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PERSPECTIVE
What comes easy won't last long, and what lasts long won't come easy.

Assam Issues Flood Alert After Flash Floods in Arunachal Trigger Surge in River Flow

GUWAHATI
The Assam government has issued a flood alert across several districts after flash floods caused by intense rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh's Lower Subansiri district led to a sharp increase in river discharge, raising concerns over downstream flooding during the next 24 to 48 hours. According to official reports, Yazali in Lower Subansiri recorded 72.8 mm of rainfall over the past 24 hours, with the heaviest precipitation occurring between 6 am and 9 am on Wednesday. Meteorological assessments indicated exceptionally heavy rainfall between 6 am and 7.30 am, triggering flash floods and a sudden surge in water flow across upper catchment areas.

The flooding affected the Panoyr Lower Hydroelectric Project, formerly known as the Ranganadi Hydroelectric Project, prompting authorities to open one spillway gate to release excess water after inflows rose sharply.

Officials in Arunachal Pradesh also reported damage to houses, roads and other infrastructure in and around Yazali due to floodwaters and debris flows caused by the intense rainfall.

Authorities have warned that the increased discharge from upper catchment areas is likely to result in a substantial rise in water levels and river velocity in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries downstream in Assam.

The flood wave is expected to first affect the districts of Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath and Sonitpur before gradually moving further downstream towards western Assam, including Dhubri district.

In response, the Assam government has directed district administrations and all concerned departments in vulnerable areas to remain on high alert and activate preparedness measures to mitigate potential impacts.

WHO SAID WHAT

Easing of travel advisory by the EU signals a shift in the perception of global community towards Assam, who now view the State as a hub of tourism and opportunities. ~ Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM, Assam

Kanad Purkayastha Receives Late Father Kabindra Purkayastha's Padma Shri, Calls It a Tribute to His Enduring Legacy

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR/NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha MP Kanad Purkayastha on Tuesday described receiving the Padma Shri on behalf of his late father, Kabindra Purkayastha, as one of the most emotional moments of his life.

The prestigious civilian honour was presented by the Hon'ble President of India during a ceremony held in New Delhi. Accepting the award on behalf of his father, Kanad Purkayastha said the occasion filled him with immense pride, gratitude and a deep sense of longing.

Reflecting on the moment, he said he missed his father more than ever and wished he had been present to witness the nation recognising a lifetime dedicated to public service and the welfare of the people.

"As I held this honour in my



hands, I felt his presence in spirit. I could almost hear his gentle words and see his humble smile," Purkayastha said, expressing hope that his father would be happy to know that his work and sacrifices had been remembered and honoured by the country he loved.

He described the Padma Shri not merely as an award, but as a tribute to his father's ideals, unwavering commitment and lasting legacy. Purkayastha also expressed gratitude to the President of India and the Government of India, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for conferring the honour.

"With folded hands and a heart full of gratitude, I bow to his memory," he said, adding that he hoped to remain worthy of carrying forward the values and principles for which his father stood.

The Padma Shri is among India's highest civilian honours and is awarded for distinguished service in various fields. The recognition of the late Kabindra Purkayastha has been widely welcomed as a tribute to his contributions and dedication to public service.

IMPHAL

The Manipur government has stepped up security measures in the state's hill districts with the deployment of additional forces, including units of the Central Reserve Police Force's elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), as part of efforts to contain disturbances and restore normalcy.

State Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam said security agencies have also begun a de-weaponisation drive aimed at recovering illegally held arms across the state.

Speaking to reporters in Imphal on Monday, Konthoujam said the security situation in the valley districts had improved considerably, allowing authorities to focus greater attention on the hill regions, where tensions continue to persist.

"Minor incidents may still occur in the valley areas, but disturbances remain in the hill districts. It is important to maintain



peace in the valley so that security personnel can concentrate their operations in the hills," the minister said. He noted that the hill districts, which make up nearly 90 per cent of Manipur's geographical area, have witnessed heightened tensions in recent months involving rival armed groups from tribal communities.

To address the situation, additional security personnel, including newly deployed CoBRA units, have been stationed in the affected areas. "More security forces, including the recently arrived CoBRA unit of the CRPF, are being deployed in the hill areas to track down those responsible for disturbances. At the same time, de-weaponisation exercises have also commenced," Konthoujam said.

The minister appealed to all sections of society to

cooperate in maintaining peace, stressing that stability is essential for the state's development and progress.

Referring to the recent arrest of three alleged members of the group Arambai Tenggol by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with an arms-looting case, Konthoujam said the matter had been discussed with senior police officials.

"We have held discussions with the Director General of Police regarding the recent arrests and conveyed that no further arrests should be made," he said.

However, the Home Minister acknowledged that intelligence reports indicate a significant number of illegal weapons remain in circulation, particularly in the valley districts. He urged individuals possessing such arms to surrender

them voluntarily to security agencies.

"We appeal to those holding illegal weapons to hand them over to the authorities so that no further action or arrests by the NIA, CBI, or state police become necessary," he said.

According to the minister, security agencies are continuing coordinated operations to recover illicit weapons and dismantle armed networks as part of broader efforts to restore peace, law and order, and public confidence across the state.

The intensified deployment and de-weaponisation campaign come amid ongoing attempts by the administration and security agencies to stabilise the situation in Manipur after months of unrest and sporadic violence in several districts.

Japan PM's Guwahati Visit Cancelled, Reason Yet to Be Communicated: Himanta Biswa Sarma

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday confirmed that the proposed visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to Guwahati has been cancelled, bringing clarity to speculation that had triggered political debate across the state.

Addressing reporters after a Cabinet meeting at Lok Bhawan, Sarma said the information was conveyed by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Assam government late on Monday night.

According to the Chief Minister, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri informed the Assam Chief Secretary that the Japanese Prime Minister's itinerary would now be restricted to New Delhi, with the Guwahati leg of the visit dropped.

Sarma said no official reason had been communicated for the cancellation and stressed that the state government would not speculate on the matter.

"The reason has not been conveyed to us. Protocol does not permit us to seek explanations directly. I will discuss the matter with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar when I visit Delhi," he said.

While describing the development as unfortunate for Assam, Sarma noted that preparations for the visit had been extensive. A Japanese team had reportedly spent more than a month in Guwahati conducting surveys and reviewing logistical arrangements, including accommodation and hospitality facilities.

The Chief Minister recalled that a planned visit by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2019 had also been cancelled amid protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Sarma said the proposed visit this time

was expected to include a 50-member business delegation, featuring representatives from major Japanese companies, including Maruti Suzuki. He added that the Centre had assured Assam that a high-level business delegation from Japan would visit the state in the near future.

The Chief Minister also indicated that he may seek enhanced economic engagement with Japan during future discussions with the Union government.

