotic animals, including 27 African spurred tortoises and a rare albino Burmese python, were rescued.

Green Legacy and Water Security: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bakimchandra Oinam Calls for Integrated Approach at Ethiopian Water and Energy Week



Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) to Water Resources Management, Food Security, and Climate Resilience.”

Prof. Oinam highlighted that Ethiopia’s large-scale tree-planting movement—the Green Legacy Initiative—represents far more than a carbon sequestration campaign. It lays the groundwork for restoring degraded watersheds, improving infiltration, reducing sedimentation, and stabilizing streamflows. “Trees are natural infrastructure for water security,” Prof. Oinam said, explaining how forests help regulate water flow, lower flood risks, and sustain groundwater recharge. Drawing examples from India’s Namami Gange Programme and urban Miyawaki micro-forest projects, he demonstrated how strategic restoration can rejuvenate entire river basins and strengthen ecological resilience.

He stressed the need to embed the Green Legacy Initiative into Ethiopia’s national water governance framework so that

restoration becomes a central element of river basin management.

Touching on technical challenges, Prof. Oinam pointed out the difficulty of quantifying the hydrological benefits of restoration—such as infiltration improvement, runoff reduction, and groundwater recharge—due to limited data, high natural variability, and overlapping institutional mandates.

The 2nd Ethiopian Water and Energy Week, observed from October 27 to 31 under the theme “Harnessing Water and Clean Energy for Sustainable Growth,” brought together ministers, scientists, and development partners from across Africa and beyond. The Grand Panel on the Green Legacy Initiative served as a vital platform for exploring how large-scale restoration can drive water security, food systems, and climate resilience—further strengthening Ethiopia’s leadership in green development.

Quest!

According to researchers, couples that are either too similar or too different are not likely to last very long.

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Sardar Patel wanted to unite entire Kashmir with India, Nehru did not allow it: PM Modi



NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, had wanted to fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir into India, but was prevented from doing so by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Speaking at the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations near the Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar, Modi said, "Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states. But Nehru ji stopped his wish from being fulfilled. Kashmir was divided, given a separate Constitution and a separate flag, and the nation suffered for decades because of Congress' mistake."

Modi hailed Patel's leadership in unifying over 550 princely states after Independence, calling it "an impossible task made possible."

He added, "For Sardar

Patel, the idea of 'One India, Excellent India' was paramount. He believed that we should not waste time writing history but work hard to create it."

Before the address, Modi paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Narmada district. The day, observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) since 2014, celebrates Patel's legacy as the "Iron Man of India."

Modi offered flowers at the 182-metre-tall statue in Ekta Nagar before heading to a nearby venue to administer the Ekta Diwas pledge and attend the National Unity Day parade. Let's build strong, harmonious, excellent India: President Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday greeted citizens on the birth anniversary of 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and asked all to resolve to build a "strong, harmonious, and

excellent India."

Murmu said Sardar Patel was a great patriot, visionary leader and nation-builder, who accomplished the historic task of unifying the country through his unwavering resolve, indomitable courage and adept leadership. "His dedication and spirit of national service serve as an inspiration to us all. Let us, on the occasion of 'National Unity Day', unite together and resolve to build a strong, harmonious, and excellent India," the President said in a post on X, in Hindi.

"On the birth anniversary of 'Iron Man' Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all my fellow citizens," Murmu said. The President also paid homage to the 'Iron Man' on his 150th birth anniversary at Sardar Patel Chowk here.

She also offered floral tributes to Sardar Patel at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Investigating officer shall not issue summons to lawyers appearing for accused: SC

NEW DELHI

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court on Friday directed that investigating officers must not summon lawyers representing the accused, except under specific exceptions provided in law, and any such summons must clearly cite those exceptions.

A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria said that issuing summons to advocates could infringe upon the fundamental rights of the accused and violate statutory protections of lawyer-client confidentiality. The order came while setting aside a summons issued in a related case.

The court emphasised that investigators cannot seek details of a client from an advocate unless it falls within the exceptions listed under Section 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), which protects confidential communications between lawyers and clients.

On the handling of digital devices, the bench clarified that under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), such devices can be produced only before the jurisdictional court, which must issue notice to the concerned party. The device can be opened only in the presence of the party, their advocate, and digital experts of their choice.

The Supreme Court pronounced its order in a suo motu cognisance (SMC) examining whether probe agencies can summon advocates who render legal opinions or represent clients during investigations.

