



Life begins at the end
of your comfort zone.

Neale Donald Walsch

Important Issues of the Day

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U.S. Supreme Court halts Trump's sweeping tariffs

The 6-3 ruling nullifies 'reciprocal' tariffs Trump imposed on countries, including India, under an emergency powers law; the court says only Congress has power to impose taxes, including tariffs

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's far-reaching global tariffs on Friday, handing him a significant loss on an issue crucial to his economic agenda.

The 6-3 decision centres on tariffs imposed under an emergency powers law, including the sweeping "reciprocal" tariffs he levied on nearly every other country, such as India.

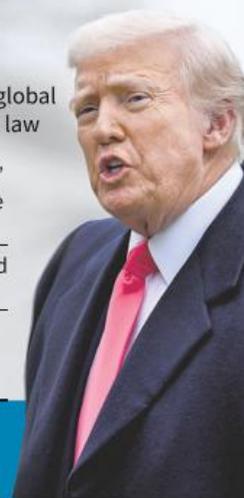
It's the first major piece of Mr. Trump's broad agenda to come squarely before the nation's highest court, which he helped shape with the appointments of three conservative jurists in his first term.

The majority found that the Constitution "very

Court rebuff

On Friday, the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated President Donald Trump's global tariffs under a 1977 emergency powers law

- **April 2025:** Trump imposes 'reciprocal' tariffs on most countries to address trade deficits and emergencies
- **2025-2026:** Lawsuits filed by states and businesses challenge the tariffs' legality
- **Dec. 2025:** Treasury reports \$133 billion collected from the import taxes; companies like Costco seek refunds
- **Feb. 20:** Court rules 6-3; it says only Congress has the constitutional power to impose tariffs



clearly" gives Congress the power to impose taxes, which include tariffs. "The Framers did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote.

The Treasury had collected more than \$133 bil-

lion from the import taxes the President has imposed under the emergency powers law as of December, federal data shows.

The tariff decision doesn't stop Mr. Trump from imposing duties under other laws. While those have more limitations on

Trump orders temporary 10% global tariff

WASHINGTON

Donald Trump said he would impose a 10% global tariff for 150 days, under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, to replace some duties struck down by the court. He said the new duties would be over and above the existing tariffs. He also said nothing changes on trade deal with India. REUTERS

the speed and severity of Mr. Trump's actions, top administration officials have said they expect to keep the tariff framework in place under other authorities.

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- **The majority found that the Constitution “very clearly” gives Congress the power to impose taxes, which include tariffs. “The Framers did not vest any part of the taxing power in the Executive Branch,” Chief Justice John Roberts wrote.**
- **The Treasury had collected more than \$133 billion from the import taxes the President has imposed under the emergency powers law as of December, federal data shows.**
- **Mr. Trump on Friday said the court’s ruling that struck down his sweeping tariffs was “deeply disappointing” and that he was “absolutely ashamed” by the justices who ruled against him in the 6-3 decision.**
- **Mr. Trump set what he called “reciprocal” tariffs on most countries in April 2025 to address trade deficits, which he declared a national emergency.**

SC steps in; judicial officers will now join SIR process in Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took an “extraordinary” decision to involve the judiciary in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, saying the persistent “trust deficit” between the Mamata Banerjee government and the Election Commission (EC) has led to a “stalemate”, with time running out.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant requested the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court to deploy a force of serving and retired judicial officers of West Bengal to take over the quasi-judicial task of Electoral Registration Officers/ Assistant Electoral Registration Officers. They would hear lakhs of voters who had been dropped from the draft roll and had received hearing notices



Voters checking their names in West Bengal's draft electoral rolls, in Balurghat. FILE PHOTO

after the EC found them “unmapped” or detected “logical discrepancies” in their personal details.