When questioned further about the possible reasons behind the cancellation, Sarma said he had some understanding of the circumstances but declined to comment until he had spoken with the External Affairs Minister.

The Chief Minister also announced that beautification projects initiated specifically for the Japanese Prime Minister's visit would be halted to avoid unnecessary expenditure. However, ongoing urban development and beautification works unrelated to the visit would continue.

On broader connectivity and tourism issues, Sarma expressed optimism that tourist arrivals from Europe, Australia and Japan would increase over the next three years. He also said efforts were underway to establish direct flight connectivity between Guwahati and Vietnam.

The cancellation had earlier sparked political reactions after media reports suggested that the Guwahati leg of the visit could be dropped due to scheduling and logistical considerations. BJP MLA Chakradhar Gogoi reportedly linked the development to the recent controversy surrounding the removal of a mural depicting Assamese music icon Zubeen Garg from a pillar of the Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha Flyover in Guwahati.

Tripura Government Bans Private Practice for Doctors at State's Premier Hospital

AGARTALA

In a major healthcare reform aimed at improving patient services, the Tripura government has decided to prohibit doctors posted at the state's premier government medical institution-GB Pant Hospital and Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC)-from engaging in private practice.

Announcing the decision, state Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said the Council of Ministers approved the proposal during its meeting on Monday. To compensate doctors for the restriction, the government will provide a non-practice allowance equivalent to 20 per cent of their basic salary. "A notification will be issued shortly. Faculty members and medical officers of GB Pant Hospital and AGMC will no longer be allowed to engage in private practice. In return, they will receive a 20 per cent increase in their basic pay as a non-practice allowance," Chowdhury said. The move is part of the state government's efforts to strengthen healthcare delivery and enhance patient satisfaction at the flagship medical institution.

According to the minister, Chief Minister Manik Saha believes that despite significant improvements in infrastructure and medical facilities, concerns regarding the quality of patient care and overall satisfaction continue to surface. "The Chief Minister is of the view that while infrastructure has been upgraded, complaints related to patient satisfaction are still being received. The decision was taken after consultations with the doctors' association and other stakeholders," Chowdhury said. The government has also made it clear that doctors who wish to continue private practice may opt to resign from their positions at the state-run institution.

Assam Cabinet Approves Land, Education and Tourism Reforms to Boost Investment and Growth

GUWAHATI

The Assam Cabinet on Tuesday approved a series of policy reforms aimed at accelerating industrial development, expanding educational infrastructure and strengthening the tourism sector, with key decisions including automatic conversion of agricultural land for small enterprises and solar power projects. Announcing the decisions after the Cabinet meeting, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the government has cleared the Assam Regulation of Re-classification and Re-classification-cum-Transfer of Lands (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which will be introduced in the upcoming session of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Under the proposed amendment, agricultural land can be automatically converted for establishing micro-industries, khadi and allied enterprises, as well as solar energy projects, without requiring prior approval from district commissioners. The move is expected to reduce procedural delays, simplify compliance requirements and encourage investments in small-scale industries and renewable energy initiatives. In another major decision, the Cabinet approved amendments to the Assam Private Universities Act, 2007, easing the minimum land and endowment fund requirements for setting up private universities in the state. The government said the changes are intended to attract greater private participation in higher education and support the expansion of

academic institutions. The Cabinet also approved relaxation of certain regulatory provisions governing private schools, a step aimed at facilitating the establishment and growth of educational institutions while improving access to quality school education across Assam. To promote tourism and streamline regulatory processes, the Cabinet cleared the Assam Tourism Accommodation (Development and Registration) Rules, 2026. The new rules introduce a single-window registration mechanism for homestays and other accommodation facilities. They also provide for automatic renewal of registrations every three years, reducing administrative hurdles for tourism operators. Among other decisions, the Cabinet sanctioned ₹7.75 crore to the Assam Tea Corporation Limited (ATCL) for implementation of a proposed voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for its executives. The government further extended the validity of licences for all fair price shops in the state until December 31, 2026, from the earlier deadline of June 30. The extension is expected to ensure uninterrupted distribution of foodgrains to beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The Cabinet decisions are aimed at improving the ease of doing business, encouraging private investment, supporting renewable energy projects, expanding educational opportunities and strengthening Assam's tourism ecosystem while ensuring continuity in essential public welfare services.

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Nagaland Minister Calls for Stronger Measures to Protect Women and Children

KOHIMA

Nagaland Minister for Women Resource Development and Horticulture, Salthoutonuo Kruse, has urged authorities to intensify efforts to ensure the safety and security of women and children amid growing concern over crimes targeting vulnerable groups in the state. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a programme in Kohima on Monday, Kruse expressed concern over the increasing number of reported cases of sexual abuse involving women and girl children, describing the frequency of such incidents as alarming.

"Every few days, reports of such cases appear in newspapers. It is deeply concerning, and I believe the authorities must work harder to ensure the safety of our women and children," she said.

The minister stressed the need for greater vigilance, stronger enforcement of laws and coordinated action among government agencies and law enforcement authorities to prevent crimes against women and minors.

Kruse, who holds the distinction of being Nagaland's first

woman minister, said the protection of women and children must remain a key priority for both the government and society. Her remarks come against the backdrop of growing public concern over incidents of sexual abuse and increasing calls for stricter action against offenders. Civil society organisations and community leaders have also been advocating stronger safeguards and more effective implementation of existing laws to deter such crimes. The minister emphasized that ensuring a safe environment for women and children is essential for the state's social progress and well-being. She urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, community organisations and citizens, to work together in addressing the issue and strengthening protective mechanisms for vulnerable sections of society.

Kruse's appeal adds to the ongoing discussion on improving child protection systems, enhancing awareness and ensuring swift legal action in cases involving crimes against women and children across Nagaland.



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DOES THE IRAN-US DEAL LEGITIMISE EXTREMISM?

The first thirty-nine days of US airstrikes accomplished what decades of diplomacy and persuasion failed to do. For the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the United States seized control of the narrative from the Iranian theocracy. Stating that Iran could face a civilizational catastrophe if it did not surrender, the United States was uniquely vocal in warning the regime of severe consequences for executing the intellectuals who were leading the people's uprising. Ultimately, this marked the first time the Iranian state's military and security apparatus was met with an overwhelmingly powerful and decisive foe.

Recognising that Iran's air and naval capabilities were severely crippled, three leading Islamic nations - Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Turkey, all with long histories of positive relations with the U.S. urgently sought ways to halt the escalation of hostilities. Political observers speculated that an alliance akin to an "Islamic NATO" might emerge. However, since armed intervention was off the table, these nations chose a diplomatic approach. They agreed that Pakistan should take the lead. As the only Islamic nation possessing nuclear weapons and the one with the strongest ties to armed proxies in the region, Pakistan was uniquely positioned to act as the primary mediator. The UAE was excluded from the group owing to diverging geopolitical interests and growing strategic competition with Saudi Arabia.