The SMC power, derived from Articles 32 and 226, which relate to the enforcement of fundamental rights, and Article 142, which grants the Supreme Court wide discretionary powers, allows the court to act on its own without a formal petition or complaint.

The Supreme Court on Friday directed that investigating agencies, when seeking information from advocates in exceptional cases, must ensure that the confidentiality of their other



clients remains protected and limit their inquiry strictly to what is required by the prosecuting officer.

The bench pronounced the order, which had been reserved on August 12 after detailed hearings from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and other parties.

The suo motu proceedings were initiated on July 8 after the court took note of the ED summoning senior lawyers Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal for providing legal opinions or representing clients during investigations.

However, after a lot of hue and cry by the legal fraternity, the ED withdrew its summons to these two lawyers. The court had observed then that it acted as the custodian of citizens' rights.

During the hearings, Mehta stressed that lawyers are integral to the administration of justice and deserve protection in that role. He urged the court to establish clear guidelines balancing investigative needs with legal safeguards, remarking that "a lawyer should never be called by investigating agencies merely for providing professional advice."

The court also clarified that this protection is not absolute if a lawyer deviates from professional duties to advise on tampering fabricating evidence, such immunity would not apply. "We cannot create two classes of lawyers,"

the bench remarked, while noting the need for a uniform legal set of principles in this regard.

Senior advocate and former Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Vikas Singh, appearing for the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), and advocate Vipin Nair for the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAoRA), opposed the ED's move to summon lawyers, warning that such actions could have a chilling effect on the legal profession. "If lawyers can be routinely summoned for advising clients, no one will dare provide counsel in sensitive criminal cases," Singh cautioned.

Singh emphasised that adequate safeguards, similar to those followed by the CBI, should be implemented to prevent misuse of summons. He suggested that any summoning order should come from the Superintendent of Police of a district and be scrutinised by a judicial magistrate before issuance.

Echoing on similar voices with Singh, Nair expressed deep concern over the issuance of summons under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, highlighting that such actions constitute an impermissible transgression of the sacrosanct principle of lawyer-client privilege. "This poses a serious threat to the autonomy, independence, and fearless functioning

of the Bar," Nair stated.

SCAoRA urged the court to examine the legality of such actions and establish clear guidelines to safeguard the constitutional and professional protections guaranteed to advocates.

On the other hand, Mehta, agreed with the court's saying that lawyers should not be summoned merely for offering legal advice.

"The privilege of communication between a lawyer and a client must be respected. The profession itself is protected under the proviso," Mehta had pointed out.

Earlier, during the July 21 hearing in the suo motu case, the apex court had expressed strong concern over the Enforcement Directorate's practice of summoning advocates who offer legal opinions or represent clients during investigations, observing that the agency was "crossing all limits." The court had then said it would issue comprehensive guidelines to prevent such overreach. Nair had also earlier written to the CJI Gavai on the "deeply disquieting development" having "serious ramifications for the independence of the legal profession and the foundational principle of lawyer-client confidentiality".

"It is sad and unfortunate. The action of issuing summons to Advocates is an alarming practice and besides being wholly contrary to the provisions of Sec 132 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023 seeks to intimidate Advocates from advising clients and further identifies Advocates with their clients which is contrary to well established principles," Venugopal said.

SCAoRA said that Venugopal is "a widely respected member of the legal fraternity," whose professional record and sincerity led to his designation as a Senior Advocate earlier this year.

"These actions, by the ED, we believe, amount to an impermissible transgression of the sacrosanct lawyer-client privilege," the letter continues, warning that such coercive measures could have a chilling effect on the legal community," the SCAORA had said.

INTERNATIONAL

Trump's nuclear test order stirs tensions; Russia hints live warhead tests if US does it first

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump landed back in Washington on Thursday after a surprise directive to begin nuclear weapons testing that raised the specter of renewed superpower tensions.

The announcement on social media was issued just before Trump - who boasts frequently about being a peace president - went into a summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea.

Trump's announcement left much unanswered - chiefly about whether he meant testing weapons systems or actually conducting test explosions, something the United States has not done since 1992.

The directive appeared to alarm Iran, whose foreign minister called it "regressive and irresponsible" and a threat to international security.

"A nuclear-armed bully is resuming testing of atomic weapons. The same bully has been demonizing Iran's peaceful nuclear program," Abbas Araghchi posted on social media.