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- **Now, with hardly a week to go for the claims/objections phase to end on February 28, the court found the State government and the EC exchanging recriminations over the quality and rank of personnel the State had deputed to the EC for the SIR exercise.**
- **The court observed that a stalled SIR process would lead to “serious consequences” for lakhs in West Bengal whose citizenship was under scrutiny.**
- **The Bench asked the High Court Chief Justice to hold a meeting on February 21 with the State Election Commissioner, the West Bengal Chief Secretary, the Director-General of Police and the Advocate-General of the State, to iron out a plan for the deployment of judicial officers, who should be in the rank of District or Additional District Judge.**
- **Their instructions would be deemed to be that of the Supreme Court, and the State/district administration would have to comply without demur.**

India joins U.S.-led tech alliance to build resilient supply chains

The Pax Silica seeks to build a common supply chain for electronics, critical minerals to withstand disruptions by China; the grouping, which held its inaugural summit in December, includes Canada, Japan, South Korea, and European Union

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

India joined the Pax Silica group on Friday, teaming up with the United States and other countries that have sought to build a common supply chain for electronics and critical minerals.

At an event during the AI Impact Summit, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw signed a document formally including India in the group, along with U.S. Undersecretary of State for economic growth, energy, and the environment Jacob Helberg.

Mr. Helberg has been a major force in creating the group, which had its inaugural summit at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. last December.

In a brief impassioned address on Friday, Mr. Helberg asserted that “we



New bond: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (second from right) with U.S. envoy Sergio Gor (centre) and others at an event to mark India's entry into the Pax Silica initiative in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

have allowed the foundations of our economic security to drift”, adding that it was important for countries like India and the U.S., who had both rejected “a king oceans away”, to reclaim sovereignty over their supply chains.

Pax Silica's other signatories include Canada, Japan, South Korea, and the

European Union. They have sought to make their supply chains more resilient to shocks from China, which has exercised its leverage over the last year as the sole source of refined rare earth elements, to gain an upper hand in trade negotiations with the U.S.

“We have a very large ta-

lent pool, and we have conducted our foreign policy in a manner that builds trust,” Mr. Vaishnaw said on the sidelines of the summit.

‘Say no to blackmail’

“We find ourselves grappling with a global supply chain that is massively overconcentrated,” Mr.

Helberg said. “We watch as our friends and allies face daily threats of economic coercion and blackmail, forced to choose between their sovereignty and their prosperity. We have seen the lights of a great Indian city extinguished by a keystroke from across the border,” he added, in an apparent reference to alleged sabotage that caused a blackout in Mumbai in October 2020.

“And we’ve seen our friends denied essential minerals simply because a leader dared to speak her mind,” he said, in an apparent reference to China's recent restrictions on rare earth element exports as a response to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan. “So today, as we signed the Pax Silica Declaration, we say no to weaponised dependency, and we say no to blackmail,” Mr. Helberg said.

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Signatories

- ◆ Australia
- ◆ Greece
- ◆ Israel
- ◆ Japan
- ◆ Qatar
- ◆ Republic of Korea
- ◆ Singapore
- ◆ United Arab Emirates
- ◆ United Kingdom

Consider the following statements:

I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.

II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.

III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) I and II only

(b) II and III only

(c) I and III only

(d) I, II and III

Mains Question

Q. How does dependence on imports of critical minerals affect India's manufacturing ambitions under initiatives like Make in India and energy transition goals? (150 words)

प्रश्न: क्रिटिकल मिनेरल्स के आयात पर निर्भरता, 'मेक इन इंडिया' तथा ऊर्जा संक्रमण लक्ष्यों के संदर्भ में भारत की विनिर्माण महत्वाकांक्षाओं को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करती है? (150 शब्द)

PAC pulls up govt. for slow implementation of SANKALP scheme

Panel questions govt. over absence of a central monitoring mechanism and gaps in due diligence; CAG had flagged shortfalls in financial progress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament, chaired by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, on Friday criticised the government for what members described as “lackadaisical” implementation of the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

The panel was examining a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report that highlighted significant delays and shortfalls in both financial and physical progress under the scheme. According to the CAG, only 44% of the budgeted provision for SANKALP was disbursed between 2017-18 and 2023-24 (as of October 2023). The audit also flagged weak adherence to implementation guidelines and a sluggish pace of execution across components.

Approved by the Cabi-



The scheme seeks to strengthen short-term skill training through better institutional frameworks and industry linkage. FILE PHOTO

net Committee on Economic Affairs in October 2017 with a total outlay of ₹4,455 crore, SANKALP was designed to strengthen short-term skill training through better institutional frameworks, enhanced industry linkages, and targeted inclusion of marginalised communities.

The scheme was slated to be financed through a World Bank loan of ₹3,300 crore, State leverage of ₹660 crore, and industry leverage of ₹495 crore.