The United States aimed to dismantle Iran's entrenched network of proxy forces - a core element of its theocracy - by launching a war that involved neutralising the Supreme Leader. However, while this campaign disrupted the top leadership, the structural foundation of the velayat and the battle-hardened, indoctrinated Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have fundamentally survived intact.

Iran secured tremendous financial concessions, effectively using the Hormuz chokehold to negotiate its economic rehabilitation. Through the deal, Tehran gains release of its frozen billions, avoids capitulation on all its regional proxy activities in the preliminary MoU, and secures massive capital to rebuild its fragile economy.

During the Iran conflict, Donald Trump famously declared Iran a civilizational threat, arguing that such threats cannot be managed but must be eliminated. Ali Khamenei, the personification of that threat, has since been removed. However, the institution he represented remains intact. If anything, it may have grown stronger by awakening deep-seated civilizational pride among the Iranian people.

President Trump's recent embrace of Pakistan - a state long criticised as a hub for international terrorism and his favourable treatment of its army chief appear to be driven less by conventional political strategy. Instead, these moves suggest a quid pro quo aimed at securing a multi-billion-dollar cryptocurrency agreement. This partnership, which integrates the Trump family-linked stablecoin into Pakistan's financial system, has raised ethical questions about the intersection of U.S. foreign policy and the President's personal business ventures.

The document called the peace agreement was drafted in Islamabad. Those who have seen the document, call it a "surrender document". In the words of Gregg Roman, the celebrated American media person, "it is surrender, executed by the victor, on the terms of the vanquished. Count what Iran surrenders and you will count roughly to zero."

The current agreement seeks to reaffirm that Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon. However, this raises a critical question: did Iran not offer identical assurances for over two decades, while covertly constructing nuclear facilities beneath mountains? On top of that, Iran wants to dilute its nuclear stockpile locally using the same inspectors they've blocked and misled in the past. Does this arrangement combined with their track record - actually give us confidence that their weapons program is crippled?

According to reports by Reuters, the U.S. and Iran are negotiating a draft agreement that would immediately issue Treasury waivers to allow Iranian oil to flow. Critics warn this will pump hard currency directly into the regime's hands before preliminary terms are verified. Furthermore, the draft framework contemplates unblocking billions in frozen assets. There is widespread concern that Tehran will funnel these cash reserves to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is the elite and most heavily armed branch of the Iranian Armed Forces, intertwining military operations with vast political and economic influence.

As one of the best-funded state security organisations globally, it serves as the primary engine for projecting Iran's geopolitical power across the Middle East. Often characterised by Western analysts as a dangerous amalgamation of militant ideology and state power, the IRGC has traditionally opposed direct talks with the United States. However, recent diplomatic frameworks and proposed international reconstruction funds now position the organisation to be a major beneficiary of renewed global investment and sanctions relief.

Los Angeles Times Washington Bureau Chief Michael Wilner summarised this precise strategic contradiction in his June 18th analysis, highlighting the core failure of the current administration's diplomatic strategy: "By contrast, Trump's agreement commits the United States to pursuing economic relief for Iran while providing no clarity about the future of Iran's nuclear program - the very issue Trump cited as the rationale for launching the war."

The United States' failure in Iran was not primarily caused by the strength of Iran's military resistance, but rather by the Trump administration's inability to accurately assess the deep anti-theocratic sentiments of the Iranian people. In the early stages of the uprising, as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) brutally suppressed the demonstrations, theocratic think tanks rapidly shifted the narrative to reframe the unrest as an anti-American movement. Consequently, protesters who had just torn down the regime's flag and hoisted the pre-revolutionary monarchical banner overnight pivoted their stance, aligning with the regime against foreign pressure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Opportunity often comes in disguised in the form of misfortune, or temporary defeat. - Napoleon Hill

Bangladesh's balancing act: DELHI OR BEIJING?



JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

The red-carpet welcome extended to Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in the Chinese port city of Dalian Monday night carried significance beyond diplomatic protocol.

China is Bangladesh's largest trading partner, and is also the largest source of development funds. Rahman is expected to tie up a number of projects and also possibly discuss the purchase of J-17 fighter jets during crucial discussions with the Chinese leadership team.

The carefully orchestrated trip ensured that Rahman's first stop on this trip was Kuala Lumpur, followed by a conference at Dalian before moving on to more substantive talks at Beijing so as not to offend New Delhi, which too has invited the Premier for a visit.

"What will be important will be the optics that the Chinese create as also the substantive matters which Premier Rahman discusses during his trip in meetings with China's Prime Minister Li Qiang and President Xi Jinping," Riva Ganguly Das, former Secretary-East in the Ministry of External Affairs told UNI while pointing out that Bangladesh's Prime Minister is also expected to visit Delhi later this year.

Diplomats believe the sequence of Rahman's diplomatic visits is not only to balance between Delhi and Beijing but to reinforce what officials describe as a "Bangladesh First" foreign policy, where Dhaka seeks diversified partnerships and avoids aligning itself exclusively with any major power.

However, beyond the symbolism, the economic and strategic concerns which prompted this trip makes it an important one. Bangladesh is currently pursuing more than \$4bn in direct Chinese funding while broader proposals worth over \$9bn remain are also under consideration by Beijing-backed institutions, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank.

Among the projects under discussion with the Chinese are the long-delayed Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project, the expansion of Mongla Port which Indians had earlier modernised and a Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone in Anwara near Chattogram.

The industrial zone will include, roads, port facilities and utility networks, besides flatted factory estates. Once completed, Anwara Industrial Zone could become one of the most significant manufacturing hubs linked to China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Asia.

Beijing, which has already built a naval base for Bangla-

des, near Chittagong, the country's largest port, also wants to get a toe-hold at Mongla, the second largest port as the other Chinese-built Pyara port, has proven to be a failure for hydrological challenges.

Defence analysts believe that with investments in two ports at the centre of the Bay of Bengal, China could have far more say in the region than ever in the past.

Rahman's trip is expected to produce around a dozen agreements covering electric vehicle technology, renewable energy, banking cooperation and potentially even a currency swap arrangement.

Such measures fit neatly into China's broader efforts to internationalise the renminbi and deepen economic integration across the developing world.

However, the most consequential development may not be economic at all. Bangladesh is believed to be finalising a \$2.2bn purchase of 20 Chinese J-10CE fighter aircraft. Once completed, the acquisition would represent the largest upgrade of Bangladesh's air force in decades and make the country only the second South Asian operator of the platform after Pakistan.

"Why Bangladesh wishes to invest in a costly fighter jet platform when it faces no military threat from any country and certainly none from us remains a mystery," said top defence ministry officials.