Japanese atomic bomb survivors group Nihon Hidankyo sent a letter of protest to the US embassy in Japan on Friday.

The directive "directly contradicts the efforts by nations around the world striving for a peaceful world without nuclear weapons and is utterly unacceptable," the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group said in the letter obtained by AFP.

Vice President JD Vance said the US nuclear arsenal needed to be tested to ensure it actually "functions properly," but did not elaborate on what type of tests Trump had ordered.

The president's statement "speaks for itself," Vance told reporters at the White House. "It's an important part of American national security to make



sure that this nuclear arsenal we have actually functions properly, and that's part of a testing regime," he added.

It came days after Russia declared it had tested nuclear-capable, nuclear-powered cruise missiles and sea drones.

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis," Trump said on Truth Social.

Trump also claimed that the United States has more nuclear weapons than any other country. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its latest annual report that Russia possesses 5,489 nuclear warheads, compared to 5,177 for the United States and 600 for China.

The Kremlin questioned whether Trump was well-informed about Russia's military activities.

The recent weapons drills "cannot in any way be interpreted as a nuclear test," spokesman Dmitry

Peskov told journalists. "We hope that the information was conveyed correctly to President Trump."

Peskov then implied that Russia would conduct its own live warhead tests if Trump did it first.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun urged the United States to "earnestly abide" by a global nuclear testing ban.

Both countries observe a de facto moratorium on testing nuclear warheads, though Russia and the United States do regularly run military drills involving nuclear-capable systems. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said through his deputy spokesman that "nuclear testing can never be permitted under any circumstances."

The United States has been a signatory since 1996 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which bans all atomic test explosions, whether for military or civilian purposes.

Further muddying the waters,

Trump also repeated in his remarks to reporters a previous claim that he wants negotiations with Russia and China on reducing nuclear weapons forces. "Denuclearization would be a tremendous thing," he said.

The United States conducted 1,054 nuclear tests between July 16, 1945, when the first was conducted in New Mexico, and 1992, as well as two nuclear attacks on Japan during World War II. It is the only country to have used nuclear weapons in combat.

The last US nuclear test explosion was in September 1992, a 20-kiloton underground detonation at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site.

Then-president George H. W. Bush imposed a moratorium on further tests in October 1992 that has been continued by successive administrations.

Nuclear testing was replaced by non-nuclear and subcritical experiments using advanced computer simulations.

Dictionary.com's word of the year is '6-7', but is it even a word and what does it mean?

67

[siks sev-uhn]

September 15, 2025

WHAT DOES 67 MEAN?

"67," also spelled "6-7" or "six-seven" (not "sixty-seven," to be clear) is a slang term that has waffled its way through Gen Alpha social media. The term is largely nonsensical, some argue it means "6-7" with a hand gesture when

LONDON

Go ahead and roll your eyes. Shrug your shoulders. Or maybe just juggle your hands in the air.

Dictionary.com's word of the year isn't even really a word. It's the viral term "6-7" that kids and teenagers can't stop repeating and laughing about and parents and teachers can't make any sense of.

The word — if you can call it that — exploded in popularity over the summer. It's more of an inside joke with an unclear meaning, driven by social media.

Dictionary.com says its annual selection is a linguistic time capsule reflecting social trends and events. But the site admitted it too is a bit confused by "6-7."

"Don't worry, because we're all still trying to figure out exactly what it means," the site said in its announcement this week.

How did "6-7" become a thing?

It all seems to trace back to rapper Skrilla's song from 2024 called "Doot Doot (6-7)."

That song started appearing in TikTok videos with bas-

ketball players, including the NBA's LaMelo Ball who stands 6-foot-7.

Then a boy, now known as "The 6-7 Kid," shouted the ubiquitous phrase while another kid next to him juggled his hands in a video that went viral this year.

So what does "6-7" mean? The real answer is no one knows.

And sometimes it depends on who's on the receiving end of "6-7."

Even how to write "6-7" is up for debate — is it "6 7" or "six seven"?

According to Dictionary.com, the phrase could mean "so-so," or "maybe this, maybe that" when combined with the juggling hands gesture.

Merriam-Webster calls it a "nonsensical expression used especially by teens and tweens."

Some simply use it to frustrate adults when being questioned.

"It's meaningless, ubiquitous, and nonsensical. In other words, it has all the hallmarks of brainrot," Dictionary.com said. "Still, it remains meaningful to the people who use it because of the connection it

fosters."