Launched in 2018, SANKALP was originally scheduled for completion by

March 2023 but was later extended to March 2024. Against the first tranche of the agreed loan of \$250 million, the Bank disbursed ₹1,606.15 crore (86%), but the Ministry utilised only ₹850.71 crore as of December 2023.

The CAG attributed part of the delay to “non-preparedness” within the Ministry before the commencement of the loan period. The PAC members echoed this during the meeting, questioning the government over the absence of a central monitoring mechanism and gaps in due diligence.

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- **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (“SANKALP”) is a programme of the Ministry of Skill Development with loan assistance from the World Bank.**
- **It aims to improve short term skill training qualitatively and quantitatively through strengthening institutions, bring in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalised sections of the society.**
- **SANKALP was launched on 19th January 2018 and has a tenure till March 2025.**
- **The Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act, 1919 also called Montford Reforms.**
- **The Public Accounts Committee is now constituted every year under Rule 308 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.**

- **Appointment:**
- **The Chairman of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.**
- **It is to be noted that the Committee, not being an executive body, can only make decisions that are advisory by nature.**

- **Members:**
- **It presently comprises 22 members (15 members elected by the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 7 members elected by the Rajya Sabha Chairman) with a term of one year only.**

- **Comptroller and Auditor General**
- **About: The CAG of India, as per Article 148 of the Constitution, heads the Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD). He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.**

- **CAG of India is governed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.**
- **Appointment and Term: The CAG of India is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal. The officeholder serves a term of six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.**
- **The CAG takes an oath to uphold the Constitution and perform duties impartially, without fear or favour.**
- **CAG removal is possible by the President on the same grounds and process as a Supreme Court judge, requiring a special majority resolution in both Houses of Parliament for proven misbehaviour or incapacity.**
- **CAG can resign any time from his office by addressing the resignation letter to the president.**
- **Independence: The CAG can only be removed by the President following a constitutional procedure, not at the President's pleasure.**

Gen Z and the dynamics of democratic engagement

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Democracies across the globe have been witnessing backsliding and counter-narratives have not been too successful in arresting the malaise. In this context, Generation Z, or Gen Z (those born roughly between 1997 and 2012), has emerged as a renewed source of hope at a time when many people had begun to resign themselves to authoritarian regimes and their unresponsive governance.

In Bangladesh (2024) and Nepal (2025), Gen Z has spearheaded regime-challenging protests, mobilising around issues of corruption, transparency and institutional accountability. These sporadic protests proved to be more effective than the earlier round of such mass protests, examples being the Occupy Wall Street in the United States (2011), the Arab Spring (the early 2010s), and the Brazilian Spring (2013). Some of these protests hit the headlines but did not make effective policy changes, leave alone regime change. So, how do we make sense of such sudden eruptions?

Every generation recalibrates ethics, values and social practices in a manner that is distinct from the previous generations. Therefore, it takes time to make sense of what the new generations think and say – the ingredients of old practices and imagination melt into a new recipe. The old has an 'absent presence' in the way the new gets articulated. The new looks like a distorted version of the old, and the older generations, understandably, feel disappointed and disturbed.

The essence, its worldview

Long dismissed as preoccupied, politically disengaged, and lost in the virtual world, Gen Z defied expectations by expressing anguish in such an 'organised way'. Observers continue to interpret such movements as flash-in-the-pan political mobilisations – characterised by pointed demands but marked by an episodic and short-lived presence. One can make better sense of such political events only if one gets to understand the emergent political subjectivity of Gen Z, beyond conventional registers. While democracies are typically understood in terms of constitutional frameworks and institutional structures, their true substratum consists of shifting everyday moral practices and latent collective emotions.

To begin with, Gen Z is an uncanny combination of radical individualism and social indifference, but with less prejudice and a less



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With its digital activism and episodic protests, this generation is emerging as a renewed source of hope in an authoritarian world

jaundiced view of the world. It is too removed to be myopic, too nonchalant to be emotional, and too indifferent to be prejudiced and discriminatory. Gen Z seems to believe in a worldview that the 'personal is political' but political is not personal. It is not involved in worldly affairs but that does not mean it lacks a worldview.