However, they pointed out that with modern radar arrays every move by a J-17 or similar 4th generation jet can be tracked starting with take-off.

"The purchase will nevertheless also mean deepening of cooperation on training and logistics between Bangladesh-China and Pakistan, the other user of this platform," officials said.

Bangladesh sits adjacent to India's vulnerable Siliguri Corridor - the narrow land bridge linking mainland India with its north-eastern states.

The prospect of advanced Chinese-origin combat aircraft operating near this strategically sensitive region and of close cooperation in logistics and training with Pakistan and China, both of whom have fought wars with India, inevitably raises concerns within the security establishment.

Relations between Bangladesh and India have cooled noticeably since the political transition that followed Sheikh Hasina's departure from office in 2024. Disagreements over trade, visas, extradition issues and border management have created a degree of mistrust during the previous Yunus regime that was largely absent during the Hasina era.

Both Bangladeshi and Indian diplomats hope that with the coming of the Tarique Rahman era, the relations between New Delhi and Dhaka will be on an upswing.

However, there is also the historical precedent of Begum Khaleda Zia's rule when relations reached a nadir and India accused Bangladesh of exporting terror modules and allowing rebels from India's northeast to set up camps and safe houses on its soil.

For Rahman, the challenge is therefore not simply to attract investment but to prevent

economic and defence cooperation with China from becoming synonymous with "strategic alignment".

Bangladesh's leaders are keenly aware that their country's prosperity depends upon maintaining productive ties with both Asian rising superpowers. China is a critical source of capital and infrastructure financing, while India remains indispensable for geography, connectivity, trade and regional stability.

The success of Rahman's first overseas tour will ultimately be measured not by the number of memoranda signed in Beijing but by whether Dhaka can continue convincing both China and India that engagement with one does not come at the expense of the other.

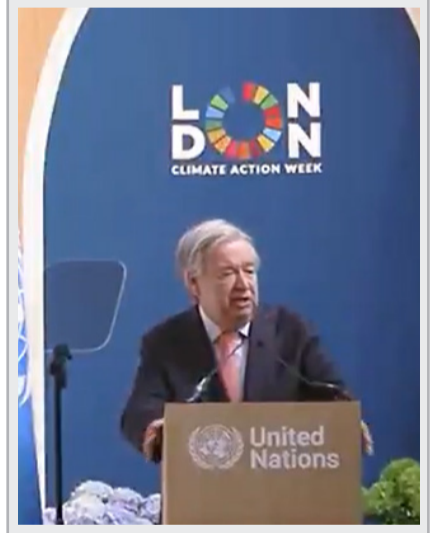
DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

For climate, this is the best of times & the worst of times.

The worst - because climate impacts are intensifying & the energy crisis has exposed the deep risks of dependence on fossil fuels.

The best - because the renewables revolution is well underway.

We have the enormous opportunity - and responsibility - to turn this into a moment of resolve, fairness & shared progress. We can finally turn the page on fossil fuels & write a future powered by renewables & rooted in climate justice. ~ Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of United Nations



Manipur Government Offices Face Disruption as Employees Intensify Agitation Over 8-Point Charter of Demands

IMPHAL

The functioning of government offices across Manipur, including the State Secretariat, remained severely disrupted for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as thousands of state employees proceeded on mass casual leave in support of a long-pending list of demands.

The coordinated protest, led jointly by the Manipur Secretariat Services Association, the Manipur Government Services Federation (MGSF), and the Manipur State Pensioners' Union, resulted in low attendance in several government departments. Only a limited number of senior officers and contractual employees reported for duty, affecting routine administrative work.

As part of the agitation, employees staged a sit-in demonstration at Singjamei Chingamakhong in Imphal, reiterating their demand



for immediate government intervention. Addressing the media during

the protest, MGSF president L. Sarat alleged that repeated representations submitted to the state

government had failed to receive any meaningful response, prompting employees to intensify their movement. The protesting organisations have submitted an eight-point charter of demands, which includes raising the retirement age of government employees to 62 years, payment of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) at par with Central government rates, and the constitution of a State Pay Commission to implement the recommendations of the Eighth Pay Commission.

Other key demands include restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), declaration of all Saturdays as government holidays, discontinuation of the re-engagement of retired officials, a freeze on fresh contractual appointments, and regularisation of existing contractual,

casual and muster-roll workers.

Employee unions warned that the ongoing agitation could escalate further if the government fails to address their concerns. They announced plans to launch a non-cooperation movement followed by an indefinite cease-work strike in the event of continued inaction.

Meanwhile, the Manipur State Committee of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) extended its support to the employees' movement and urged the government to initiate dialogue with the agitating organisations to find an amicable resolution to the issue.

The developments have raised concerns over the impact on public services, with government offices continuing to function with reduced staff strength amid the ongoing protest outcomes.

Nagaland to Host Indian Air Force Agniveervayu Recruitment Rally After 10-Year Gap

DIMAPUR

Nagaland is set to host an open recruitment rally under the Indian Air Force's Agniveervayu scheme in September, marking the first such recruitment drive in the state in nearly a decade.

The decision was taken during a coordination meeting held recently in Kohima under the chairmanship of the Special Secretary (Home), according to an official statement issued on Monday.

The meeting, attended by officials from the Home Department and other key government departments, focused on preparations for the recruitment rally, which is expected to offer aspiring youth from Nagaland an opportunity to join the Indian Air Force.

Following discussions, officials tentatively selected the Nagaland Armed Police Training Centre at Chumoukedima as the venue for the recruitment drive. The facility was chosen due to its existing infrastructure and logistical capabilities required for conducting the selection process.

To ensure smooth execution of the event, department-wise responsibilities were also assigned during the meeting.

The Police Headquarters (PHQ) will designate a nodal officer from the 1st Nagaland Armed Police, Chumoukedima, to coordinate with Indian Air Force authorities and oversee administrative as well as logistical arrangements at the venue.

The Health and Family Welfare Department has been directed to deploy a medical team headed by two doctors, supported by healthcare personnel and an ambulance, throughout the duration of the rally.

Meanwhile, the School Education Department will provide four teachers through the District Education Officer, Chumoukedima, to assist with verification and authentication of candidates' documents during the recruitment process.

Assam Launches e-Zero FIR System to Speed Up Action on Cyber Fraud Cases

GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Tuesday rolled out the eZero FIR system for cyber financial fraud complaints, enabling automatic conversion of eligible cybercrime complaints into First Information Reports (FIRs) to facilitate faster police action. Announcing the initiative, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the state was among the first in the country to implement the mechanism, which is designed to strengthen the response to cybercrime and improve recovery prospects for victims of online financial fraud.

Under the new system, complaints related to cyber financial fraud registered through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or the cybercrime helpline 1930 will be processed automatically. Cases involving fraud amounts exceeding Rs 10 lakh will be converted into Zero FIRs without requiring victims to visit a police station.