How has the rest of the world responded?

Parents and teachers have created their own videos trying to explain the sensation.

Some offer tips on how to stop their kids from repeating it all day long. Others suggest embracing it — even making "6-7" Halloween costumes — so it will become uncool.

Teachers have banned it. Influencers and child psychologists have tried to make sense of it.

It's even spilled over into the NFL as a way to celebrate big plays.

Why is it word of the year? Dictionary.com says it looks for words that influence how we talk with each other and communicate online. The site scoured search engines, headlines and social media trends in making its choice.

Online searches for "6-7" took off dramatically over the summer, it said, and haven't slowed, growing by six times since June. "The Word of the Year isn't just about popular usage; it reveals the stories we tell about ourselves and how we've changed over the year," the site said.

IIT Guwahati Hosts Delegates from 56 Commonwealth Nations at BRIDGES: The Commonwealth Youth Peace Summit 2025

Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Diganta Barah, Former Commissioner of Police, Guwahati, Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati, and Mr. Aboyob Bhuyan, Founder, Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival, graced the event with their presence



GUWAHATI

The Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network (CYPAN), in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC) and Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati hosted "BRIDGES", The Commonwealth Youth Peace Summit 2025.

CYPAN is a youth-led initiative which operates across 56 member nations to promote peace, respect, and understanding while countering violent extremism.

The summit brought together youth leaders, peacebuilders, and innovators from 56 Commonwealth nations under the theme "From Conflict to Creativity: Youth-Led Peacebuilding in the Digital Age."

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Director, IIT Guwahati, Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Diganta Barah, Former Commissioner of Police, Guwahati, and Mr. Aboyob Bhuyan, Founder, Brahmaputra Valley Film Festival.

Highlighting the key aspects of the event, Ms. Sukanya Sonowal, Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador & Lead - Communications, said, "For the first time, the Commonwealth Youth Peace Summit was hosted in the Northeast India - a region that stands as a living testament to how dialogue and inclusivity can transform conflict into harmony. Delegates travelled from Jammu and Kashmir to learn from the Bodoland Peace Accord, a remarkable example of community-led peacebuilding that continues to shape Assam's progress. Northeast India is a prominent example that even small regions can become frontrunners of the global models of reconciliation and coexistence. Through initiatives like BRIDGES, we are reaffirming the core value of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, and showcasing how India's diverse cultures can inspire peaceful solutions worldwide."

The event provided a dynamic platform for youth to explore how technology, culture, and innovation can drive sustainable peace and inclusive development. Discussions and sessions centered on the use of AI, digital storytelling, and creative expression as tools to prevent conflict and strengthen intercultural understanding.

As part of CYPAN's 10th Anniversary Program, the event also featured inspiring messages from Mr. Trevor O'Haille, Chairperson, CYPAN, and Ms. Haneekah Rahil, Global Coordinator, CYPAN, celebrating "A Decade of Youth-Led Peace."

Through interactive workshops, panel discussions, and networking sessions, BRIDGES strengthened linkages between IIT Guwahati, CYC, CYPAN, and Commonwealth youth networks, equipping over 150 participants with practical skills in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and digital collaboration.

The summit reaffirmed CYPAN's commitment to promoting youth leadership, innovation, and cross-cultural dialogue as key drivers of peace and resilience across the Commonwealth.

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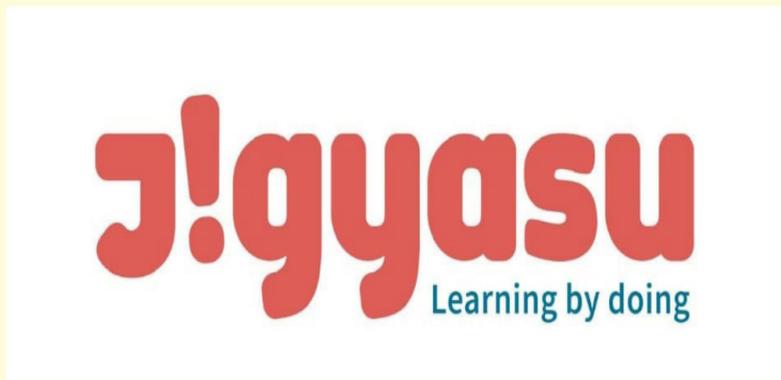
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