Being political seems to matter the most in its personal conduct and the way it is treated. In essence, it operates primarily as exemplars rather than as emissaries. It believes in living rather than making propositions – and, therefore, not ideologically motivated – and in making practical sense of the world. It resists being preached to and is sensitive about not preaching to others, which makes forging collective struggles that much more difficult. It responds readily to lived hierarchies but that does not necessarily reflect a structural understanding of those hierarchies.

Gen Z avoids making moral judgments about the world. It also makes people within this generation more active in the virtual world than the real one. They find it more agreeable to work and express their views on virtual platforms than attend physical meets to interact. This instinct to avoid thick face-to-face interaction has an impact on the nature of protest and in imagining democratic futures. It is for this reason that Gen Z is more at home with sporadic and episodic protests than organised movements; their protests are leaderless and without pronounced ideological frames.

A comparison of protests

The difference becomes clear when one compares the farmers' movement (2020-24) with the Gen Z protests. The farmers were formally organised, had a sustained leadership and pronounced demands. They could sustain a movement for years. In comparison, Gen Z protests fizzle out and disappear without a trace but nevertheless leave a great impact behind.

The changing modes of protest also have something to do with again an uncanny combination of confidence and anxiety. Gen Z is the first self-confident generation in post-independent India but also the most anxious one. Gen Z is a result of both sustained social democratisation and fast disappearing economic opportunities. Sustained democratisation has allowed Gen Z to be more open about 'self' introspection.

The people of this generation are at ease with

counselling and therapy; therefore, mental health-related issues are pronounced.

Previous generations were less comfortable in accepting emotional trauma and seem to have passed on a lot of the toxic and masculine stuff to the next generation. Gen Z is more conscious and wants to overcome the battles of 'mental despair'.

The New York Times reported a sense of "mental despair" not only among unemployed youth but also among those employed, many of whom find their workplaces toxic and experience routine anomie. Much of this is reflected in their attitudes to politics and democracy. They are assertive but suffer from insecurity. The precarity of Gen Z gets reflected in its fragmented and fleeting involvement with democratic events and issues. It can assert ancient values because it demands confidence to claim one's own culture and reject radical transformation because it is clichéd.

Unpredictable impact

Finally, one unmistakable feature of Gen Z is the connect between its self-representation or identity and pronounced consumption patterns. Market is integral to its self-making and social imaginaries that challenge/disturb the ascriptive identities of caste and religion. With a greater reach of market, technology and education, Gen Z follows global fashion trends, technological innovations and looks for newer educational opportunities.

All of this makes Gen Z more secularised but inward-looking, and giving undue importance to personal choices. Possessing the latest iPhone is seen as a great equaliser, transcending the complex debates surrounding class inequality. Access to information is a greater source of dignity than the caste and religion one is born into.

However, engagement with fast-changing technologies and information may contribute to hyper-nationalism and the propagation of empty rhetoric of the glorious past. The rise of hyper-nationalism today is less concerned with the chauvinistic superiority that Tagore worried about and more focused on projecting ambitious claims about future possibilities. India might be a poor country yet has launched space missions; despite grave inequalities, it also maintains a notable presence in Silicon Valley. Gen Z will continue to disappoint us with responses we expect, yet surprise us with responses we have not yet thought about.

- **Generation Z, or Gen Z (those born roughly between 1997 and 2012), has emerged as a renewed source of hope at a time when many people had begun to resign themselves to authoritarian regimes and their unresponsive governance.**
- **In Bangladesh (2024) and Nepal (2025), Gen Z has spearheaded regime-challenging protests, mobilising around issues of corruption, transparency and institutional accountability.**
- **The difference becomes clear when one compares the farmers' movement (2020-24) with the Gen Z protests.**
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'Bhasha' matters in India's multilingual moment

India stands at an extraordinary crossroads, with a linguistic landscape unmatched in scale and richness. According to the 2011 Census, India is home to more than 1,300 mother tongues and 121 constitutionally recognised languages. This diversity is not merely a statistic. It is a national strength, central to how children learn, grow and understand the world.

When a language disappears, we lose more than words. We lose a way of understanding the world built over generations. Safeguarding languages is, therefore, not only a cultural imperative. It is fundamentally a question of holding on to humanity's accumulated knowledge, which in turn makes it an educational issue. This is why mother-tongue-based multilingual education (MTB-MLE) is critical.