The initiative allows law enforcement agencies to begin investigations

immediately, irrespective of territorial jurisdiction, thereby reducing delays that often hamper cybercrime investigations. In a social media post, Sarma said the move aligns with the Centre's vision of building a cyber-secure India and would ensure jurisdiction-free and hassle-free registration of cyber financial fraud cases. According to the Chief Minister, quicker registration of FIRs is expected to enhance the chances of tracing transactions and recovering money lost in cyber fraud incidents by narrowing the gap between complaint registration and investigative action. Sarma credited the implementation of the eZero FIR system to the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the efforts of Assam Police.

Cybercrime, particularly online financial fraud, has emerged as a major challenge across India, with fraudsters increasingly targeting individuals through digital payment platforms, phishing schemes, fake investment offers and impersonation scams.

Nagaland Minister K.G. Kenye Calls for Unity, Consensus on Naga Political Issue

KOHIMA

Nagaland Minister for Power and Parliamentary Affairs K.G. Kenye on Tuesday voiced concern over growing divisions within Naga society and called for renewed efforts to build consensus on the long-pending Naga political issue.

Addressing the first annual general session of the Tenyimi Union Nagaland (TUN) in Kohima, Kenye said the Nagas were passing through a sensitive period and warned that prolonged delays in resolving the political issue were weakening social cohesion and collective leadership.

"We are very close to a critical stage. Things have been dragging on for too long, and the political situation is not looking encouraging," he said.

The minister expressed concern that no single institution or organisation currently enjoys the confidence and authority needed to represent all sections



of Naga society, resulting in increasing fragmentation.

"We are losing grip on our society. There is no centre of control over our people anymore. Whether it is Naga political groups, public organisations or even elected governments, we are gradually losing influence over developments around us," Kenye said.

He cautioned that the absence of a shared identity, common leadership or a unifying institution could create uncertainty for future generations and urged all

stakeholders to strengthen dialogue and cooperation.

Referring to TUN, Kenye said the organisation was founded on the basis of shared ancestry, history and customary traditions of the Angami, Chakhesang, Pochury, Rengma and Zeliang tribes rather than territorial considerations.

According to him, the union was established to address issues concerning Tenyimi communities living within Nagaland while maintaining cordial and constructive relations with other

Naga tribes and organisations.

The minister also urged TUN leaders to exercise restraint and adopt a balanced approach while addressing community issues.

"Let good sense, logic and responsible leadership guide our decisions," he said.

Also speaking at the event, Salthoutonuo Kruse called on members of the Tenyimi community to strengthen unity, brotherhood and shared cultural values.

She encouraged young people to uphold the principles of character, compassion and service while stressing the need for cooperation among tribal bodies, civil society organisations and community leaders for the collective advancement of the Naga people.

The annual session was held under the theme "Progressive Society Through Unity", with participants emphasizing the importance of social harmony, cultural preservation and collective efforts toward addressing the challenges facing Naga society.

Congress Demands Time-Bound Roadmap for Peace Restoration in Manipur

IMPHAL

Leader of the Congress Legislature Party in Manipur, Keisham Meghachandra, has urged the state government to present a clear timeline and comprehensive roadmap for restoring peace and normalcy in the violence-affected state.

In a statement shared on social media platform X, Meghachandra said the people of Manipur have endured more than three years of hardship, displacement and uncertainty since ethnic violence erupted on May 3, 2023.

The Congress leader noted that the BJP-led state government, which has been in office for nearly five months, should now be in a position to provide a transparent and practical plan for restoring peace, rebuilding trust and addressing the concerns of affected communities.



"While the situation remains complex, the people deserve clarity and concrete action. The government must explain the measures being taken to restore public confi-

dence, ensure rehabilitation, facilitate the safe return of displaced persons and create conditions for lasting peace," Meghachandra said.

He called on the government to disclose its strategy for peace restoration and sought details on rehabilitation and resettlement plans for families displaced by the conflict.

The Congress MLA also demanded a timeline for the return of normalcy and asked the government to outline steps being taken to ensure justice, security and reconciliation among communities affected by the violence.

"Peace cannot remain an open-ended promise. There must be a transparent, time-bound and inclusive plan that addresses the concerns of all affected communities. The people of Manipur expect accountability, decisive action and visible progress towards a peaceful

and secure future," he said.

Manipur has been grappling with ethnic tensions and violence between Meitei and Kuki communities since May 2023, resulting in significant loss of life, widespread displacement and extensive damage to property. According to official estimates, the conflict has claimed at least 260 lives and displaced thousands of residents, many of whom continue to live in relief camps and temporary shelters.

Meghachandra's demand comes amid ongoing efforts by the government and security agencies to restore normalcy, facilitate the return of displaced families and promote dialogue among communities affected by the conflict.

The state government has yet to respond publicly to the Congress leader's call for a time-bound roadmap for peace and rehabilitation.

Tripura Faces No Drought Risk After Receiving Over 1,000 mm Rainfall: Minister



AGARTALA

Tripura Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath on Tuesday said there is no possibility of a drought-like situation in the state this year, citing the substantial monsoon rainfall received so far.

The minister made the statement after participating in a nationwide review meeting through video conference chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The meeting was attended by agriculture ministers, senior officials and departmental secretaries from various states to assess the agricultural situation ahead of the Kharif season.

Nath said the Centre is closely monitoring weather conditions across the country amid concerns over possible climatic fluctuations linked to the El Niño phenomenon. While India remains largely self-sufficient in key agricultural sectors, including food grain and fisheries production, some regions could face weather-related challenges due to uneven rainfall patterns.

Referring to forecasts issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minister noted that the northeastern region is expected to receive normal to above-normal rainfall during the current monsoon season.

"Tripura has already recorded more than 1,000 mm of rainfall, and under the present circumstances there is no likelihood of drought conditions developing

in the state," Nath said.

Despite the favourable rainfall outlook, he said the Agriculture Department has put precautionary measures in place to safeguard Kharif crop production and ensure preparedness for any unforeseen weather-related disruptions.

According to the minister, the department has ensured adequate availability of quality seeds, fertilisers and agricultural equipment. Arrangements have also been made for protective irrigation in areas that may require supplementary water support during the cultivation season.

Nath further said the government is promoting cluster-based farming practices to enhance productivity and improve efficiency in the cultivation of major crops such as paddy, pulses and oilseeds.

The minister added that agriculture officials remain vigilant and are continuously monitoring weather conditions to ensure timely intervention if required.

He said the state government's focus remains on maximising agricultural output during the ongoing Kharif season while protecting farmers from potential climatic uncertainties.

With monsoon rainfall remaining robust and forecasts indicating favourable conditions for the Northeast, Tripura's agriculture sector is expected to benefit from improved water availability and stable cropping conditions in the months ahead.

KAAC Celebrates 75th Foundation Day with Appointments, Awards and Cultural Programmes

DIPHU

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) marked its 75th Foundation Day on Tuesday with a series of official ceremonies, cultural events and welfare initiatives across Karbi Anglong district.

The celebrations commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag at the KAAC Secretariat in Taralango, Diphu, and at the Hamren KAAC Branch Secretariat. As part of the observance, tributes were paid to prominent Karbi leaders and pioneers, including Semson Sing Ingti, Khorsing Terang and Sarsing Teron, at Rangina Sarpo Ahongia in Taralango and at memorial sites in Diphu.

An open session was later held under the chairmanship of KAAC Chairman Raju Tisso. Chief Executive Member Tuliram Ronghang attended as the chief guest, while Lok Sabha MP Amarsing Tisso was present as the guest of honour. The event was attended by legislators, executive members, council representatives and senior officials.

Addressing the gathering, Ronghang highlighted the achievements of the autonomous council over the decades and reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating development and improving public services across Karbi Anglong.

During the programme, appointment letters were distributed to chairpersons



of Territorial Village Development Committees (TVDCs) and TET-qualified lower primary assistant teachers under the KAAC Primary Education Department.

In a welfare initiative, Ronghang also handed over the keys of a newly constructed house to noted Karbi folk singer and cultural icon Pakhila Lektheipi.

Ahead of the foundation day celebrations, the council announced key appointments to the 13th KAAC. Headings Rongphar and Kadam Terangpi were appointed as Executive Members, while former Howraghat MLA Darsing

Ronghang was inducted as a nominated member of the council.

The occasion also featured the presentation of the CEM Lifetime Achievement Awards 2026 in recognition of outstanding contributions across various fields. Certificates and medals were also awarded to promising badminton players for their achievements in sports.

The celebrations were scheduled to continue into the evening with a cultural programme dedicated to the memory of late Sum Ronghang, a noted cultural personality, All India Radio artist, former Chief Executive Member of KAAC

and former Assam Cabinet Minister.

As part of the festivities, the KAAC Secretariat and government offices under the council's administration were illuminated, while the Karbi feature film Tasam was slated for screening.

Established in 1951 under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council remains one of the oldest autonomous councils in the Northeast and continues to play a pivotal role in governance, development and preservation of indigenous culture in the hill district.

Quest!

There are four types of creativity: deliberate cognitive, deliberate emotional, spontaneous cognitive, and spontaneous emotional.

India, US commence talks to rework trade pact amid tariff changes



Agrawal on June 15 stated that the discussions between the two sides are expected to be centred around giving final touches to the framework deal.

On June 17, US President Donald Trump said the two countries are "very close" to finalise the trade agreement.

Earlier on June 5, Goyal said India and the US are moving towards closing all open ends of the interim trade agreement, and both sides are likely to execute the "very, very vibrant" first phase of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the middle of next month.

Both sides in February announced the contours of the first phase of the BTA. The framework was based on the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US on Indian goods. However, on February 20, the US Supreme Court struck down the sweeping tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The Trump administration then announced 10 per cent tariffs under Section 122 of the Trade Act on all countries for 150 days on February 24. It will expire on July 24 this year.

The meeting between the two sides is important on account of these changes in the US tariff regime.

India and the US formally launched BTA negotiations on February 13, 2025. On February 7, 2026, the two sides announced that they had reached a framework for an interim agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade.

According to that framework, the US had agreed to reduce tariffs on India to 18 per cent from 50 per cent. It had removed the 25 per cent tariffs on Indian goods for buying Russian oil and was to cut the remaining 25 per cent to 18 per cent under the pact. But the US Supreme Court ruled against these tariffs.

Opening of Strait of Hormuz welcome move: NSA Doval at BRICS conclave

NEW DELHI

The opening of the Strait of Hormuz is a very welcome move for global energy security, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Tuesday, welcoming his counterparts from BRICS nations at a key conclave here.

In his televised opening remarks at the BRICS NSAs meeting, Doval, touching upon impact of "geopolitical uncertainties and economic strains", underlined the need for the grouping to play a significant role in addressing the challenges.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu, Iranian security official Ghadir Nezamipour and other top BRICS security officials are attending the meeting chaired by Doval.

"India welcomes the MoU reached between the US and Iran. We have got cautious optimism, and we hope that it will work. It will help energy security," Doval said.

"The opening of the Strait of Hormuz is a very welcome development. It will remove supply chain bottlenecks and (address) shortages in sectors like fertilisers and chemicals," he said.

In the remarks, Doval emphasised the importance of BRICS in navigating various global challenges.

"We are meeting at a very tumultuous time. The world is facing geopolitical uncertainties, economic strains, and disruptive technology," Doval said.

"Not only that the threats are compounding, but the instruments and institutional mechanisms are increasingly finding themselves to be inadequate to resolve or mitigate these conflicts," he said.

"Multilateralism is on the decline," he said, adding BRICS has a major role to play in addressing various challenges.



New Delhi hosted the conclave in its capacity as the current chair of the influential grouping.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

The BRICS has emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

"We have got a very special role to play in this world, which appears to be in turmoil, a world which appears to be changing, a world in which the instruments of

conflict resolutions are probably getting blunted," Doval said.

"What role we as a grouping can play is a matter that is important for us to ponder."

Doval also made a mention of how BRICS took shape.

"BRICS was conceived as an informal grouping of emerging economies to a more multipolar world order."

It was to advance economic cooperation and strengthen the voice of the Global South," he said.

Doval said BRICS also envisioned reforms in global governance and institutional improvements.

"BRICS is a very special coalition of countries that believe in peace, progress, development, and cooperation," he added.

The National Security Advisor said the conclave will also discuss the outcomes of the two BRICS joint working groups on counter-terrorism. "We need to be cognisant of the new security threats and challenges. Non-traditional threats have transcended national borders and have developed defeat systems against conventional responses," he said.

Doval also flagged concerns over non-traditional security threats facing the world, including those emerging from disruptive technologies.

"They all constitute an important threat for us. Today, we will be navigating some of these non-traditional security challenges in our collective deliberations," he said.

NEW DELHI

India and the US on Tuesday commenced discussions on the first phase of their proposed bilateral trade pact, after changes in US tariff policy upended a framework negotiated earlier this year.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer here as both sides sought to conclude an interim trade pact before July 24, when Washington's temporary 10 per cent tariff on imports from trading partners is due to expire.

"Warm welcome to @USTradeRep Amb Jamieson Greer, @USAmbIndia Amb Sergio Gor and their delegation to @DoC_GoI. Looking forward to productive discussions on the bilateral trade agreement between (India & US)," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a post on X.