Basis for quality education

As we mark International Mother Language Day (February 21), under the theme "Youth voices on multilingual education", the message is clear: young people thrive when their languages – and, therefore, their identities – are recognised and valued in the classroom. When this happens, schools become spaces where children learn about themselves, others, and the world in all its diversity. UNESCO has long championed multilingual teaching, based on the language best understood and spoken, as a condition for quality education.

Each year, UNESCO publishes the State of the Education Report for India, focusing on a specific theme. This year, which is the seventh edition (2025), *Bhasha Matters: Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education*, brought together global research, new national evidence and practical lessons to explore the state of Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education in India. The report demonstrates that MTB-MLE is not only pedagogically sound but also transformative. It outlines 10 policy recommendations to guide India towards a more inclusive and equitable education system that treats linguistic diversity as



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Mother-tongue-based multilingual education is central to inclusive and effective education

an asset rather than a challenge. It also highlights what is working – from bilingual learning materials and teacher preparation to innovative digital solutions that bring multilingual resources to classrooms and communities

A barrier of language

Globally, over a quarter of a billion learners lack access to education in a language they fully understand. In India, nearly 44% of children enter school speaking a language that is different from the medium of instruction, according to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2022. For these children, learning begins with the added burden of decoding an unfamiliar language before grasping academic concepts. Weak foundational literacy and numeracy can lead to cumulative learning gaps, reduced confidence and, ultimately, a higher risk of dropout.

India has taken decisive steps to address this challenge. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, followed by the National Curriculum Frameworks of 2022 and 2023, places the child's home or mother tongue at the centre of early education.

The *Bhasha Matters* report highlights promising examples. In Odisha, a long-standing multilingual education programme spans 21 tribal languages across 17 districts, supporting nearly 90,000 children. In Telangana, the use of Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)-enabled multilingual resources demonstrates how digital tools can expand access to learning materials in local languages. National initiatives such as PM eVIDYA, *Adi Vaani* (developed by a national consortium), *BHASHINI* (BHash-based ANd Intelligent Node for InclusioN in India) and *AI4Bharat's* community-developed language technologies show how digital platforms and artificial intelligence can help document endangered languages, create local-language content and support teachers with multilingual resources.

Building on these examples, *Bhasha Matters* sets out a practical road map. It calls for clear state-level language-in-education policies grounded in MTB-MLE, stronger teacher recruitment and professional standards for multilingual classrooms, and reforms in pre-service and in-service training to embed multilingual pedagogy. It emphasises high-quality multilingual materials and assessments, community participation and indigenous knowledge, gender-responsive approaches, responsible investment in language technologies, and sustainable financing. Crucially, it proposes a National Mission for Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education to coordinate action across ministries, research institutions, civil society and technology partners, ensuring that promising pilots become systemic reform.

Linguistic diversity is a driver

India's linguistic diversity is not a barrier to development; it is a powerful driver of equity, identity and social cohesion. With States already demonstrating what is possible, and with clear policy frameworks in place, the country stands at the threshold of transformative educational change. This shift reflects a growing body of evidence: children learn best when taught in a language they understand.

On International Mother Language Day, the call is clear. Education systems must recognise and value every learner's language, not only to improve learning outcomes but also to affirm identity, well-being and meaningful participation in society.

When young people's voices are heard, multilingual education becomes more than a policy aspiration. It becomes a shared national movement. India's multilingual moment has arrived – and its youth are helping to shape its future.

Link to report:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000397158>

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- **For these children, learning begins with the added burden of decoding an unfamiliar language before grasping academic concepts.**
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Treatise for federalism

The Kurian Joseph report must provoke a debate on reversing centralisation

A high-level committee on Union-State relations appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu has mapped the pattern of centralisation of power and the weakening of federal democracy in India over the decades, and suggested comprehensive corrective measures. The three-member Committee, chaired by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice Kurian Joseph, has drawn on scholarship across various disciplines, Constituent Assembly debates, and the findings of three other committees on Centre-State relations, while also critiquing recent governance trends that weaken the authority of States. It concludes that centralisation is increasing – which it notes is not healthy – and calls for urgent remedial measures. The report is an expansive critique of the dilapidation of federalism, threatening India's progress, and calls for changes to reverse the dangerous course, stating that “Indian federalism now requires a structural reset comparable in ambition to the economic reforms of 1991”. India's constitutional framework took shape against the backdrop of Partition, and the consolidation of princely States. The context encouraged the founders to tilt towards a centralising constitutional scheme; legislative, administrative, and judicial measures in the ensuing decades further reinforced this line of thinking. The report convincingly takes down the arguments for centralisation, and argues that federalised governance is essential for a country of India's size and diversity, and that it would in fact