Greer's two-day visit comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held their first meeting in more than a year on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France on June 17, injecting fresh momentum into trade negotiations that

both sides see as critical to strengthening economic ties.

The talks are focused on reworking a framework agreement announced in February that was built around tariff commitments later rendered uncertain by a US Supreme Court ruling striking down sweeping tariffs announced by Trump.

The meeting at Vanija Bhawan, the headquarters of the commerce ministry, is also being attended by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and India's chief negotiator Darpan Jain, sources said.

Securing preferential tariff treatment has become a central objective for New Delhi after changes in US trade policy eroded an advantage India had expected to enjoy over regional competitors such as Vietnam and other ASEAN economies.

Under the February framework, the United States had agreed to reduce tariffs on Indian goods to 18 per cent, lower than duties facing several competing exporters. However, the subsequent court ruling and Washington's decision to impose a temporary 10 per cent tariff on imports from all countries have forced both sides to revisit key elements of the arrangement.

INTERNATIONAL

Senate backs resolution to end Trump's Iran war, delivering fresh rebuke to White House

WASHINGTON

The US Senate passed a largely symbolic resolution Tuesday calling for an end to President Donald Trump's war with Iran, delivering a fresh rebuke to the White House as it tries to negotiate a lasting settlement with Tehran.

The House-passed measure, adopted by the Senate in a 50-48 vote, directs Trump to remove US forces from hostilities with Iran unless Congress explicitly authorizes military action.

Because the measure is a "concurrent resolution," it does not go to Trump's desk for signature and carries disputed legal force.

But its passage still puts both chambers of Congress on record against a conflict that began with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February, rattled global energy markets and opened a broader regional war involving Lebanon and Gulf states.

The vote came as the Trump administration pursued a 60-day diplomatic push to turn a preliminary memorandum of understanding with Iran into a final agreement covering Tehran's nuclear program, sanctions relief and the Strait of Hormuz.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer forced the vote to put Republicans on record after several Trump allies voiced alarm over both the war and the president's deal to end it.

"Republicans can complain about Trump's war, his secrecy, and his disastrous deal with Iran all they want behind closed doors, but the only way to ensure this war ends once and for all is for Republicans to act," Schumer said in a floor speech ahead of the vote.

The resolution earlier cleared



the Republican-controlled House after four Republicans joined every Democrat in backing it, a rare break with Trump on matters of war and national security.

Democrats say Trump violated the Constitution by launching military operations against Iran without congressional approval.

President Donald Trump holds up a signed executive order about quantum computing, in the Oval Office of the White House, Monday,

June 22, 2026, in Washington.

Under the 1973 War Powers Act, presidents must obtain authorization from Congress within 60 days of introducing US forces into hostilities, though administrations of both parties have often contested how the law applies.

The White House has argued that resolutions seeking to curb Trump's powers to wage war in Iran are unconstitutional and says the conflict had already ended under an

April ceasefire ordered by Trump.

It has also warned that restricting the president's authority could weaken Washington's leverage as negotiators seek to lock in a final deal with Iran.

Speaker Mike Johnson, a Trump ally, said before the House vote that limiting the commander-in-chief during negotiations was a "very dangerous prospect."

But Democrats and some Republicans say the fighting continued well beyond the legal deadline and that Trump has repeatedly threatened renewed strikes.

The vote also reflects growing unease in Congress over the cost of the war, which disrupted trade routes, drove up energy prices and placed new strain on US voters already worried about inflation ahead of November's midterm elections. The administration's diplomacy with Tehran has moved quickly since Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the preliminary agreement, which was meant to halt the wider regional conflict and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran said Tuesday that the UN nuclear watchdog would not be allowed to inspect nuclear sites bombed by the United States and Israel last year, rejecting Vice President JD Vance's claim that Tehran had agreed to allow inspectors back in.

Trump later insisted on social media that Iran had accepted "the highest level" of nuclear inspections.

Meanwhile, Tehran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the Strait of Hormuz would "never return" to the days of free passage before the war, despite new communication lines aimed at keeping the vital shipping route open.

Germany's leader pledges to reform a creaking pension system and says 'failure is not an option'



BERLIN

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pledged Tuesday to push through a proposed reform of the country's creaking pension system that would include raising the retirement age gradually in line with life expectancy, declaring that "failure is not an option."

Merz's coalition of center-right and center-left parties took office just over a year ago with pledges to reform and turn around Germany's sluggish economy, Europe's biggest. It has since become deeply unpopular, in part because of perceptions that it has squabbled but so far achieved little.

Germany's economy returned to modest growth last year after shrinking for two years in a row. The government expects underwhelming growth of 0.5% this year, a figure that has been pushed down by the fallout from the war in Iran.

The country of 83.5 million

people already faced increasing competition from Chinese companies, higher energy costs following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and issues including US President Donald Trump's tariffs and trade threats. On top of that, it has deeper problems such as high production costs, lagging private investment and increasingly costly health and pension systems, caused by an aging population.

On Tuesday, a government-mandated panel of experts and politicians delivered 33 recommendations to stabilize the pension system. The aim is to prevent the level of pensions from falling and ward off the need for a big long-term increase of the levy employees pay into the pension system. They currently contribute 18.6% of gross wages.

Germany has long faced the problem that "fewer and fewer contributors have to finance pensions for more and more retirees," Merz

said. "Doing nothing is not an option."

The panel's central proposals include introducing market investments as an element of individuals' pension insurance to relieve financial pressure on the system, based on a model used in Sweden.

Germany moved two decades ago to raise the regular retirement age from 65 to 67, implementing the change gradually. The commission proposed going beyond that to raise it in line with life expectancy starting in 2031. The life expectancy in Germany is 78.5 years for men and 83.2 years for women, according to the national statistics office.

The commission's co-chairperson, Constanze Janda, said the change would affect the retirement age "moderately," and that it would increase by about six months over 10 years if life expectancy continues to rise as it is now.

In the mid-2010s, Germany started allowing people who have paid pension contributions for 45 years to retire at 63 without a financial hit. The panel proposed scrapping that financial provision and raising the minimum retirement age to 64. It also said that the age at which people can start reducing their working hours ahead of retirement should be raised from 55 to 58.

The conservative Merz said his coalition intends to "implement in full," and quickly, the proposals put forth by the commission. That intention was echoed by Labor Minister Bäbel Bas, the co-leader of the center-left Social Democrats.

They will likely face plenty of work to get the package through parliament, where the governing coalition has a relatively thin minority. The proposals already have drawn criticism from labor unions. "Failure is not an option," Merz said.

Why Peacebuilding Must Become India's Permanent National Doctrine



PRAMOD BORO, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, RAJYA SABHA

India stands at a defining moment in its national journey. Today, we are on course to become a global economic power, a technological leader and a steady voice in an increasingly uncertain world. We are able to speak confidently of a developed India, of innovation, infrastructure and international leadership. Yet, amid these ambitions, a fundamental question still haunts us. Can a nation truly become great if sections of its people continue to live amidst conflict, mistrust, fear and recurring violence? Our response to this basic, yet overarching question of the present times, will determine not only the India we live and build today, but also the inheritance we leave to the generations that follow. What shall we bequeath to our children? Would it be the ferocity and vagaries of unresolved conflict or the dignity of peaceful life?

For decades, several regions of India, particularly the Northeast, have endured the consequences of political struggles, insurgent movements, ethnic tension, and social fragmentation. These conflicts emerged from different histories and grievances, mainly owing to feelings of neglect, fear for loss of language and cultural identity, developmental disparities, displacement, and the absence of meaningful dialogue. Yet their consequences have been always painfully similar with episodes of conflict and violence, loss of lives, displacement, disruption of education, health services and economic activities. Sadly, in the past, generations of young people were seen to have been already denied the opportunity to dream freely.

Without doubt, India has made significant progress through peace accords, democratic engagement, ceasefires, constitutional arrangements and development initiatives. However, I am afraid that peace cannot remain a temporary project of a particular government. It must become a permanent national doctrine. Even as our commitment to national unity, justice and the constitutional rights of every citizen, and the pursuit of inclusive development must remain constant.

I have realized, through years of public life, that politicians change, governments change, bureaucrats are transferred or retired, political parties move between government and Opposition. Democracy is designed to accommodate such change, and this periodic renewal is one of its greatest strengths. But in the midst of these frequent transitions, did peace somewhere and somehow become a casualty? Should the fundamental objectives of the nation change with every political transition or a bureaucratic replacement?

Unfortunately, peace processes are often viewed through partisan or electoral lenses. Unlike knee-jerk responses, peace processes are long-term and very often inter-generational. There is every possibility, as it has so transpired in more than one instance, that one government initiates a negotiation, another signs the agreement, and a third inherits the responsibility of implementation. With

the changes in political leadership, continuity of peace-processes immediately becomes vulnerable. Fluctuations in policy and delays in implementation create frustration, incomplete commitments weaken trust and unresolved grievances begin to return in new forms, sometimes in uglier shape too. Also, it must be noted that a peace agreement cannot be assumed as the destination itself. It must be held only as the beginning of a longer and more demanding journey.

It is true that the success of peace must not be measured only by the signing of Memoranda of Settlements, the laying down of arms or the decline in violent in-

This is also why the continuing pain of Manipur must concern every Indian, too, as the state yet stands as a warning to the entire nation. It cannot be swept under the carpet. Our parents, brothers, sisters, and children of Manipur have endured much anger, violence, grief, suffering and the lack of empathy over the years. Have we learnt anything at all from the collective suffering?

The Foundations of a National Peace Doctrine

India needs a long-term peace-building framework that can endure changes in political leadership. It should rest on five principles: continuous dialogue, inclusive development, respect

lasting peace.

Youth Participation is Key: The future of peace also rests with young people. They must inherit opportunities rather than grievances, and aspirations rather than animosities.

The Nation be always placed above the individual: No politician, bureaucrat or government remains forever, but the nation endures. Peace processes must therefore be larger than individual tenures and protected through institutions, public policy, education and a bipartisan national commitment.

Not another Generation: When Indians fight Indians, clearly, there are no winners. How long



idents. Its true measure lies in whether children are able to attend school without fear, if the displaced families are able to once again return to their lands with dignity, and whether the youth are able to find gainful employment.

Respect for all communities, and resumption of services, such as, roads, hospitals, educational and financial institutions, particularly, for those who were once excluded, are other key terms that re-stitch a coexistence framework. These are non-negotiable aspects of a peace-building process, if we are to see, previously adversarial parties rebuilding a shared future.

The Northeast offers India some of its most profound lessons in nation-building.

It demonstrates both the enormous cost of conflict and the transformative possibilities of dialogue. For instance, the experience of Bodoland shows that replacement of confrontational strategy with dialogue, and promotion of trust through democratic accommodation enabled communities to move from conflict towards cooperation.

for identity and dignity, youth participation, and reconciliation.

Dialogue must never stop: In a diverse nation, differences are natural. What matters is how they are addressed. Dialogue must not begin only after violence erupts but should become a permanent democratic practice.

Development, too, must reach every community, because inclusion and opportunity encourage cooperation over conflict. At the same time, no citizen should be forced to choose between preserving their identity and participating in the national mainstream. It is essential to accept that India's unity is strengthened, not threatened, by its diversity.

The Moral Responsibility of our Generation: Every generation inherits a historical responsibility. Some fought for freedom, while others, built institutions or drove economic transformation. Our responsibility is to transform conflict into cooperation. We need to work harder still to bequeath a Northeast India which be remembered not merely for the violence it has endured, but for demonstrating how dialogue, democracy and development could create a

shall we continue to fight within one home called "Bharat Mata"? Every life lost diminishes the nation, every conflict delays progress and every act of hatred weakens the very idea of India. India's civilizational heritage has always emphasized the sanctity of life, co-existence, and respect for human dignity. A civilized society is not defined by its economic growth, technological advancement, or political power alone.

It is defined by the value it places on human life. From the teachings of Buddha to the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, from tribal traditions of community living to constitutional values of equality and fraternity, our collective wisdom has consistently affirmed that human life is sacred. It is now time to re-enliven this timeless value for the dignity of human life which has become the biggest casualty by acts of continued violence.

India's commitment to peace, justice, dignity and national unity must remain permanent. It must, rather, be the foundation of the India we seek to build, and that this foundation must endure even long after all of us are gone.

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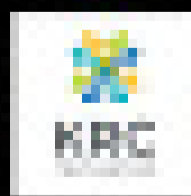


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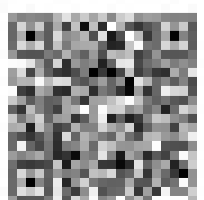


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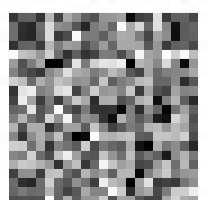


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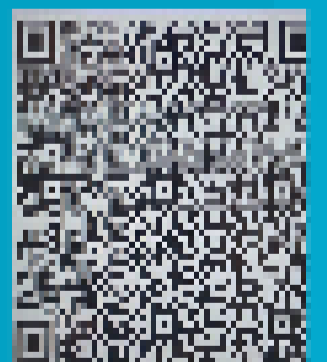
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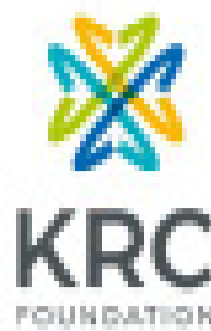
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