The Kurian Joseph Committee report comes amid repeated and deliberate moves by the Union to centralise power. The Constitution can be amended far too easily for a federal polity, and this creates a self-perpetuating cycle of centralisation. The territorial integrity of States is at the mercy of the Centre, most blatantly illustrated by the dismantling of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in 2019. The misplaced idea that the country needs one national language is being pursued by the Union government, which is particularly assertive on the question. Governors have become instruments of the Centre's overreach in all areas of governance. The impending inter-State delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies is causing anxiety among States that have stabilised their populations and stand to lose their relative weight in national governance. The Union has overt power in the conduct of elections, and key sectors such as education and health are being increasingly centralised. The GST regime has restructured India's fiscal landscape in favour of the Union and at States' expense. This report lays out the logic, facts and common sense about why federated governance should be the path to progress. This report must form the basis for a new national conversation.

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- **The report convincingly takes down the arguments for centralisation, and argues that federalised governance is essential for a country of India's size and diversity, and that it would in fact be dangerous to overlook this imperative.**
- **The Constitution can be amended far too easily for a federal polity, and this creates a self-perpetuating cycle of centralisation. The territorial integrity of States is at the mercy of the Centre, most blatantly illustrated by the dismantling of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories in 2019.**

Safety first

Manipur needs a healing touch that cuts the cycle of violence

If a bruised and bleeding Manipur wants to heal, the words of its first woman Deputy Chief Minister, Nemcha Kipgen, must be heard. She wants the buffer zones between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo communities to remain for now, particularly in areas where the scars run deep, because safety comes first. Hailing from the Kuki-Zo community, Ms. Kipgen had to take oath virtually from New Delhi when a new government was installed in the State capital, Imphal, on February 4, after two years of violence and a long stint of President's Rule. While Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh is a Meitei, in an attempt to represent the three major communities in the government, Ms. Kipgen and Losii Dikho, a Naga, were named Deputy Chief Ministers. But the complexity of the ground situation is such that Ms. Kipgen is stationed in Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi, and unable to attend the Assembly session in Imphal due to security concerns. In an interview to *The Hindu*, she described approaching the road to peace like a mother, with empathy and care. Her work is cut out because, at this juncture, there is an acute deficit of trust in the BJP government, and between the majority Meiteis, who dominate Imphal Valley, and the tribals, particularly the Kuki-Zo communities, of the hill districts.

More than 250 people have been killed and around 60,000 people were displaced after ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in the northeastern State on May 3, 2023. What is worrying is that skirmishes have begun between the Kuki-Zo and Nagas as well, with the Manipur police having to evacuate Kuki students from a school in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district after a recent flare-up between the communities. Manipur is no stranger to violence, having witnessed waves of insurgencies ever since it attained full Statehood in 1972, and the three main communities must find a way to peaceful coexistence in the geographical space they live in. Ms. Kipgen wants to hear each community's pain on their terms but she also drives home the point that every one must recognise the common ground that binds Manipuris – “our shared spaces, tribal heritage, cultural values, languages, faith traditions, social institutions, and our future, especially the future of our children”. Harmony, she says, does not mean sameness; “it means respecting distinct identities while strengthening the bonds that allow us to live together”. Her political masters too will do well to hear these words because the cycle of violence has to be broken. A rhetoric of hate has no winners. But first, Ms. Kipgen has to feel confident to travel to Imphal.

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खण्ड 'B' SECTION 'B'

5. पालना झूलाने वाले हाथों में ही संसार की बागडोर होती है ।
Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
6. शोध क्या है, ज्ञान के साथ एक अजनबी मुलाकात !
What is research, but a blind date with knowledge !
7. इतिहास स्वयं को दोहराता है, पहली बार एक त्रासदी के रूप में, दूसरी बार एक प्रहसन के रूप में ।
History repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as a farce.
8. "सर्वोत्तम कार्यप्रणाली" से बेहतर कार्यप्रणालियाँ भी होती हैं ।
There are better practices to "best practices".

Thank You!

